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Nobel prize for viral discoveries

German, 2 Frenchmen share honour
AP, Stockholm

Germany's Harald zur Hausen and French researchers Francois Barre-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier shared the 2008 Nobel Prize in medicine yesterday for discovering the AIDS virus and the role of viruses in cervical cancer.

Barre-Sinoussi and Montagnier were cited for their discovery of human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV; zur Hausen was cited for finding human papilloma viruses that cause cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among women.

The German scientist received half of the 10 million kronor (US\$1.4 million) prize, while the two French researchers shared the other half.

In its citation, the Nobel

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Khaleda opens new office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated her new office at Gulshan-2 in the capital to run party activities smoothly.

The former premier hoisted the party flag and offered munajat before entering the rented two-storey building.

The BNP chairperson and other party leaders will operate party activities more efficiently from the

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4 of a family killed as truck rams car

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Five people, including four of a family, were killed in a road accident on the Dhaka-Barisal highway at Faridpur yesterday morning after a speeding truck rammed the private car they were travelling in.

The only surviving passenger of the car, Sabuj, 14, was taken to hospital in a critical condition.

The dead were identified as Selim Ahmed, 43, deputy general manager of K Ali Garments in Postagola in Dhaka, his wife Aleya, 38, daughters Akhi, 10, Lamia, 2 and Shahabaz, 35, their driver and an employee of the garment factory.

Police said the accident took

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Govt decides to sell 3 SoEs at Tk 95cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government yesterday decided to sell three state-owned factories for Tk 94.74 crore.

A meeting of the Advisory Committee on Economic Affairs also decided on importing nine lakh tonnes of petroleum from Malaysia and selling dry fly ash, a by-product produced at Barapukuria Coal-based Thermal Power Plant.

The closed factories that are going to be sold are: Satriang Textile Mills at Gazipur at Tk 17.13 crore, Karnaphuli Rayon and

Suicide blast at Pak MP's house kills 18

Rockets fired at another politician's home

AFP, Multan/Peshawar

A suicide bomber killed 18 people and wounded a Pakistani opposition politician yesterday in the latest attack to underscore the threat posed by Taliban and al-Qaeda militants.

The attacker blew himself up in a crowd of people at the house of Rashid Akbar Nowani, a minority Shia MP from the party of former premier Nawaz Sharif, in the town of Bhakkar in Punjab province, police said.

Pakistan's new civilian government is fighting a wave of Islamist violence blamed on militants in the tribal belt bordering Afghanistan, and is also under intense US pressure to crack down on the extremists.

"It was a suicide attack, the head

of the bomber has been recovered," senior police officer Khadim Hussain told AFP.

"The bomber walked up to the MP's house and detonated himself in the midst of a crowd of party workers, supporters and relatives," Hussain said.

Local police chief Iqbal Qureshi said the death toll had risen to 18.

Hospital officials said at least 60 people were hurt, including Nowani, who suffered leg injuries.

"His condition is not serious, he is alright," the politician's brother, Saeed Akbar, told AFP.

Television pictures showed corpses wrapped in cloth and placed on rudimentary beds after the attack, while the blast left pieces of flesh stuck to a ceiling fan.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

But officials said the MP may have been targeted because he is from the Shia Muslim community and lives in an area where there have been frequent sectarian attacks blamed on Al-Qaeda and Taliban-linked Sunni militants.

The blast came just four days after a suicide bomber detonated explosives outside the house of a senior member of Pakistan's ruling coalition in a northwestern town, killing four people.

That politician, prominent anti-Taliban campaigner and Awami National Party leader Asfandiyar Wali Khan, narrowly survived the attack when his bodyguard jumped on the bomber.

Militants also fired rockets on Sunday at the family house of the chief minister of troubled North

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New owners take over Amar Desh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

New investors led by former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman took over Bangla daily Amar Desh yesterday.

The new shareholders also had a meeting at the office of the paper. Mahmudur Rahman was made chairman of Amar Desh Publication Ltd and a new board of directors was formed during the meeting.

Amar Desh now has 20 shareholders. Of them, Islami Bank Director Tasnim Alam, Shakil Ahmed of advertisement firm Protisabdo, owner of Max International Golam Mohammad Alamgir and agriculturalist Anwarunnabi Majumder Babla are the new directors.

The outgoing managing director and publisher of the paper Hasmat Ali and director Enayetur Rahman Bappi, who is also managing director of ntv, welcomed the new directors.

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Water gushing out of an underground pipe of Dhaka Wasa on Dhanmondi Road-12 (A). The pipe that ruptured 15 days ago is yet to be repaired.

Suicide bomber strikes Lankan party office

27 killed

AP, AFP, Colombo

A suspected rebel suicide bomber blew himself up yesterday inside a crowded opposition party office in northern Sri Lanka, killing a former army general and 26 others.

