

US condemns Oct 3 blasts

UNB, Dhaka
The US government yesterday condemned the October 3 bombings in three districts of Chittagong division and urged the government to bring the perpetrators to justice in a prompted and lawful manner.
"We extend our condolences to the family and friends of the victims of bomb attacks," a spokesman for the US embassy in Dhaka told the newsagency.
The October 3 bomb blasts that rocked courts in Chandpur, Laxmipur and Chittagong left two people killed and 38 others wounded.

GDP growth rate upped to 6.5pc in PRSP

Inflation projected at 5.5pc

REJAUŁ KARIM BYRON
The government projects 6.5 percent GDP growth and an inflation rate of 5.5 percent on point to point basis in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) for the current fiscal year despite pressures on the economy in the recent time.
The inflation rate however is going up almost every month and it stood at

7.68 percent last July. Besides, the price spike of petroleum by around 15 percent last month that triggered a rise in transportation cost as well as price hike of essentials especially in the run up to the Ramadan has made economists doubtful about the government's attaining the projected target.
The PRSP has already been finalised and is likely to be approved by the

National Economic Council towards the end of this month.
In the revised three-year medium term macro-economic framework (MTMF) under the PRSP, the government has projected 6.8 percent and 7 percent GDP growth and inflation rates of 5 percent and 4.5 percent for the fiscal year (FY) '07 and FY '08.
The projection in the revised
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2 fuel stations fined for fraud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A mobile court yesterday fined the city's two petrol pumps a total of Tk 40,000 and sentenced the manager of one to six months of imprisonment for cheating people with misleading measurement machines.
During the drive, the court led by magistrate Md. Rokan Ud Doulah sentenced Jahangir Alam, manager of Green Ways Service Station at Kamal Ataturk Avenue, under the Weights and Measures Ordinance. The court found that the lock of one of the station's dispensing units, sealed by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), had been broken.
The BSTI seals the lock to check any kind of tampering over measurements in the filling stations.
The court, however, granted the bail petition of the manager to allow him to appeal to the higher court
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A BSTI official, left, accompanied by mobile court magistrate Rokan Ud Doula, checks a dispenser of Green Ways Service Station, a petrol pump, at Banani in the capital yesterday.

Govt may rush trial on incomplete finds
Fears Kibria's son

REAZ AHMAD
The son of assassinated ex-finance minister SAMS Kibria has expressed fear that the government will try to rush the Kibria murder case based on incomplete probe reports.
"By trying a handful of lower-level operatives and then declaring the case closed, an attempt will be made to protect the masterminds behind my father's



Reza Kibria

ACC plans to curb graft in education sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will make surprise visits to the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and the Directorate of Education to take instant action against corruption and irregularities.
The decision was taken at a closed-door meeting between the ACC and the education ministry officials yesterday.
"We will conduct sudden visit to

the NCTB and the education directorate to reduce corruption," ACC Commissioner Maniruzzaman Miah told journalists after the meeting, also attended by officials of the NCTB and the directorate.
"We have not come here to probe specific allegations but to find out ways to reduce corruption in the education sector," Miah said about the discussion in the meeting.
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Prayer Timing		
October 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-53	5-56
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

FLASH FLOOD
30,000 marooned in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari
A flash flood caused by torrential rains in the last 24 hours in the district including the Nilphamari town has left some 30,000 people marooned and hundreds others homeless.
A vast area in Khalisha Chapani, Tapa Khoribari, East and West Chhatnai, Tawabari and Kolmunda unions of Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas went under water.
At least 20 Teesta chars including Jhar Singeshwar, Baika Pukur, Chhtunama, Vendabari, Bhasanir Char, Fakrater Char, Satighat and Haldibari are reeling under five feet water.
About 6,000 homeless people of these chars took shelter on two embankments of the Teesta. Most of them are starving due to lack of food.
Around 800 people of more than 300 families of the town also took

shelter at the district Ansar-VDP office as rainwater entered their houses.
Floodwaters entered every house of Progotipara, Saudagarpara, New Babupara, Dangapara and Baroipara areas of the town.
The entire district plunged into darkness when a 33,000-volt electric tower in Sadar upazila collapsed during heavy rain on Monday night.
The rivers Teesta, Charalkata, Burikhora, Buri Teesta, Kewnai, Panga, Jamunashwary swelled due to onrush of water from the upstream India.
Sources said the water flow in the rivers in the district increased as all the sluice gates of the Gazaldoba Barrage in India have been opened.
Movement of vehicles on the Nilphamari-Dhaka highway was disrupted as the soil of about 70 metres stretch of the road subsided
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