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People's Right to Know

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subways as in Kolkata

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia vesterday urged the Russian government to import readymade garments from Bangladesh on favourable terms and also undertake a feasibility study for the construction of subways in Dhaka and its suburbs.

Khaleda Zia made the request when Ambassador of Russian Federation Nikolai G. Shevehenko called on her at her office.

Referring to big markets in Russia, the prime minister asked the envoy to initiate discussions with the BGMEA on import of Bangladeshi readymade garments

Referring to the subways in the West Bengal capital of Kolkata constructed with Russian assistance, Khaleda urged the ambassador to undertake a feasibility study for similar subway system in

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PM concerned over Afghan situation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Thursday reiterated Bangladesh's stand against terrorism but expressed deep concern over the humanitarian question in

She expressed the view when Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf's special envoy Barrister Shahida Zamil called on her at her office. They discussed various issues, particularly the present situation in Afghanistan.

During the meeting, the Pakistan envoy handed over an invitation letter from the Pakistan president to the prime minister to visit Islamabad at her convenient

In the letter, Musharraf mentioned cordial relations between the two countries and hoped to met her at the forthcoming SAARC summit in Kathmandu.

The Pakistan president also recalled the telephonic conversa

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Cox's Bazar-3 polls

4-party candidate declared elected

UNB, Dhaka

Mohammad Shahiduzzaman of BNPled four-party alliance was unofficially declared elected from Cox's Bazar-3 after election in the constituency Thursday.

Shahiduzzaman got 1,13,895 votes while his nearest rival candidate Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury of Awami Leaguepolled8,312.

The election in the constituency could not held on October 1 following the death of BNP candidate Advocate Khalequzzaman before the general

OurCox's Bazar correspondent adds: The AL candidate bagged over eight thousand votes despite boycotting the election. District Election Office said the percentage of votes cast was 42.97. Voter turnout in town areas was low due to rain, but voters in rural areas had left their homes early in the morning to reach the polling centres. Six candidates contested

INSIDE TODAY

The tragedy of Afghanistan Column: Between the Lines **Kuldip Nayar**

Peter Carey: Chronicler of a time long gone Supplement One page special supplement on

National Voluntary Blood Donation and Posthumous Eye Donation Day Sun Rises | Sun Sets

Nov 3			5-18 pm
Nov 4	6-06 am		
Prayer Timings			
Nov 3			
		Azan	Jamaat

12-45 1-15 4-15 5-34 Maghrib 7-15 7-45 Esha

Source: Islamic Foundation

Russia urged to help build Govt may cancel all projects under suppliers' credit

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN

The government is contemplating cancellation of all development projects under suppliers' credit, deals for which were signed towards the end of Awami League government's tenure

 $Sources\, said\, Finance\, and\, Planning\, Minister\, M\, Saifur$ Rahman placed a list of the costly projects at a high level meeting on Wednesday, seeking review of the deals.

He has already ordered suspension of implementation of the projects, a highly placed source in the Planning Ministry told this correspondent.

"We are reviewing the interest rates, repayment periods etc," he said seeking anonymity. The government is looking for grounds to cancel the projects. The World Bank has been pursuing cancellation of the projects and handed over a list of those to the minis-

The Bank had earlier placed the list before the newly

elected prime minister, seeking cancellation of the

Economists and donor agencies had warned the Awami League government not to take costly hard term

But the AL government signed 12 deals for suppliers' credit totalling about US\$600 million last fiscal year,

some of those in May and June. According to sources, the contracts reflect \$ 200 to 300 million inflated costs of the projects.

Usually soon after the signing of such deals, some 10 to 15 per cent down payments are required to be made even before implementation of the projects begin. Interest on the total suppliers' credit will come to around \$110 million.

However, finance ministry sources said whatever be the interest rates on the funds for these projects, which are often shown at around 3 to 8.5 per cent, 'hidden SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

CMM summons 7 on charge of

Ctg Cement Clinker

manipulating share prices

STAR REPORT

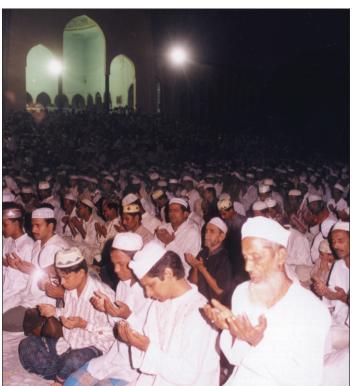
The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, has summoned seven persons to appear before it on charge of manipulating share prices of Chittagong Cement Clinker using inside information.

They include President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Yussuf Abdullah Harun, who is a former director of the clinker company.

