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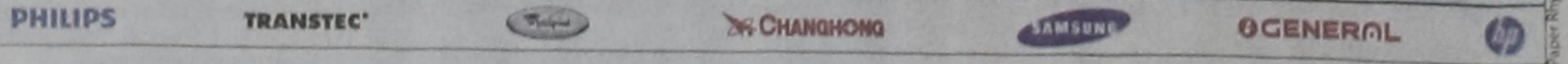
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Gen Moeen sees good leadership after polls

UNB, Dhaka

Army chief General Moeen U Ahmed on Thursday expressed the hope that the country would get good leadership next January that will steer the nation in the right direction.

Talking to reporters at an Eid reception hosted by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at Pradhan Upadesta Bhaban, General Moeen noted that Bangladesh has resources and capability to become a prosperous nation.

He hoped that the people of Bangladesh would select good leadership in the upcoming polls. "Our expectation today is that we will get good leadership next January."

The army is backing the caretaker government in doing comprehensive politico-electoral

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EC to post 34,000 polling stations

Draft list to be put up on Oct 12-16 for receiving objections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will publish on October 12 a draft list of around 34,000 polling stations across the country prepared for the upcoming parliamentary elections for public inspection to make it acceptable to all.

The draft list will be put up in the offices of upazila election officers or other appropriate places till October 16, according to a circular issued by the EC Secretariat on September 29.

"People can file objections and give suggestions, if there is any, by

October 23," a senior EC official said quoting the circular.

The circular asked district level election officials to adjudicate on the objections by October 23 and send the list of polling stations to the EC by October 30.

Once the voter list is finalised, the EC with the help of police administration will identify polling stations vulnerable in terms of security, EC sources said.

The EC Secretariat has already collected from security agencies the list of vulnerable polling stations prepared for the stalled parliamentary polls on January 22 last

year. To avoid controversy, the EC this time selected polling centres for the December 18 parliamentary polls with the help of the army, starting the process in November last year.

In a circular issued on November, the EC had directed its field level officials to prepare lists of prospective polling stations in their areas, get those approved by the army representatives in charge of the areas and then forward the lists to the EC.

The EC had asked the field level

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Desco, DPDC move to raise power tariff for consumers

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC), Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) and other power distribution companies will urge Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to raise power tariff at retail level to cope with the increased tariff at bulk level.

Apart from DPDC and Desco, three more power distribution agencies- Rural Electrification Board, West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd (WZPDC) and Power Development Board (PDB) -are operating in different parts of the country.

Among them, WZPDC is operating in the country's southwestern region, while Rural Electrification Board has about 70 Palli Bidyt Samities (PBSs) that are also

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Bangladesh Secretariat is beautifully lit with decoration lights on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo was taken on Thursday.

HC to hear Hasina's bail petitions tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) will hear tomorrow two petitions filed by Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, now abroad on parole, seeking bail in the Niko and barge-mounted power plant corruption cases against her.

A vacation bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury is set to hear the matter.

Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, who submitted the petition on Sheikh Hasina's behalf, told The Daily Star yesterday that the High Court bench on September 30 fixed October 5 (today) for hearing the matters.

However, this bench is not scheduled to sit on Sundays.

"The High Court bench is scheduled to discharge its functions from Monday to Thursday during the ongoing vacation. The hearing of the bail petitions of Sheikh Hasina will thus be held tomorrow," he said.

Two petitions seeking bail in

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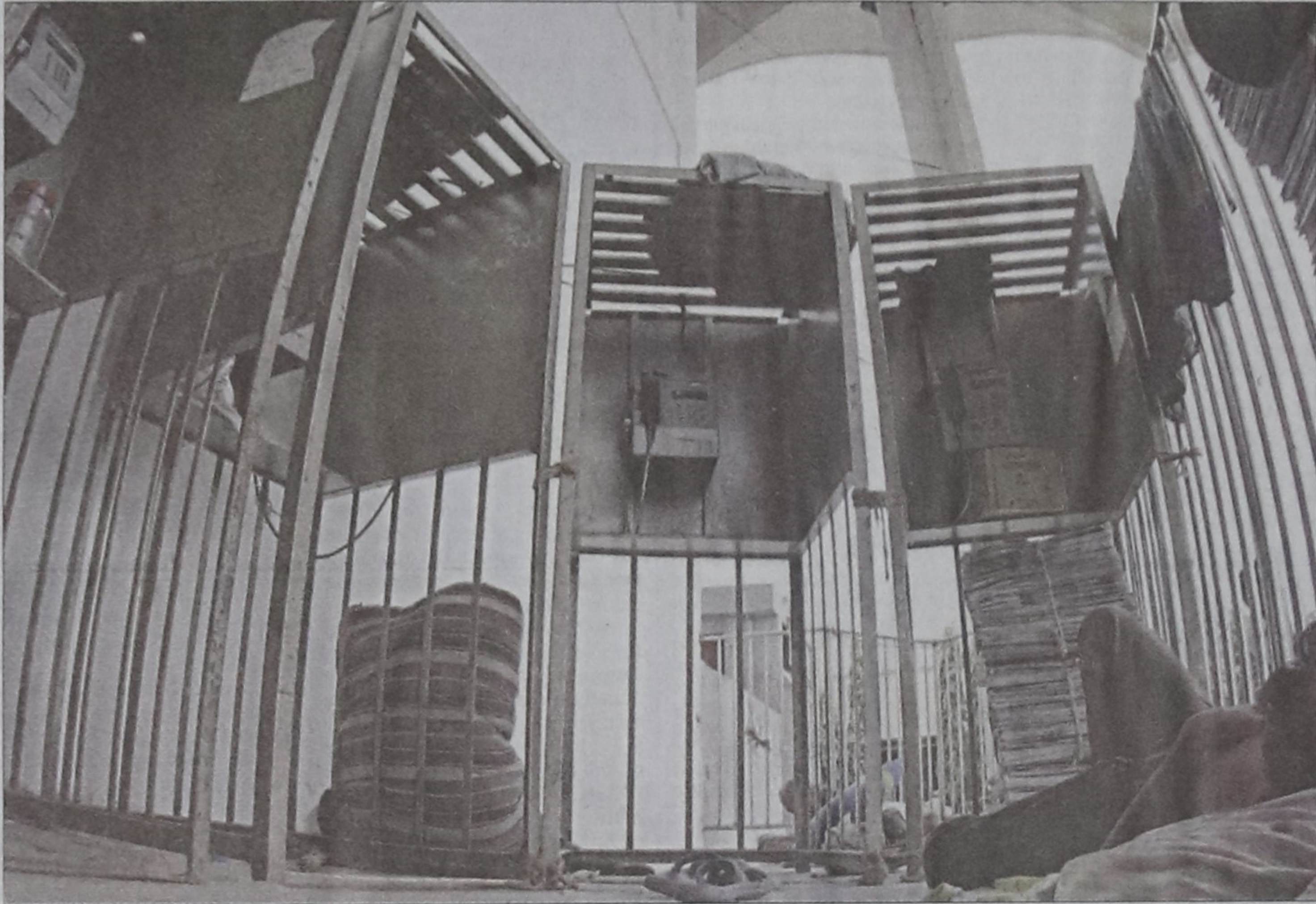


