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Zillur demands reinvestigation into case against Rehana

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) Acting President Zillur Rahman yesterday termed the extortion case against Sheikh Rehana false, fabricated and mala fide and demanded reinvestigation into the case.

He said the investigation was "wrong" since the High Court, upon a writ petition, had stayed all further proceedings of the case pending with the lower court.

Earlier, the lower court issued an arrest warrant against Sheikh Rehana, sister of detained Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, along with an order to attach all her properties in connection with a Tk

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5 firms offer to set up rental power plants

SHARIEF KHAN

The Power Cell yesterday received 13 bids from five companies for installing rental power plants, totalling 250MW power generation capacity, at seven locations for three years, competent sources said.

Although the Cell sought bids for the installation of rental power plants in eight locations with total generation of 300MW to ease the country's power crisis before the next irrigation period, no bid was turned in for the eighth location.

The Cell would announce the names of qualified bidders by the

third week of November after evaluating the bids for their financial and technical aspects. The rental plants can be installed within 120 days of awarding the contract, said official sources.

"The price offers that we received range between US 2 cents to 5 cents for each kilowatt-hour. Considering that the power from the rental plants are costlier than [that generated by] conventional independent power projects (IPPs), the price offers are excellent," said a source adding, "Some price offers are as low as that of the IPPs."

He, however, added that the low price offers were not the only factor

that is considered for awarding the rental power contracts.

As per the government plan, gas-fired rental plants will be installed in Panchagaj (50MW), Kumargaon (50MW), Shahjibazar (50MW), Ashuganj (50MW), Bogra (20MW) and Bhola (20 to 30MW). The petroleum-fired plants would be set up in Bheramara (20MW) and Khulna (40MW). The Power Cell short-listed 17 companies, local and foreign, who were asked to submit their bids yesterday.

However, in the tender that closed yesterday, there was no offer for Panchagaj.

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Border confce agrees on exchange of info on terrors

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and India yesterday agreed to exchange information about terrors and reached a consensus on completing development works within 150 yards of the zero-line considering the interest of the local people across the common border.

The consensus came on the first day of a five-day summit-level conference of the border forces of the two countries that began here yesterday.

"The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and agreement and progress were made in a number of

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Saarc home ministers vow to fight terror

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Saarc home ministers today decided to exchange information regularly to fight terrorism and work on establishing a convention for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

They noted that terrorism remains a serious threat to sustainable peace and development of the region, India's Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta told reporters following the end of a three-day ministerial meeting in New Delhi.

Gupta said considering the need for more frequent and higher level of interaction, the meeting

agreed that the existing annual conference on cooperation in police matters should be held biannually.

The Indian secretary said Pakistan has offered to host the next meeting of police chiefs (intelligence heads) in Islamabad in February 2008.

Stressing the need for efforts to tackle cross-border crime -- drug and arms smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering -- the home ministers decided to strengthen institutional mechanism to facilitate "closer cooperation and more frequent interaction", Gupta said.

He said the ministers admitted

to the need for better electronic networking among the eight-member grouping.

As to the proposed Saarc convention on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, Gupta said it was agreed that the process should be accelerated, disputing media reports that Bangladesh and Pakistan raised objection to the effort.

The meeting decided that legal advisers from member nations should meet before April next year in Sri Lanka to examine the draft of the convention, he said.

Asked if there was any decision on establishing 'Saarcpol' on the

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Workers in Kuwait to be allowed to change their job

UNB, Dhaka

Some categories of Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait will soon be able to change their jobs under the same sponsor as the Kuwaiti government has decided to withdraw restrictions on transfer of residency.

For instance, domestic workers can be transferred to private sector companies and vice versa under the same sponsor.

An official delegation to Kuwait, led by Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Abdul Matin Chowdhury, returned home yesterday and apprised Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury of the outcome.

