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\$3 BILLION INVESTMENT

Tata shelves plan

STAR REPORT

Indian industrial giant Tata yesterday suspended pursuing any further its investment proposal in Bangladesh as the government does not want to take a decision before the next election.

"We have no option but to suspend further work on these projects if we are facing such a delay from the government. We are extremely disappointed and frustrated because we put a huge amount of effort, investment of time and money into developing the proposal," Executive Director of Tata Sons Alan Rosling told reporters after a meeting with the Board of Investment (BoI) in Dhaka yesterday.

Both Rosling and Executive Chairman of BoI Mahmudur Rahman yesterday expressed serious disappointment at the government's position.

Mahmudur Rahman said the government's position was already clear at the meeting between the ministers and the representatives

of Tata on Sunday, the meeting between him and Rosling was to find out if BoI could help Tata in anyway but they found out that it does not have the capacity to influence the current situation.

"As a nation, we have to decide whether we really need foreign direct investment (FDI). But we should not have a double standard, when there is lack of FDI, people criticise BoI but when it tries to bring in FDI then they ask what was the purpose of bringing it in," Mahmudur Rahman, also the energy adviser, told the reporters.

He said the government and the main opposition have to decide whether they will allow a small fraction of the extreme left or the right to have a control over economic decisions. He said the government should take decisions based on the people's aspirations. BoI can bring in investors but the responsibility of signing an agreement is on the government, he added.

He also said after going back to India, Tata will take its final decision at a board meeting and will officially inform the Bangladesh government what it's representative had told him verbally at yesterday's meeting.

Rosling said, "There is no immediate prospect of a substantive discussion on our proposal and it is a real shame. This is a proposal that should have been accepted. It is very disappointing for us and the team that worked so hard for it. It is not in the interest of the people whom Tata wanted to engage in Bangladesh."

"While we are keen to invest in these projects, their revival after a considerable delay must depend on circumstances at that point. We constantly examine opportunities worldwide and would need to assess the attractiveness of investment in Bangladesh compared to other options then available to us," he said.

Tata officials had a series of meetings with ministers and officials of the government in the last two days and they got consistently

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Family hails verdict

Convicts to appeal

STAR REPORT

Shazneen's family and the prosecution yesterday hailed the High Court judgement upholding the death sentence of five of the six convicted by a lower court.

Relatives of the condemned and the defence counsels said they would fight it in the Supreme Court.

Latifur Rahman, father of Shazneen, believes the HC judgement will act as deterrent to such brutal crimes. "The verdict makes it clear once again that no-one can go unpunished after committing heinous crimes as was done in case of my daughter," said Rahman, leading businessman and chairman of Transcom Group.

When contacted, Rahman, now in Medina with his family, expressed his satisfaction over the verdict. Criminal elements would now think twice before committing any such crimes, he felt. "I'll not get back my child but the whole society will benefit from this verdict. It is a victory for the society," he said.

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HC VERDICT ON SHAZNEEN CASE

Death penalty of 5 confirmed

One acquitted

SHAMIM ASHRAF and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The High Court (HC) yesterday upheld the death penalty for five of the six people sentenced by a lower court and acquitted the other in the sensational Shazneen rape and murder case.

The HC Death Reference Bench on Shazneen murder case in its judgement said the prosecution proved beyond doubt the charges against the five convicts for the



gruesome killing of Shazneen, a class IX student at Scholastica School in the capital, eight years ago.

The five are Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help at the Gulshan residence of Shazneen's family, Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan alias Azad, a contractor for renovation of their house, Badal, his assistant and two maids, Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin.

Ali Asgar Khan and Emdadul Haque found that mason Shaniram Mandal was not involved either in the conspiracy or rape or murder of Shazneen. He just supplied a chisel to the killers, it said and acquitted him.

The convicts will get 30 days for filing appeal with the Supreme Court (SC) against the HC judgement.

The HC ended its three-day (Related story on page 15) SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Hasan

Shahid

Badal

Parvin

Minu

Bhuiyan threatens legal proceedings against TIB

Asks for withdrawal of report on graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said his ministry will bring legal proceedings against TIB if it does not withdraw its recent report titled Corruption Database 2005.

