

COMMENT

Kulidip Nayar writes on the infamous Bofors scandal in *Bofors: The Sidekicks Story*

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FOCUS

Senior UNHCR official Shamsul Bari recounts a refugee situation in Budapest ten years back that eventually changed the course of European history

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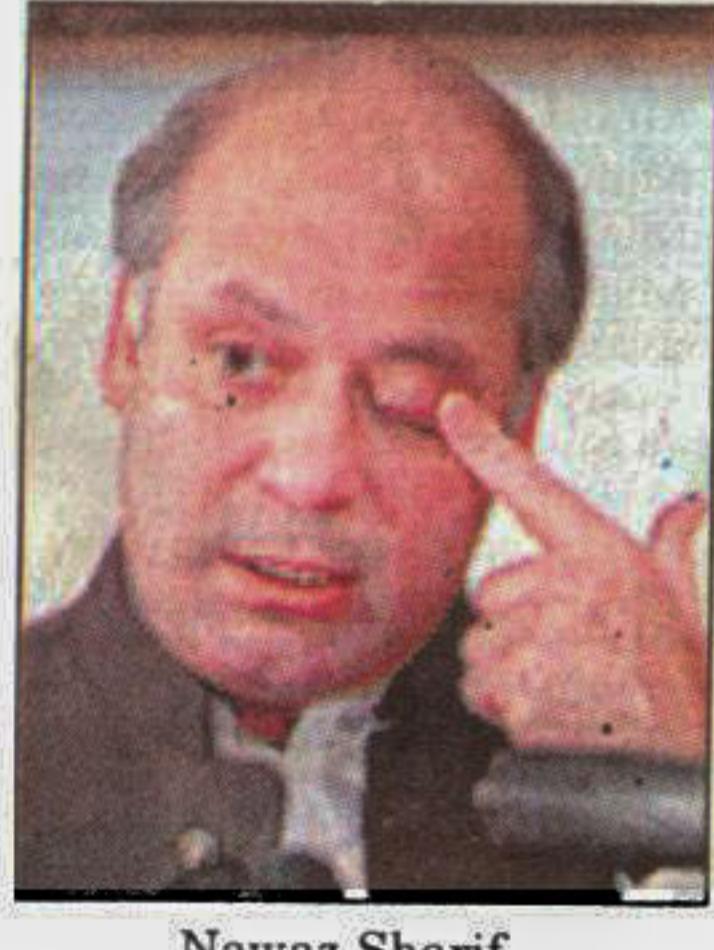
SUPPLEMENT
A two-page special
on the Golden Jubilee
of Notre Dame College

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PHOTO FEATURE
Scenes of Dhaka last week
depicts the turbulent time the capital went through last week during the opposition-enforced dawn-to-dusk hartals for three consecutive days

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Sharif charged with treason



Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD, Nov 11: A special anti-terrorist court will hear charges of treason and kidnapping or hijacking against Pakistan's deposed premier Nawaz Sharif and seven others. If convicted they could be sentenced to life in prison or death, reports AP.

The charges were filed with police in the southern port city of Karachi after midnight on Thursday accusing Sharif and seven others of treason and in the case of kidnapping involving an airliner — hijacking.

He also was charged with assembling people with the purpose of committing murder and physical endangerment, both charges carry a lesser prison term.

The charges, laid by the military government nearly one month after overthrowing Sharif in a swift and peaceful coup, stem from an Oct. 12 episode in which the passenger aircraft returning Army Chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf to Pakistan was refused landing rights in the southern port city of Karachi.

Also on board the passenger airliner were 200 passengers and crew members, including more than 40 students from US-operated international schools throughout Pakistan, attended by children of US diplomats.

Eventually the aircraft landed, but with barely 10 minutes of fuel remaining, according to Musharraf and avia-

tion officials.

A disgruntled army overthrew Sharif's unpopular government on Oct. 12 after the ex-prime minister fired Musharraf and tried to induct a junior general and close ally as the new military chief.

Sharif has been in army custody since the coup.

The Clinton administration appealed Wednesday for protection of legal rights of the accused.

"We have continued to raise our concerns with Pakistani authorities about former prime minister Sharif's well-being and our concern he be accorded due process," the Deputy State Department spokesman James

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PM arrives in Durban

From Toufique Imrose Khalidi

DURBAN, South Africa, Nov 11: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in this Indian Ocean city to attend the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) tomorrow.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad PM's Principal Secretary Dr S A Samad, Foreign Secretary CM Shahi Sami and PM's Press Secretary Jawadul Karim are accompanying her as members of the official delegation.

