

BDB to work for 100 seats in next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) will start working in 100 constituencies of the country in a week as preparation for the next parliament election, party leaders said at a press conference in party's Segunbagicha office yesterday.
"The government is running with the support of saline right now, soon it will need oxygen and afterwards it is going to be clinically dead," Badruddoza Chowdhury, former president and chairman of the party said.
"If we look into the history of the world we learn that intellectuality always defeated the muscles," he said, adding that the people will throw out the present four party alliance government in the next election
they would not be able to continue
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Galib's paper spits venom at media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
The March issue of At Tahreek, the monthly publication of militant leader Muhammad Asadullah Al Galib, issued a harsh editorial against journalists and newspapers at home and abroad yesterday, and also blamed the Indian intelligence agency RAW for establishing Islamic extremists in the northern region of the country.
The editorial warned that journalists would suffer public humiliation if they continue to write about Galib, terming recent reports as character assassination. "Be worshipers of truth and do not write against another's character."
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IO moves to spare Jessore boy from rape case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
The investigating officer (IO) of a case filed with Jessore Kotwali Police Station (PS) accusing all the members of a family of rape and robbery sought permission from a magistrate yesterday to drop the name of a six-year-old boy from the list of accusees.
The IO, Sub-Inspector Khalilur Rahman, submitted the petition to Magistrate Azimuddin of Cognisable Court No 1 seeking permission to drop the name of Imon, 6, from the case recorded on
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Prayer Timing		
March 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

CNG graft probe bites the dust

JS body decides to form new committees after BNP-ruled 2 sub-bodies failed to submit report in a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A parliamentary body has failed to probe alleged irregularities in import of CNG-run autorickshaws and allocation of plots for setting up CNG refuelling stations, as the two subcommittees dominated by ruling BNP lawmakers have not yet revealed their findings.
It is unclear whether the non-cooperation of the communications ministry or the indifference of the

subcommittee members has held back the investigation.
The subcommittees formed early last year were initially given one month's time to complete the investigations and later granted time extensions on several occasions, but they failed to produce a report in the last one year.
The chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on communications ministry has decided to form new probe bodies after dissolv-

ing the subcommittees in yesterday's standing committee meeting. But he could not execute the decision as the convenors and members of the subcommittees did not attend the meeting.
"I was mentally prepared to dissolve the subcommittees at today's meeting, but none of them (subcommittee members) turned up," Committee Chairman Syed Manjur Hossain told reporters after
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PHOTO: STAR
A dense tangle of electricity and telephone wires makes this electric pole on Nawabpur Road look like a hydra and as dangerous too, as the building behind, specially the air-conditioner, is too close for safety. But who cares?

Judge Dhaka by development indicators

Saifur urges British lawmakers
BSS, London

Visiting Bangladesh Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman urged all friends abroad to evaluate the country by its development indicators and achievements in social sectors ignoring anti-Bangladesh campaign engineered by the vested quarters.
The minister made this call last evening here at a reception hosted in honour of the British lawmakers, members of the press and pro-Bangladesh lobbyists. British Revenue Secretary Stephen Tim was present on the occasion.
Saifur Rahman said Bangladesh
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Dhaka didn't ask for Pak envoy's withdrawal

Says foreign ministry
BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh did not make any request to Pakistan to withdraw its High Commissioner to Dhaka Manjar Shafiq, a foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday.
"News relating to Bangladesh's request to withdraw the Pakistan high commissioner published in a section of newspapers is totally speculative and baseless," said Zahirul Haque, director general of external publicity of the ministry.
He said whatever news was published in the newspapers regarding the matter has no relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
"Such speculative reports are not good for friendship between the two countries," he added.
He said the foreign ministry has never asked Pakistan to withdraw its envoy to Dhaka. "It's Pakistan's own administrative affair."
He also denied a news item published in a section of dailies that Bangladesh refused to accept a defence adviser in the High Commission of Pakistan in Dhaka.

