

The Daily Star

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Announcement
The results of the written portion of the 17th BCS Examinations have been published on Page 8 dropping the weekly feature page Teens and Twenties. The page will appear in our tomorrow's issue.

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DSE index registers 163-point rise
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DSE MARKET	
DSE price index	2208.29
Market capital Tk	21121.54 cr
Transactions in value	914835
Transactions in volume	46.19 cr

CSE MARKET	
CSE price index	1915.90
Market capital Tk	14163.34 cr
Transactions in value	461365
Transactions in volume	12.83 cr

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NEWS BRIEFS
ALPP meets today

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held today at 2:30 pm at the conference room of the ruling party on the 8th floor of the Jatiya Sangsad. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting. Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah has requested all members of the ALPP to attend the meeting, reports BSS.

French diplomat mugged in city

By Staff Correspondent
Muggers snatched some money from an official of the Embassy of France at Gulshan in the city yesterday. Brandishing daggers, they took away the money from Daniel Felix, an attaché of the embassy, when he was passing Road No. 108 in Gulshan at around 1:45 pm, police said.

NDI delegation calls on CEC

A two-member delegation of the UK-based NDI, led by its Asia Programme Director Eric C Bjornlund, called on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena at his office yesterday. During the meeting, the delegation members congratulated the CEC for conducting the last parliamentary elections and by-elections in a free, fair and proper manner, reports UNB.

British army chief leaves Dhaka

British Army Chief General Sir Charles Guthrie left Dhaka yesterday after a six-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. Mrs. Charles and other members of his delegation were seen off at the Zia International Airport by Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman, Begum Rahman and senior army officers, reports BSS.

Muktijoddha Dal central EC formed

The central executive committee of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal (BJMD) has been formed with Redwan Ahmed and Mesbah Uddin Sabu as its president and general secretary respectively. The 61-member committee will be co-opted with 40 more members with a view to strengthening the organisation, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.

Seventh JS goes into second session today

By Nurul Kabir

The second session of the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad (JS) begins today at 4:30 pm. 59 days after the first session was prorogued on September 2 last.

The session begins on Friday, a public holiday, to meet the constitutional provision of holding the session within 60 days of prorogation of the previous one.

"Had it been the day after, it would have been ultra vires of a constitutional provision that obliges parliament to meet on or before sixty days from the prorogation of the preceding session," a cabinet member said.

"It could not be earlier because the Treasury bench leaders concerned, especially the leader of the House Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the State

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and the Chief Whip of Parliament, had recently been outside the country to attend the UN General Assembly session in New York," the cabinet member added.

The JS Business Advisory body headed by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury is scheduled to meet today to decide the length of the session, and the main issues to be discussed in the House during the session.

The ruling party is likely to introduce a bill seeking the separation of the judiciary from the executive and another bill seeking to bring about changes in the JS Rules of Procedure paving the way for constituting parliamentary standing committees on various min-

istries with non-minister MPs heading them, government sources said.

Besides, the session is also expected to witness heated debates on reported government stance on certain national issues especially regarding the government's alleged 'soft-corner' for India, according to the sources in the BNP high command, the main opposition in Parliament.

"We shall definitely ask the government to explain in the House its position on certain national issues including sharing of Ganges water with India, the reported government plan to give transit route to and import of power from the same country, its position on the reported Indian move to change

Gunmen kill PDB man, take away Tk 5 lakh in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 31: Unidentified gunmen shot dead an employee of the Power Development Board (PDB) and snatched about Tk 5 lakh drawn from a bank at noon today at Bibirhat of Muradpur area in the city, police said.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Amanullah, 35.

Police said the armed snatcher had attacked the PDB staff while they were getting into a jeep with a bag of money drawn for giving salaries to PDB employees.

The snatchers opened fire on the PDB employees and then fled by a car taking the bag of money, police added.

Amanullah succumbed to his bullet wounds on the spot and the other staff ran for safety during the gunfire, police said.

The snatchers had waylaid the PDB employees in front of the bank after coming by a car, police added.

Proposed Trans-Asian Railway Bangladesh, India differ on route to Myanmar

By S Y Bakht, back from New Delhi

Bangladesh and India differ over the possible route of the proposed Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) through Bangladesh to Myanmar.

The differences between the two countries on the TAR route surfaced at a meeting of senior government officials in preparation for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure in New Delhi earlier this week.

The route is being finalised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

At the meeting, Bangladesh proposed extension of the TAR network's southern corridor

route from Dhaka to Yangon, Myanmar through the shortest possible route.

The Bangladesh delegation also suggested two routes passing through the country for the proposed Asian Highway with special access for Nepal to the Mongla Port.

The Indian delegation, however, objected to the Bangladesh proposal on the TAR network route. India had earlier suggested a detour of more than 1500 kilometre distance from Dhaka to Yangon through Northeast India.

