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## Baby sold for Tk 300 returned to mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakhira

The one-month-old baby, who was sold for Tk 300 in Sakhtira Tuesday, was returned to her mother today at a simple ceremony held at the office of the Sakhira deputy commissioner (DC).

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the Sakhira DC to return the baby to her mother after knowing of the incident reported by The Daily Star and other dailies.

Parvin Akhtar, the baby, is the daughter of late Abdur Razzak, a day-labourer from Benila village in Assamuni upazila who died five days ago, leaving behind his wife and three daughters.

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# Dhaka to attend energy co-op talks in Myanmar

## Minister refutes report on pipeline agreement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will sit with India and Myanmar in Yangon in January to discuss cooperation in energy sector but exact agenda for the tripartite dialogue is not yet finalised.

"But it is likely that we will discuss a pipeline network through which Myanmar plans to export gas

to India via Tripura, Bangladesh and West Bengal," State Minister for Energy Mosharrar Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday. "The Myanmar energy minister had earlier expressed his interest in this regard."

Quoting foreign ministry, Hossain said the Indian energy minister has also expressed interest

in using Bangladesh as transit corridor for the gas pipeline.

"But there has not been any formal proposal from India as yet. Therefore, the report of reaching an agreement on the matter is untrue," said Hossain, refuting a Reuters report that quoted him as saying that Bangladesh has agreed in

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## Outlaw killed in 'crossfire' with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCPML) was killed in 'crossfire' with police in Chuadanga early yesterday.

Police arrested Mosharrar Hossain alias Mosh, 35, from village Rasulpur in Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

Following his statement, police went to village Kalpart in Sadar upazila to seize Janajuddho's hidden firearms at about 4:00am.

As police reached the village, the Janajuddho men opened fire on police, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Mosh, trying to escape from police van, was caught in crossfire and died on the spot, police said.

Police seized one shutter gun and four bullets from the spot.

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PHOTO: STAR

Prothom Alo Publisher Mahfuz Anam, second left, Bhorer Kagoj Publisher Saber Hossain Chowdhury, second right, and five other respondents in a contempt case against the two Bangla dailies appear at the High Court yesterday. Counsels of the two publishers, Rokonuddin Mahmud, right, and Mahub-e-Alam, centre, are also seen.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday hands over the keys of apartments allotted to government officials and documents of plots to the members of SAFF champion national football team at a function at International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

## 1 killed after abduction by fake Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Armed miscreants posing as plain-clothesmen of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) abducted two men from a village under Babuganj upazila in early hours yesterday and tortured one of them to death and the other to severe injuries.

The man who died was Matiur Rahman Bacchu, a grocer and son of Nurul Huq, and the critically

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## EXPLOSIVE HAUL Islamist militants produced before JIC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Jamaat-ul-Mujaheed regional commander Amjad Hossain and powerful gelatin explosive carrier Anisur Rahman were handed over to Special Branch of police in Dhaka yesterday for joint interrogation.

On November 12 GRP Bonarpara task force seized 24 pieces of gelatin high-speed explosive bars and 124 electric detonators from a

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# Jaundice plagues DU students

## 34 of 109 students tested found positive

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Thirty-four out of 109 Dhaka University (DU) students who underwent pathological tests yesterday at the DU medical centre were found to be suffering from jaundice.

Doctors at the centre said they tested 81 students on Tuesday and found 30 of them infected with hepatitis virus. On Monday, they tested 46 students and found 20 of them hepatitis positive.

Of the 34 students tested hepatitis positive yesterday, 31 reside in the three worst infected dormitories -- 10 in Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall, 10 in Kabi Jasimuddin Hall and 11 in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall. Of the remaining three, two live in Sir F Rahman Hall and one in Hazi Mohammad Mohsin Hall.

Ziaur Rahman Hall tops the chart of hepatitis-infected students. According to inmates, there are at least 135 jaundice patients in the

hall. On the other hand, it is hard to find a room at Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall where no-one is taken ill with hepatitis infection, said many of the hall's residents.

So far some 500 students living in the DU dormitories have fallen ill with jaundice marking a high prevalence of hepatitis infection and triggering a panic among the residents.

Long queues of students seeking hepatitis test have become common at the medical centre, far too many in numbers than the pathologists there can deal with. A pathologist said he has never seen such large crowds lining up for pathological tests in the past.

Dissatisfied with the DU medical centre's testing facilities, many students went to reputed diagnostic centres.

DU MEASURES

The university authorities are yet to confirm the source of the epidemic.

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## AL terms antigraft body partisan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) maintains the recently formed Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to be partisan and so will demand a discussion on it in parliament.

