

Islamic Economic Forum confce in Dhaka in Nov

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday welcomed and assured his government's full support for holding the first regional conference of World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) in Dhaka November 5-6 this year.

The CA gave the assurance when a delegation of WIEF, led by its chairman and former deputy prime minister of Malaysia Tun Musa Hitam, made a courtesy call on him at his office and sought Bangladesh's support to the two-day conference.

Hitam briefed the CA about the upcoming WIEF conference, saying business delegations from Muslim and non-Muslim countries are expected to participate in the conference where Bangladesh's business community will get opportunity to showcase their

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Teacher shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals shot dead a teacher inside the office room of a coaching centre at Kalabagan in the capital yesterday.

The slain teacher, Abul Bashhar Badshah, 35, was the controller of examinations and a teacher of general mathematics at E Haq Coaching Centre, where he had been serving for nine years.

Badshah was alone in the cash counter of the office room on the first floor of a three-storey building at Lake Circus in Kalabagan when assailants sprayed him with bullets. The building's second and ground floors are used for residential purposes.

A few students who went to collect admit cards found Badsha lying on a pool of blood at around 2:45pm. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and found Badsha dead.

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3 cops jailed for mugging

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Three policemen and their informers were yesterday sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment for mugging Tk 14 lakh from a businessman in August last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza of the Speedy Trial Court6 handed down the sentence in presence of one policeman and two informers.

The convicts are constables Jamal Miah, Aminul Islam and Hasibul Haq, and their informers Abdus Sattar Sumon, Abdus Salam and Goutam Kumar Kar.

Of them, Jamal, Salam and Sumon were present in the court during the delivery of the verdict while three others have been absconding since the incidents took place.

The court fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default they will have to serve six months more in jail.

The court also fined Tk 2 lakh each to the fugitives as compensation to the complainant, in default,

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Bangladesh can become middle income country by 2016, says WB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh can develop into a middle-income country (MIC) by 2016 if it liberalise trade further, increase energy prices, privatise selected state-owned enterprises and maintain its past record of economic stability, says a World Bank (WB) study released yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of the study titled "Bangladesh: Strategy for sustained growth," Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam agreed with the recommendations made by the study and said that the government is already implementing a

number of them out of its own compulsion.

Azizul, however, also outlined a number of possible fallouts from implementing these recommendations, ranging from greater unemployment and financial and food insecurity for the vulnerable groups.

The finance adviser said that it is a mere coincidence that government and WB policies have converged and this does not mean that the government has surrendered its economic policies to the institution.

Commenting on the study, WB Country Director Xian Zhu said, "If GDP growth picks up to a sustained

rate of 7.5 percent, Bangladesh can become a middle-income group by 2016."

"But, if average growth fails to the 3 percent rate seen in the 1980s, the middle-income aspiration will have to wait for another five decades," he cautioned.

The study found that Bangladesh can achieve rapid growth by shifting from agriculture to labour-intensive manufacturing, deepening integration with international markets and unleashing the growth potential for major urban centres, especially Dhaka.

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Army kicks off anti-graft drive in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bangladesh army launched a new military operation titled "Alor Sondhane" (in search of light) with a view to curb corruption in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Earlier, the military conducted two other operations in the area titled "Operation Dabano" (forest fire), and "Operation Uttaron" (rise).

Senior military officials claimed operation Alor Sondhane would place more emphasis on making the society corruption free than conducting military activities.

Brig Gen Ziaul Hasan of Bandarban region revealed the objectives of the new operation at a views exchange meeting with reporters.

He said many hurdles had to be overcome and the time is right to

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Afghan, US forces kill 60 Taliban

22 Korean hostages are still alive

AFP, Kabul

Afghan and US-led forces killed more than 50 Taliban in a 12-hour battle in the country's opium-growing heartland, while ten rebels and a policeman died in separate fighting, officials said.

Coalition warplanes were called in to bomb rebel hideouts in the most intense clash, which broke out late Wednesday in the insurgency-hit southern province of Helmand, a US-led coalition said in a statement.

