



PHOTO: AFP

A Russian special forces officer changes his position under the cover of an APC during yesterday's storming of the Moscow theatre building while a TV grab from Russian NTV shows the bodies of Chechen separatists killed in the raid. The raid ended the hostage crisis that began on October 23.

Bloody end to hostage crisis

How it finished

Local time, Saturday	
3.30 am	Explosion, gunshots
5.30 am	Hostages tell Russian radio gas being pumped into theatre
5.40 am	3 blasts, gunfire
6.00 am	Russian officials say 2 hostages killed
6.30 am	Large explosion, 2 tanks move in, soon after 6 hostages flee building
6.40 am	Officials announce rebels are shooting hostages
7.00 am	Sounds of battle end

Casualties (provisional)
Killed: 67 hostages, 34 rebels
Rescued: 750 rescued (including 20 children)

Incapacitating gas helped special forces kill Chechens seated in stalls before they could activate bombs strapped to their bodies... but rescued hostages suffered effects of gas

Theatre North-East

One killed, 20 hurt as Jamaat, BNP men clash in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

One person was killed and 20 others were injured in a clash between activists of BNP and Jamaat at village Parkhirda under Kaliganj upazila on Friday.

The dead was identified as Murad Ali, 40, a BNP activist, according to police and local people.

The clash originated following a disagreement concerning the Imam of a local mosque whom the BNP men wanted removed while the Jamaat men wanted him to continue as Imam.

The clash left BNP activist Murad Ali severely injured. He was first admitted to Jessore General Hospital and was later being taken to Dhaka when he succumbed to his injuries on the way.

Seven other injured persons were rushed to the Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex.

Two separate cases were filed with Kaliganj Police. Police arrested seven persons in connection with the incident.

PDB roundtable for homegrown reforms

Priority on power distribution recommended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A roundtable that reviewed the progress in power sector yesterday recommended top priority on distribution system with reasonable and cost-effective tariff.

It also recommended homegrown reforms and participation of all stakeholders in the design and implementation of the reforms.

The Power Development Board (PDB) organised the roundtable at its conference room and State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmood presented the keynote paper.

Economist and advisor to the caretaker government in 1996 Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud chaired the discussion.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AK M Mosharraf Hossain, economist Prof. Abu Ahmed, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Editor of the Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman, Editor of the weekly Holiday Enayetullah Khan, Managing Director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Amanullah Kabir, former chairman of the PDB M A Malek, former secretary Quamrul Islam Siddiqui, former secretary Foizur Razaq, Barrister Sigma Huda, journalists Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Mohammad Jahangir, C J Kabir, an engineer, and PDB trade union leader Zafrul Hasan,

among others, took part in the discussion.

Speakers said the PDB being a utility service provider should not be run absolutely for profit. If electricity were put on sale as a commercial product, it would go beyond the purchasing capacity of common consumers, they warned.

Iqbal Hasan Mahmood said power generation capacity of the PDB has increased to 3,200 megawatt, and load shedding and frequency of power outage has been drastically reduced since the incumbent government came to office.

He said the government plans to increase the power generation capacity to 9,564 megawatt in the next ten years and for that around Tk 4,000 crore in investment is needed.

The minister said a lot of emphasis was given earlier on the generation and transmission system, but no-one cared to streamline the distribution system.

He also criticised the previous government for opting for barge-mounted power plants, which are too expensive for the country.

AKM Mosharraf Hossain observed that sometime the trade unions (TUs) were made scapegoat for all the failures in the power sector.

He added that TUs cannot make create disturbances

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Lawyers protest entry of army into Supreme Court premises

UNB, Dhaka

Supreme Court lawyers who yesterday boycotted the High Court on their six-point demand denounced what they said an unprecedented entry of army into the compound of the country's highest judiciary.

"In the past, the army never entered the Supreme Court premises in this manner. This time they did and the chief justice didn't know about it," said Supreme Court Bar Association president Ozair Farooq.

Addressing a press conference after the pre-announced court boycott, he asked the government to keep the army above all controversies and show sincerity in establishing the rule of law and combating criminals.

