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7 Bangladeshis killed in fire in Saudi Arabia

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Seven Bangladeshi and an Yemeni expatriate workers were suffocated by fumes when a fire swept through a locked furniture warehouse in which they lived in Taef of western Saudi Arabia on Saturday evening.

The ill-fated workers were not burnt but died of suffocation inside

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Dhaka doesn't harbour Indian insurgents

Says Indian state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leader of a visiting Indian parliamentary delegation yesterday said Dhaka does not harbour any Indian insurgents, but they might be seeking shelter in Bangladesh and some

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

DC-10 finally salvaged

Int'l flights resume today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Biman's crash-landed DC-10 aircraft at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport was finally salvaged yesterday after 10 days of frantic attempts by joint teams of Biman, Army and Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab).

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Japan not signing Padma Bridge deal

Asks Dhaka to get Jamuna bridge financier group

SHAMIER KHAN

Contrary to the expectation, Japan is not going to sign any agreement with Bangladesh over the proposed \$1.3 billion Padma Bridge during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to Tokyo on July 12-15.

Japan is very much interested to

build this bridge. But it alone cannot fund \$1.3 billion for the bridge. We cannot make any commitment now," said Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi while talking to The Daily Star in his office last week.

Bangladesh was expecting that it

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

PM flies to Japan today

Focus on trade, investment.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia flies to Tokyo today on a four-day high-profile visit to hold talks with Japanese PM Junichiro Koizumi to further promote trade, investment and economic ties.

"This visit has great potentials and we think this is going to be an watershed in our bilateral ties," Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin told reporters yesterday.

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CARETAKER GOVT REFORMS

PM urges AL to place demand in JS

Plays down essentials price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged Awami League (AL) to place its demand for reforms of the caretaker government system in the House where it will be discussed, if necessary.

Winding up the budget session, Khaleda blasted the AL for demanding such reforms and said the opposition's activities are a conspiracy to create anarchy and tarnish the image of the country.

The prime minister also told the



House although prices of essentials have not increased, some newspapers are reporting on the issue 'for nothing'.

"They (the AL) want a caretaker government that will be of the Awami League, by the Awami League and for the Awami League," she maintained.

"To have such a caretaker government, they are now holding frequent meetings but cannot reach to an agreement," she added.

"The caretaker government is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

NSI regrets attack on lensmen

Case to be withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Director General (DG) of National Security Intelligence (NSI) yesterday expressed regret at the July 7 incident of attacks on the photojournalists and said that a case filed against the lensmen the same day would be withdrawn.

NSI is carrying out an investigation into the incident, and has agreed to meet also the other demands of the journalists, NSI DG Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury told a delegation of journalists at his office yesterday.

The journalists earlier had demanded punitive actions against the culprits, compensation for the property damages of the journalists, and medical expenses for the injured.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Workers install a pump at a sluice-gate near Rampura Bridge in the capital yesterday to pump out floodwater.

PHOTO: STAR

20,000 evacuated on another bomb scare

Birmingham police say threat was specific; 3 held at Heathrow

AGENCIES, London

Nerves frayed as the hunt for the London bombers intensified yesterday amid a scare in Britain's second city of Birmingham, where police evacuated some 20,000 people to investigate a suspect package.

As distraught friends and relatives continued to search frantically for 25 missing loved ones following the carnage in London, bomb disposal squad officers carried out four

controlled explosions on a bus in central Birmingham and probed a box with wires coming out and a switch on top.

"The threat that we responded to yesterday was very specific," West Midlands police chief constable Paul Scott-Lee told a news conference.

"It was specific about the time and also the locations... The people of Birmingham were in danger last

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY TO MURDERER JS body to review law ministry's role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on law ministry yesterday decided to review the ministry's role in the much talked-about presidential amnesty granted to a person who was sentenced to death in a double-murder case.

The committee asked the ministry to submit a report in its next meeting scheduled for July 21, stating the opinions the ministry had given on the matter.

"We will inform the committee of

the ministry's role on the issue," Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed told The Daily Star following yesterday's committee meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

After discussing the issue for over one and a half hours, the meeting was adjourned. Lawmakers from both the ruling and the opposition parties took part in the discussion.

The committee members said they have no question about the presidential power of mercy, but

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