AL lawmakers have already started submitting notices to the parliament secretariat demanding a discussion on the issue after the current session resumes on November 28.

The government Sunday formed

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## 3 forest officials suspended for timber smuggling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Environment and Forest yesterday suspended three officials and transferred one for their alleged involvement in timber smuggling as it continues a drive against corrupt forest officials.

The suspended officials are Foresters AK Azad and Abdur Razzak

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## One to die for trafficking children to Dubai

UNB, Chandpur

The District Judge's Court here yesterday awarded death penalty to a young man in absentia and life imprisonment to his wife for trafficking two children to Dubai to work as camel jockey a decade ago.

According to prosecution, Mansoor and Monwara of Putia village in Faridganj upazila sent Mohsin of West Borali village and Emran of Santoshpur village, both aged about 5, to Dubai on March 24, 1994. They promised the poor parents employment of their sons.

In Dubai, the children were used as camel jockey for seven years. Bangladesh mission there rescued Mohsin and Emran in November 2001 and sent them back home.

The judge pronounced the verdict in a jam-packed court.

## BISWA IJTEMA Special trains arranged for devotees

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway has arranged special trains on different routes to facilitate the movement of devotees intending to join Biswa Ijtema

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Prayer Timing November 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:10	6:45
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:19	5:22
Esha	7:00	7:30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# Peace with India hinges on Kashmir

## Pakistan PM says after talks with Manmohan

AFP, New Delhi

Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said yesterday he held "cordial and friendly" talks with his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh but insisted that Kashmir remains the core issue between the two nations.

Aziz, on his first official visit to India, told reporters he and Singh had covered bilateral and regional topics, including a proposed natural gas pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistan.

"The core issue between our two countries is the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," Aziz said.

India maintains that Kashmir is just one of many points of dispute

between the archrivals and has said all issues should be addressed simultaneously.

India's foreign secretary Shyam Saran was upbeat about the talks, which lasted 45 minutes before delegations began a working lunch.

"There was satisfaction that the dialogue process was moving forward... including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," Saran told reporters.

"There was a very wide-ranging exchange of views and this took place in a very friendly and very constructive atmosphere."

Aziz earlier told Indian newspaper editors that the two countries must come up with "out-of-box solutions" to their decades-old

dispute over Kashmir and both sides had to discard their stated positions.

India and Pakistan both hold Kashmir in part but claim it in its entirety. The Himalayan region has been the cause of two of the three wars they have fought since independence from Britain in 1947.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf last month suggested that Kashmir could be divided into seven regions -- any one of which could be demilitarised and either placed under United Nations mandate, joint control or given independence.

Singh had promptly rejected the proposals, saying any redrawing of

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# Mongla port faces govt neglect

## Top and important posts lying vacant for months

RAFIQ HASAN

The country's second seaport Mongla has been subject to negligence by the authorities concerned with its top post lying vacant for the last four months and many other important positions handled by non-professionals.

After the contractual job of MK Alam, chairman of the Mongla Port Authority (MPA), ended on July 19 this year, Mosharrar Hossain, member (finance) of MPA, was made

chairman in-charge of the port authority.

On October 21, Mosharrar went on leave preparatory to retirement (LPR) and the charge of acting chairman was then given to Nepal Chandra Sarker, a joint secretary of the Ministry of Shipping stationed in Dhaka.

But Sarker left for Sweden on October 30 to participate in a month-long training programme leaving the key position vacant.

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## US Congress to probe polls irregularities

AFP, Washington

The Government Accountability Office, the investigating arm of the US Congress, will probe allegations of irregularities in the November 2 US presidential vote, lawmakers said Tuesday.

"We are pleased that the GAO has reviewed the concerns expressed in our letters and has found them of sufficient merit to warrant further investigation. On its own authority, the GAO will examine the security and accuracy of voting technologies, distribution and allocation of voting machines, and counting of provisional ballots," five Democratic lawmakers, who requested the inquiry, said in a statement.