Lawyers said two army convoys drove into the Supreme Court premises in the morning and stayed there for some time. The advocates at that time were boycotting courts.

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Tourism minister for withdrawal of tab on on-arrival visa

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN, back from Cox's Bazar

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir yesterday said tourism was on the decline mainly due to on-arrival visa restriction, security threats and inadequate infrastructure.

Such visa restrictions should be removed for growth of the tourism industry in the country, he told a function at Cox's Bazar Airport, organised by the GMG Airlines yesterday.

The government has identified Cox's Bazar as a top priority area to

attract foreign tourists, the state minister said in his speech as chief guest.

He also said he would have a meeting with the local MP and officials of the local government on law and order in the area and ways towards its improvement.

The GMG Airlines yesterday resumed its flights to Cox's Bazar. The airliner has scheduled its Dhaka-Cox's Bazar via Chittagong flights in a way that will encourage tourists to spend the weekend at the world's largest beach.

The GMG flights will leave Dhaka at 9:15am and reach Cox's Bazar at 10:40am on Thursdays and Saturdays while, on the return trip, they will take off at 11:00am and touch down in the capital at 12:30pm.

While inaugurating ecotourism, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed the government's desire to make Cox's Bazar, Kuakata and the Sunderbans into tourist spots, Nasir said.

"We have started with Cox's Bazar today through resumption of the GMG flights," he said.

The government, he said, has also decided to hand over management of hotels and motels to the private sector so as to make these efficient and profitable.

Later, the minister attended a

Auranga shown arrested under Section 54, remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Independent member of parliament Hemayetullah Auranga has been shown arrested under Section 54 of the CrPC.

Dhanmondi police produced the lawmaker before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court Dhaka at about 7 pm yesterday and prayed for seven days' remand for interrogation. The court granted two days' remand.

In its prayer, police said arms and some ammunition were recovered from Auranga's Hatirpool residence in the city during an army raid on Friday. So, he should be remanded for gathering more information on arms and ammunition.

Defence lawyers submitted a

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 27		5-22 pm
Oct 28	6-02 am	

Prayer Timings		
Oct 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-29	5-35
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is flanked by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Industries Minister MK Anwar, Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and others at the DCCI Business Award 2002 distribution ceremony at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre yesterday.

Treble-ton S Africa pile up pressure

AFP, Potchefstroom

Herschelle Gibbs, Gary Kirsten and Jacques Kallis hit centuries on the second day of the second and final Test at the North West Stadium Saturday as South Africa set themselves up for a likely second successive innings victory over Bangladesh.

Gibbs (114), Kirsten (154 not out) and Kallis (107 not out) took South Africa to 414 for two at close of play in reply to Bangladesh's first innings total of 215.

Bangladesh's sole success on a hot day was the run-out of Herschelle Gibbs, who failed to ground his bat after attempting a single to mid-off.

Gibbs and Kirsten put on 141 for the second wicket before Kirsten and Kallis added an unbeaten 212 for the third wicket.

The in-form Gibbs made batting look easy with a series of sweetly-timed strokes. He reached his seventh Test century off 161 balls when he swept the last ball before lunch from leg-spinner Alok Kapali for four. Kirsten had got to his 50 when he pushed the previous ball for a single.

Gibbs continued untroubled after lunch until he was run out. The fielders showed no excitement when Tapash Baisya's throw hit the stumps but television replays showed Gibbs had not grounded his bat. Gibbs hit 17 fours and two sixes in his 190-ball innings.

Kirsten, who made 150 in the first Test in East London to become the first

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Boy's body found hanging from tree in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a minor boy was found hanging from a tree in the city's Kachukhet area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Arif, 7, son of Alamgir Hossain.

Sources said Arif had gone missing since Friday afternoon. He lived in the Puranbazar area in Kachukhet under Kafrul Police Station and used to work at the Kawranbazar kitchen market.

Family sources said Arif might have been killed as a sequel to previous enmity.

Police recovered the body, which was hanging from a tree only a few yards from the victim's house, and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy at about 11:00am yesterday.

A case was filed with the Kafrul police in this connection.