The others are: TK Oil Refinery which has a nominated director, Chairman of Chittagong Cement Clinker Abu Tayab, directors Abul Kalam, MR Dey, Col (Retd) ATM Salauddin and shareholder Ejazur Rashid, who is the brother of

On Thursday, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed the case on the basis of an

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Devotees offering munajat seeking divine blessings at Baitul Mukarram Mosque on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat Thursday night.

Shab-e-Barat observed

UNB, Dhaka

Holy Shab-e-Barat or the night of divine salvation was observed in the country Thursday night with due religious fervour.

Muslim devotees offered nightlong special prayers at home or mosques seeking divine blessings. Milad and waz mahfil, zikir and special prayers were also arranged in all mosques to mark the holy

Muslims believe that Almighty Allah determines the fate of all human beings on this night for the next one year. Shab-e-Barat is

often called the 'night of fortune.' Keeping to the Muslim tradition, every family prepares bread and sweets to distribute among relatives and neighbours in obser-

vance of the holy night. Marking the significance of Shab-e-Barat, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and opposition leader Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages wishing the Muslim Ummah divine blessings

Thursday was a newspaper SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

B52s pound Taliban field HQs

B-52 bombers pounded the front line north of Kabul yesterday in one of the strongest attacks yet, blasting Taliban field headquarters. Opposition forces said the bombing appeared directed by US forces on the ground.

As the US administration said it would send in more special forces and fight through the month of Ramadan, California's governor spoke of a "credible" threat against major bridges there including the famous Golden Gate.

Global Hawk, a high-flying unmanned reconnaissance aircraft that is still under development, may also be used for surveillance missions over Afghanistan,

the Pentagon said Thursday.

Air Force General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Northrop Grumman-built drone was among an array of reconnaissance assets being considered for use in the Afghanistan campaign.

Strong American attacks were also reported yesterday against Taliban positions defending the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif. One opposition official, Nadeem Ashraf, called the on suspected Taliban positions defending Kabul.

They appeared to be targeting positions both on the front line, including a Taliban-held village called Kharabogh, and deeper inside Taliban-held territory.

One huge bomb blasted the abandoned Qara Muheb village that opposition forces said the Taliban used as a field command

"We could see B-52s, the ones

with the four engines, drop many, many bombs that raised huge masses of smoke," opposition fighter Said Mirshah, 24, said. An opposition spokesman in Parwan province, 60 kilometers north of Kabul, said yesterday's assault was the heaviest in the area

since the air campaign began Oct. The spokesman, Waisuddin

Salik, said US bombers also targeted positions along the old road from Kabul to the opposition-held SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



File photo of 4 leaders (from left): Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Capt M Mansur Ali and Quamruzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jail Killing Day will be observed today to commemorate the assassination of four national leaders who had a pivotal role in the country's War of Independence in 1971.

A group of state-patronised army personnel killed the four national leaders - Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, captain M Mansur Ali and AHM Quamruzzaman -- inside the Dhaka Central Jail at the dawn of November 3, 1975, two and a half months after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Jail Killing Day today

Rahman on August 15, 1975. President Sahabuddin Ahmad

in a message yesterday termed the jail killing of 1975 the most tainted chapter in the national life and an episode of hatred in human civili-

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in a similar message on the eve of the Jail Killing Day hoped the verdict of the Bangabandhu murder case would be executed and the assassins of the four national leaders also be

Terming the November 3 jail killing a dark chapter in the country's democratic history, the AL chief said the conspirators on this day in 1975 killed the four associates of Bangabandhu, who made tremendous contribution to the war of independence.

The four national leaders, also members of the Mujibnagar government in exile, who governed the country during the independence SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Ganobhaban

AL denounces scrapping of allotment to Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League has denounced the Scrapping of allotment of Ganobhaban to Sheikh Hasina as reflection of the Khaleda Zia government's political vendetta and

In a note the Awami League leadership yesterday said the hasty cabinet decision cancelling the allotment, changing into the evening office of the prime minister was "illegal and vengeful". It was also indecent, devoid of

political nicety and contrary to justice and humanity, said the AL

Awami League, which lost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

in the October 1 general election.

Besides, former deputy minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury has been appointed Political Secretary to the AL President and former bureaucrat Dr Hassan Mahmud personal aide to her.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Thursday made some appointments in key parliamentary positions reserved for the Opposition, initiating a significant move to rejuvenate the party following its debacle

Immediate past Speaker and now party lawmaker Abdul Hamidid has been made Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and party lawmaker Md Abdus Shahid Chief Whip of the Opposition in

Earlier on October 25, the AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP) at a meeting unanimously elected Hasina Leader of the ALPP and empowered her to nominate Deputy Leader, Chief Whip and other whips of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

However, she is yet to appoint Whips.

