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JAIPUR BLAST

Dhaka asks media not to speculate about bombers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has asked the media not to jump to a conclusion about perpetrators of Tuesday's bombing in Jaipur, while senior Indian officials are moving to expel illegal Bangladeshi workers from the state.

Senior Indian officials have aired suspicion over the past week

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Announcement

The Daily Star carries a four-page special supplement on Bangladesh Business Awards 2007 tomorrow (Monday). Ask your hawkers for your copy.

DEEP ENERGY PROBLEM AHEAD

Coal, new gas to help avert crisis

SHARIER KHAN

What should Bangladesh do when oil price hits a \$200 per barrel mark?

Already battered by \$100 plus price of imported petroleum, the government should prudently take some brave and quick steps to ensure energy security of the country, energy experts believe.

A readjustment of retail price of imported petroleum is not enough

to face the deep energy crisis ahead, they noted.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has already sought Tk 6,800 crore from the government to subsidise losses from oil imports just for the period July to December this year. The government already swallowed many thousand crores of taka in losses for costly oil import and the BPC still owes different banks more than Tk 7,000-8,000 crore.

Combined with the power load shedding and gas supply crunch, the \$200 a barrel situation will push the BPC and the country into an abyss, experts say.

Goldman Sachs Group earlier this month forecast that oil prices would reach \$150 to 200 a barrel within two years. Oil price is already hitting \$128 per barrel and the price has surged some 25 percent since the beginning of this

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Amini sued for 'assaulting' madrasa student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A madrasa student in Dhaka filed a case against former lawmaker and chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini, his two family members and eight other people on assault charges Friday night.

The complainant, Sharif Hossain, stated in his first information report (FIR) that Amini's son Abul Hasnat, son-in-law Saiful Islam and others beat him up throughout Thursday night on Amini's orders as he did not attend the former lawmaker's rallies.

Sharif, a student of Hossainia Ashraful Ulum Madrasa at Barakata in Lalbagh neighbourhood, said the attackers, armed

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CHUADANGA JAILBREAK

Captured prisoner tries to flee again, held after shooting him down

Six jail staff suspended

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday shot and injured one of the four escapees of Thursday night's Chuadanga prison break after he allegedly attempted to run away from a police van following capture.

Meanwhile, the authorities concerned suspended six jail officials for their neglect of duty resulting in Thursday night's Chuadanga jail break. The authorities have also put the 67 jails of

the country on alert.

A probe body investigating the jail break blamed negligence of jail employees' duty and poor construction of the Chuadanga District Jail.

Police yesterday captured Abdul Hamid, 42, at Chiaghoria village in Chuadanga Sadar, 31 hours after he escaped from jail, our correspondent in Kushtia reports.

Sources said Hamid, a gang boss, went to the house of Sirajul

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AL to discuss common stance with 14-party

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Awami League (AL) will begin a series of talks tomorrow with 14-party components and other like-minded parties for a common stance on crucial issues including release of its President Sheikh Hasina.

On the first day, it will sit with Workers' Party of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, senior AL leaders including presidium members Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta yesterday gathered at the entrance of the special jail on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises to greet Hasina on her homecoming day.

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AL, BNP yet to get talks invite sent 3 days ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) and BNP are yet to receive the electoral reform dialogue letters the chief adviser's office claimed to have dispatched three days ago.

Leaders of the country's two major parties are also still "undecided" over participating in the dialogue with the caretaker government, the outcome of which is vital to holding of the ninth parliamentary elections.

They once again said yesterday that they would take the decision in consultation with the party leaders only after receiving the letter.

The letter is yet to reach our

hands," AL Organising Secretary Sabir Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star last night.

"We do not know through which medium the letter has been sent to us," he said, adding that the party's working committee would sit in a meeting after receiving the letter to examine its content and take decision regarding it.

Leaders of the two factions of BNP also said they would decide on participating in the dialogue only after getting the letter.

"We are yet to get the letter," said pro-reform leader of BNP Maj (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed.

BNP Joint Secretary General

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PHOTO STAR

Law enforcers bar an Awami League procession on Mirpur Road from going to the sub-jail on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises. Only a few AL representatives were allowed to place flowers near the sub-jail yesterday on the occasion of party chief Sheikh Hasina's homecoming day.

CA calls for bigger efforts for welfare of the disabled

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday urged the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and businesspeople to contribute in a bigger way to the welfare of the physically and mentally challenged as part of their social obligation.

He made this call while according a reception to the mentally challenged sportsmen and women for their extraordinary performance in Shanghai Special World Olympic Games 2007 at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

Forty-eight mentally challenged sports persons have clinched a total of 71 medals, including 32 gold, 15 silver and 24 bronze medals, brightening the country's image abroad.

Bangladesh cricket team was unbeaten champion in the Twenty20 Cricket competition in Shanghai Olympics.

A total of 10,000 mentally challenged sportsmen and women from 160 countries took part in the Special Olympics in Shanghai, China.

Ashraf-ud-Dowla, founder chairman of Special Olympics Bangladesh, also spoke at the

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'Reformists' must scrap Oct 29 meet decisions

Says Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chairperson-appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain retains his earlier stance, saying reformist leaders must cancel their October 29 meeting decisions, which divided the party.

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THE IMPORT SCANDAL

Tennis balls turned into cigarettes, scrap into luxury cars. When it came to importing goods it seemed anything was possible as long as the importer could avoid paying duties and tax. For years the country's prime port Chittagong became a symbol

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