"If you [TIB] don't take the report back, there will be proceedings against TIB in different districts and we will also take legal action," the minister said at a press conference.

The TIB launched its latest corruption index on July 5 where the LGRD and Cooperatives ministry came top in corruption. It alleged that the ministry accounts for Tk 208.9 crore out of a total of Tk 526.27 crore misappropriated at different ministries.

Claiming his ministry to be the

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Sewers discharge effluent from dyeing factories into a pond at Jibaro of Ashulia. Disposal of toxic waste in the water bodies continues unabated, polluting the environment of the locality.

Govt to raise power tariff in urban areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to increase the electricity tariff by five per cent in the urban areas shortly, State Minister for Power Anwarul Kabir Talukder said yesterday.

"We have to increase the tariff of electricity in the urban areas rationalising it with the rural area's rate as the rural people have now to pay higher than the urban people," the minister told a seminar. He, however, did not mention the date of the execution of the revised tariff rate.

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Notice

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains 8-page sport including a 4-page colour photo of the World Cup 2006.

BY-POLLS IN VACANT PARLIAMENTARY SEAT

Draft bill okayed to extend time limit to 180 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet in its weekly meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair yesterday approved a draft bill to amend the Constitution incorporating a provision for extending time limit for holding by-election in a vacant parliamentary seat to 180 days from 90 days.

The hurried move to pass the bill in parliament during its current session through extending its scheduled duration was taken to avoid holding two by-elections in the remaining tenure of the current Jatiya Sangsad.

The two parliamentary seats -- Dinajpur-3 and Comilla-8 -- fell vacant following death of two

ruling BNP lawmakers Khurshid Jahan Haque and Col (ret) Akbar Hossain last month.

When a lawmaker is elected for a short period before dissolution of a parliament, he/she does not get any scope to represent the constituency, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said.

"Through the proposed provision, spending of a big amount of public money and hassles of the administration for holding by-elections would be avoided," Moudud said, explaining the rationale of bringing the amendment.

The law minister said to get the bill passed, the current parliament session scheduled to be prorogued

on July 12 will be extended for a few days and the Business Advisory Committee will sit in a meeting on Wednesday to extend the tenure of the session.

Officials at the Election Commission Secretariat, who are now busy with the task of updating the voter list, yesterday expressed satisfaction over the move, as they will be relieved of the 'extra burden' of the by-elections.

The draft amendment of the constitution (15th amendment), if passed, will be the second amendment of the constitution during the present BNP-led alliance government.

Section 4 of article 123 of the

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3 shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Three people, including two women, were shot dead and two others injured allegedly by the activists of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) at a bordering village in Rangamati early yesterday.

The dead are Prema Lata Chakma, 50, Tulumoni Chakma, 45, and Sushil Chakma, 20, while the injured were identified as Santosh Chakma, 18, and Shidhu Chakma, 18.

The United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) has claimed the dead to be its members.

Locals and security sources said a group of PCJSS men attacked the bordering village of Kutkuchhari at around 1:30am killing the three and injuring the two.

To protest the killing, a procession was held in the town, followed

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VOTER LIST UPDATING

No plan to check on applicants' authenticity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) still has no plan to introduce a procedure to examine the authenticity of the applications for inclusions and deletions of names on the electoral roll.

Distribution of the application forms and collection of the filled ones, both will be done by the assistant officials through door to door visits after July 20 while people simultaneously have the option of going to local election offices to collect the forms and to submit them after filling those up.

But in absence of a procedure to verify the authenticity of the applications, many field level election officials fear that the accuracy of the voter list may be compromised as no one will be appointed to scrutinise the information provided on the forms.

"We will have nothing to do if an assistant official collects and submits a fake application for inclusion or deletion of a name on the voter list. We will be compelled to register people as voters or delete names from the existing list based on the provided information as we

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Businesses urge AL to sit for dialogue

UNB, Dhaka

Country's business leaders yesterday urged the main opposition Awami League (AL) to sit for dialogue with the government to end the current political standoff.

The plea came when a team, led by Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Mir Nasir Hossain, met the AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP at his Mercantile Bank office in the city's Dilkusha area.

