

Top US anti-terror financing official due next week

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A top US official in charge of curbing terrorist financing is due to visit Bangladesh next week to take stock of what Bangladesh has done so far in setting an effective mechanism in motion to detect and switch off sources of terrorist financing.

three-day official visit, when he is expected to meet high officials of the ministries of home, law, and finance, and the Bangladesh Bank (BB). He will learn about the progress in amending the Anti-Money Laundering Act to make it a more powerful tool against terrorist financing and the country's current mechanism for tracking financing sources of terrorist and militant activities, sources said. He is scheduled to sit with high officials of Anti-

Money Laundering Department as well as the governor of the central bank. The US government has been pressuring the Bangladesh government since 2002 to amend the existing Anti-Money Laundering Act. It also offered technical and financial support for strengthening the BB activities to curb money laundering and terrorist financing. SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Kuwait to give oil on soft terms: FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said Kuwait agreed to supply oil to Bangladesh on 'deferred payment at favourable price' despite international price hike. Disclosing this, he said Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah gave the assurance during official talks with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Kuwait. According to official estimates, Kuwait is the major source of petroleum for Bangladesh and it annually imports 18 lakh tons of refined oil from Kuwait out of a total import of 38 lakh tons. The country's fuel consumption increased by roughly 20 percent. Foreign ministry sources said a technical committee will soon SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Influential grabbers demolishing age-old temple in Old Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A vested group has started demolishing a more than 300-year-old temple, popularly known as Mitford Kali Bari, in Old Dhaka to build a market. Local people said the land grabbers have managed the Sebayet (caretaker) of the temple -- so nobody is there to complain against their activities. Some musclemen in the area are now keeping close watch on the temple for 24 hours. Wrapping the temple with jute hessian, the grabbers are bringing down the building by night but nobody from local community dares to protest it. One year ago, the same group built a two-storey market in front of the temple, local people said. No shop has yet been opened in that market.

"Nobody can knock down this old temple. This is a clear violation of religious rights," Nirmal Chatterjee, organising secretary of Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Committee, Dhaka City unit, told The Daily Star. Locals alleged some musclemen including Shahin, Swapan, Harun, and Mini, son of a former temple caretaker, are involved in the demolition of the temple. All of them are close to a brother of local lawmaker Nasiruddin Pintu, they also alleged. "I cannot protest and fight against their activities as a brother of our lawmaker is involved," said a businessman in the area requesting anonymity. "I'm a Muslim, but I feel really bad as the age-old temple is being demolished." SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

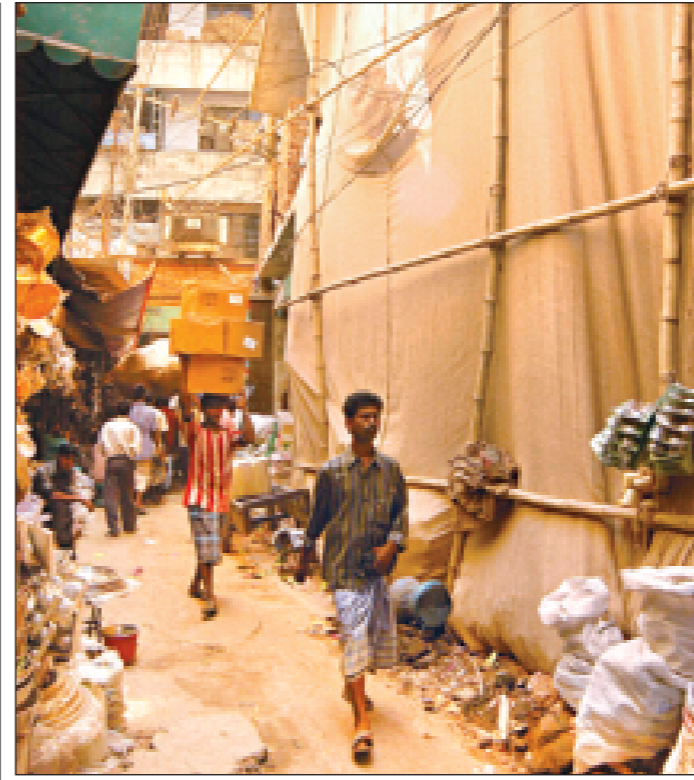


PHOTO: STAR

Land grabbers demolishing 300-year-old Mitford Kali Bari temple wrapping it with jute hessian to build a market there.

9-year-old boy commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nine-year-old boy committed suicide yesterday in the city's Khilgaon, as his mother did not give him Tk 2. Deen Islam, a student of class three of Meradia Government Primary School, committed suicide by SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Major powers fail to seal Iran strategy

REUTERS, United Nations

Foreign ministers of major powers failed to come up with a joint strategy for dealing with Iran after Tehran sought to influence the negotiations with a stunning last-minute diplomatic manoeuvre, officials said. French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said a US-hosted, three-hour meeting on Monday of ministers from Russia, Britain, China and Germany did not reach agreement. "We are still considering our work," he told reporters after the late night session had ended. A senior US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the meeting agreed that Iran must pay a

price for not complying with UN resolutions but did not come to terms on what form that would take. "I think the prospects for an agreement this week are not substantially good," he said. "Clearly we had ways to go." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the Tass news agency: "All of us agreed that Iran must not have nuclear weapons." He stressed Moscow's desire to draw Iran into "fruitful" negotiations on the issue. Major power political directors will meet on Iran on Tuesday in New York and will likely meet again SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Road blocked for 5 hrs over death rumour of DU student

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday blocked adjacent Shahbagh intersection for more than five hours and vandalised about 10 vehicles resulting in heavy traffic congestions on other thoroughfares and leaving five persons injured. Several hundred students thronged Shahbagh intersection following a rumour of death of a student, who had been severely injured in a road accident at the intersection Monday afternoon. Mobarak Hossain, a first year student of management was SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Thailand prepares for fresh polls

Court to supervise election

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand prepared yesterday for new, court-supervised elections, as Thaksin Shinawatra mulled whether to run for prime minister just one month after he tearfully stepped aside following months of protests. The nation's three most powerful

courts said they would supervise the polls, one day after the Constitutional Court nullified last month's snap elections that left Thailand without a functioning parliament. "The chief justices have agreed to carry on with their mission because the verdict by the

Constitutional Court does not mean the conflict will end," said Justice Charan Pakdithanukul, speaking for the Supreme Court. A host of questions remain about how and when the new polls will take place, including whether SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Kushtia BNP MP sues 3 journos for 'extortion'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A BNP lawmaker yesterday filed a case against three journalists of Kushtia alleging them to be extortionists. Police said lawmaker Shahidul Islam of Kushtia-2 constituency in the case filed said Hasan Jahid, staff correspondent of Daily Manabjamin also the Kushtia correspondent of Rtv, Al-Mamun SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
May 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