Organised by the Bangkok-based ESCAP and hosted by the Government of India, the 4-day meeting of the senior govern-

ment officials was earlier inaugurated by Indian Surface Transport Minister T. G. Venkatarman at the Vigyan Bhawan conference centre.

The two member Bangladesh delegation at the meeting was led by M Abul Quasem, Joint Secretary, Roads and Railways Division, Ministry of Communications. Anwarul Islam, Superintending Engineer of the Roads and Highways Department, was the other member of the delegation.

"Bangladesh endorses the proposed TAR network route in the southern corridor over Bangladesh as endorsed in the 52nd session of the ESCAP and

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Prime Minister tells press on return Visit successful, tremendous response from US investors

By Staff Correspondent



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a press conference yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday turned her visit to the United States successful and said that she received encouraging response from foreign investors for investment in Bangladesh.

"We succeeded in our mission to draw attention of investors in the United States and I am optimistic about growing foreign investment in the country in the coming days," she said at a press conference at the conference hall of Ganobhaban in the evening.

The Prime Minister returned home early morning yesterday ending her trip eight days to the USA. She addressed the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and seized the opportunity in pursuing the government's economic diplomacy. She had a series of meetings with select groups of

leading US entrepreneurs. Besides, Sheikh Hasina also had talks with UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali as well as some other world leaders and representatives of various UN bodies and high officials of the US State Department.

The Prime Minister also signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, adopted by the UNGA two months back.

Sheikh Hasina said she made it "crystal clear" to the US investors that economic emancipation of the people of Bangladesh is my government's main goal.

The Prime Minister, flanked by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and State Minister for Information Abu Sayed said, "We received tremendous

Russia keen to help set up water treatment plants

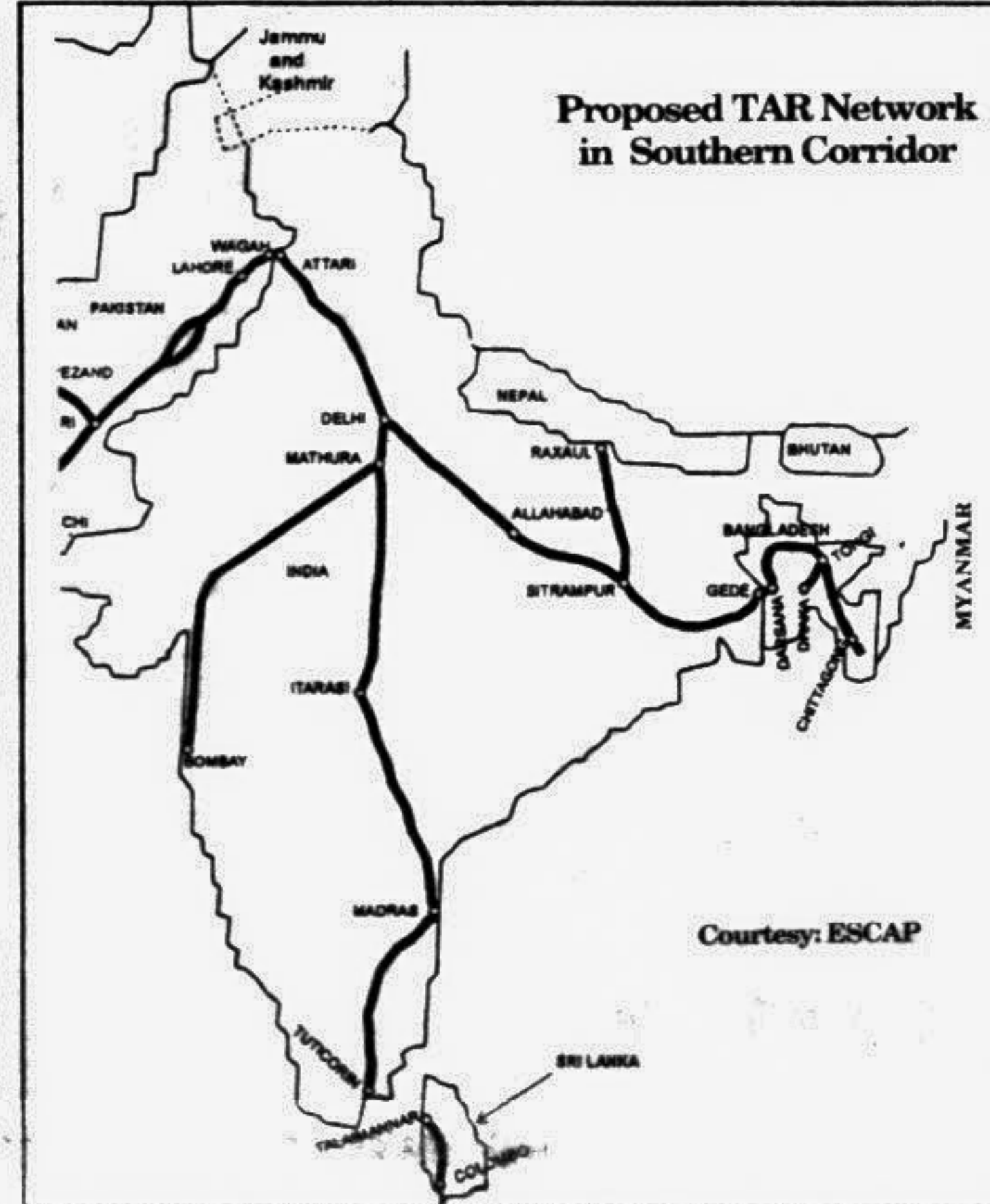
A high-level delegation of Russia yesterday expressed eagerness to provide cooperation in setting up water-treatment plants in medium and large scales in Bangladesh's urban areas, reports UNB.

