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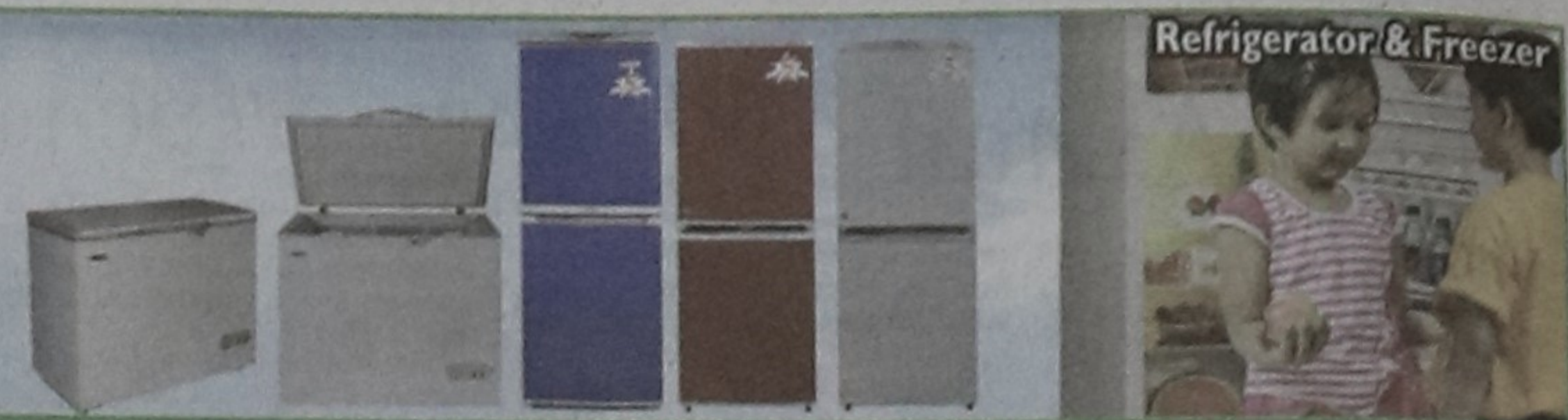
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100-day job creation for poor in Oct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will launch a special 100-day employment generation programme involving Tk 2,000 crore in mid-October as a guarantee scheme for poor unemployed people in rural areas.

"The main focus of the programme will be on 44 districts like the Monga-prone and coastal ones," Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam said after finalising the programme at a meeting with Food and Disaster Management Adviser AMM Shawkat yesterday.

Under the programme 20 lakh people mostly from the 44 districts will be employed in various jobs for rural infrastructure development, maintenance and repair work and receive Tk 100 a day.

The programme will be implemented in two phases of the lean

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Dulu, Salim sued for income tax evasion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday filed two separate cases against former deputy minister for land Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu and ex-BNP lawmaker MAH Salim for dodging income tax.

Dulu was sued for evading Tk 10 lakh in income tax from 1983 to 2005 while Salim, also former president of Bangladesh Association for International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA), for dodging Tk 9.37 crore in income tax from 1993 to 2006.

DULU CASE
NBR Assistant Tax commissioner Hafiz Al Asad filed the case with the Senior Special Judge's Court against the former deputy minister for land for committing the offence.

NBR said Dulu evaded tax upon his income of Tk 23,437,501 from 1983 to 2005.

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FOOD, ENERGY CRISES

World entering danger zone: WB chief

G-8 urged to tackle situation

XINHUA, Washington

World Bank President Robert B Zoellick has urged the leaders of the G-8 as well as the major oil producers to act now to deal with surging food and energy prices, warning that the world is now "entering a danger zone."

Zoellick's call is contained in a July 1 letter to the head of the upcoming G-8 summit in Japan in which the bank, World Food Programme (WFP) and International Monetary Fund estimate that about \$10 billion is needed to meet short term needs of

people hit by the crisis.

"What we are witnessing is not a natural disaster—a silent tsunami or a perfect storm. It is a man-made catastrophe, and as such must be fixed by people," Zoellick said in the letter made available to Xinhua on Wednesday.