The members of the delegation said the development emerged from meetings with high officials of the Kuwaiti government, including

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Body formed to examine procedure of sending artefacts to France

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

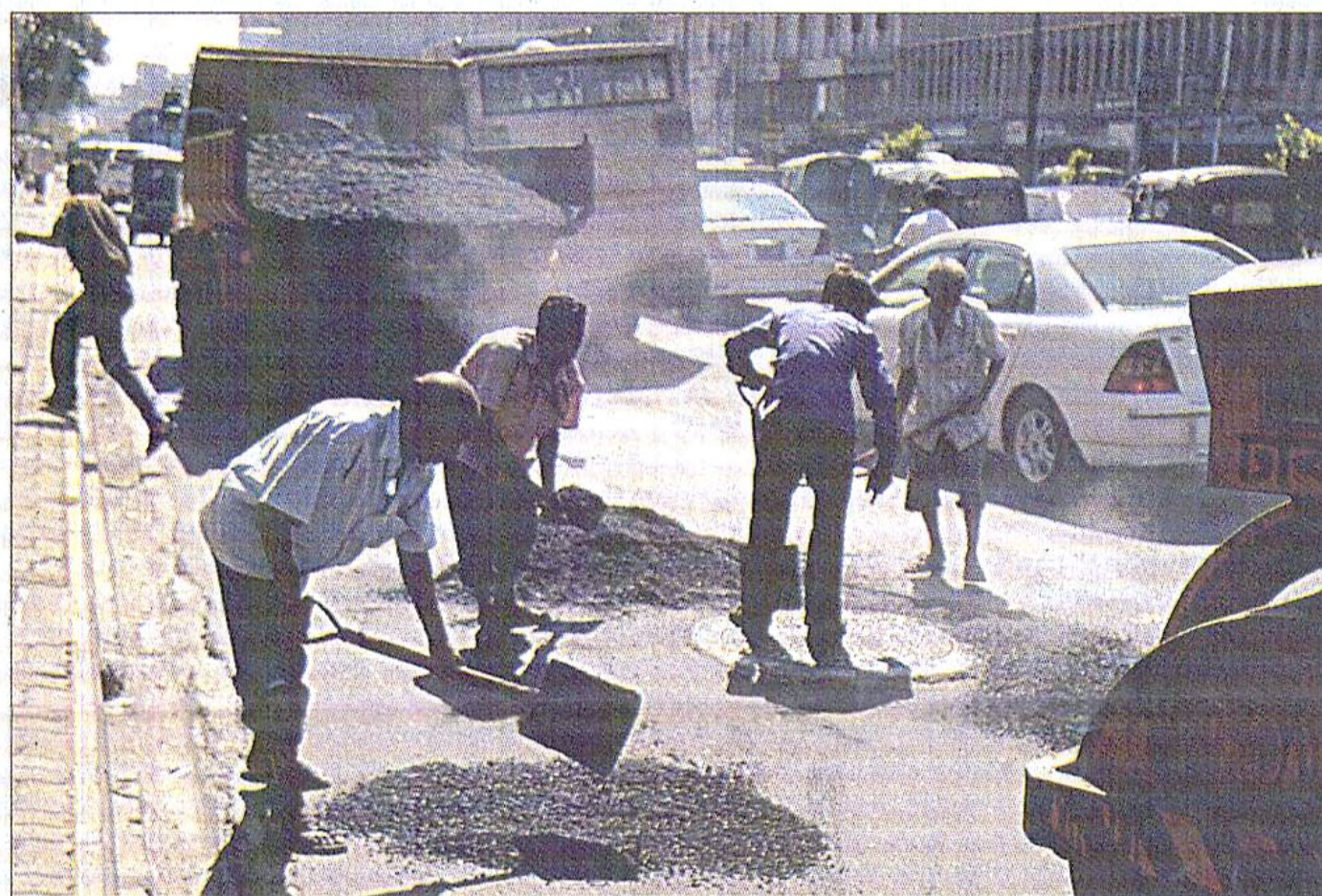
The government has formed a special committee to evaluate the procedure of sending 187 artefacts to the Guimet Museum in Paris for an exhibition.

The exhibition was initially scheduled for October 23 but was deferred for three-four weeks as a case against sending of the artefacts was pending in the court.

After disposal of the case, the government was all set to send the archaeological masterpieces to France on October 13, but law enforcers resisted the move as another case was filed.

The special committee headed by Dr Momin Chowdhury, professor of history at Dhaka University,

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Dhaka City Corporation workers repair potholes on Airport Road near Banani in the capital amid heavy traffic yesterday afternoon. The DCC usually resurfaces roads at night.