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## FISHING AT SUNSET

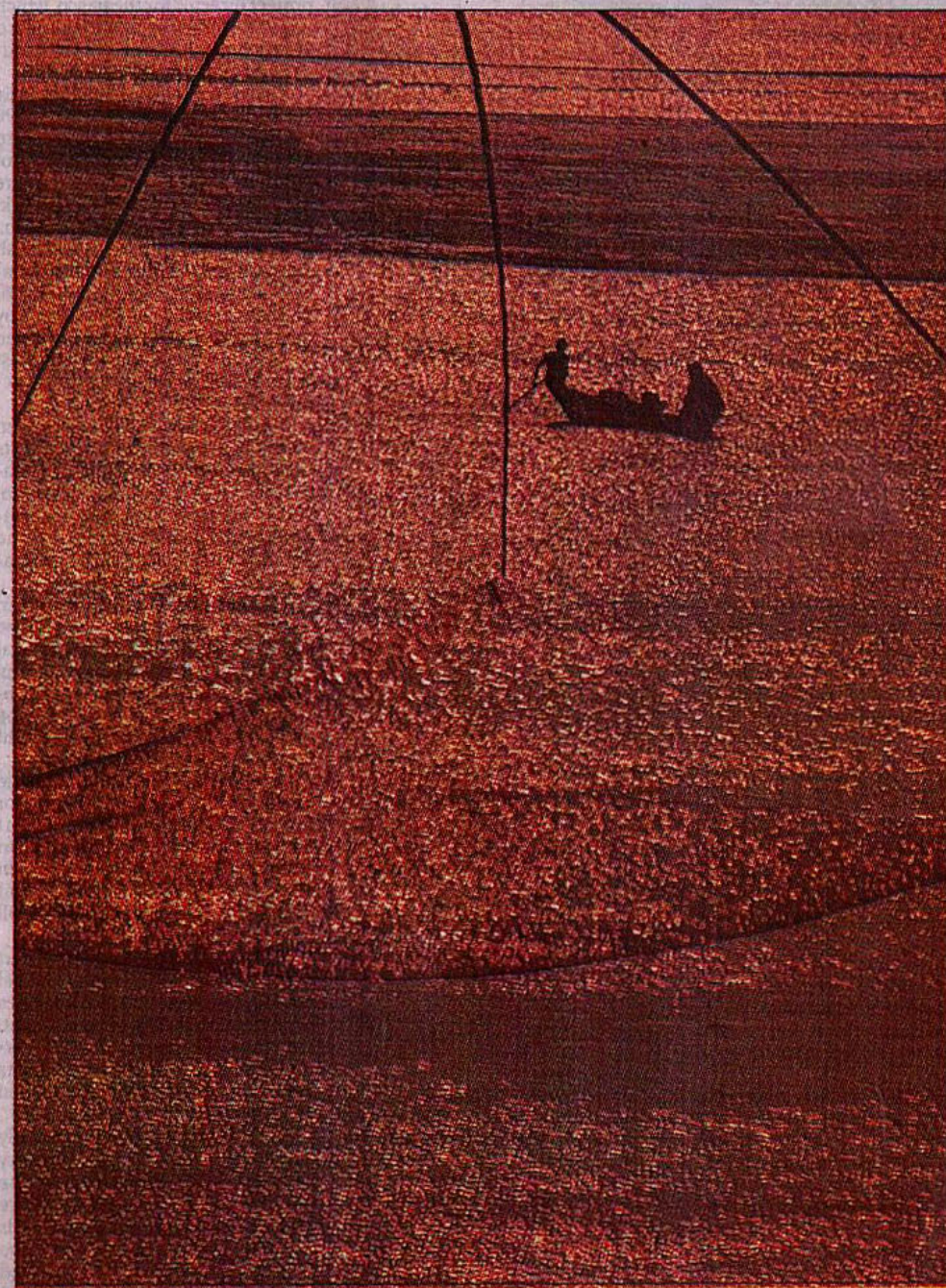


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

During winter, fishermen net plenty of fish in the rivers. The photo shows two fishermen in a boat busy fishing in a creek at Basila on the outskirts of Dhaka yesterday.

## 10-yr-old girl raped, killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Criminals have raped, acid-burnt and strangled a 10-year-old schoolgirl in Hejuli in the town.

Juthi, daughter of Nowab Ali of Gorakul village in Jagir Union Parishad and a student of class four at Brac school, was abducted on her way to Hejuli Bazar Monday, family sources said.

On information, police yesterday recovered her body from Char Hejuli village in the town.

Locals suspect some addicts are the culprits who abducted her for her gold chain.

## Benazir demands right to end exile

BBC ONLINE

Former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto has demanded the right to end her exile, a day after her husband was freed on bail after eight years in jail.

Benazir went into self-imposed exile in 1999 to avoid corruption charges, which are still outstanding. She says it will be "good for Pakistan" if she is allowed to return.

Her husband, Asif Zardari, who had faced corruption and conspiracy to murder charges, said after being bailed he hoped to "galvanise democracy".

The BBC's Paul Anderson in Islamabad says the charges against Zardari and his wife have not gone away but from the government's side, and Zardari's, the talk now is of reconciliation.

In another conciliatory act a day after Zardari's release, President

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