Quiz Jamaat ministers over religious militancy

Hasina asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded of the government to make two ministers from Jamaat-e-Islami face police interrogation to 'unearth the mystery' behind religious militancy and repeated grenade and bomb blasts in the country.
"There is snake in your own home. Bring two ministers of
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Kibria's murder linked with Aug 15 killing

Meeting observes
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the same reactionary force, which has been carrying out a blueprint against Awami League since 15th August 1975, that has killed Shah AMS Kibria, speakers said at a commemorative meeting organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote at the city's Bishwa Shahitya Kendra yesterday.
The killing of Kibria in a grenade attack is well-connected with the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members on 15th August 1975, the jail killing on 3rd November 1975, and the grenade attack on an Awami League rally on 21st August 2004 and other similar attacks in recent times as part of an
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PREMIER BANK IPO SCAM

SEC to sue 6 staff for false info

Asks bank MD to hand in their particulars

STAR REPORT

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday asked Premier Bank Ltd Managing Director Kazi Abdul Mazid to send particulars of six officials of his bank who gave false data to the commission's probe.
Mazid was instructed to furnish the capital market watchdog with the fathers' names, joining dates, present and permanent addresses and attested pictures of the officials by tomorrow, sources said.
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The SEC will take legal action against these officials, who it alleged hid information as well as provided false data to its investigators.
The officials are Premier Bank Executive Vice-President (EVP) and Motijheel Branch manager Dewan Anwarul Latif, EVP Abdul Hai at head office, VP and Banani Branch manager Syed Nowsher Ali, Senior Officer Shafiul Alam, and management trainees Momtazul Haque and
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Time to think about banning Jamaat politics

Prof Sayeed tells media
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The time has come for the nation to think about banning Jamaat-e-Islami from politics for its alleged links to Islamist militants both at home and abroad, Awami League (AL) leader Prof Abu Sayeed said yesterday.
Referring to a 1999 report of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), he said al Qaeda gave Harkatul Jihad Tk 2 crore to conduct militant training at 421 madrasas across the country with an aim to bring about an Islamic revolution.
Abu Sayeed, the former state minister for information, was addressing a press conference at his Dhanmondi residence on his book 'Aghoshito Juddher Blueprint'
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Unusual life forms found in Atlantic

AP, Washington

A strange world of see-through shrimp, crabs and other life forms teems around a newly explored field of thermal vents near the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, scientists report.
Towering white mineral chimneys mark the field, named the Lost City, a sharp contrast to the better-known black smoker vents that have been studied in recent years.
The discovery shows "how little we know about the ocean," lead researcher Deborah S Kelley of the University of Washington said.
"I have been working on black smokers for about 20 years, and you
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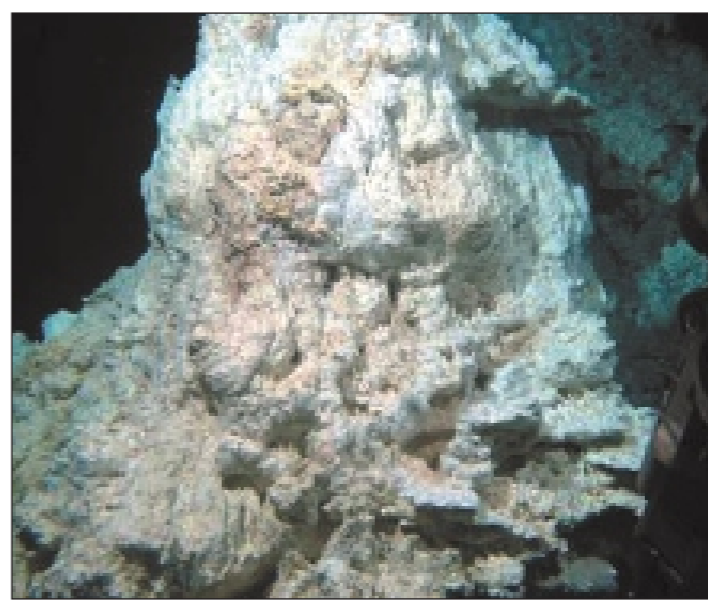


PHOTO: AP
This photo provided by the Science and the University of Washington shows an actively venting carbonate pinnacle on the top of the 60 metre-tall life forms.

61 promoted as joint secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday promoted 61 deputy secretaries to the post of joint secretary breaking seniority of many eligible officials.
Currently, there are over 70 vacant posts of joint secretary but the government elevated 61 officials, including 55 from the administration cadre and one each from six other cadres—audit and accounts, customs and excise, education, health, agriculture and public works.
All the promotees have been made officer on special duty (OSD) and placed at the Ministry of Establishment.
Sources pointed out that the officers who held important positions at the Prime Minister's Office
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