PHOTO: STAR

30 killed in Pakistan military convoy blast

AFP, Islamabad

A blast tore through a truck carrying paramilitary soldiers in restive northwest Pakistan on Thursday, killing 30 people and wounding at least a dozen more, a senior security official said.

The vehicle, which was packed with ammunition, was travelling outside Mingora, the main city in the scenic Swat valley in North West Frontier Province, when the explosion occurred, the official said.

"Thirty people were killed in the explosion including 17 paramilitary soldiers. The damage was high because the truck was packed with ammunition," the official, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

A doctor at a local hospital said 10 bodies had been brought in so far.

"Ten dead bodies were brought to Saidu Sharif hospital, and 35 wounded people. Some of the bodies are charred," doctor Nisar Khan told AFP.

Security sources said a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near the truck, but the government said the truck's cargo could have triggered the explosion.

"The nature of the blast is not clear and it is being ascertained. There was ammunition in the truck which caused the damage," interior ministry spokesman Javed Cheema told AFP.

The explosion comes just one

day after Pakistan deployed more than 2,000 troops to the scenic Swat valley to bolster efforts to stem rising violence linked to pro-Taliban militants.

The district was once one of Pakistan's premier tourist attractions, but the area in conservative North West Frontier Province, bordering Afghanistan, has become a stronghold of banned group Tahreek Nifaz-e-Shariat Mohammad (TNSM).

The radical group has close ties to Taliban fighters who have been mounting attacks on government officials and security forces in the area.

No one immediately claimed

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CASE AGAINST SQ CHY No-confidence petition against final report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The complainant of a case, filed against detained BNP bigwig Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in connection with assault and theft of livestock, submitted a Naraji (no confidence) petition before a Chittagong court yesterday.

Plaintiff Mohammad Ilias in the petition alleged that police made the final report based on false information provided by the accused and appealed for its nullification.

Magistrate Sanjida Sharmin fixed November 12 for hearing on the petition.

According to sources, Ilias, a supporter of Awami League, of East Kurushia of Rangunia upazila filed

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Prayer Timing		
October 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:50	5:25
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:32	5:35
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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NOTICE

Distribution of Dividend Warrant

This is for kind information of our honourable shareholders that Dividend Warrant for the year that ended on 31st December, 2006 is ready for distribution.

The Shareholders may collect their Dividend Warrant(s) on the 27th, 28th & 29th October, 2007 from IBBL, Share Department, 63, Dilkusha C/A (5th floor), Dhaka of the company from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. by producing their relevant Folio/BO ID number by themselves or by the letter of authority with attestation of bearer signature.

Dividend Warrant not collected within the above-specified time will be sent by post/courier to the honourable shareholders at their mailing address recorded with us at their own risk and responsibility.

By Order
Date: 25 October, 2007
Executive Vice President and Company Secretary

Islami Bank My Bank

Suu Kyi meets with junta official

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi met for the first time yesterday with a senior junta official appointed to work with the country's main opposition party, state television reported.

"Today relations manager Aung Kyi met with Aung San Suu Kyi at a state guesthouse," the report said, referring to Myanmar's labour minister, named earlier this month to develop ties with the Nobel peace prize winner.

The report said the pair met for a little over an hour, but did not give any details about the content of the talks.

It showed some brief footage of the meeting, a rarity in a country where Aung San Suu Kyi has spent years out of the public's sight.

Earlier, the leader of the

National League for Democracy (NLD) was seen by residents being taken from her lakeside home, where she has been held under house arrest for 12 of the past 18 years.

Aung San Suu Kyi last left her villa on October 2, when she met UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari at a military guesthouse in Yangon.

Thursday marked her first meeting with Aung Kyi, who was appointed following a recommendation by Gambari that the junta name an official to develop ties with the opposition leader.

It comes amid increasing diplomatic pressure ahead of Gambari's expected second visit to Myanmar since the junta's violent crackdown on peaceful anti-government protests in September, which left at least 13 people dead.

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Read Star Insight, a fortnightly publication of The Daily Star. It's coming out twice a month every alternate Saturday along with our regular issue. The current issue (October 27, 2007) covers stories from Chapai Nawabganj, Kurigram, Mymensingh & Sylhet. Coming out Tomorrow. Ask your hawk for your copy

Send your comments & contribution to
Star Insight

Rafi Hossain
19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh, Fax: 880-2-8125155
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