

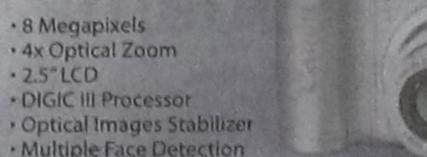
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ZIA ORPHANAGE CASE

Probe complete, recommendation to press charges against Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

The investigation report of Zia Orphanage Trust graft case has been submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) with recommendation of pressing charges against former prime minister Khaleda Zia, her eldest son

Tarique Rahman and five others. Investigation Officer (IO) Harunur Rashid has submitted the memo of evidence (investigation report) of the graft case to the ACC

According to a competent source, the investigation officer, also an ACC deputy assistant director, in his report has recommended pressing charges against Khaleda, Tarique and five others.

He also recommended inclusion of a former bureaucrat in the charge sheet, as his involvement was found during the investiga-

In reply to a question, the source said the ACC is scrutinising the report and likely to approve the SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

No new gas lines in N-districts for 'crisis'

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Pashchimanchal Gas Company Ltd (PGCL) is not giving any new connection in Bogra, Pabna and Sirajganj for the last nine months showing gas and pipe 'crisis' and Petrobangla 'directives'.

However, Petrobangla officials deny any shortage of gas in PGCL and say there is no directive to stop giving domestic or commercial gas connection in the districts.

Senior PGCL officials in Bogra told to The Daily Star all types of alleged Sattar. fresh connections have been "decision" of Petrobangla.

"We received a letter from few months ago. Petrobangla on May 29 and stopped all new commercial connections until supply of gas increases," says a senior PGCL official. The PGCL also stooped all new domestic connections showing the pipe 'crisis'.

It is alleged that at least 5,000 applications for domestic gas connection along with some prayers for

ignored in the three districts due to lack of administrative initiatives.

Officials of the company admit a huge number of domestic gas connection prayers are lying idle in diffident offices since January due to the so-called crisis.

Abdus Sattar and Noor-Ul-Islam along with 20 other people from Thanthonia in Bogra deposited about Tk 90,000 a few months ago for gas for domestic use. But they have yet to get the connection despite repeated reminders,

PGCL officials also admit at stopped since January following a least 200 people have deposited money for domestic connections a

PGCL Managing Director (MD) Saiful Alam pinned the blame on 'failure' of pipe industry National Tube Company (NTC). "Now we have arranged pipes to provide domestic connections," he said.

Rabiul Islam, deputy manager (DM) of National Tube Company, said they were ready to supply 10,000 metres of one-inch pipes along with the time an LPG cylinder was sold commercial connection have been other necessary pipes, but the prices at Tk 1,300 to Tk 1,500.

have meanwhile increased due to a hike in raw materials' cost.

Gas pressure in Bogra is running in between 465 pound per inch (PSI) to 500 PSI, which is more than enough to entertain all the connection prayers here, sources say.

The sources add a tender was floated on April 28 this year for instillation of 28-kilometre gas pipelines. But the authorities later cancelled the tender due to lesser rates as quoted, they say.

Meanwhile, PGCL officials admit domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) users have been forced to pay additional amount of more than Tk 1,200 per month against Tk 400.

A PGCL domestic customer has been paying Tk 400 per month for 24 hours a day, whereas LPG users are paying three times more for a fixed time supply.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) sources say the government has fixed Tk 980 per cylinder of LPG, whereas most of

Eid food items dearer in city markets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prices of chicken, beef, mutton, sugar, vermicelli, onions and edible oil have risen further in the city kitchen markets ahead of Eid.

Meanwhile, the price of tomatoes went off the charts yesterday and was selling for Tk 100 a kg while the price of cucumbers rose to Tk 50 akg.

The prices of tomatoes and cucumbers rose by Tk 30 and Tk 20 a kg during the last three days. Wholesalers blame short supply for the hike.

Wholesalers in Karwan Bazar told The Daily Star that this is the first time they sold tomatoes for over Tk 90 a kg ahead of Eid. Three days ago they sold them for Tk 60 a

Wholesale price of tomatoes (the best quality) had gone up to Tk 70 in the first few days of Ramadan.

A kg of cucumbers was selling for Tk 50 yesterday which was sold for Tk 30 three days ago, traders said. They also said they had sold cucumbers for Tk 50 a kg last year during Ramadan.

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Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed meets UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the UN headquarters in New York on Friday.

Natore Sugar Mill MD killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The managing director (MD) of Natore Sugar Mill and his jeep driver were killed yesterday in a head-on collision between the jeep and a bus on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Basail in Tangail.

The dead are Natore Sugar Mill MD ABM Borhanuddin, 52, of Sanmania village in Kishoregani and his driver Altaf Hossain, 50, of Ramagari village in Natore.

