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UK envoy sees attempt at unprecedented political change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury yesterday said Bangladesh is attempting an unprecedented political and governance transformation.

He said the ambition is high though some say it is too high. "But there is a clear commitment and roadmap to the elections and a better more enduring democracy," the British envoy said while addressing the monthly luncheon meeting hosted by Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) in Dhaka.

Ficci President Mashi-ul-Karim presided over the meeting.

Choudhury said the country is being overhauled with reforms in governance, public service and public-private sector relationships.

"There is unmatched action on corruption. In fact, there seems to be strategic action on everything

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ACC to quiz detained Hasina today

UNB, Dhaka

Detained former prime minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will be quizzed today in connection with a graft case involving a barge-mounted powerplant.

Sources said an investigating team would quiz her at the makeshift jail on the parliament premises sometime after 12:00pm about the Tk 3-crore graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption

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DETENTION ORDER
SC rules in Moudud's favour

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court verdict that had declared illegal the detention order of former law minister Moudud Ahmed.

The apex court, however, partly granted leave-to-appeal sought by the government for hearing the High Court order that had also declared illegal the extension of the detention order under the Special Powers Act.

On September 12, the High Court, upon a habeas corpus petition, declared illegal Moudud's detention along with its extension and directed government to release him, if police does not want him in any other case.

Earlier, on April 13, the army-led joint forces arrested Moudud from his Gulshan residence and reportedly seized 16 bottles of foreign liquors and 32 cans of beer along with 220 pieces of sarees of the government relief fund.

However, despite the Supreme Court order, Moudud will not be able to get release from incarceration, as he faces corruption charges, court sources said.

AUGUST VIOLENCE
19 CU students testify to probe body

CU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 19 students yesterday gave deposition before the probe committee formed to investigate the untoward incidents occurred on Chittagong University (CU) campus on August 22.

Arts Faculty Dean Professor Mansur Uddin Ahmed, leading the four-member committee, said both male and female students gave depositions before the committee yesterday, the second and last day for the students to give deposition.

"We served letters to 15 students

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Prayer Timing

October 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:50	5:25
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Aср	4:00	4:15
Magrib	5:32	5:35
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Saarc experts to finalise draft treaty on criminal matters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saarc legal experts have been asked to finalise the draft of the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) treaty on criminal matters as the member states failed to reach an agreement on an earlier draft prepared by India at the recent Saarc home ministers' conference.

Formation of the regional police forum, Saarcopol, in the style of Europol, has also been deferred as the member states opined that more work needs to be done in this regard.

"We need to examine further before taking any decision regarding the MLA treaty because there are many aspects including huge funding," LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal told reporters at a briefing at

the LGRD ministry yesterday.

Anwar led the Bangladesh delegation at the second home minister-level meeting during October 23-26 in New Delhi.

At their meeting on October 24

the Saarc home secretaries decided to postpone signing of the MLA treaty, an agreement aiming at synchronising legal frameworks to tackle cross-border crimes.

The home secretaries thought that they did not get enough time to examine the draft treaty prepared by India," said Home Secretary Abdul Karim, who was on the nine-member Bangladesh delegation that returned home Saturday.

On receipt of the inputs on the draft, the Saarc Secretariat will compile them and then the legal experts will meet in Colombo in

April 2008 to finalise the treaty.

Bangladesh's opinion on the draft distributed among the member states before the meeting is almost ready awaiting some final work.

The home ministers' conference discussed various issues, including drugs and human trafficking, and reviewed progresses made by the Saarc Drug Offence Monitoring and the Saarc Terrorist Offence Monitoring desks.

The member states reiterated last year's statement that the desks are not effective," said Anwarul Iqbal, adding that the desks will be made effective and will be brought under a regional information network so that the member states get necessary information easily.