"More than 50 insurgents were confirmed killed with an unknown

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HC declares detention of Selim illegal

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the detention of Awami League presidium member and former minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim.

Delivering the verdict upon a habeas corpus petition filed by his son challenging the detention under the Special Powers Act, A High Court bench comprising Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Syed M Ziaul Karim ordered the government to set the AL leader free, if not wanted in any other criminal case.

Police sources said notwithstanding the High Court orders, his release from jail will not be possible, as he has already been charge-sheeted in an extortion case filed under the emergency Power Rules along with former prime minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana.

On May 28, the joint forces arrested Sheikh Selim at his Banani residence. After interrogation in police remand, he was sent to jail on 30 days' detention under the Special Powers Act.



PHOTO: STAR

Floodwater washed away 60 metres of Brahmaputra Flood Control Embankment at Khokshabari near Sirajganj town yesterday, leaving many areas of the town inundated.

50 Iraq football fans killed in car bombs

Insurgents kill 10 policemen

AFP, Baghdad/ Hilla

The death toll from two car bomb attacks on Iraqi football fans celebrating their side's Asian Cup semi-final win has risen to at least 50 dead and 90 wounded, according to the US military yesterday.

Iraq's dramatic penalty shoot-out victory against South Korea on Wednesday sent thousands of jubilant fans cheering into the streets of Baghdad waving flags, singing and firing rifles wildly into the air.

While the majority of Iraqis from across the country's warring communities hailed the victory and

enjoyed a rare moment of shared national joy, insurgent car bombers detonated two devices among the crowds.

A spokeswoman for the US division deployed in Baghdad, Captain Dawn Williams, said 50 Iraqi civilians and one policeman were killed in the blasts, 90 people were wounded and 18 vehicles destroyed.

Medics at the capital's Kindi, Yamuk and Ibn Nafees hospitals reported treating 126 wounded from the attacks in the western Mansour and central Zayuna districts, along with two deaths from stray bullets.

Some of the bodies may have been removed from the scene directly, and Iraqi security officials gave higher estimated tolls. An interior ministry official said 58 people were killed, while a defence source said 53.

It was not clear who planted the bombs, but similar attacks have in the past been blamed on Sun insurgent groups such as Al-Qaeda's Iraqi affiliate, which kills to spread chaos and undermine the US-backed government.

Meanwhile, ten members of Iraq's security forces were killed yesterday, including five police

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Go back home, get new job permit

South Korea urges irregular Bangladeshi workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Korea has urged the irregular Bangladeshi workers there to return home voluntarily so that they can take advantage of Employment Permit System (EPS), a new recruitment plan for the foreign workers with better facilities.

"We urge the workers who overstayed or violated their contracts to come back home voluntarily. They will get the chance to re-enter Korea, but if they are caught by the Korean authorities, they will not be allowed ever," South Korean Ambassador in Bangladesh Suk-Bum Park said yesterday.

He talked to The Daily Star on the sidelines of an orientation programme organised by

Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited (BOESL) at its auditorium where a Korean delegation talked about the newly introduced EPS programme in front of the job seekers in Korea.

There are nearly 12,000 Bangladeshi workers in Korea at present, although the country stopped hiring workers from Bangladesh four years back following widespread allegations that the recruiting agencies in Bangladesh charge too high for the migration of the workers.

The Korean ambassador observed that since the Bangladeshi workers had to pay a huge amount to get to Korea, they

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Pakistan tests cruise missile

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan said it successfully test-fired a cruise missile yesterday capable of delivering nuclear warheads deep into India.

"The test will consolidate Pakistan's strategic capability and strengthen national security," a military statement said, without providing details.

The military says it has extended the range of the missile, first tested in 2005, to 435 miles enough to reach New Delhi, the capital of archrival India.

President Gen Pervez Musharraf

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| Prayer Timing | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| July 27 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-20 | 4-55 |
| Juma | 12-30 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-50 | 6-55 |
| Esha | 8-15 | 8-45 |
| Source: Islamic Foundation | | |