The team members include International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) President Mahubur Rahman, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Tipu Munshi, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) President

Md Fazlul Hoque, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) Chairman MA Awal, Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce (BCI) President AK Azad, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President MA Momen and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) representative Rafiqul Islam.

During the meeting, the business leaders voiced their concern about the current political stalemate over the electoral reform and the recent incidents in the apparel industry.

They offered their all-out support in holding dialogue with the government for the sake of the country's economic progress.

Abdul Jalil assured the business leaders that he would discuss the matter with the senior leaders of

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45 killed in Pak plane crash

REUTERS, Multan

A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) passenger plane crashed on the outskirts of the central city of Multan yesterday, killing all 45 people on board, the local police chiefs said.

"Everyone is dead. I am standing at the site," police chief Iftekhar Babar told Reuters.

Flight PK 688, en route for Lahore before flying on to Islamabad, crashed three minutes after take-off from Multan airport, said Hasan Jaffery, a PIA spokesman. The PIA plane was carrying 41 passengers and four crew.

"Bodies are badly charred. The debris has caught fire," a Reuters witness said.

He said rescue workers from the

privately run relief foundation Edhi, the Civil Aviation Authority and the army were taking part in the rescue operation.

"There are few bodies which are identifiable," said Shahid Pervez, a civil defence official, as rescue workers loaded the corpses into ambulances.

The plane, laden with fuel, burst into flames after crashing near a state primary school, around three km (two miles) from the airport.

Police chief Babar quoted some witnesses as saying they saw flames coming from the aircraft shortly after it took off, and it appeared to be tilting to the right.

"I saw the plane diving downwards. It hit electricity wires and then crashed after hitting a wall of

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বিস্মিত্বাহির রাহমানির রাহীম

উত্তরার আগে এবং জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দরের বিপরীতে, হাজী ক্যাম্প সংলগ্ন

রাজধানীর প্রাণ কেন্দ্রে সেরা আবাসিক প্রকল্প

প্লট কেনার আগে যে বিষয়গুলো ভাবা দরকার...

প্লটের বিকাশন মানই চিরকোটা কিছু গুল ভাবা কবা। কিন্তু জমি দেখানো সঠিক, নিশ্চয়ক, সেখানে অতিরিক্ত কবার প্রয়োজন কি? কেনে আমরা ধরবো পায়ে হাঁটা দূরত্ব... পা বাড়াতেই প্লট ইত্যাদি ইত্যাদি? যা সত্য আমরা তাই-ই বলবো। রাজধানীর একেবারে প্রাণ কেন্দ্রেই আমাদের প্রকল্পের অবস্থান। আমরা দাবী কবে বলবো, লক্ষ শহরের যে কোন প্রকল্পে প্লট বুঝি দেবার আগে অস্ত্র একবার আশিয়ান সিটি পরিদর্শন করুন। প্রকল্পটির অবস্থান ও প্রকল্প দেখে আপনি সিদ্ধান্ত নেবেন আপনার আবাসন ঠিকানা আশিয়ান সিটিতে কেনে হওয়া উচিত

প্রকল্পের ভিতরে ১০০' প্রশস্ত সড়ক

আশিয়ান সিটি

আপনার বিশ্বস্ত ঠিকানা

আমেরিকায় বিশ্বাস মেলা উপলক্ষে বাংলাদেশের সম্মানিত ক্রেতাদের জন্য প্লট বুঝি দিলেই

আশিয়ান ল্যান্ডস ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিঃ

ইউনিট নং প্রায়ঃ (৬৪ তলা), ৪০/২, নর্থ এর্জান্ট, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১১১১

ফোন : ৮৮৩২৮৫২-৫৫, ০১৭১৩০৯০৭২৭, ০১৭১৩০৯০৭২৮, ০১৭১৩০৯০৭২৯, ০১৭১৩০৯০৭৩০, ০১৭১৩০৯০৭৩১, ০১৭১৩০৯০৭৩২, ০১৭১৩০৯০৭৩৩, ০১৭১৩০৯০৭৩৪, ০১৭১৩০৯০৭৩৫