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PM seeks concession on Saudi oil

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has requested Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz to provide fuel oils for Bangladesh on 365 days' credit to maintain uninterrupted development and production in various sectors.

The prime minister made the request during a meeting with the king at Safa Palace in the holy city of Makkah Sunday evening, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

During the meeting, the prime minister apprised the Saudi king about the unusual price hike of fuel oils in the world market and its negative impact on Bangladesh's development efforts.

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Politicians never failed to solve any problems

Jalil assures Yunus over reform standoff

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said a standoff on electoral reforms will be resolved through the ongoing dialogue, saying political leaders here never failed to solve any problem in the past.

"It is possible to solve this crisis through continuous dialogue and we are hopeful about a positive outcome," he told reporters at Prof Yunus' residence where he along with 14-party leaders went to congratulate him on winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Jalil said, "BNP Secretary General Mannan Bhuiyan and I are

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PHOTO STAR

Nobel hero Muhammad Yunus all smiles and waves to the crowd as former president Shahabuddin Ahmed congratulates him on the dais during the mass reception at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre yesterday.

Nobel hero seeks new Bangladesh amid cheers

RAFIQ HASAN

Rapturous ovation and heartiest greetings from all walks of life marked the reception of first Bangladeshi Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital yesterday as thousands thronged the venue to congratulate the nation's brightest star.

Exhilaration and elation seemed to have had no bounds as the cheerful crowd witnessed the first mass reception accorded to the Nobel laureate and founder of the Grameen Bank.

As soon as Yunus entered the

hall room of the centre the audience burst into cheers giving him a standing ovation. An ecstatic wave of satisfaction and happiness swept the audience as long as the reception continued.

A smiling Yunus responded waving hands towards the joyous onlookers.

"Anyone is equal to their dreams but Yunus is larger than his dream," wrote an admirer on the commentary book. "As a small nation we can make something great, and sir, you have proved it," wrote another person.

Some enthusiastic participants chanted slogans calling for spreading the light of Nobel Peace Prize to

everyhouse.

A huge number of people also gathered outside the hall room and viewed the reception on a number of large screens installed on the Centre premises. Local satellite television channels also broadcast the function live.

The dignitaries present at the reception included former president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, former chief adviser to one of the caretaker governments Justice Habibur Rahman, former minister's Matia Chowdhury, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Abul Ahsan Chowdhury, educationist Prof Khan Sarwar Morshed and veteran

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LPG production stops as gas supply suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Production of LPG stopped yesterday at Petrobangla-run Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL) as supply of required Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) remained suspended for the last two days, official sources said.

As a result, an LP (liquefied petroleum) gas bottling plant, a concern of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), has been shut down. Earlier on September 26, the bottling plant in Golaganj experienced a 12-day shutdown for the same reason.

The RPGCL gets NGL from wells

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REFORM TALKS

Hasan issue to be settled Oct 23

Agree AL, BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wrapping up the fifth round of ongoing dialogue over electoral reforms yesterday, both BNP and Awami League (AL) expressed hope to reach a decision over Justice KM Hasan on October 23 when the talks resume.

Both BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil hinted that the next meeting will be the last.

After the nearly 40-minute meet in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Bhuiyan and Jalil claimed at a joint news briefing that they forged a consensus, which now needs approval of the prime minister and the opposition leader.

PM and BNP chief Khaleda Zia is now on a weeklong official visit to Saudi Arabia while Leader of the Opposition and AL chief Sheikh Hasina is in the USA. Khaleda and Hasina are scheduled to return on October 21 and October 23.

"We have reached a stage where we now need the approval of our parties and chiefs to take a decision. It is better to take the decision in presence of the two party chiefs," Jalil said at the crowded briefing. "We will be able to draw an end to the dialogue after the return of the two leaders."

Echoing the view, Bhuiyan said, "We now need the decisions of our two parties and chiefs to finalise the matter. We will also have to hold

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FDI records 50pc growth

Reveals World Investment Report 2006

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has registered a significant 50 per cent growth in foreign direct investment (FDI), the second highest in South Asia, with \$692 million investment in 2005.

The country also improved its ranking in receiving FDI, advancing to the 5th position from the previous 9th among the least developed countries (LDC).

This was revealed at a launching programme of the World Investment Report 2006 of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development jointly organised by

the Board of Investment (BoI) and UN Information Centre (UNIC) at a city hotel yesterday.

Referring to Bangladesh Bank statistics, Energy Adviser and BoI Executive Director Mahmudur Rahman said the actual FDI inflow grew by 84 per cent in 2005 compared to the previous year, standing at \$845 million.

The FDI flow to Bangladesh was \$460 million in 2004 and \$350 million in 2003.

The World Investment Report said the global FDI was \$916 billion of which 59 per cent (\$542 billion)

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More 'projects for polls' approved

Power distribution scheme, not generation, gets nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday approved a project for expansion of power distribution when the entire country is reeling under perennial power cuts due to huge shortfall in generation and rising demand.

Sources said the project was approved so that a number of ruling alliance loyalists could make brisk money.

The Executive Committee on National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved six projects involving Tk 3,233 crore including the project for expansion

of existing power distribution lines in 67 rural electrification association areas of Rural Electrification Board (REB).

As per the meeting's decision, a total of Tk 953 crore will be spent in installing new electricity poles in villages under the project titled 'expansion of distribution system of 67 rural electrification associations'.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman chaired the meeting at the National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium.

Sources said without increasing

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Your wisdom to guide in times of confusion
Your compassion in our times of need
Your smile to make us smile
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.....and those who do good shall have their reward with their lord. They have nothing to fear and they will not sorrow.

Al- Koran-Sura Baquara- (verse 62)

JOBS IN MALAYSIA

Govt warns Baira against overcharging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday warned Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) of making government-level deal with Malaysia in managing migration following allegations of Baira's overcharging from the aspirant migrant workers.

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Remanded Huji men admit to attacking UK envoy, mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The two members of the banned Harkatul Jihad (Huji), who were placed on remand on Sunday in connection with the grenade attack on the British high commissioner, gave confessional statements yesterday.

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Pak bowlers Akhtar, Asif test positive

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan are sending home fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif from the Champions Trophy in India after the pair tested positive for nandrolone.

The players will leave India later on Monday, the eve of the team's

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Lawmaker, 17 BNP men sued for hijacking vehicle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A case has been lodged with the Gournadi Upazila Magistrate Court in Barisal on Monday against BNP lawmaker Jahiruddin Swapan and his 17 associates from Gournadi and Agoljhaba.

Belayet Hossain Bablu, staff reporter of The Daily Jugantor's Barisal bureau, lodged the case.

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Warmest congratulations Professor Yunus and the Grameen Bank



for planting seeds of peace through poverty reduction



The United Nations organisations rejoices with you and the people of Bangladesh

Congratulation to Dr. Muhammad Yunus The First Bangladeshi Nobel Laureate



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