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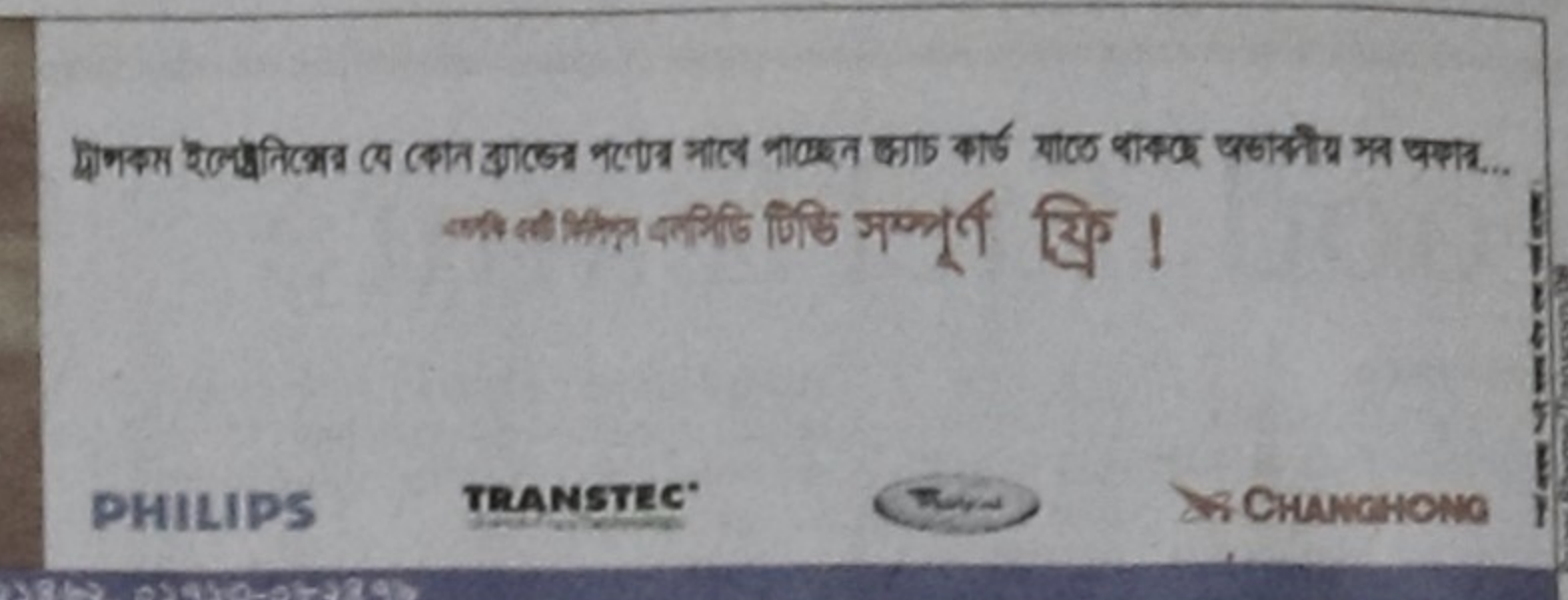


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## Shab-e-Barat on Aug 16

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat will be observed on the night of August 16 as the moon of the Arabic month of Saban was sighted yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held at Islamic Foundation yesterday evening, said a press release.

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## Maldives to host next Saarc Summit

UNB, Colombo

The Maldives will host the 16th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) in Male, diplomatic sources said.

The 15th Saarc summit was scheduled to be held in Male, the capital of the Maldives, instead of Colombo. But the Maldives government expressed its inability to host the summit owing to domestic compulsions.

The sources said the Maldives government agreed to host the next summit of the regional forum.

## CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES

# 10-yr plan to focus on capacity building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plan of action for dealing with climate change will focus on building the country's capacity to meet the challenges from shifts in global weather patterns over the next 20-25 years.

The 10-year action plan, which will be placed at a global conference in London next month, will also aim to have a climate resilient development pathway based on low carbon emission.

A draft of the plan was discussed at a national workshop in the city yesterday.

Food and Disaster Management Adviser AMM Shaukat Ali inaugurated the day-long event organised by the environment ministry to seek expert opinions on government strategies on climate change.

He said a huge amount of resources is needed to undertake adaptive measures against the damaging alterations feared to be

caused by climate change.

"The countries responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions should channel funds and technologies for the vulnerable and low-lying countries like Bangladesh to help them guard themselves against effects of climate change."

He also stressed the need for preparing an action plan to cope with the present as well future problems that might arise from environment challenges like global warming.

Noted water and environment expert Anun Nishat presented a draft of the action plan. He said the government strategies will concentrate on measures to offset the impacts of climate change through adaptation and safeguard the well-being of the future generations.

Suggestions made by the speakers at the workshop would be included in the draft planned to be finalised within the next 10 days, he

added.

M Asaduzzaman, research director of BIDS, presented a paper on "Introduction to climate change and its probable impacts".

Agriculture and Water Resources Adviser CS Karim spoke as the chief guest in the closing session. He suggested raising the real needs of the country at the upcoming global conference.

"We should not consider what the developed nations want, rather we'll have to speak of our needs at the London conference," he continued. "We must follow an action plan that will address our needs."

He observed that there is no alternative to building capacity and adapting to climate change. To make a difference to the efforts towards a sustainable environment people must change their mindset.

Raja Devasish Roy, Chief Adviser's Special Assistant on forest and environment, chaired

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## Saifur back home, hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman returned home in the early hours today after a three months' stay abroad.

A charge-sheeted accused in the Gato graft case, the senior BNP leader arrived at Zia International Airport by a Malaysian Airlines flight at 12:10am, said airport sources.