President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa heads a distinguished list of speakers at the opening ceremony of the CHOGM, officials here said.

The other speakers will be Commonwealth Secretary-general Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Prime Minister of Singapore Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Jamaica P J Patterson and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth.

Briefing journalists on the CHOGM to be held from November 12-15, Chief Anyaoku also outlined topics likely to come up during the discussions, including the special theme, People-Centred Development: The Challenge of

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C'wealth summit opens in Durban today

Globalisation, democracy and good governance main issues

From Toufique Imrose Khalidi

DURBAN, South Africa, Nov 11: The Commonwealth cannot flout its own principles whatever the circumstances in Pakistan may be, Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku said today.

"I believe Commonwealth cannot depart from the basic principles," Chief Anyaoku told a press conference here ahead of the biggest ever summit of the 54-nation grouping starting tomorrow.

The gathering of 47 heads of government — the largest ever — and 52 national delegations is expected to discuss an increasingly broadened agenda including democracy, good governance, human rights, globalisation, debt relief, economic development and small states.

Development: the Challenge of Globalisation" has been chosen as the theme for this year's CHOGM. The host President Thabo Mbeki has said the is-

sues at stake will be globalisation, democracy and governance.

Pakistan has already been barred from the summit and remains suspended from all sorts of inter-governmental meetings, a decision taken by the

Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (C-MAG) immediately after the October 12 military coup that toppled the elected government of Prime Minister Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

But Chief Anyaoku said a decision would come only from the Commonwealth heads of government meeting (CHOGM) after considering the report from the C-MAG whose four members went to Pakistan late last month.

He also stopped short of saying that a decision to expel Pakistan was forthcoming as the Commonwealth did in case of Nigeria in 1995 after a mill-

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tary take-over. He also did not disclose the contents of the C-MAG report for the CHOGM.

The ministerial mission was engaged in quite constructive discussions with the military regime ... I myself had a talk with General (Parvaiz) Musharraf ... should engage in further discussions. The question (of expulsion) comes only after that," Chief Anyaoku said.

At a special meeting convened by the secretary-general on October 18, the Group decided to suspend Pakistan from its Councils and decided that four of its ministers (Canada Barbados, Ghana, and Malaysia) should travel to Pakistan as soon as possible. Their two-day mission to Pakistan took place from 28-29 October.

C-MAG will have one last opportunity to review its recommendations to Commonwealth Heads of Government on

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BNP threatens civil disobedience movement

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the opposition will start 'civil disobedience movement' and will not go to court for bail if the current trend of filing of false cases and harassment of BNP leaders and activists continued.

He said unspecified number of leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations across the country could not stay and sleep at their respective homes due to police harassment.

More than 5,000 party activists in the capital cannot

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Golden Jubilee celebrations of Notre Dame college

A farce is going on in the name of edn: President

Dismissing the present education system as timeworn, President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said cancerous irregularity and immoral acts gripped country's entire educational sector, reports UNB.

"Erosion of moral values in society is very painful. As the ideological viewpoints are not clear, a total farce is going on in the name of education," he said in a swinging comment on the academic debacle.

Addressing the inaugural function of Golden Jubilee cele-

brations of Notre Dame College, the president lamented that in some educational institutions there are terrorism, arms race and even killings in the name of student politics.

What a family, society and country could expect from those involved in such activities," asked Shahabuddin.

The president listed the reasons behind the cancerous situation in the education sector and said the irregularity going on in the education sector cannot be good for the nation.

The reasons are: coming to classes without preparations, not being present and giving lessons to students at classes regularly, suggesting students to use notebooks to prepare for examinations, private tuition to

increase income without giving proper lesson to students, copying in the examinations, delaying the examinations without enough reason, session jams, misuse of time before and after the examinations and unnecessary delays in announcing examination results.

There does not exist an atmosphere congenial to giving or taking lessons in the educational institutions," Shahabuddin told his campus audience.

Underscoring the need for higher education, he said there is a great need to give attention to the country's higher education.

Because, the skilled manpower needed to run public and

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CSM-IGS (CANADA) offers Executive MBA Program for Bangladeshi students

CSM Institute of Graduate Studies (Canada) offers Executive MBA Program for Bangladeshi students from November 1999. The external program provides 16 months (4 semesters) study for entrepreneurs, executives, managers, bankers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, government & NGOs, defense personnel, and also for fresh graduates to develop an understanding of modern business environment and to face the challenges of the 21st century business world.