ABM Borhanuddin left Natore for the capital by a pajero early in the morning to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with his family members in Dhaka, said Officer-in-charge (OC) of Basail Police Station Abul Khaver.

The jeep collided head on with a Gaibandha-bound bus at Baoikhola of Basail upazila at around 6:00am, leaving Borhanuddin and his driver Altaf dead on the spot, he added.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to the Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the bus but its driver and helper managed to escape.

Balcony of wornout Bihari camp bldgcollapses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The balcony of a four-storey dilapidated building at Wapda Bihari camp in Mirpur-11 collapsed yesterday morning trapping around 40 members of five families in the building for several hours.

Residents of the building said that the top floor balcony of building No 4 collapsed at around 8:00 in the morning, leaving no passage down for the residents living on that floor.

The building accommodates Bihari families who live in rooms, all leading out to a common balcony on each floor that lead to the stairs for exit from the building. Residents alleged that the res-

cue workers of the Fire brigade and civil defence took a long time to arrive at the scene though the fire station is at a few minutes' distance from the area. However, when the rescue team

arrived, another problem emerged as the people refused to come down till the authorities promised to rehabilitate them elsewhere. Local residents rescued some of

the trapped people before the fire brigade and Civil Defence team arrived at around 11:00 am and took over.

All the rescued have been put SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Lankan military kills 63 in airstrikes, battles

AP, COLOMBO

A wave of gunbattles, artillery attacks and airstrikes across northern Sri Lanka killed 60 Tamil Tiger rebels and three soldiers, the military said yesterday. The fighting came during a

major escalation of the nation's quarter-century civil war, with military forces pushing toward the rebels' administrative capital in the town of Kilinochchi and government officials promising to destroy the rebel group by the end of the

The fiercest battles Friday erupted in Kilinochchi district, deep in the rebels' heartland, where troops and guerrilla fighters waged at least a dozen separate battles that killed 46 rebels and one soldier, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.Air force jets also pounded the area, hitting a rebel gathering point, logistics centres and a vehicle storage yard, the military said.

the troops, who were only three miles from the town of Kilinochchi,

pushed forward with their offensive, he said. Nanayakkara said the rebels

were also trying to attack areas that government forces had recently captured. Other battles in the Welioya and

Vavuniya districts killed 14 rebels,

while two soldiers were killed in a

rebel artillery attack on the Jaffna peninsula, he said. With nearly all communications to the north severed, rebel spokes-

man Rasiah Ilanthirayan could not be contacted for comment. It was not possible to verify the military's reports because most

journalists and other independent observers are barred from the war zone. Both sides often exaggerate the damage inflicted on the other and underreport their own losses. The Tamil Tigers have fought

since 1982 to create an independent state for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils following decades of marginalisation by governments Much of the fighting occurred as dominated by the Sinhalese majority. More than 70,000 people have | daughter Brishti, he said. been killed in the fighting.

member shot dead byrobbers STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ex-Ansar

A gang of robbers shot a former Ansar member dead after entering his house at early hours yesterday at city's Uttar Khan area. The deceased was identified as-

Nasirullah Kahn, 60. Family members said, at least 12

to 13 robbers entered the house at Mausayeed in Uttar Khan andopened fire on Nasirullah and ransacked furniture of the house.

The robbers took away Tk 50,000 and three Tolas of gold ornaments, they claimed.

Nasirullah was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

The family members alleged that Nasirullah's cousin Abtul Latif Khan and his sons Nazlur Islam Khan and Swadhin Khan were also among the robbers.

Shahidullah Khan, younger brother of the deceased, told the reporters at DMCH that the robbers first fired bullets at a window shattering its glasses into pieces

and later they broke into the house. They also beat up wife of the deceased Abeda Sultana and young

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11-party for total lifting of emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11-party alliance yesterday demanded complete withdrawal of ban on political activities and implementation of the Representation of the People Ordinance (RPO) to prevent communal and corrupt people from contesting the election.

Corrupt politicians and communal forces dared to foil the election taking advantage of the wrong steps of the caretaker government, said the alliance leaders at a meeting at Gono Forum central office in the capital's Arambagh. They urged all non-communal

and democratic forces to unite for restoring democracy in the country. The leaders also called upon the government to dispel all confu-

sions about the demarcation of parliamentary constituencies. The meeting, presided over by Gono Forum presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharya, was attended, among others, by Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon, and General

Home adviser hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretary Bimal Biswas.

Home Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin was admitted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka last night after he fell sick. Hospital sources said the

home adviser was admitted at about 8.30pm after he vomited several times. However, details of his condition

could not be known immediately.