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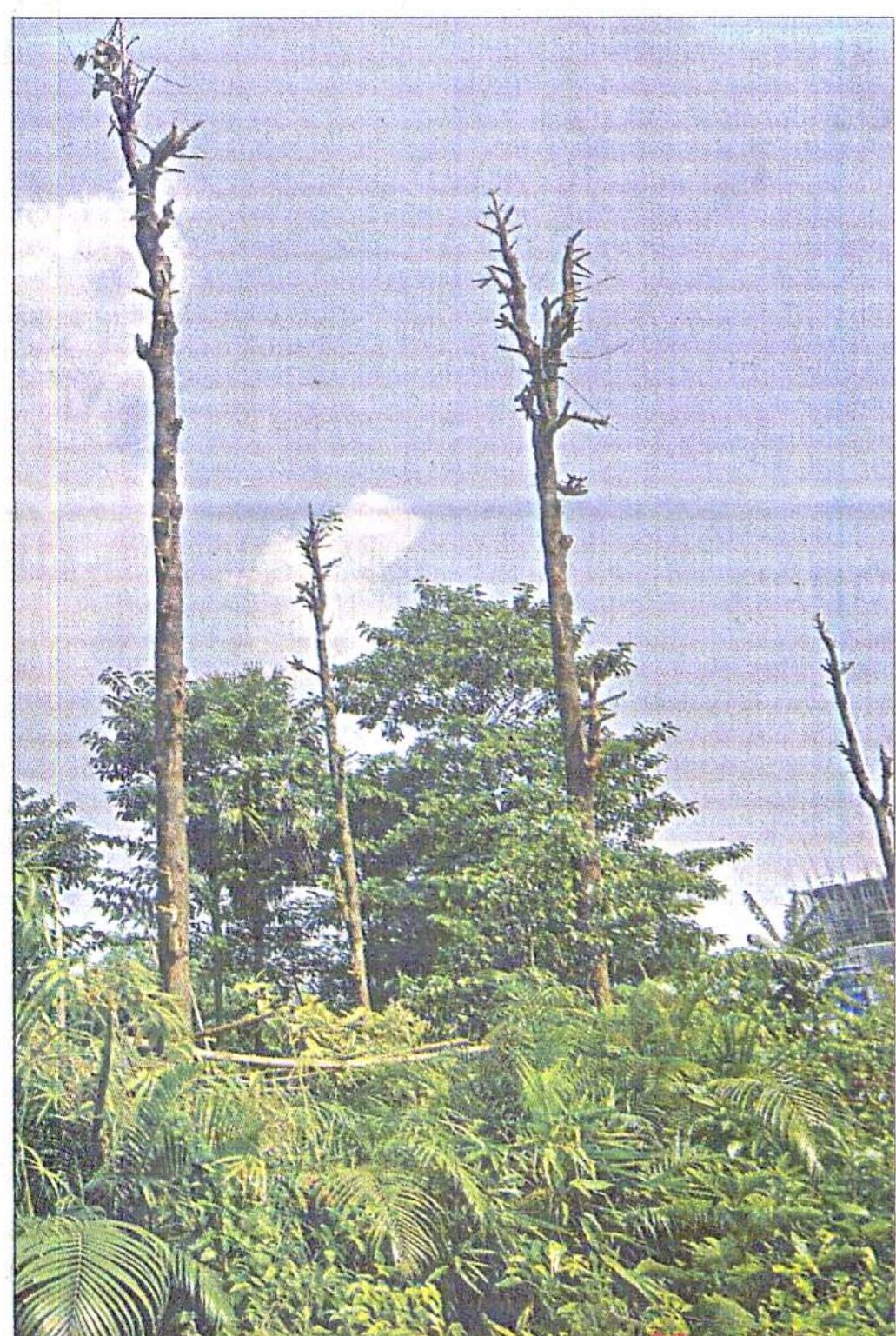


PHOTO: STAR

Trimmed trees of a park near Baridhara Park Road in the capital. The owner of a nursery inside the park has done this to all the large trees to allow light for young plants' growth, virtually killing the trees.

US-led forces kill 80 Taliban rebels

AFP, Kabul

ian casualties.