"I urge the G-8 countries, in concert with major oil producers, to act now to address this crisis. This is a test of the global system to help the most vulnerable and it cannot afford to fail," said the World Bank chief.

He said the G8 made a commitment at the Gleneagles Summit in

2005 to boost overall development aid to Africa in particular by 2010, noting such aid was needed now more than ever, as Africa accounted for two thirds of the countries most under stress by the food and fuel crisis.

"For 41 countries, the combined impact of high food, fuel and other commodity prices since January 2007 represents a negative shock to GDP of between 3 and 10 per cent," he said. "These numbers translate into broken lives, and stunted potential for the most vulnerable, especially poor children, they

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PHOTO: PD

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed hosts the much-awaited dialogue with Awami League at his office yesterday.

Terror attack in Jakarta foiled, 10 militants held

AP, Jakarta, Indonesia

Anti-terror police arrested 10 suspected Muslim militants and seized a large cache of high-powered bombs, foiling a major attack targeting Westerners in the Indonesian capital, police and media reports said yesterday.

Among those detained was a Singaporean who met several times with Osama bin Laden, a senior police officer told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

The arrests highlighted the lingering terror threat in Indonesia, which has been hit by a string of suicide bombings blamed on the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah since Sept. 11, 2001, including the 2002 attacks on Bali island that left 202 people dead, many of them foreign tourists.

There were no immediate details about the timing or the exact location of the planned strike.

Some of the suspects told police during interrogations that they had initially planned to attack foreign tourists on Sumatra Island, but shifted their target to Jakarta after realizing too many Indonesian lives could have been lost, TVOne quoted anti-terror police as saying.

The Indonesian government has won praise for arresting and convicting hundreds of Islamic militants since the Bali attacks, leaving the terror network severely weakened and isolated, with the most recent strike occurring more than 2 1/2 years ago.

Citing improvements in security, the United States lifted a travel warning early this year that had been in place since 2000 and there were no immediate plans to reverse

that decision.

"The Indonesian government's response to the threat has improved," said Tristram Perry, the public diplomacy officer at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta. "If anything, these busts validate the lifting of the ban."

At least 22 bombs were seized during raids Wednesday in Palembang, a coastal city on Sumatra, some packed with bullets to maximize the impact of the blast, said a police general, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

Many were ready to explode, Kompas newspaper reported yesterday, adding that dozens of pounds of explosive powder, grenades and several types of electric detonators also were recovered.

The arrests began Saturday in

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MI-29 CASE

Hearing on charge framing deferred till July 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hearing on charge framing in the MiG-29 warplane purchase scam case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and six others has been adjourned till July 8.

Judge Golam Mortuza Majumder of the Special Judge's Court, Dhaka Division, set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, adjourned the hearing after the hearing continued for the second day yesterday.

Defence counsels barrister Shafique Ahmed and advocates Syed Rezaul Rahman and Sahara Khatun took part in the hearing for quashing of all charges against Awami League president Hasina and the other accused.

Hasina's counsel barrister Shafique yesterday submitted a copy of the High Court (HC) judgement that the court had called for

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JUVENILE CRIME 4

JUVENILE CRIME ON THE RISE

Correction centres not much of help

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The juvenile development centres of the country fail to equip its inmates with the kind of support that would enable a child to find employment in the market once he is released from such a centre.

Lack of adequate training facilities and low quality of training are blamed for this and as a result juveniles, after a stint at the development centre known as Kishore Unnayan Kendra (KUK), are often found to return to a life of crime.

Child rights activists and even some officials of the centres say the training and guidance provided at the development centres are inadequate to keep the children off streets.

Fifteen-year old Ratan, not his real name, is a stark example of this system failure.

His elderly grandmother was bringing up Ratan after his parents separated. She brought him to the KUK at Tongi a few years ago because he was going to the dogs.

After a few months at the centre, Ratan was released but within three

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Correction

In our follow-up investigation, we found out some factual errors in our July 3 report headlined 'Underpricing of Brazilian sugar.' PSI company Bureau Veritas was involved in certifying the under-valuation of the imports, and it was slapped with Tk 12 crore fine eventually.