From the airport, he went straight to the Apollo Hospital. He was admitted there, hospital officials confirmed.

Saifur flew to Singapore for

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## MANMOHAN-FAKHRUDDIN MEET India assures smooth market access for Bangladeshi goods

UNB, Colombo

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said his government would take necessary steps to ensure efficient management of duty-free access for Bangladeshi products to the Indian market.

He came up with the assurance while meeting Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at Hotel Taj Samudra on the sidelines of the Saarc Summit.

Manmohan said it is the obligation of his country to strike a balance in trade between the two countries.

India has granted duty-free access for 8 million Bangladesh apparel products to its market, as part of measures to bridge the trade gap.

At the meeting, the two leaders were unanimous in their opinion that trade and administrative

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## 118 more workers return from Kuwait

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another 118 deported Bangladeshi workers arrived in Dhaka yesterday from Kuwait, raising their total number to 464.

Immigration wing of Zia International Airport told The Daily Star last night that 85 of yesterday's deportees reached Dhaka on a Kuwait Airways flight while the others on a Gulf Air flight.

On Friday night, the Kuwaiti authorities sent back 66 workers to Bangladesh on an Emirates Airways flight.

Hundreds of Bangladeshi

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PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet city wears a festive mood during the last day's campaigns by city corporation mayoral and councillor candidates yesterday ahead of the August 4 polls.

## A story of poverty, success

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Shohag Hossain never studied at night in preparation for his SSC examination.

This was not out of choice but due to the fact that his poverty-stricken family could not afford kerosene to light a lamp at night.

But Shohag did not give in to the factors trying to control and limit his life. Today he stands proud having secured GPA-5 in the current year's SSC examination, from Benapole Secondary School.

All the while the young boy worked as a labourer alongside his studies to help his family financially.

Shohag is the youngest of

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### SMS ও iBanking এর মাধ্যমে i'top up

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## Saarc demands strong anti-terror action plan

AFP, Colombo

South Asian leaders yesterday demanded strong action to stop terrorism spreading like "wildfire" as a regional summit opened here dominated by heightened tensions between India and Pakistan.

Terrorism is the most "menacing" challenge faced by the eight-country region, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai warned the opening session of

the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc)'s two-day summit.

Terrorism in the region has "institutional support," particularly in Pakistan, Karzai told the meeting, being held in the Sri Lankan capital under unprecedented security with nearly 20,000 police and troops deployed to guard delegates.

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## India, Pakistan agree to keep peace talks alive

AFP, Colombo

The prime ministers of nuclear-armed India and Pakistan ended closed-door talks in Colombo yesterday with an agreement to keep alive their peace process despite escalating tensions, diplomats said.

Indian foreign secretary Shivshankar Menon said Premier Manmohan Singh and his Pakistan counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani

agreed last month's bombing of India's embassy in Kabul and other events had "cast a pall" on peace efforts.

But "both prime ministers said we need to overcome these (problems) and move forward," Menon told reporters, adding Gilani agreed to probe charges Pakistani intelligence was behind the embassy suicide attack that killed some 60 people.

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## Eminent citizens urge voters to elect honest candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of eminent citizens yesterday urged voters to use their best judgement while casting votes tomorrow at 13 constituencies so that honest and competent candidates without war crimes allegations can be elected as their representatives.

In a statement they said in a democratic system the voters are mainly responsible for deciding how different components of the state machinery will function as they have the power to elect their

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## Lankan troops first time enter rebel 'capital'

52 more killed in fighting

AP, AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan government troops have entered the district housing the Tamil Tiger rebels' de facto capital for the first time in 11 years, the military said Saturday as a regional summit opened in the capital.

Fierce new fighting between government forces and the rebels across the country's embattled northern region killed 38 rebels and 14 soldiers, the military said.

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### \*GOOD NEWS! \*সু-খবর!

আপনি কি জিয়া বিমান বন্দরে আপনার প্রিয়জনকে শেষ মুহূর্ত পর্যন্ত সঙ্গে দিতে চান? অথবা সম্মানিত যাত্রীর বিদেশ যাওয়ার আগ মুহূর্ত পর্যন্ত সঙ্গে থাকতে চান? আপনার এই স্বপ্নকে বাস্তবায়িত করতে 'CAAB' এর সহায়তায় আমরা "ALL IN ONE LTD" এগিয়ে এসেছি। ০১-০৮-০৮ তারিখ থেকে আপনি টিকিট কেটে আপনার প্রিয় যাত্রীর সাথে বহির্গমন করুন এবং পূর্ণ অর্থ প্রদান করতে পারবেন।

**"WELCOME TO DEPARTURE HALL OF ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"**

Prayer Timing		
August 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

### Share your story

শেয়ার করুন নকিয়া হাতে দেখা করুন স্টার এর সাথে

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ভাবুন তো, কেমন হবে যদি আপনি জনপ্রিয় মডেল ও অভিনেত্রী জয়া'র সাথে Dinner কিংবা অভিনেতা অপূর্ব-এর সাথে Shopping -এর সুযোগ পান আর সঙ্গে পেয়ে যান দারুন একটি নকিয়া ফোন।

এ সবই সম্ভব যদি আপনার নকিয়া ফোনে তোলা ছবি তাদের পছন্দ হয়ে যায়... এছাড়াও ১০০টি সেরা ছবির জন্য থাকছে নকিয়া ৫০০০, নকিয়া ২৬০০ কিংবা নকিয়া ১৬৮০ ক্যামেরা ফোন জিতে নেবার সুযোগ। তা আর দেরী কেন? নকিয়া ফোনে ছবি তুলুন আপনার প্রিয় মুহূর্তের আর caption লিখে পাঠিয়ে দিন MMS বা email করে

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