However, the Afghan commander for Helmand told AFP no troops were killed.

"Our initial assessment is that over 73 Taliban were killed in the direct fire and air bombing," said Afghan general Mohaiddin Ghori,

The coalition said the troops were forced to call in air support when they were ambushed Saturday in the highly volatile province of Helmand.

"The combined patrol immediately returned fire, manoeuvred, and employed close air support, resulting in almost seven dozen Taliban fighters killed during a six-hour engagement," it said in a statement.

The attackers fled after the clash in the town of Musa Qala, which has been held by the Taliban since February. The statement made no reference to any coalition or civil

Firm plans mobile CNG stations to ease rush

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

A private firm has come up with an innovative idea of installing portable CNG filling stations that would ease the acute congestions at existing CNG filling stations throughout the country.

Initially, the firm, Madina CNG Filling Station, sought government approval for the installation of two portable filling units at a cost of Tk 3.5 crore each in Dhaka.

The firm is capable of importing and implementing the project within two months after getting the approval, said sources at Madina CNG Filling Station.

Currently, a CNG-run vehicle has to wait for hours in line at a conventional CNG filling station

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

21,400 bottles of local liquor seized in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered 21,400 bottles of locally made liquor and arrested 13 including two women customers from Uttar Badda in the capital.

The arrestees are Lipton, 25, Sharif, 23, Helal Mia, 24, Shilpi Begum, 42, Hamida Begum, 37, Asadul Islam, 23, Md Hossain 22, Anwar Hossain, 21, Kartik Chandra, 26, Hossain, 18, Asadul, 18, Noor Uddin, 32, and Gafur, 45.

A police team led by Assistant Commissioner of Gulshan zone police Shihab Uddin raided LH Company at Hossain Market in Uttar Badda at 6:00am and recovered the liquor after a six-hour drive.

Of the recovered bottles, 1,000 are of 500ml and the rest 250ml.

Two owners of the company are absconding.

Officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station Mominal Ahsan told The Daily Star that the company was selling more liquor than they were permitted under licence.

The company was also selling liquor to unauthorised people, Ahsan added.

A case has been filed with Badda Police Station.

MALAYSIA

Returnees didn't get their money back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladeshi workers who returned from Malaysia after being deceived by their employers are facing problems in getting back their money from recruiting agents.

The returnees said Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Abdul Matin Chowdhury during his visit to Malaysia promised them that he would make arrangements for refunding their money ranging from Tk 2.3 to Tk 2.5 lakh after they return to Bangladesh.

A total of 57 returnees have so far received cheques of Tk 84,000 each while four others received cheques of Tk 84,000 and Tk 80,000 in cash from the recruiting agency.

One of the workers died in Malaysia and 80 others will return to Bangladesh on Monday.

The DG of the Bureau of

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Rajuk demolishes 70 shops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Rajdhani Unnayan Katirakkha (Rajuk) yesterday demolished 70 shops of two shopping complexes owned by former BNP lawmaker Giasuddin at Shimrall intersection in Narayanganj for violating Rajuk rules.

The shops were constructed on the ground floor of the two shopping complexes meant for car parking.

The drive led by Emdadul Dastagir, first class magistrate of Rajuk, continued from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

Rajuk filed a case three months ago for constructing the shops without its permission.

to have run Yaba trade, he added.

The media has also carried out reports on the involvement of Pabon and a former minister's daughter in this connection.

Rab sources said Pabon is one of the leading Yaba dealers in the country. He is accused in at least a dozen criminal cases and blamed for other offences including arms and drug dealing, land grabbing and extortion.

He was arrested in March 2005 in an attempted murder case and in June 2006 in a carjacking case.

The Rab yesterday evening started interrogating Huda and his associate Ahsanul Haque Hasan at the Task Force for Interrogation (TFI) cell.

"We are hopeful that identities

of the godfathers of Yaba smuggling

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and their whereabouts will be revealed," he said.

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