First Chinese space walk

AFP, Beijing

A Chinese astronaut completed a space walk Saturday, state television said, as the Asian power became the third nation to perform the feat after the United States and the former Soviet Union. Mission commander Zhai Zhigang left the

trapping her and other families on the floor for several hours.

time (0845 GMT) to float in orbit for just under 15 minutes, according to the live TV transmission. "I feel well," said Zhai, the leader of the Shenzhou VII's three-man crew, waving to a camera outside the spacecraft. "I am greeting the

Shenzhou VII spacecraft at about 4:45 pm Beijing

Chinese people and the people of the world." The space walk was the highlight of the 68-hour voyage -- China's third manned foray into space -and considered an important step towards building a space station, China's next major ambition in space. In a highly symbolic move, Zhai waved a small

Chinese flag shortly after climbing out of the space-

craft 343 kilometres (215 miles) over the Earth. Tethered to the craft with two safety wires, Zhai, 41, slowly moved towards a test sample of solid

A girl gazes down from the top floor of a dilapidated building at Wapda Bihari camp in Mirpur-11 yesterday after the exit balcony on the floor collapsed

Xinhua news agency said. He took the sample and handed it over to fellow astronaut Liu Boming, who stayed in the orbital module and closely monitored Zhai's moves.

lubricant placed outside the orbital module,

The move was a drill intended to replicate the type of task that future space walkers will have to perform. No immediate explanation was given for why the walk was shorter than the expected 20 minutes. President Hu Jintao had appeared at the Beijing

Aerospace Control Centre to watch the live transmission of Zhai's spacewalk, Xinhua news agency said. The spacewalk had been eagerly anticipated, while state media had also pointed out the risk associated with the activity.

An "intensive psychological shock" would be SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



ing out of the Shenzhou VII spacecraft. He was the first Chinese astronaut who completed a space walk yesterday.

Hasina to file bail petitions in 2 graft cases tomorrow

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two separate petitions will be submitted to the High Court (HC) tomorrow for bail in favour of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, now abroad on parole, in the Niko and barge-mounted power plant corruption cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

Hasina's counsel barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday told The Daily Star that he would submit the bail petitions to the vacation bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Anwarul Haque and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury on Monday.

On September 23 an HC bench comprising Justice AKM Fazlur Rahman and Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal sent back the same bail SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Foreigner 'raped' in Cox's Bazar rest house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A foreigner was allegedly raped at guesthouse of Kalatoli beach Cox's Bazar. The young woman who came

Bangladesh from the Netherland on August 9 was admitted to Cox Bazar Sadar Hospital. Police said Shaheen Bhuiya Sunny, 30, took the woman to th

guesthouse, Dream Castle, afte

SEE PAGE 15 COL

to fight US 'until the last soul' AFP, Raghagan

Pak tribesmen vow

Toting rocket launchers and Kalashnikovs, the bearded tribesmen say they back the Pakistani government -- yet pledge they will fight to the death against US incursions on their soil. The Pakistani military took

reporters to the Pashtun tribal

fighters in the tribal region border-

ing Afghanistan in a bid to show they have the support of locals for a month-long operation in the area, an al-Qaeda and Taliban hotspot. But there was also a strong message for US forces over the border, who have caused anger in Pakistan with a string of alleged

territorial violations, including a

raid by US ground troops on

September 3 that left 15 people

"We will fight against America

Ramadan	Sep	Sehr	i Ifta
27	28		5-5
28	29	4-30	5-5
29	30	4-30	5-5
	A	zan	Jamaa
	-		Jamaa
Fajr	-	4-30	4-36
Zohr	12	2-45	1-15
Asr	1	4-45	5-00
Maghrib		5-53	6-03
Esha	7-45		8-15
Source	: Islam	ic Found	dation

until the last soul if they come to our country," said Malik Manasib Khan, the leader of a "lashkar", or tribal force, called up to help Pakistan's army expel the militants -- and anyone else.

"For us, the Taliban, Nato and the United States are all equals, the burly tribal chief told journalists in the bazaar at Raghagan, about 12 kilometres (eight miles) northeast of Khar, the main town in Bajaur region. Fiercely independent, reli

by revenge, the tribes along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border have repelled all invaders for centuries and still hold the key to stability in When thousands of al-Qaeda and Taliban militants fled the US-

led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

giously conservative and obsessed

Paul Newman passes away AP, undated Paul Newman, the Academy-Award winning superstar who personified cool as the anti-hero of

died. He was 83. Newman died Friday after a long battle with cancer at his farm SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

such films as "Hud," "Cool Hand

Luke" and "The Color of Money" --

and as an activist, race car driver

and popcorn impresario -- has

