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AFGHANISTAN Hope for Brac staff's release brightens

BSS, Dhaka

The hope for release of a Brac official, who was abducted on September 15 in Afghanistan, is brighter than ever after the arrest of one of his abductors and many of their relatives, Afghan authorities yesterday told the NGO.

Noor Islam was posted as an area manager of Brac in Afghanistan's Logar province when an armed group kidnapped him, the second such kidnapping of Brac's Bangladeshi employees working there.

Earlier on September 12, robbers killed a Bangladeshi Brac official after kidnapping him in Badkhashan province.

Quoting a message from Kabul received in Dhaka, Brac Executive Director Dr Mahbub Hossain

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Dhaka-Yangon deals stalled amid political unrest in Myanmar

ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

At least three bilateral agreements and a number of negotiations on groundbreaking deals between Bangladesh and Myanmar have come to a grinding halt due to the recent political unrest in Yangon.

Foreign ministry officials told The Daily Star, they fear that a prolongation of Myanmar's political prob-

lems would render Bangladesh's recent efforts to court Yangon's military regime redundant.

Dhaka was looking to sign at least two deals on border management to eliminate illicit cross-border trade and hoped to create a joint commission, as part of broader government efforts to deepen engagement with Myanmar to gain access to East

Asia, particularly China.

A number of important negotiations have also been halted, holding back "groundbreaking" decisions on re-settling Rohingya refugees and getting Myanmar on board to link Bangladesh to the Asian Highway Network.

Dhaka's recent surge in improving relations with the isolationist

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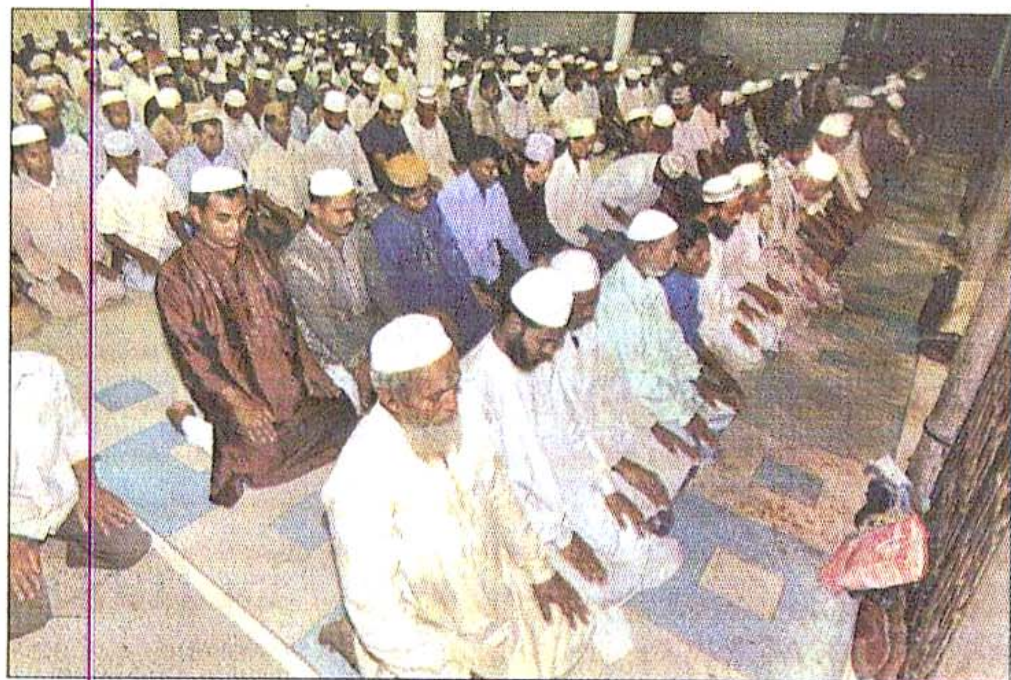


PHOTO: STAR

Muslim devotees offer prayers on the holy night of Lailatul Qadr at Baitul Mukarram mosque in the capital late Tuesday night.

8 RU teachers' wives demand their release before Eid, Puja

RU CORRESPONDENT

The wives of eight detained teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday appealed to the government to release their husbands, who are in jail for violating the Emergency Power Rules, before Eid and Durga Puja.

In a statement faxed to the chief adviser, they said the detained teachers were not involved in any anti-state or anti-social activities.

Law enforcers held Prof M Saidur Rahman Khan, Prof M Abdus Sobhan and Prof Moloy Kumar Bhowmik on August 24

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Gerhard Ertl of Germany wins Nobel Chemistry Prize

AFP, Stockholm

Gerhard Ertl of Germany won the Nobel Chemistry Prize yesterday, his 71st birthday, for pioneering work in surface chemistry that has become invaluable to industry, from fertilizers to cleaner cars.

"This science is important for the chemical industry and can help us to understand such varied processes as why iron rusts, how fuel cells function and how the catalysts in our cars work," the jury said in its citation.

Ertl's achievement was to build a step-by-step method to progressively build up a complete picture of a chemical reaction on a surface.

These experiments are high-ticket affairs, as they require a laboratory that is utterly free of

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US warns Myanmar of fresh sanctions

Opposition welcomes dialogue move by junta

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday warned it could slap new sanctions on Myanmar if it does not stop atrocities against its own people and demanded a probe into the death of an opposition member while in custody.

"The United States strongly condemns the atrocities committed by the junta and calls for a full

investigation into the death of Win Shwe during his detention in Burma," said Gordon Johndroe, a White House spokesman.

"The junta must stop the brutal treatment of its people and peacefully transition to democracy or face new sanctions from the United States," he added.

Win Shwe, a 42-year-old member of the opposition National

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Benazir to be given extra security on homecoming

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's government said yesterday it will give former premier Benazir Bhutto extra security on her homecoming next week and that it has authorised her to import a special bullet-proof car.

Bhutto's opposition Pakistan People's Party has requested police protection for its leader, the first female prime minister of an Islamic nation, when she returns from self-imposed exile on October 18.

The move follows a reported

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GATCO CASE Khaleda to be quizzed today

UNB, Dhaka

Detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia will be questioned today in connection with the container-handling scam case filed against her by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Investigation officer and ACC Deputy Director Jahurul Huda, officer of the taskforce-23 Major Mostafa Kamal and CID Inspector of taskforce-23 Nurul Islam will quiz the former premier at noon at

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JMB threatens to set fire to Petrobangla building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security has been beefed up in and around Petrobangla office at Karwan Bazar in the capital after unknown people claiming themselves as members of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) threatened to set the building on fire.

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Get Prayer times from World Menu

	Iftar	Sehri
	5.40 PM	4.35 AM

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
28	11		5-40
29	12	4-35	5-39
30	13	4-35	5-38

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

Source: Islamic Foundation

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