Party rank and file have welcomed that new faces have been placed in such important positions, insiders

Saber Hossain political secretary to Hasina

Hamid made Deputy Leader of

Opposition, Shahid Chief Whip

Appointment of Saber Hossain Chowdhury as Political Secretary to the AL chief is considered an important decision. Though he lost to the four-party alliance candidate in his Dhaka-6 constituency in the recent parliamentary election, he is well known for his dynamism and has long been in the good book of

Explaining his line of action to further strengthen the party, Saber told UNB yesterday that he would keep the party chief informed of various developments in domestic, regional and global politics.

"We will try to build up the office of political secretary as an institution with modern thoughts and tech-nologies," he said. A full-fledged secretariat would be set up to coordinate various affairs at home and

He went on, "We want to do things from now on more professionally and methodically for future politics," Saber said.

Mentionably, while in power for five years till mid-Iuly this year, Hasina had no political secretary but

had a political advisor with the rank of minister.

of BNP leaders, workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rahman Patal in more than 30.

The immediate past Awami League government filed thousands of cases

against different BNP leaders and workers. Over 30 ministers and deputy ministers in the 60-member cabinet of the BNP government have at least one or more cases filed against, accord-

Of them, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeq Hossain Khoka, a clear target of political harassment, has 145 cases filed by the AL against him, including at least seven murder charges. Next to Khoka is State Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Amanullah Aman accused in 64 cases, including three murder charges. Also accused was Mirza Abbas in 53 cases including several murder State Minister for Education Ahsanul Haq Milon has been accused in more than 35 cases, and State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur

Among ministers and state ministers accused in between five and 15 cases are Labour and Manpower Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Food Minister Toriqul Islam, Textiles Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Industries Minister MK Anwar, Jute Minister Maj. (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, State Minister for Land Barrister Shahjahan Omar, Housing and Public Works State Minister Alamgir Kabir, LGRD State Minister Ziaul Haq Zia, and State Minister for Commerce Barkat Ullah Bhulu. Also accused was Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in several corruption

Toriqul Islam apart, the AL government, however, did not arrest any

Indications filtering in from the AL's almost fizzled-out drive to pursue

AL govt sued thousands | Two brothers murdered

Body of police informant recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mirpur areá.

Two brothers were killed and the body of a police informant was recovered yesterday in the city's

The two brothers Mizanur Rahman, 30, and Ziaul Haq, 25, sons of late Asgar Ali, were murdered by unidentified miscreants in the early hours of yesterday, police and family sources said. Abdur Rashid, the elder brother

of the victims, went to a nearby residence at Sheurapara, Mirpur, at about 7:00am to inquire about his brothers, both owners of video game shops, family members said. Rashid shouted, frightened by the sight of his dead brother Ziaul pinned down on the stairway outside the second floor of the

When the local people rushed to the spot, hearing screams, he entered the adjoining room and found Mizanur Rahman, the other

brother, dead inside to his utter Mirpur police, being informed, went to the spot at about 10:00am and sent the bodies to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH)

morgue for autopsy. Later in the afternoon, the family members received the bodies from

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Currencies worth Tk 16cr seized at Zia Int'l Airport



Customs officials display foreign currencies seized at ZIA from Pakistani national Wakar Muktar (inset) on Thursday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials at Zia International Airport (ZIA) seized about TK 15 crore in foreign and local currencies on Thursday. In a big haul, 16 kinds of foreign

currencies and also a huge amount

of domestic currencies were seized from an aircraft of the Emirates Airlines at about 9 am on Thursday

The amount (in local currency) totalled Tk 10,42,66,981. The currencies include Saudi Rial 18,53,966, US Dollars 5,95,749, British Pound Sterling 2,33,585, Malaysian Ringit 51, 647, Kuwait Dinar 4,333, UAE Dirham 73,820, Oman Rial 854, Qatar rial 7,866, Bahrain Dinar 124, Brunei Dollars 300, Canadian Dollars 650, Deutsche Mark 99,600, Singapore Dollars 3,121, Australian Dollars

1,300, Indian Rupee 500, Tk 1,

67,60,000 and Japanese Yen

Neither customs officials nor those of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) could say how the currencies were taken into the international flight. None was arrested in this connection as the currencies were unclaimed. In another haul on the same day

in the evening, customs officials seized 27 kinds of foreign curren-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Gas export move Hasina did it first, says Saifur **STAFF CORRESPONDENT,** Sylhet

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman has claimed that it is Sheikh Hasina who had pressed the international oil companies for early production of gas for export to

There are documents to back up his claim and if necessary those would be made public, he added.

Addressing a big public meeting at Companiganj upazila sadar yesterday organised by upazila BNP, the minister said that the administration had totally collapsed under the Awami League as they had turned it into a portion they had turned it into a partisan instrument. He underscored the need for "getting it back on track

About the October 1 election, he said when the whole world had termed the election free and fair, Sheikh Hasina and her party were going around saying that it was rigged. "People gave their verdict against terrorism and corruption,"