

## CA to attend 62nd UNGA session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will leave for New York on September 22 to attend the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which opens tomorrow at the UN headquarters.

Fakhruddin's weeklong trip, first trip to the United States as chief adviser, will focus largely on climate change, as part of the government efforts to push countries to tackle the scourge of global warming that will significantly affect Bangladesh.

The chief adviser is scheduled to address a high-level event organised by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on "Addressing the

## Khaleda's case brought under emergency rules

ACC readies fresh case against Tarique; graft charges pressed against Falu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday brought under emergency power rules the case filed against former prime minister Khaleda Zia on September 2.

The commission will file a fresh case against her detained elder son Tarique Rahman 'very soon'.

Meantime, the ACC pressed charges against detained former BNP lawmaker Mossaddak Ali Falu,

four Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward commissioners and 11 others in a case filed in connection with embezzling government relief materials.

Sources in the ACC said Tarique would be accused of concealing information in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC, and illegally accumulating properties disproportionate to his known sources of income.

"The container handling case

(accusing Khaleda, her younger son Koko and 11 others) was brought under EPR in response to a petition by investigation officer (IO) of the case," ACC Secretary Mukhles Ur Rahman told a press briefing yesterday.

"Bringing the case under EPR means bail could be granted to none of the accused," he added.

IO of the case Jahirul Huda filed the petition on September 5 following the observations made in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Japan favours early restoration of democracy

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Director General for Southeast and Southwest Asia of Japan foreign ministry Chihiro Atsumi yesterday said his country favours early restoration of democracy in Bangladesh.

"Japan and Bangladesh are very good friends and our bilateral relation is excellent. We discussed current political situation and reform by the caretaker government," he told reporters after meeting with Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh Masayuki Inoue was present.

Atsumi said the foreign adviser

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Parties to ask EC to ban war criminals from polls

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Most of the political parties selected for electoral reform talks with the Election Commission (EC), plan to ask the electoral authority to include provisions in the laws disqualifying the anti-liberation forces and war criminals from contesting in polls.

If the majority of the participants submit the same proposal on the issue, the EC might consider the proposal quite seriously, and in case of its inability to incorporate the proposal into the upcoming

new electoral law, it will publicise ample clarifications for its failure, senior officials in the EC Secretariat said referring to the commission's adopted policies for the talks.

The EC that began the much awaited electoral talks on September 12, selecting 15 political parties for the dialogues, decided to disclose a report on the outcome once the process comes to a conclusion.

Before the talks began, Chief Election Commissioner (ATM) Shamsul Huda had repeatedly

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Three held for kidnapping Bangladeshi in Afghanistan

STAR REPORT

Afghan police said yesterday they had arrested three men over the kidnapping of a Bangladeshi development worker, an incident they said was criminal and not related to Taliban insurgents.

The men had claimed the Bangladeshi national had been taken across the border into Pakistan after his abduction at the weekend and would be brought back in a few days, Logar province police chief Ghulam Mustafa told AFP.

In Dhaka, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday expressed grave concern

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## 10,000 more bullets seized from Sherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A squad of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) early yesterday recovered 10,000 rifle bullets and three magazines of sub-machine gun (SMG) at Gazni forest in Jhenagati, a frontier upazila of Sherpur district.

BDR conducted operations at six places near the bordering areas of greater Mymensingh district Sunday and early hours of yesterday and recovered the bullets. Sector Commander Col Anisuzzaman of 45 Battalion led the operations.

Muhammad Ali Sarker, a Subedar of BDR, filed a general diary (GD) with the Jhenagati Police Station in this connection. The recovered bullets were handed over to Jhenagati Police Station after the operations.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Jhenagati Police Station told The