Contrary to our report, other PSI

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Judges cannot work freely

Alleges Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina Wednesday said even though the judiciary was separated from the executive, judges cannot work independently for untoward interference.

She said the judiciary would enjoy full independence and the current corruption-busting drive would continue if the AL were voted to power at the next general election.

"But we do not support elimination of politics in the name of curbing corruption," the former prime minister said at a meeting with Bob

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Launch fares re-fixed

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday re-fixed passenger-launch fares in the wake of increase in diesel price.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of BIWTA officials and representatives of Passenger Launch Owners Association, said a press release.

Passengers will now be charged Tk 0.88 per km for travelling more than 100 km and Tk 1.18 per km for travelling less than 100 km.

The minimum fare has been fixed at Tk 10.00 from Tk 9.00.

The new fares will be effective from today.

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BNP leader and acting Khulna City Corporation Mayor Moniruzzaman Moni, left, and Awami League leader and former state minister for relief and disaster management ministry Talukder Abdul Khaleque submit their nomination papers at the District Election Commission Office yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

ASIA CUP CRICKET

It's India against Lanka in final

AFP, Karachi

Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Suresh Raina hit sparkling half-centuries to inspire India to the final of the Asia Cup with a six-wicket over Sri Lanka in a Super League match here Thursday.

Skipper Dhoni hit a 62-ball 67 while Raina scored 54 off 66 balls to inspire India's successful run chase of Sri Lanka's 308-8 with a 99-run third wicket stand in a tight match at the National Stadium.

Yuvraj Singh (36 not out) smashed two successive boundaries off paceman Nuwan Kulasekera to bring up the victory with 3.1 overs to spare. Rohit Sharma remained unbeaten on 22.

By winning, India also knocked archrivals Pakistan out of the tournament, setting up a return clash with Sri Lanka in the final on July 6.

Sri Lanka and India finished the Super League with six points each from three matches after both sides had two carry-over points from the first round.

Pakistan, with two points from two matches, will meet winless Bangladesh in an inconsequential match on Friday.

India's opener Gautam Gambhir set the tone for the run-chase with a rapid 61-ball 68 studded with eleven boundaries, with Dhoni and Raina maintaining the quick tempo.

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ACC now focuses on corruption in service providing bodies: Mashhud

UNB, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday said the reconstituted commission has spent much of its time on dealing with corruption by political bigwigs and now it will focus on corruption in the service providing sectors.

"Much of the last one and a half years' time has been spent mainly on dealing with corruption by political leadership... But I know now the emphasis will shift," he told the commission's regular briefing.

About the release of corruption

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| Prayer Timing | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| July 4 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-10 | 4-45 |
| Juma | 12-30 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-55 | 7-00 |
| Esha | 8-17 | 8-45 |
| Source: Islamic Foundation | | |

Dramatic rescue in Colombia

15 hostages freed after 6 years

AFP, Bogota

Commandos dramatically rescued Colombian-French politician Ingrid Betancourt and 14 other hostages by posing as their Marxist rebel captors and flying them out of their jungle prison by helicopter.

Betancourt paid tribute to the international efforts to end her six years in captivity and admitted even she had been taken in by the army operation late Wednesday which also freed three US defense contractors and 11 Colombian soldiers.

"To all of you Colombians, for all of you French who have been with us, that accompanied us in the world, that helped us to remain alive, that helped the world to know what was going on: thank you," Betancourt said after her release.

She said the hostages did not know that rebels who had come to move them to a new hideout were Colombian soldiers in disguise, noting some wore T-shirts bearing the portrait of legendary revolu-

tionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara. The disguised soldiers made the hostages board a helicopter with their wrists bound, saying they were being transferred to a new Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) base.

It was only when they were in the air that "the chief of operations said, 'We are the national army and you are all free,' Betancourt said after arriving at Bogota's military airport.

"And the helicopter almost fell because we started jumping. We screamed, we cried, we hugged. We couldn't believe it."

As she descended from the plane looking fresh and happy, dressed in an army camouflage vest and hat, Betancourt embraced her mother, Yolanda Pulecio, and praised the "perfect operation" that had freed her.

Colombian Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos said the rescue, made possible by a military agent's infiltration of the rebels,

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