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## Dhaka, Delhi agree to cooperate on security

### India hails recent action in border areas; Bangladesh wants similar step

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India reaffirmed their commitment not to allow their territory to be used for any activities inimical to each other's interests at the two-day foreign secretary level talks that ended in New Delhi yesterday.

During the discussions on matters of common interest held in a

warm friendly and cordial atmosphere, both the sides highlighted the importance they attach to their bilateral relations and their sincere desire to further expand, deepen and strengthen cooperation.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin and Indian External Affairs Secretary Shyam Saran led their respective sides in the foreign secretary level talks that took place

after two years.

The two foreign secretaries discussed issues relating to security, peaceful management of the borders, cross border illegal movement of people, cooperation in water resources, economy and trade, investment promotion, cooperation in science and technology, and agriculture, defence exchanges and

after two years. The two foreign secretaries discussed issues relating to security, peaceful management of the borders, cross border illegal movement of people, cooperation in water resources, economy and trade, investment promotion, cooperation in science and technology, and agriculture, defence exchanges and

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## PM to attend Clinton Global Initiative in NY

REZAUL KARIM

Former US president Bill Clinton has invited Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to attend Clinton Global Initiative, a major gathering of world leaders to address global challenges to be held during September 15-17 in New York City.

William J Clinton Foundation that works to strengthen the capacity of people throughout the world to meet the challenges of global interdependence arranged the program.

Khaleda Zia has accepted the invitation and will attend the programme, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told reporters yesterday.

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## Low turnout, fake voting mark Narsingdi by-polls

### Ruling alliance candidate wins; capture of polling centres alleged

SHAMEEM MAHMUD and AKBAR HOSSAIN, back from Narsingdi

Ruling alliance candidate Khairul Kabir Khokon won yesterday's Narsingdi-1 by-election which was marked by low turnout, fake voting and capture of polling centres.

According to unofficial results, Khokon bagged 86,005 votes against 60,198 polled by his nearest rival Shahadat Hossain Munna, an inde-

pendent candidate, in the by-polls boycotted by the main opposition Awami League (AL).

A total of 1,48,419 voters out of 2,61,978 cast their votes that shows a turnout of 57 percent but election observers said the turnout was very low.

The supporters of the ruling alliance candidate allegedly drove the polling agents of other candidates away from a number of polling

centres. They chased and assaulted Munna and his supporters at the Narsingdi Government Girls' School centre at about 2.20pm. A procession of the independent candidate also came under the police attack in the afternoon.

Returning Officer M Firoz Salahuddin however told reporters at his office that the election was

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## Rab nabs 2 JCD men, 3 others; seizes AK47

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and three others with an AK47 rifle and ammunition.

A team of Rab-4 arrested Mohammadpur unit JCD leader Khan Ahmed Tapu, brother-in-law and aide of one of the 23 most wanted criminals, Emon, and Babu from Kalyanpur in the capital.

Rab sources said they arrested three others, whose identities could not be known immediately.

The Rab raided different places following their statement and seized one AK47 rifle, six pistols and ammunition, said Rab-4 Commanding Officer Sabar Sharif.

The Rab team was raiding more areas with the arrestees to seize more firearms until 1:15am today.

## 100 JCD men at city colleges mug, extort

### Intelligence agencies report; leaders deny allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 100 leaders and activists of the ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at different colleges in the capital are involved in mugging, collecting toll from shops and business houses and other crimes in the adjacent areas.

Intelligence sources said they have submitted reports against these JCD men to high officials recently. They are more active in government college areas.

In the past, leaders and activists of the Awami League's student wing

Bangladesh Chhatra League used to commit such crimes when the AL was in power, they mentioned.

DHAKA COLLEGE

A number of JCD leaders and activists of Dhaka College unit of the student body are engaged in snatching and extortion in the nearby Newmarket, Science Laboratory and Elephant Road areas. They include Ruhul Amin, Kawsar, Mamun, Dipu, Shahed alias Tomtom Shahed, Harun alias Thotkata Harun, Monir alias Bhagnay Monir, intelligence and other sources said.

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## Two Interpol men, FBI agent arrive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two experts from Interpol and a special agent from Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrived yesterday to help local investigators probe the August 21 carnage on an Awami League rally following recent 'disclosure of crucial clues' by three arrestees.

Interpol members Marc H Beauchemin, a terrorism expert, and Grey Lee George, a ballistic expert, and FBI special agent Trung Vu are likely to begin their work today.

Their arrival at the invitation of the government, who claimed to have gathered 'crucial clues' to the carnage, has become an important event in the current scenario.

Different quarters including the main opposition AL allege the government is on a move to wrap up the case hurriedly by 'falsely implicating' three arrestees.

The arrestees are top terror Arman Khan, former city corporation ward commissioner and AL leader Mokhesur Rahman and George Mia.

Many believe the government has invited the foreign experts as police are about to press charges in the case.

The government aims to create an impartial impression about the chargesheet by including the foreign experts at the last stage of the investigation, they believe.