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

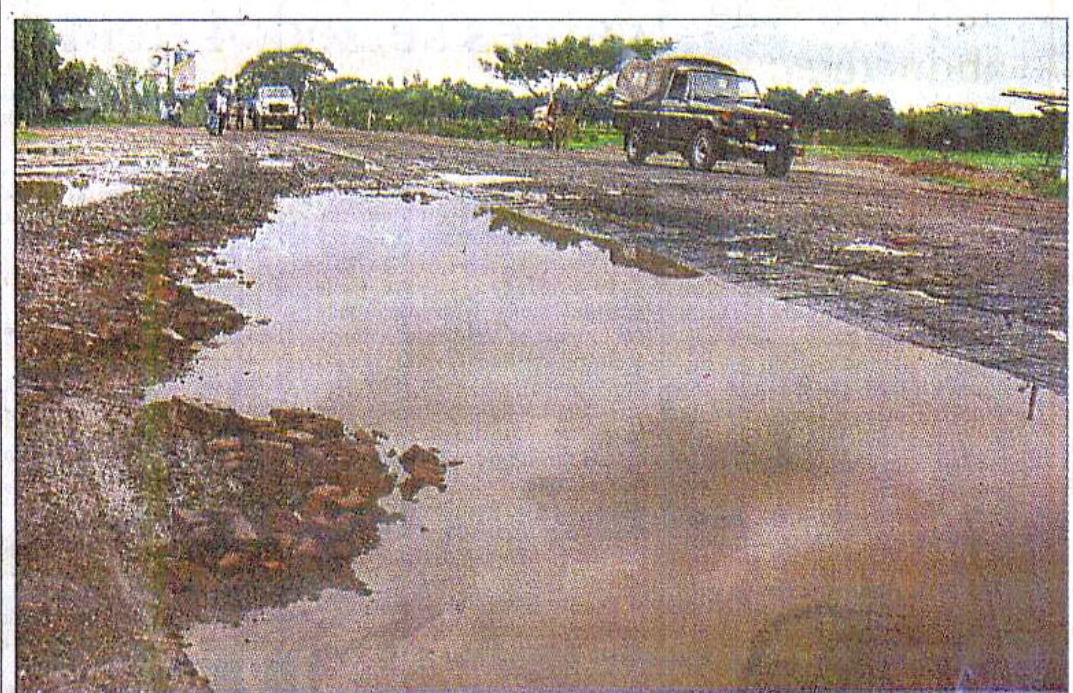


PHOTO: STAR

One of the country's finest highways in the recent past, the 34-km Bogra-Sherpur road is now in an appalling state due to poor maintenance since 1994.

## How finest highway turns into the worst

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, BOGRA

The highway to the northern Bangladesh was one of the best when it was built with foreign assistance in 1978. Today, it could as well be billed as the worst highway in the country with a 34-kilometer path between Bogra and Sherpur becoming totally unusable.

The highway landed in its present state as no maintenance work had been carried out on it since it was handed to the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in 1994. The rest of the highway is also badly pitted and may become unusable any time.

A quick survey on 13 kilometers of the road about four months ago found over 13,000 potholes. But no one knows how many craters have

developed since then.

Iftekhar Kabir, executive engineer of the RHD, told The Daily Star that unless immediate steps are taken to repair the whole length of the road, the road connection with the north may become difficult. A warning note has been sent to the higher authorities but any decisions are yet to come.

On a visit to the worst affected part of the road last Sunday, at least seven trucks were found with broken wheels and axles. Three of them, one with television sets, had rolled over after hitting the bumpy craters. This 34 kilometers take about one and a half hours to travel. Long queues developed on the road as vehicles travel at snail's pace.

Iftekhar said tenders were

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## BREAKING EMERGENCY POWER RULES Charges framed against 6 RU teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi metropolitan magistrate's court for speedy trial yesterday framed charges against six detained Rajshahi University teachers in the case filed for violating Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007 during last month's student unrest.

The accused are former vice chancellor M Saidur Rahman Khan, Convener of Progressive Teachers' Society M Abdus Sobhan, Moloy Bhoomik of management department, and Dulal

Chandra Biswas, Sayed Selim Reza Newton and Abdullah Al Mamun of mass communication department.

The other charges included violation of EPR through bringing out a silent procession on August 21 protesting Dhaka University incidents, instigating students to be violent on the following day, and observing strike on the plea of taking leave on July 26.

Khondoker Ferdous Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, lodged the case against Saidur, Sobhan and Moloy on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## BNP factions deny bid to woo B Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both the factions of BNP yesterday denied taking any initiatives to woo Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Pro-Khaleda Zia leader and BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said they did not make any move to talk with any leaders including B Chowdhury. He claimed even nobody from the party contacted the BNP's founding secretary general, who defected from the party in 2002.

"I heard he [B Chowdhury] will form a new alliance of nationalistic forces; so let's wait and see what he does," Delwar told reporters at his NAM apartment house.

Asked about next party council, he said it is not possible to hold the council without approval of the chairperson as she is in jail.

"Bhuiyan can hold a council of the so-called reformists group, not of BNP as he is no more in BNP," he remarked.

He also said BNP is united under the leadership of Khaleda Zia, trashing reports of differences between him and Hannan Shah.

Terming the recent meeting called by Bhuiyan unsuccessful, he told the reporters BNP standing committee members are with him,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

## US rights group moves to cancel GSP facility for Bangladesh

Bepza says allegation of lack of labour rights baseless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A US-based rights group has made a move seeking cancellation of GSP, a system that favours Bangladesh garment export, alleging the country does not allow labour rights in export processing zones.

However, Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) says the move is based on falsehoods.

Bepza has drafted a position paper to help the government fight a petition the rights body filed with the United States Trade Representatives (USTR) on October 4.

The rights group -- American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO) -- has been lobbying for cancellation of GSP facilities for many years.

Though GSP (generalised system of preferences) facilities do not offer a lot of benefit to Bangladesh, its cancellation would confirm AFL-CIO's claims that labour rights are violated in Bangladesh.

"The complaint of absence of workers rights in the EPZs is not true as about 177 elected workers repre-

sentation & welfare committees (WRWCs) are actively working in the EPZs of Bangladesh," said a position paper prepared by Bepza in this regard.

"Bepza does not have any idea regarding intelligence activities and harassment of EPZ workers and representatives of the WRWCs by any law enforcing agencies," the paper said.

Bepza believes that the first phase of implementation of the EPZ Workers Association and Industrial Relations Act 2004 has been successfully completed, and implementation of second phase of the act is going on with due importance.

Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFEEA) in a paper said the industry does not have even a single child worker at its processing units across the country.

The association is also not aware of any incidents of repression on workers in the industry, and it never faced any workers agitation in the sector, said the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## Moeen for quick settling of pension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday asked the Audit Department to introduce a new system for settling the pensions of retired government officers or military personnel within two to three months of their retirement.

Moeen made these comments while speaking as the chief guest at the joint launching of the Controller General Defence Finance Procedure Manual 2007 and the Audit and Accounts Practices Handbook 2006-2007, Volume 2 (Defence Finance).

The launching, held at the Audit Building, was also attended by Navy Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and Comptroller and Auditor General Asif Ali among other military and civil service high-ups.

The manual and the handbook, updated from the 1955 version, were prepared under supervision of the comptroller and auditor general, with separate manuals for all the sub-sections in the defence finance department.

The army chief observed that payment of the pensions to the retired government or military employees is often neglected. He stressed the need for fixing a certain period of time to settle the pensions.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## IAEA to help set up nuke power plant

UNB, Dhaka

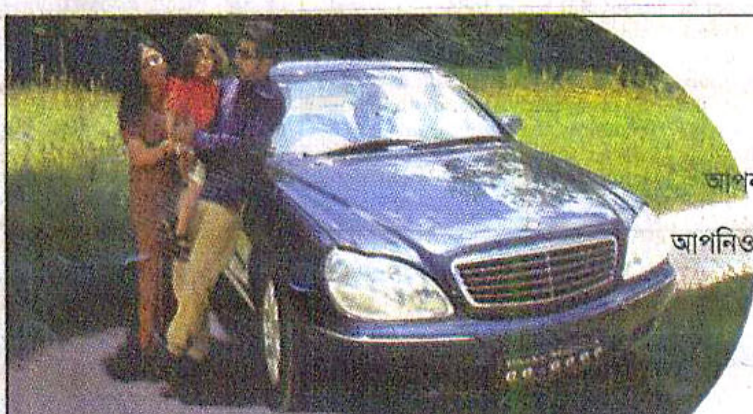
In response to an appeal from Dhaka, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has assured assistance in establishing a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh for generating electricity.

This assurance came when Adviser for Science and ICT Tapan Chowdhury called on Deputy Director General and Head of Nuclear Energy of the IAEA Yuri Sokolov in Vienna yesterday, according to a message received here.

During the meeting, the adviser asked for IAEA help in formulating an action plan for the proposed nuclear power plant project for power generation.

The IAEA was also requested to provide technical support for building the plant.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



এমন একটা সুন্দর জীবন  
আপনারও হতে পারে মাত্র ৫ বছরে  
আপনিও হতে পারেন মিলিয়নিয়ার

জীবনে সবাইতো স্বপ্ন দেখে মিলিয়নিয়ার হবার। আর তা যদি পূরণ হয় মাত্র কয়েক বছরেই! সেই সুযোগটিই এবার নিয়ে এলো প্রাইম ব্যাংক লিমিটেড। আমাদের নতুন প্রাইম মিলিয়নিয়ার কিমে ৫ বছরে ১২,৪৬৫ টাকা, ৭ বছরে ৭,৮৯০ টাকা এবং ১০ বছরে ৪,৫৭০ টাকা মাসিক সঞ্চয়ের মাধ্যমে আপনি হতে পারেন ১০ লক্ষ টাকার গর্বিত মালিক। তাই এখনই লুফে নিন মিলিয়নিয়ার হবার সবচেয়ে সহজ সুযোগ।

ফোন: ৯৫৬৭২৬৫, ৯৫৫৬২৮২, ৯৫৫৯২৫৮

Prime Bank Limited  
a bank with a difference

www.prime-bank.com

বিশেষ থেকে সহজ উপায়ে টাকা পেতে আরও একধাপ এগিয়ে

আজ থেকে ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড যুক্ত হলো ওয়েস্টার্ন ইউনিয়ন নেটওয়ার্ক-এর সাথে।

এখন আপনি বিশ্বের ২০০টি দেশ এবং অঞ্চল থেকে প্রিয়জনের পাঠানো টাকা গ্রহণ করতে পারবেন মিনিটেই\*

▶ ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর যে কোন শাখা থেকে টাকা পাওয়া যাবে

▶ কোন ব্যাংক একাউন্ট-এর প্রয়োজন নেই

▶ গ্রহীতাকে কোন ফি দিতে হয় না

WESTERN UNION

বিশেষ থেকে টাকা পাওয়ার দ্রুত ও নিরাপদ উপায়

UCB

United Commercial Bank Ltd.

UNITED WE ACHIEVE

United Commercial Bank Ltd.

\*সর্বপ্রথম বিশ্ব দেশের সমস্তের ব্যাংক, একেবারে অফিস সময় এবং আপনাদের শাখার উপর নির্ভরশীল।  
ট্রান্সফার ফি ছাড়াও ওয়েস্টার্ন ইউনিয়ন আপনার টাকা ইমেইলিং সুরাহা অস্বাভাবিক করার সময় আরও করে সুরাহা করে।