

Eid Mubarak

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High-level meet
discusses Better
Business Forum
UNB, Dhaka

A high-level meeting yesterday discussed the modus operandi of Bangladesh Better Business Forum being formed to strengthen public-private business entrepreneurship.

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed chaired the meeting at his office, a follow up to the highest-level exchange of opinion between the government and the business community held at Hotel Radisson in the first week of last month.

At that meeting, the CA proposed the formation of this new business forum as the caretaker

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PRESIDIUM MEET
AL demands
release of
Hasina, Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday demanded release of its detained chief Sheikh Hasina, General Secretary Abdul Jalil, and other leaders who are behind bars without any specific charges.

The demand was made at a meeting of AL Presidium, the highest policy-making body of the party, at its acting President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence in the capital.

AL also demanded release of the

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Last-minute
shopping gets
momentum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A panjabi is Tk 150, a pair of shoes Tk 300 and a shirt Tk 120 -- the prices are pretty cheap compared to many other malls. But Jasim, who works at a city restaurant, was still roaming around on Bangabandhu Avenue to strike a better deal.

When asked what he had bought so far, he said, "Lungi I've already bought. But I need a pair of shoes and a panjabi to celebrate the Eid."

Like Jasim people from all walks of life thronged the market places

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Wages, Eid bonus paid to almost all workers of garment factories

Labour leaders say

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The bulk of the garment factories paid salaries and bonuses to their employees yesterday in line with a government directive to that end, industry insiders said.

Workers, however, took to the streets at a few places in protest at low payment of bonuses, which was quickly solved through negotiations.

This year has seen about 30 percent medium-and-small factories that do not usually pay their workers festivals bonuses comply with the government directive.

It's a pleasure for workers that most of them have got something for bonus from garment owners, said Najma Akhter, a labour leader.

She said workers who poured onto the streets on the outskirts of the city over the paltry amount of

British writer
Doris Lessing
wins Nobel
Literature Prize
AFP, Stockholm

British writer Doris Lessing yesterday won the Nobel Literature Prize for five decades of epic novels that have covered feminism, politics as well as her youth in Africa.

Lessing, who will be 88 next week, is only the 11th woman to have won the prize since it started in 1901.

The Swedish Academy described Lessing as "that epicist of the female experience who with scepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilisation to scrutiny."

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8 jute mills to be leased out

Private entrepreneurs to run those including 4 closed ones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory committee on economic affairs yesterday approved leasing out of eight state-run jute mills, four of them already closed, to the private entrepreneurs for avoiding loss.

People or companies interested to take out leases on the mills, however, will have to comply with certain conditions, including keeping the existing employees at the operational mills and reinstating the skilled workers of the closed mills who were laid off.

The government will float tender for the lease soon.

On July 18, the government closed Peoples' Jute Mills in Khulna, Karnaphuli Jute Mills and Forat-Karnaphuli Carpet Factory

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ADB pledges \$150m for post-flood rehabilitation

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President Liqun Jin yesterday pledged \$150 million in credit for post-flood rehabilitation programme in Bangladesh.

The ADB vice-president made the commitment when he called on Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed at his office.

The top executive of the donor agency appreciated the caretaker government's various steps and efforts including the anti-corruption drive, institutional reforms and good governance.

"ADB is encouraged by the performance of Bangladesh," Liqun said.

The CA thanked the ADB vice-president for the bank's substantial assistance in various sectors of Bangladesh, according to his Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim.

He briefed about the background and performance of the caretaker government.

ADB Country Director Hua Du and ERD Secretary Aminul Islam Bhuiyan were also present.

ACC allowed to quiz Jalil

Charge sheet against Pintu in relief misuse case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday gave permission to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) to interrogate detained Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil at the Dhaka Central Jail gate in connection with allegations of corruption.

Jalil, after his arrest in May, was moved to a hospital from jail in June following health complications. He is currently at Lab Aid Hospital in the city.

Meanwhile, the ACC pressed charges against detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and one of his accomplices in a case filed in connection with misappropriating corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for government relief.

The exhibition has been arranged under a deal signed earlier between the cultural affairs ministry and the French Embassy in Dhaka.

"New date of the exhibition has

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All set for sending 187 artefacts to Paris exhibition

Another case filed challenging the move

PINAKI ROY

The government is all ready to send 187 archaeological masterpieces to a Paris museum for exhibition, but a group of archaeological experts yesterday filed a fresh case against sending the artefacts.