The delegation, led by Russian Ambassador in Bangladesh Eduard Shevchenko, expressed their interest when they called on LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman at his office in the city yesterday.

They also showed interest to supply Russian-assembled portable bridges under technical project assistance.

Zillur Rahman told the delegation that the government was bringing about significant reforms in local government institutions with a view to alleviating poverty and creating employment opportunity by involving rural masses.

The government has taken up special programme to connect the remote areas with district headquarters under road-construction network for rural infrastructure development.



Proposed TAR Network in Southern Corridor

Courtesy: ESCAP

Basu to discuss transit, water issues during visit to Dhaka

Star Monitoring

Jyoti Basu, the chief minister of the Indian state of West Bengal, has expressed his desire to discuss a number of issues, including water sharing, economic relations, transit and the use of Chittagong Port, during his visit to Bangladesh sometime this month, according to BBC.

In an interview with the BBC Bengali service broadcast last night, Basu also said he was optimistic about the outcome of his forthcoming visit to Dhaka. He, however, avoided a direct reply to the transit issue saying, "I am going to speak to the people of a sovereign state," and added that both sides had their own issues to discuss.

When pressed by the BBC, he said, "I am a politician and not an astrologer... I am the chief minister of West Bengal."

Stressing the need for talks with the Bangladesh side, he said, "I am an optimist and without talking to them, what can I say."

Basu, who is scheduled to meet Indian Foreign Minister I K Gujral today, told the BBC that he had talks with Gujral before and after his recent visit to Dhaka.

BNP to raise issues in JS alleging govt failure

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP is likely to raise in the Jatiya Sangsad issues relating to government's alleged failure in maintaining law and order and persecution of political opponents, rigging of by-polls, its move to import power from India and to give transit facility to that country, according to party sources.

The second session of the JS begins today.

These issues were discussed at a meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan last night, the sources said.

The meeting, with Leader of the Opposition and the BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, was in progress till filing of this report at 11:15 pm. Some 80 MPs of the party attended the meeting, meeting sources said.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Khandakar Delwar Hossain came out of the meeting at 10:07 pm and told waiting newsmen that 10 lawmakers of his party addressed the meet till that time.

"They (BNP MPs) dwelt on various acts of terrorism by the ruling partymen, repression by the police, Prime Minister's speech in the UN General Assembly, the government's attempt to give corridor to India under the cover of the Asian Highway, its plan to import power from India and its subversive policy to realise the Ganges waters," Khandakar Delwar said.

The Opposition Chief Whip further told newsmen that his party legislators also spoke on price-hike of the essentials, filing of false cases against the former ministers, arrest of BNP

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Warrant of arrest against Khatib of Baitul Mukarram Mosque

A warrant of arrest has been issued against the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Maulana Obaidul Haque, on charge of high treason, reports UNB.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Dhaka issued the warrant Wednesday following a case filed by JSD-backed Chhatra League President Abdullahi Quyum.

The student leader sued the maulana in 1994 following a speech in which he (Obaidul Haq) said, "Some people broke Pakistan treacherously."



A TALE OF TWO CITIES: A slum, complete with its 'amenities', compete with the villas and glitter of Gulshan. Behind the glitter of Gulshan Circle No 2, with its expensive restaurants, fast food shops and shopping malls, the 'shanty town' rivals the rich with its own version of shopping street, complete with cafes and restaurants, rent-a-car service and bazar. The Dhaka City Corporation owns the land, originally marked as a park. But some of its employees had a different concept. They moved to the open space to built their own quarters. The small shops remain closed during the day. They are opened in the evening when the unpaved street comes to life with dealers of contraband liquors. The road has also become a parking lot for rent-a-car services as well as a war-house for a number of traders dealing in from building materials to rice.