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Public phone booths at Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka remain almost unused as most people have cell phones while others, who do not have, can conveniently call from roadside phone shops.

'US' missiles kill 20 in Pakistan

AGENCIES, Dera Ismail Khan/Khar

Suspected US missiles hit buildings in two Pakistani villages close to the Afghan border, killing 20 people, most of them alleged militants, officials said yesterday.

"Our reports suggest that around 20 suspected militants were killed when a missile hit a house in Mohammad Khel village in North Waziristan. Most were foreigners," a senior Pakistani security official said.

The United States has launched a flurry of strikes in recent weeks against suspected al-Qaeda and

Taliban targets in northwestern Pakistan, straining ties between the two anti-terror allies. Pakistan has been unwilling or unable to eliminate militant sanctuaries blamed for rising violence on both sides of the frontier. The region is a possible hiding place for al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.

Two Pakistani intelligence officers said two missiles believed to have been fired from American unmanned drones launched from neighbouring Afghanistan hit two villages in the same district of the North Waziristan tribal region just before dusk on Friday. One attack in Mohammadkhel

village about 28 miles west of Miran Shah, the region's main town, killed about 19 people, most of them alleged militants but also including about a half-dozen foreigners, the officials said, citing agents in the field.

The intelligence officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to media on the record.

Pakistan army spokesman Maj Gen Athar Abbas said initial reports indicated that 20 or more people were killed. He said there was speculation that many were foreign militants but cautioned that the

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GLOBAL MONEY MARKET CRISIS
Bush finally signs \$700b bailout bill

AP, Washington

After two weeks of anguishing debate, Congress has passed and President Bush signed a massive plan to save the financial industry and the economy at large from an unthinkable free fall. Now, the world holds its breath, seeing if it will work.

Passage of the \$700 billion financial rescue package came after Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson at a meeting last month shocked congressional leaders into action by warning of pending economic collapse without immediate congressional intervention.

Paulson said after the climactic House vote Friday that he already had staff working out details and was lining up advisers from outside the government to get the money flowing.

The immediate response to the 263-171 vote was not promising. Wall Street, which plunged a record 778 points after the House initially rejected the bill last Monday, fell 157 points on Friday as more economic bad news, such as a jump in job losses, outweighed news that Congress was finally coming to the rescue.

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3 Bangladeshis killed in Saudi factory fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three Bangladeshis workers were killed in a fire at a sofa factory in Saudi Arabia on September 29.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at the factory.

The deceased are Dipu, son of Shahajuddin of Payandia village under Titas Upazila of Brahmanbaria, Nazrul Islam, son of Sultan Ahmed of Omarkundu village under Homna Upazila of Comilla and Abdur Razzak, son of Shahiduddin of Nabanga village under Ranibazar Upazila of Chapainawabganj.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has condoled the death of the Bangladesh workers, says an official handout.

In a condolence message, the adviser, also in-charge of the

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PHOTO: STAR

Vehicles slowly roll on this road at Postagola near the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge as the road is littered with large potholes.

Bangladeshi killed in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot a Bangladeshi dead at Gede border point in Chuadanga on Thursday.

The dead was identified as Altaf Hossain, son of late Nobay Mondol of Magura village in Kushtia.

According to BDR sources, the BSF men shot Altaf dead 300 yards inside the Indian territory near the Pillar No. 76 at around 8:00pm.

Finding the body, local people informed the BDR.

Prayer Timing		
October 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-53	5-56
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

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