While these artefacts are ready to be sent to the Guimet Museum tomorrow morning by a special cargo aircraft of Air France, the First Joint District Judge's Court of Dhaka served a show-cause notice upon the French ambassador and the cultural ministry secretary asking them to reply why injunction will not be issued against sending the artefacts.

The notice was also served upon Homebound Ltd, the company assigned to carry the artefact to Paris.

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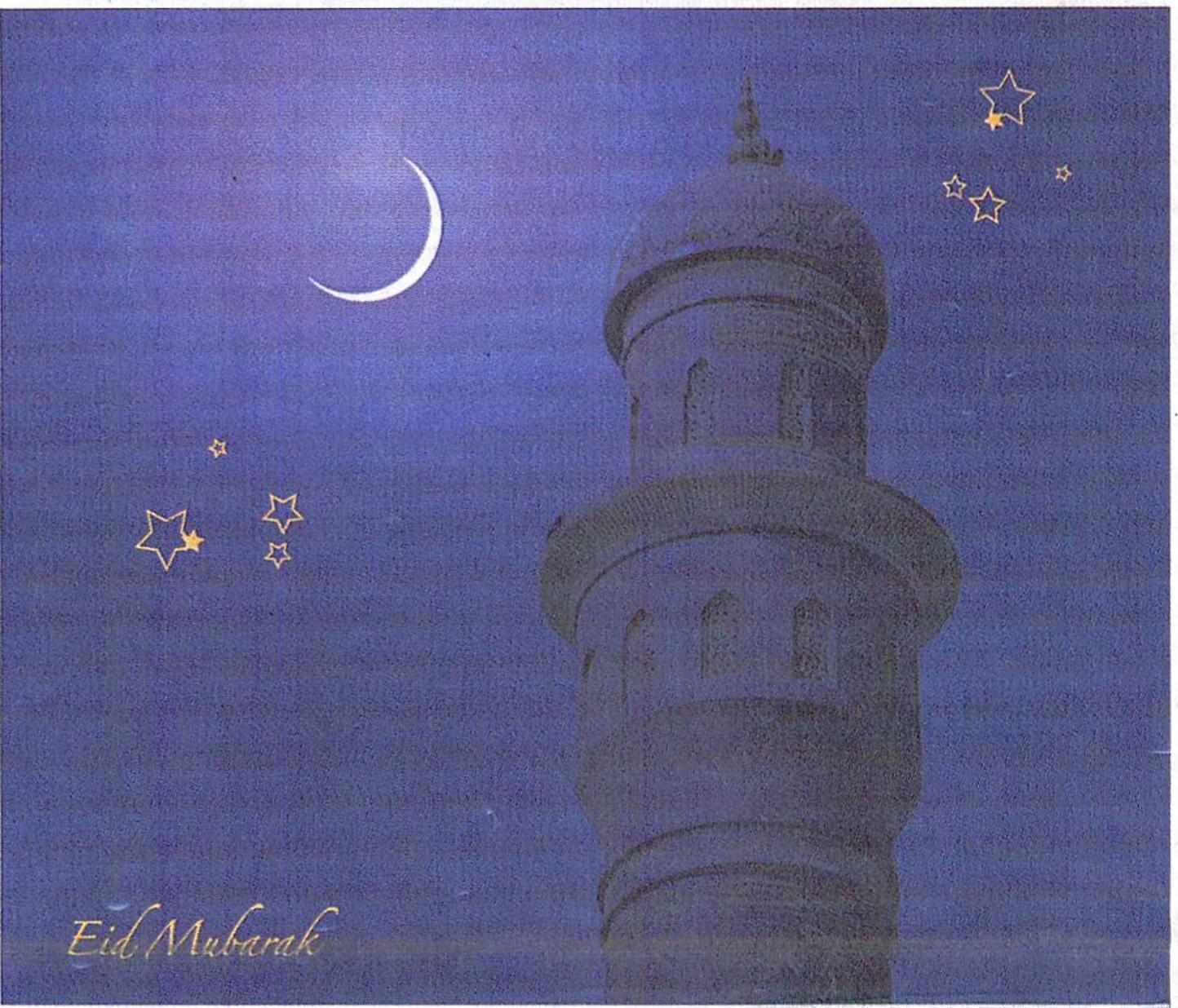
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