— Shehab Ahmed with Photo by AKM Mohsin

Garment units in Bangladesh declared free of child labour

The readymade garment industry, whose existence once was under threat for using child workers, has been declared free of child labour from today setting a unique example, reports UNB.

The announcement was made by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Redwan Ahmed yesterday, the deadline for eliminating child labour from the export-oriented garment sector of the country.

He termed it a "memorable day for the garment sector" and said no garment factory of Bangladesh would employ a single child labourer aged under 14 from now on and would be subject to penalty if there is any violation.

He told the emergency meeting on child labour at a local hotel that some 5,500 child labourers had been placed in schools and the rest of the total 10,547 were in the process of transition from factories to schools.

Mahe Alam, Secretary for Labour and Manpower, called the elimination of child labour

from the clothing industry and placing them in the special schooling programme a "commendable achievement".

US Ambassador in Dhaka David N Merrill, who was a key figure in negotiating a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to free the industry from child labour, also appreciated the achievement and thanked the BGMEA members.

Ceasefire in CHT expires

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 31: The ongoing ceasefire which was in force in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) expired today.

Earlier, the truce declared in CHT on August 10, 1992 was extended for 30 times so far, officials said.

But no news of further extension of the truce in CHT either by Shantibahini leaders or the government was announced till the writing of this report late tonight.

"Congratulations and thanks from the UNICEF," said also Rolf C Carriere, the country representative of the United Nations Children's Fund which closely worked with the BGMEA to eliminate child labour and has been implementing the education programme.

The underaged workers have been placed in the schools with stipend under the MOU signed by the BGMEA, UNICEF and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to cleanse the garment industry of child labour.

Redwan said after the total elimination of child labour and their ultimate absorption in the school programme, the industry was now open for inspection by international agencies, local dignitaries and the press.

Any member unit of the BGMEA employing child labour would be charged with violation of the provisions of MOU making them liable to action, including fine to the extent of 1000 US dollars in each case, he said.

In case of non-payment of See Page 12 Col 8

Indian share scam Harshad Mehta, 15 others chargesheeted

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: Federal detectives here today charged 16 bankers and stock brokers with illegal securities deals during the biggest capital market swindle in Indian history, reports AFP.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) charged Harshad Mehta, a stock broker, a former chief of State Bank of India

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Time for depositing house rent of Hajj pilgrims extended

The last date for depositing money to rent houses in Makkah for the Hajj pilgrims has been extended up to November 16 from October 31, said an official announcement yesterday, reports UNB.

People who are interested to perform Hajj under government management are requested to deposit Tk 16,000 in the scheduled bank within the stipulated time.

95 killed in Brazilian plane crash

SAO PAULO, Oct 31: A Brazilian jetliner crashed into a residential neighborhood in Sao Paulo shortly after take-off today, igniting a river of fire that engulfed apartments, homes and cars. A civil defence official said all 95 people on board were killed, reports AP.

The death toll was expected to rise as firefighters searched homes and apartments struck and set on fire by the crash. One resident of the middle-class neighborhood said he saw "a river of fuel on fire flowing down the street".

Dozens of bodies covered with black plastic lay on the sidewalk as firemen sprayed water on smoking rubble. Pieces of the plane were strewn across the neighborhood, and parked cars were burning.

Police and firemen used plywood planks as makeshift stretchers to carry bodies to black morgue trucks that shuttled to and from the crash area. Black smoke poured into the sky from the fires on the ground.

Col Leopoldo Correia of the Sao Paulo fire department, who

coordinated rescue operations, said 93 bodies were recovered but that it was impossible to tell whether they were residents or passengers.

"When we arrived, we saw cars burning, houses demolished, and parts of bodies amid the wreckage," Correia said. "Many bodies were burned beyond recognition. It was like a scene from Dante's Inferno."

The Fokker-100 belonging to the regional airline TAM was leaving Sao Paulo on a 45-minute flight to Rio de Janeiro when it crashed about 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) from the runway, civil defense Sgt Carlos Santana said by telephone.

"Our information from the scene is that there were no survivors," he said.

Santana said the plane took off at 8:30 am (1030 GMT) in clear, sunny weather and failed to gain altitude, striking an apartment building and 10 houses and bursting into flames.

The Congonhas airport, which handles domestic flights for Sao Paulo, was closed briefly due to the heavy smoke.

Account to deposit honorarium for Ershad opened

Star Report

An account has been opened for jailed Jatiya Party (JP) chief H M Ershad with a Sonali Bank branch at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan to deposit his arrears honorarium as a member of the Fifth Jatiya Sangsad, according to official sources here yesterday.

The account was opened following clearance from the Home Ministry and approval of the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Sangsad Secretariat, the sources said.

Sources in the JP said the honorarium and other financial benefits, amounting to about Tk seven lakh, has been released, but the cheque for the amount is yet to be deposited in the account.