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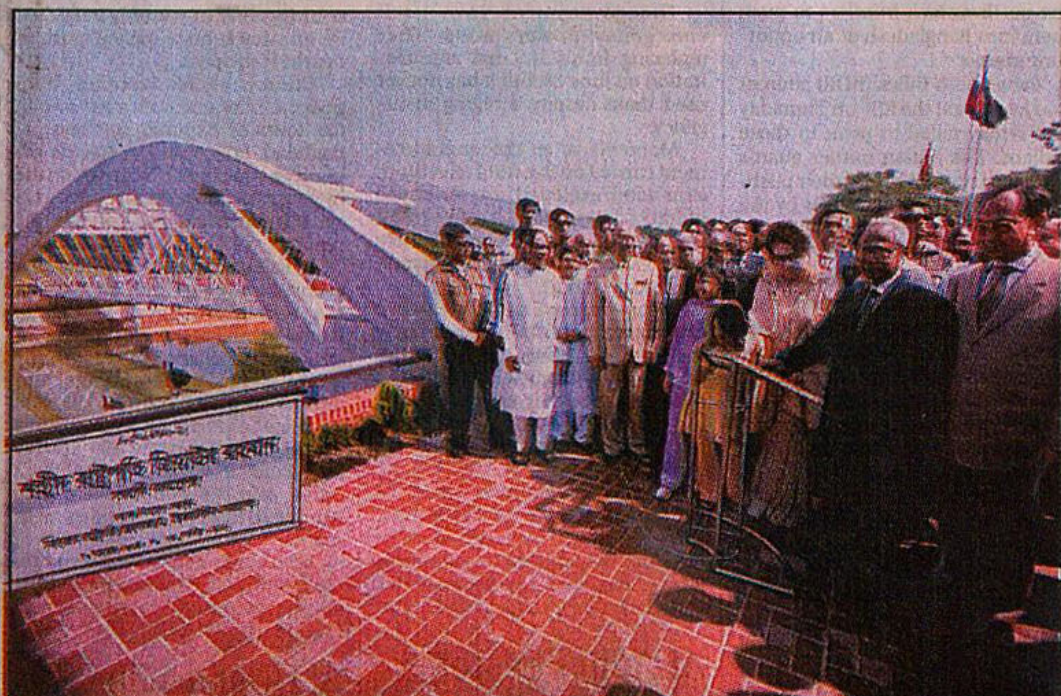
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President Iajuddin Ahmed, 2nd right, Premier Khaleda Zia, 3rd right, and members of her cabinet at the inaugural function of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman Mausoleum Complex at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital yesterday.

No headway in F28 crash probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe committees have failed to make any headway even a month into the crash of an F28 aircraft of Biman in Sylhet.

The authorities are yet to send the black box abroad to decode flight records to ascertain the causes of the October 8 crash.

Sources said Biman plans to get the black box decoded in an aviation laboratory in France or the

Netherlands but long queues in both the labs forced Biman to delay its sending.

The aircraft skidded off Sylhet Osmani Airport runway and fell into a nearby canal injuring 30 of the 83 passengers and crew on board.

Although there was no human casualty, Biman has lost the plane as the insurance company declared the aircraft abandoned.

Biman authorities have already

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Tk35cr Zia mausoleum opens in city

UNB, Dhaka

Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman Mausoleum Complex built at a cost of Tk35 crore in Zia Uddin at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital was opened yesterday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed formally inaugurated the complex unveiling the plaque near the floating bridge of the complex built on 74 acres of land.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was present at the function.

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Arafat has liver failure

Palestinian officials ponder moving him to Cairo

AGENCIES, Ramallah

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has liver failure and his condition is not improving at the French military hospital where he is being treated, a Palestinian official said yesterday.

The official, who declined to be named, said Palestinian officials were considering moving Arafat to hospital in Cairo, from where he could be flown home more quickly if he died.

But he added that any decision to move him could be taken only by the Palestinian leadership.

"He has liver failure. His condition is not improving," said the official.

He said a low count of platelets, which help the blood clot, meant blood transfusions were proving difficult.

Doctors have ruled out leukemia but remain puzzled why Arafat's health deteriorated sharply last

week at the military hospital in a southwest Paris suburb where he has been having tests since he was airlifted from the West Bank on Oct. 29.

Earlier, a senior aide to the ailing Palestinian leader said Yasser Arafat was not in a coma but remained in intensive care Saturday after undergoing more medical tests. Test results were expected within days.

Nabil Abu Rdeneh, Arafat's spokesman, would not say whether his announcement meant Arafat had emerged from a coma or whether he had not been comatose at all. He also refused to say whether he saw Arafat personally, and he did not specify the nature of the new medical tests.

"He is not in a coma," Abu Rdeneh told reporters after coming out of the French military hospital where Arafat has been treated for more than a week. "He is still in the

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US Dy Asstt Secy of State arrives today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Torkel L Patterson, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, is set to fly in today on a five-day trip, apparently to follow up on concerns he expressed during his Dhaka visit in September.

During his September visit, Patterson warned that Bangladesh risks derailing from the democratic path unless both the government

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
24	8		5-19
25	9	4-47	5-18

Prayer Timing		
November 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-47	4-52
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-19	5-27
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

JIC to quizz Al Hiqma 'chief'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Self-styled Commander of Shahadat-e-Al Hiqma Sayed Kawsar Hussain Siddiki Raja yesterday asked the government for forgiveness for what he said were his anti-state and provocative remarks and acts.

The 20-year-old chief of the outlawed Islamist outfit told The Daily Star yesterday, "Please, put my words in your highly-esteemed newspaper and request the government on my behalf to forgive me and withdraw sedition charges against me. I will discontinue my party activities and devote myself to law study."

"Listen, I am withdrawing all provocative and anti-state remarks that I have made since 2002. I apologise for what I have said and done before."

"I myself wrote all my statements given to you (journalists). Nobody else finances my party other than me and my family members," he added.

Kawsar also said his mother-in-law provided him with Tk 3,000 by

selling a cow for holding the press conference on November 6.

Only a day before, on Saturday, Kawsar boasted of his party's strength. He had told the police and reporters that the law-enforcers would never succeed in extracting information from him.

Kawsar and five others will be taken to Dhaka today for quizzing by the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC).

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Rajshahi, Abul Hossain yesterday placed them on a seven-day remand each. The other detainees are Anwar, 22, Mujib, 28, Mohsin, 30, Zakaria, 18, and Ismail, 48.

Earlier on November 6, the police arrested the self-proclaimed leader of Al Hiqma and five of his men after they stormed Boalia Police Station. The police also held the driver and helper of the microbus by which Kawsar brought his group to Rajshahi from Nachol in Chapainawabganj. They went to the police station to demand an explanation for barring them from holding a scheduled press conference at a local community centre.

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