Retired Maj. Gen. Janaka Perera and his wife were among the 27 dead and at least 80 more were wounded in the bomb attack at the United National Party office in Anuradhapura town, military

spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

The blast came as government troops and Tamil Tiger fighters battled for control of the rebels' administrative capital in the northern town of Kilinochchi.

The suicide bomber was a Tamil Tiger rebel who apparently targeted Perera because of his successes against the separatist cause during his years in the military, Nanayakkara said.

The Tamil Tigers began fighting in 1983 to create an independent homeland for the country's ethnic minority Tamils who have faced years of discrimination at the hands of governments controlled by majority ethnic Sinhalese. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

The attack occurred at about 8:45 a.m. Monday as officials from the United National Party gathered.

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SC upholds bail orders in ACC cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) orders that granted bail to former minister Mirza Abbas, former state minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, former lawmakers Mosaddek Ali Falu and Miza Azam, controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun and Uttara Group Chairman Giridharilal Modi in separate criminal cases.

The government, the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) and some individuals filed the cases against them on different charges.

Responding to separate petitions filed by the accused, the HC in recent months granted them bail in the cases and also stayed the proceedings of some of the cases.

The prosecutions filed petitions

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Over 100 killed in quakes

AFP, Beijing/Bishkek

More than 100 people were killed in two separate earthquakes in China's Himalayan region of Tibet and neighbouring Kyrgyzstan yesterday.

Rescuers raced to reach a remote village in Kyrgyzstan on Monday after a strong earthquake killed at least 72 people in a mountainous area near the border with China, officials said.

The quake late Sunday, which measured magnitude 6.6 on the

Richter scale according to the US Geological Survey (USGS), razed the village of Nura in the isolated Alaisky district, high in the Tian Shan mountain range.

"Right now the number of dead is 72," Deputy Emergency Situations Minister Turatbek Dzhunuchaliyev said in a press conference.

He added that more than 60 people needed urgent hospitalisation and 128 houses had been ruined in the quake, which was felt

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AL Presidium meet today to discuss poll preparation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium, the highest policy making body of the party, sits today to set party's next course of actions including election preparations.

The meeting will be held at AL acting President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence at 11:00am where the policymakers will finalise some guidelines for the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meeting to be held on October 10.

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Kapali spills the beans Blames Ashraf, Mashrafe for ICL exodus

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Adding fuel to the ICL controversy, all-rounder Alok Kapali has alleged that it was national team captain Mohammed Ashraf who provoked his teammates to join the rebel Indian Cricket League (ICL).

Kapali also accused Ashraf of "lying" to the people that the latter had nothing to do with ICL.

"Ashraf was very keen to join the ICL and seeing his interest, I thought if the national skipper could resign from international cricket why couldn't I? Even Mashrafe Mortaza asked me to join

and as a result we joined the ICL. But I was shocked when Ashraf and Mortaza did not join the ICL", Kapali was quoted yesterday by "Indian Express" newspaper.

"What shocks me more is that he has been lying to people and telling them that he had nothing to do with ICL", said Kapali while talking in Chandigarh.

Dhaka Warriors, the team from Bangladesh, will play in the ICL starting on October 10.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has slapped a ten-year ban on its cricketers who joined the ICL.

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Kumari Puja today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu devotees celebrate Mahaastami today on the third day of the Durga puja, the biggest festival of the Hindus.

The attraction of the Mahaastami is Kumari Puja or worship of the virgin.

Devotees will fast and recite hymns while attending the puja ceremonies at the mandaps (worship pavilion) and offer flowers to seek blessings from Durga, the

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Industrial waste being dumped in Sheetal canal in Bayezid Bostami area of Chittagong. The waste ends up in the river Karnaphuli.

Melamine in Chinese milk reconfirmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) yesterday reconfirmed the traces of industrial chemical melamine in Chinese infant milk formula yesterday.

Following the report provided by a private laboratory, Plasma Plus, on Tuesday, the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) sent the sample of Yashili 1 baby milk formula to the BCSIR on Wednesday for reconfirmation because of contamination concern.

Expressing concern over the tainted milk products, the BSTI authorities yesterday said that they would continue to go on testing the presence of melamine in different dairy products including chocolate, powdered milk, ice cream, biscuits etc.

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Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission

Shetu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212

No-BTRC/Adm/2008-2005 Date: 05-10-2008

Change of Office Address

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission is changing its office from 09-10-2008 to the following address:

Present Address	New Address
Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Shetu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission IEB Bhaban (5, 6 & 7 floor) Ramna, Dhaka-1000 Phone-(PABX)-+880 2 7162277 Fax-+880 2 9556677 www.btrc.gov.bd

All concerned are requested to make correspondence with the Commission at the new address mentioned above from 12-10-2008.

GD-4515

Syed Ahmed
Director (Admin)
On behalf of Chairman