The Criminal Investigation

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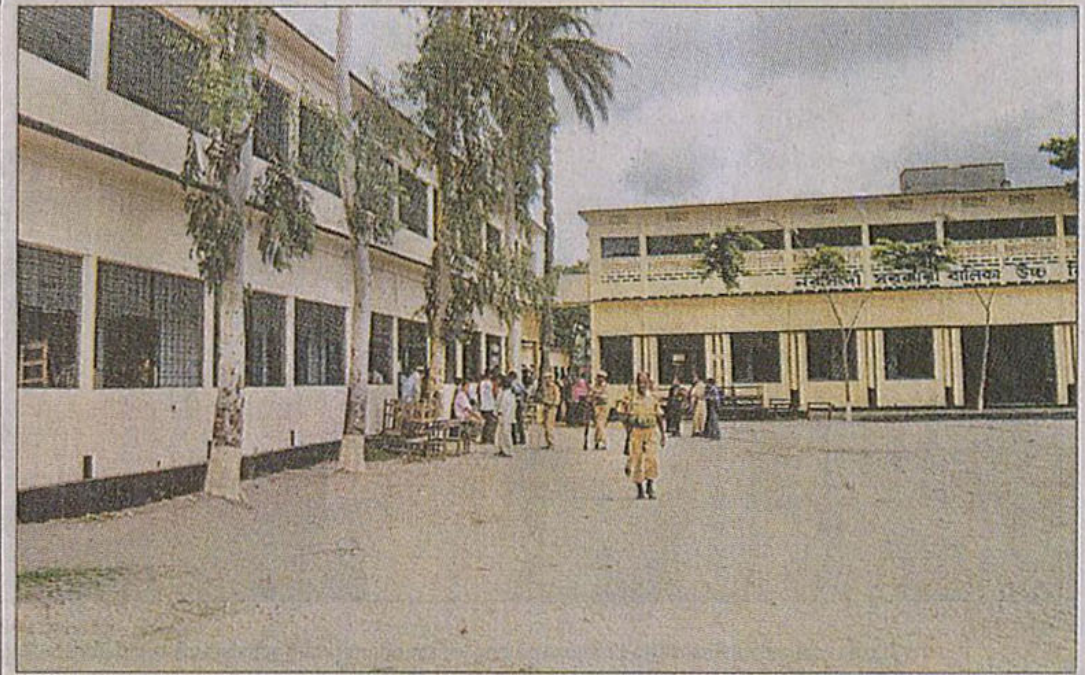


PHOTO: STAR

The Narsingdi Government Girls' High School centre looks almost deserted during the Narsingdi-1 by-election yesterday.

## IO suspended for terming Ctg killing a suicide case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday suspended a senior policeman for failure in properly investigating the killing of a Chittagong business tycoon.

The ministry asked the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Criminal Investigation Department Khalequz-Zaman of CID (Dhaka Zone) not to leave Dhaka without permission for terming the murder of Rezaul Rahman (Zakin) 'a suicide case'.

"He was about to submit a final report that we found totally unacceptable," State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar told reporters emerging out of a meeting of the

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## 3 conditions set for 5th tranche of PRGF loan

REZAUL KARIM BYRON

The government will have to fulfil the International Monetary Fund (IMF) condition of appointing a financial advisor to Agrani Bank in its divestment process to get the fifth instalment of the \$500 million Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) loan.

The government will have to fulfil three conditions including this in order to get the fifth tranche of the

loan scheduled for release by December this year, a meeting between the government and an IMF mission decided last month, sources said.

Meanwhile, the fourth instalment of the loan--previously scheduled for January this year--was deferred by about six months as the government failed to bring the Rupali Bank to the point of sale by issuing an information memorandum to the public--one of the four

IMF conditions.

The government, however, issued the information memorandum last month and a proposal to release the instalment of about \$80 million is expected to get approval in the next week's meeting of the IMF Executive Board, sources said.

As per the two other conditions for the fifth instalment, the government will have to establish an independent audit unit in the National

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## BTTB boss removed over 'dubious' roles

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The government yesterday made Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) Chairman Nurul Islam OSD (officer on special duty) with the Ministry of Establishment allegedly for his controversial roles in a number of telecoms projects.

The government appointed Abdul Maleque Akhand, member of BCS (Telecom) Cadre, as the new BTTB chairman.

"It is not a punishment but a routine administrative work," Telecoms Secretary Mahmud Hassan Mansur told The Daily Star last night.

However, sources said the government made Nurul Islam OSD following a series of warnings over two telecoms projects.

Back in early May, the Cabinet Division through scrutinising documents found that the chairman was responsible for manipulating the bid for the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar optical fibre link project.

He was also found responsible for wasting government fund worth \$37 million by not taking maintenance deal from the Siemens and Huawei Technologies in the BTTB's mobile project, the sources said.

Bangladesh had to pay the additional amount for the after-sales service to the equipment vendors as a section of the BTTB officials including Nurul Islam intentionally did not avail the after-sales service while signing the equipment deal.

In the submarine cable tender, the chairman headed the bid evaluation committee and picked

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## OBITUARY

A Voice, a Beauty, a Legend and a Love, left us.

We will all remember **Banu Panni** who passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2005, in Dhaka, Bangladesh,

leaving in grief her beloved children

**Runa, Dina, Farid,**  
Her Family and Friends.



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