

'Right, unpopular decisions made Malaysia an Asian giant'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister of Malaysia Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that "right but unpopular" decisions by the Malaysian government in creating a business-friendly climate transformed the country from a rural agrarian economy to an Asian industrial giant.

Mahathir outlined the history of Malaysia's success under his predecessors and his own 22-year reign in his keynote speech, "Malaysia 2020 - From Vision to Reality", at the

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KL interested in port, natural resources dev

UNB, Dhaka

Former Malaysian prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said Malaysia is interested to extend cooperation in ports and exploration of natural resources in Bangladesh.

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Correction

In our December 17 story headlined "Height ceiling eased in Gulshan, Uttara", it was inadvertently written that the government has eased height restrictions on all six-storey buildings along "streets" in Gulshan and Uttara. In fact, the government has eased height restrictions on Gulshan and Uttara "avenues" only, where the plot owners are allowed to build up to eight-storey-high buildings. We apologise for the confusion caused.

Mahathir asks Muslim states not to trade in US dollars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad yesterday urged Muslim countries not to trade in US dollars as it only strengthens the capabilities of the United States to develop and supply arms to Israel that "they then use to kill Muslims".

He also urged Muslim countries to put to one side their differences and concentrate on developing their

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Former Malaysian prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad receives a crest from Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day 42nd convocation yesterday.

DU honours Mahathir

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University conferred honorary Doctorate of Laws on former Malaysian prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad as its 42nd convocation began yesterday.

The campus wore a festive look as hundreds of grad

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Dhaka peacekeepers to land in Darfur
1,542 troops may go to trouble-torn Sudan in two months

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Bangladesh is going to send troops to the UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan in the next two months, sources at the Armed Forces Division said.

In light of an ever-increasing demand for Dhaka's contribution to peacekeeping operations worldwide, the Armed Forces Division has taken the initiative to buy sophisticated equipment that is required for its participation.

The Division plans to send 1,542 troops to Sudan under the UN peacekeeping mission. Of them, 30 officials from the Navy and the rest from the Army will be sent to the Sudan mission where Bangladesh Army commands the forces and has a senior army officer there, sources said.

The Armed Forces Division is going to purchase 60 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) at a cost of over Tk 60 crore for the Army. Three helicopters have been purchased

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HEADMISTRESS MURDER ARRESTEE SAYS 1 killer was known to victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people Thursday evening entered the Baridhara apartment of Siddheshwari Girls High School headmistress, who was slain along with her daughter, and at least one of them was known to her.

"Four men came here in the evening and one talked to madam (Sabera Begum Baby) over intercom before going upstairs," a police officer quoted a staff of the apartment building as saying. "We didn't see them come out."

In the FIR (first information

report), Sabera's husband Shamsul Alam Mia said his wife and daughter Sharmin Alam Shampa were killed as a sequel to 'some events at the school'. The double murders were committed in connivance with the caretaker, security guards and part-time domestic helps Billik and Fatema, he added.

Billik and Fatema were nabbed from Kalachandpur in Badda yesterday evening. Police also arrested caretaker of the house Omar Faruq and security guards Johor Lal and Jahangir. They will be produced

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Four outlaws die in 'crossfire', gunfights

STAR REPORT

Four operatives of three outlawed communist outfits were killed and five policemen injured yesterday in three separate incidents of crossfire and shootouts in the violence-prone southwestern districts of Jessor and Kushtia and Meherpur.

In another incident in Chaudanga, two children of a local BNP leader were injured as suspected outlawed party cadres hurled two bombs into the living room of their house Friday night.

2 KILLED IN JESSORE

Our Jessor correspondent reports:

Two top operatives of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBBCP)

Janajuddho faction were killed in an alleged crossfire between their comrades and Kotwali police in Jessor in the early hours yesterday.

The dead PBBCP-Janajuddho men were identified as its regional leader Mashru Rahman, 28, son of Jamaat Ali, and Ikram Hossain, 22, son of late Abdul Aziz, of Shantala village on the outskirts of Jessor Town.

They were wanted in five criminal cases. Officer in Charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station (PS) Shahidul Islam said.

Police sources said, tipped off, a contingent of the Kotwali police led by sub-inspectors (SI) Aman and Monir raided Banga Gate area in

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State Minister for Energy AKM

Mosharraf Hossain yesterday sent a letter to the Indian energy minister regarding the gas pipeline as well as issues to be discussed during the January 9-11 Saarc summit in Dhaka.

Bangladesh hopes to reach an understanding with India on energy issues during the Myanmar

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Heartiest welcome and felicitations to His Excellency



DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD

The great visionary leader of Muslim Ummah and His Entourage



BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL RECRUITING AGENCIES (BAIRA)

69/1, Purana Paltan Lane, 6th Floor, VIP Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Tel.: 8359842, 9345587, 9355682, Fax: 9344979, E-mail: baira@sdnbd.org, baira@aitlbd.net Web: www.hrexport-baira.org

Jamin's Dream 8355335