CSM-IGS offers Executive MBA Program through its South Asia branch (TASMAC) Pune, India. In Bangladesh, Institute of Resource Development (IRD), House 67A, Road 8A (new), 15 (old), Dhanmondi, Dhaka; tel: 9126096 or 018-219113 (office is open during holidays including Friday).

IRD is also offering some other courses like, a weeklong certificate course on "Business English for Professionals", a post-graduate course in Business Administration (Shorter MBA Program) under a British curriculum, BBA Program (4 years) under National University, and Diploma in Computer Engineering (3 years) and Pre-BBA Program (2 years HSC-BM) under Bangladesh Technical Education Board.

IRD maintains high quality of education supervised by American teachers. It has two campuses in Dhaka City equipped with modern furniture, air-conditioning, rich library and computer-laboratory.

Final degree certificates and trans-

cripts will be issued by CSM-IGS Headquarter, Toronto, Canada in accordance with its Charters and Permits.

Candidates having at least a graduation from any field may apply. However, four years work experience at the executive level will be given preference.

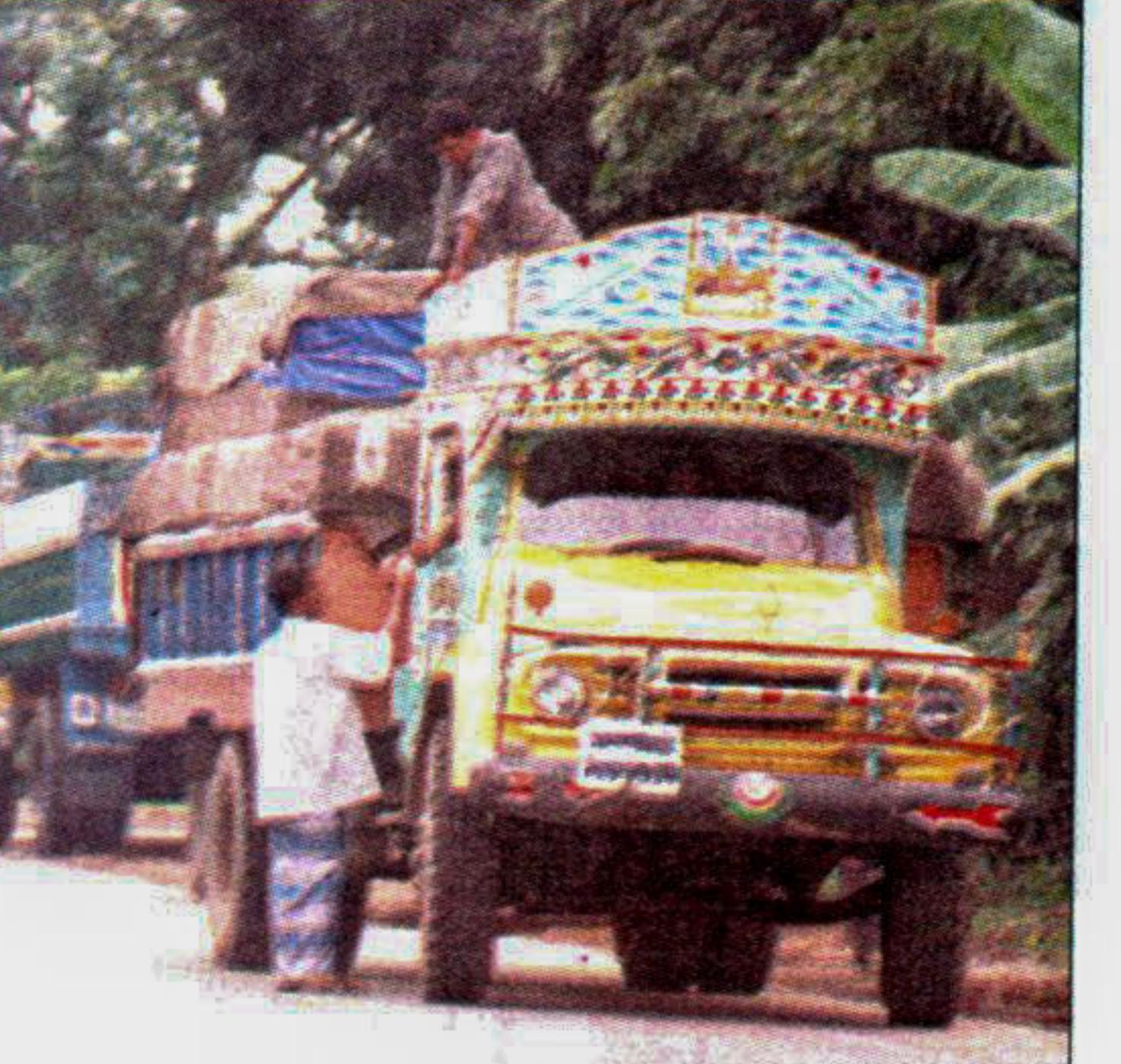
Total cost for this Executive MBA Program is USD 2,000 (approximately taka 96,600). Last date for application is November 26 and viva voce test will be held on November 27 at 6:00 p.m. For details, anyone may contact the head office of Institute for Resource Development (IRD), House 67A, Road 8A (new), 15 (old), Dhanmondi, Dhaka; tel: 9126096 or 018-219113 (office is open during holidays including Friday).

