

POWER, FERTILISER SALE
Tata for skipping procurement guidelines
JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Tata Group yesterday proposed to bypass the existing government procurement guidelines in selling its power and fertiliser to the government.
 The Indian industrial giant also
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BLASTS IN DHAKA
2 charge sheets submitted
COURT CORRESPONDENT

The first two charge sheets in the Dhaka serial blast cases were submitted yesterday against
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Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
6	11		5-40
7	12	4-35	5-39

Prayer Timing		
October 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	4-41
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-55
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Quake toll may go up to 40,000

Survivors angry at slow rescue effort; looting breaks out

AFP, Muzaffarabad
 Pakistan said yesterday up to 40,000 people were feared dead in the week-end earthquake, as frustration over the slow rescue effort turned to anger and scattered looting.
 The authorities struggled to bring aid to areas worst affected by the 7.6-magnitude quake where key roads were blocked by landslides, power and water supplies were down, and

hospitals and schools destroyed.
 A senior official said the quake had killed between 30,000 and 40,000 people in the northeast Pakistan, and injured another 60,000.
 "It is a whole generation that has been lost in the worst affected areas," military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan told AFP. He said the hardest hit area was around the Kashmir town of Muzaffarabad.
 In many places people dug with

their bare hands in an often futile attempt to reach friends and relatives trapped in the rubble. Anger started to build and sporadic looting broke out as help failed to arrive quickly.
 "We survived the earthquake but now we realise we will die of hunger and cold," said Mohammad Zaheer, a resident of the shattered town of Balakot.
 In Muzaffarabad, survivors
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Students, demonstrating against the politics of Islami Chattra Shibir on the Dhaka University campus, pelted bricks at the residence of the vice-chancellor yesterday after rallies.

BSF kills 2 on Dinajpur border
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed two Bangladeshi nationals and injured another inside Indian territory near Dinajpur on Sunday.
 The victims are Rafiqul Islam, 22, son of Abul Kalam and Rakibul Islam, 22, son of Mahiruddin, both hailed from Auliapur in Dinajpur.
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Schroeder bows out to make way for Merkel
AFP, Berlin

After seven years as chancellor of Germany, Gerhard Schroeder conceded defeat yesterday to make way for his female rival to become leader, after using every ounce of his political agility to extract key posts for his
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Over 10,000 communal tortures in govt's 4yr

Claims Nirmul Committee's white-paper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 More than ten thousand incidents of communal torture took place in the last four years of coalition rule, but police did not properly record even one tenth of them, a white-paper of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee revealed yesterday.
 "The unprecedented torture of religious minority and ethnic sects, which began centring the 2001 general elections, has not stopped even after 1,500 days," reads the 2,760-page white paper.
 "We have been able to record less than one tenth of such incidents," Shahriar Kabir, who edited the white paper published in three parts, said,

adding that people did not disclose many of the incidents fearing further torture and harassment.
 Binodbihari Chowdhury, an associate of Masterda Suryasen and advisor of the Nirmul Committee, announced the white paper, which carries newspaper reports, editorials, columns, articles and opinion on repression of minorities that has taken place since the caretaker government took over on July 13, 2001 and 46 months from the coalition government's taking office.
 A selection of 2,786 reports have been compiled in the first two parts while the third part carries headlines of 4,092 reports published in 16 newspapers published from Dhaka.

"Had the government admitted to the repression and taken steps accordingly, it would have stopped much earlier," Shahriar said while addressing the function.
 Quoting Swami Vivekananda's suggestion to turn into 'Buddha man from brute man', Binodbihari said, "Leaders of the present government have appeared in a competition to be most brute from more brute."
 "The 1972 Constitution needs to be implemented. Cancelling the prohibition on the formation of political parties on the basis of religion, former president Ziaur Rahman created the scope for the reformation of fundamentalist and religion-based parties, including
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More areas go under floodwater in north

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
 With the inundation of two more upazilas, overall flood situation in Gaibandha district worsened further while water level of Karotoa river continued at one metre above the danger mark.
 Thirteen out of 17 unions in Gobindaganj upazila have already been flooded by onrush of upstream water. Floodwater is now spreading in Shaghata and Gaibandha sadar upazilas.
 Durga Puja festival was suspended at ten temples in Taraf Kamal,

Shahpara, Khalshi and Kuthibari as the temples went under waist-deep water.
 Work at Gobindaganj upazila parishad, upazila health complex, upazila court, and livestock office has come to a standstill as the ground floor went under knee-deep water.
 "I have shifted my office upstairs of upazila parishad building as the office on the ground floor went under two feet water, said Gobindaganj upazila livestock officer.
 Vast areas of Darbastha, Gumaniganj and Sapmara unions
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