



## Hungarian wins Nobel for literature

AFP, Stockholm

Hungarian Holocaust survivor and novelist Imre Kertész, whose writing is dominated by his experiences in Auschwitz as a teenager, won the 2002 Nobel Literature Prize yesterday.

Outside his native Hungary, his work has found the most resonance in Germany, France and Scandinavia, but is little read in the English-speaking world.

The 72-year-old Kertész has always refused to see Auschwitz as an exceptional

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## Setback for ruling party in Kashmir assembly polls

AFP, Srinagar

The long-ruling National Conference party in India's troubled Kashmir state was swept out of power, results showed yesterday, after a violent election that saw a high turnout despite a separatist boycott.

The National Conference (NC), whose dynastic leadership has dominated Kashmir for half a century, lost more than half of its assembly seats. Its chief, India's junior foreign minister Omar Abdullah, suffered a humiliating defeat in his home constituency.

The big winners were the Congress, India's main opposition party, and the regional People's Democratic Party, which secured 20 and 16 seats respectively in the 87-member assembly.

They are now tipped to form a coalition to rule the restive Himalayan state.

Both parties favour Indian rule in divided Kashmir but have called for unconditional talks with separatists.

Fifteen independents were also elected and other parties won eight seats. The National Conference, which had held 57 seats, went down to only 28.

The main separatist alliance, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, welcomed the defeat of the National Conference, under whose reign two of the

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## 3 get life term for murder at Naogaon

BSS, Rajshahi

Three persons were sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for killing a man in Raninagar upazila of Naogaon district five years ago.

Zohirul Islam, 42, was killed by the convicts at Durgapur village on August 29, 1997 as a sequel to a previous enmity, according to the prosecution.

The convicts are Abul Kalam Azad, 24, and his wife Zahanara Khatun alias Janu, 20, of Durgapur village and Manik, 20, of Paika village in Atrai upazila of Naogaon district.

Shyam Narayan Pal, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Naogaon, also fined the convicts Tk 2,000 each, in default, to suffer another three-month rigorous imprisonment.

Another accused in the case, Abdus Sattar, 52, of Durgapur vil

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## Newmooring container terminal opens Oct 17

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

The port city is vibrating with great enthusiasm ahead of the much expected foundation-laying of the Newmooring Container Terminal by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on October 17.

Hectic preparations are on for the ceremony. "We are now busy making all arrangements", Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Chairman Commodore (Rtd)

Julfikar Ali told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We have floated tenders (for construction of the terminal) and all tender formalities will be completed soon", he said in a jovial mood.

"Once the project is completed, capacity of Chittagong port will increase manifold to cope with the growing cargo", he said.

To be funded by the CPA, the 750 crore taka terminal will be ready for commissioning in 2005, when at

least five container vessels will be able to berth at a time for loading and unloading.

With a 1000-metre berth, it will handle 300,000 TEUs containers annually.

The project was taken up in 1996 to cope with the growing container cargo, but it was shelved for years due to red-tapism, sources said.

Container cargo at the port is growing by 15 per cent annually.

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PHOTO: STAR

Lined up are earthen vases and pots for selling of plants on the parkland along the Gulshan-Baridhara Lake in the city. Some corrupt officials of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in the pay of the businessmen let the nurseries thrive on the illegally occupied land.

## Baridhara Park poached

JULHAS RIPON

At least five residents of Baridhara and a band of nursery businessmen have illegally occupied almost all parkland along the Gulshan-Baridhara Lake.

Owners of house Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 have fenced off the parkland along the United Nations Road and at least 15 nursery owners run their business on the southern edge of the park.

They claimed that they all pay rents to the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) via the Mahanagari Nursery Owners Association.

One such businessman told The Daily Star that the DCC leased the land out at Tk 1,000 in monthly 'rents' from each nursery owner.

Another nursery owner said the businessmen pay the rents to Sadek Mia of the association.

The playground, open space and park protection act, 2000 bans any conversion of the parkland. Conversion of any parkland without approval from the authorities con-

cerned and without any environment clearance is totally prohibited, the act says.

Nor the parkland can be rented, leased out or used for any other purpose, the act prescribes. Moreover, a recent prime ministerial directive suggests strict enforcement of the act.

During the autocratic rule of HM Ershad, nine plots were allocated illegally to some influential people who built houses and have recently fenced off the parkland, said sources.

The caretaker of a house in the area said the fences were built for security reasons. A security guard said miscreants and floating prostitutes used to roam the park area at night.

"The homeowners have fenced off the park to keep prostitutes and miscreants at bay," he justified.

Three years ago, the Baridhara Society, a local welfare organisation, encroached upon one and a half bighas in the name of building a mosque on the parkland. Later,

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## 2 housewives killed for dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two housewives were murdered for dowry allegedly by their husbands in separate incidents in the city and Narayanganj yesterday.

Gulshan Police recovered the body of Ayesha Begum, 28, wife of Mohammad Ferdous, from their Mohakhali residence in the city at 9:00am yesterday.

Police suspected the victim might have been strangled. Her husband Ferdous has gone into hiding since the incident.

Victim's sister Afrosa Begum said Ferdous used to torture Ayesha often.

After the inquest report, police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for

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## Miscreants evict 69 families in Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi

Miscreants looted all the belongings of 69 families and evicted them from their houses at 'Kuwaiti Palli' of Khalpar village in Sadar upazila on Sunday.

The victims alleged that they were forced to leave their homes by the criminals and now living in the open. But the district administration said they left the place voluntarily.

Local UP Chairman Alhaj Meheruddin Ahmed said some 30-35 men led by Akbar Ali, Shaon and Ebadullah and equipped with lethal weapons launched Sunday's attack.

They evicted 69 families living in the area and looted all their belong

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