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The man in lungi collecting 'beat' money at Choiomile during Fultala thana for the policemen waiting on their motorbikes (not in picture) on the other side of the road.

—Star photo



The trees at the Osmany Udyana are saved, at least for the time being, but the park remains endangered. The pond at the Udyana has been at the receiving end of a sewerage network. DCC wisdom! (Bottom left) A chirping bird, but how long will the winged beauty continue to buck the odds?

—Star photo

A little more attention, please

By Shehab Ahmed



The Osmany Udyana, a park managed by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), is in a bad shape though a change in government decision has saved the park from being the site of a convention centre for the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) Summit.

The park is yet to be freed of a number of structures and encroachers, the latest being the Titus Gas Company which took over a sizeable area, raising walls.

The NAM convention centre will now be built at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar at the site of the trade fair beside the Chandrima Uyana.

The change in government

decision followed citizens' protest against construction of the convention centre. They demanded retention of the only open space between old and new parts of the city amid a concrete jungle.

But a slum reportedly managed by certain railway employees and encroachers are there. A mosque, the Titus Gas Company which took over a sizeable area, raising walls.

The park is perfect sanctuary, feasting on insects, worms and aquatic life including some small fish that

An Awami League office beside the Golapashan mosque and a former railway club, later converted into a 'Muktijoddha Sangsads Club' occupy portions of the park. The central office of ruling Awami League is just on the opposite side of the road.

Beside the Muktijoddha Club, a few squatters live in their plastic shanties.

But the shabby park with a small dirty pond and hundreds of trees is still home to varieties of birds including several pairs of egrets.

The birds find the park a perfect sanctuary, feasting on insects, worms and aquatic life including some small fish that

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It's an AL-Siddiqui fight

A day in Tangail-8 constituency

By Nazmul Ashraf, back from Tangail

date.

Its leadership challenged by Siddiqui, the ruling party seems to have laid utmost importance to the by-polls, putting all its might behind party candidate Shawqat Momen Shahjat.

The Tangail-8 constituency comprising Shakhipur and Bashall thanas is now vibrating with frequent visits by ruling party weighty.

AL launched a special drive to win over voters only recently while its expelled leader has been seeking re-election soon after he resigned from parliament on August 29.

With only three days left for the polling, campaigning is now on its highest pitch. The AL is trying to weaken Siddiqui's stronghold for long while Siddiqui struggling to consolidate his strength in the area where his courageous role during the War of Liberation is almost a legend.

Dr S A Malek, Political Adviser to the Prime Minister, is in the constituency for more than a week now. He is backed by some 20 junior leaders of the party in an extensive campaign.

During a day-long visit at Shakhipur and Bashall on

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চ্যারিটি ফুটবল ম্যাচ

বোমের চমতির ভারকা বনাম বালাদেশ ক্লিকেট ভারকা

অধ্যাপক আব্দুল ইসলাম (অধিবাসক) আব্দুল ইসলাম (অধিবাসক) বোমের ভারকা টেক্সেল শার্প, মোবিল, সোনালী বার্সে, জিলিভার, শক্তি কাপুর, চাকি পাতে, নমুন শিল্পালয়, শিলি জিলিভা, সুমন বৰানাশ, কামাল বার, আবৰাজ বার, সোহেল বার, আবতার বার, শারদ কাপুর, অঙ্গুল প্রিন্সিপী, সাজিন মানিওভালা বৰ ৪২ জন

হাল ৪ বৰ্ষের ভারকা বালাদেশ ক্লিকেট ভারকা বৰ ১২ জন

অধিবাসক আব্দুল ইসলাম (