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UK Minister for Asia arrives today
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

British Minister of State for Asia, Africa and the United Nations, Lord Mark Malloch Brown arrives in the city today on a two-day visit to the country.

During his first official visit to Bangladesh, Lord Brown will call on the chief adviser, foreign affairs adviser, home affairs adviser, chief of army staff and senior figures from the two main political parties of the country.

The minister is also scheduled to meet a range of civil society

Koko's parole extended until Nov 16
UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday extended the parole of Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, until November 16.

According to the home ministry,

Pakistan hints at N-deal with China
Zardari in Beijing for talks

AFP, Islamabad/Beijing

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari may sign a preliminary civilian nuclear pact with China during his state visit to the country, Pakistan's ambassador to China said yesterday.

Masood Khan, speaking to Pakistan's Geo TV in Beijing as Zardari arrived for his first state visit abroad, hinted that a nuclear deal could be on the cards during four days of talks.

"Both countries have always supported the peaceful use of civil nuclear energy," Khan said, according to the station's website, adding that an agreement was "expected in this connection."

India, Pakistan's arch-rival, signed a major pact with the US last week opening up sales of civilian nuclear technology to India for the first time in three decades.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has demanded a simi-

lar agreement with the United States.

Pakistan, which has one Chinese-built nuclear power station and another under construction, suffers severe electricity shortages with increasing numbers of black-outs in Islamabad and Karachi.

The government has an "energy security plan" envisaging an increase in nuclear power generation from the current 425 megawatts to 8,800 megawatts by 2030 to meet its growing energy demands.

Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme has been under the spotlight since a 2004 confession by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of its nuclear programme, that he sold atomic secrets to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Khan was pardoned by then president Pervez Musharraf in 2004 but has been kept at his Islamabad villa ever since, guarded by troops and intelligence agents.

Pakistan has rejected international demands for access to Khan.

In Beijing, Pak President Zardari arrived in China Tuesday for a trip that was expected to see him seek help for his country's embattled economy and the expansion of its nuclear energy industry.

Zardari, on his first state trip since taking office in September, landed in Beijing after making clear in an interview with China's official Xinhua news agency that building economic ties would be his priority on the four-day visit.

"We have a lot of cultural ties, friendly ties, but that is not properly depicted by our economic relationship," he told Xinhua, as he lavished praise on Pakistan's increasingly powerful and prosperous Asian neighbour.

"China is the future of the world. A strong China means a strong Pakistan," Xinhua quoted Zardari as saying.

Machinery gutted in RMG factory fire
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted fabrics, machinery and other valuables at a garment factory at Boardbazar in Gazipur yesterday.

Witnesses said the fire originated from fabrics warehouse on the first floor of the seven-storey garment factory - East-West Industrial Park - at about 8:00am. The flames quickly spread to other floors of the building.

Fire fighters from five stations took about four hours to put out the blaze.

Officials at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters said the fire gutted at least 60 machines, around 70 lakh metres of fabrics and other valuables worth about Tk10 crore.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) however said the fire damaged property worth about Tk20 crore.

A press release issued by it said the fire damaged all the seven units of the factory. None was injured in the incident.

Our Gazipur correspondent adds: Amanullah Miah, station officer of Gazipur Fire Station, quoting the factory authorities said the fire originated from electric short circuit.

Polls must on Dec 18 for democracy's sake
Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament elections have to be held on the scheduled date of December 18 in the interest of democratic process, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

Though some of the discussants expressed their doubts over holding of the polls on the scheduled date, they all agreed that there is no alternative to an election to restore democracy.

The roundtable titled 'Upcoming election and expectations of the citizens' was organised by Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan) at the Cirdap auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said, "Though there is doubt and uncertainty over the election, as a citizen I think the election should be held and everybody has responsibilities in this regard."

An election is the only way out of the current situation, he said, adding, "There is no alternative to an election if we want democracy to be restored in the country."

WB to activate climate change fund soon
UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) will do its best to immediately operationalise the multi-donor trust fund for climate change and mobilise resources for the fund, including those from the bank's newly established climate investment funds.

The assurance came when Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, now in Washington, DC to participate in the annual meetings of World Bank and IMF, sought such assistance during a meeting on Sunday with World Bank Managing Director Ms Ngozi N Okonjo-Iweala and senior World Bank officials of the Sustainable Development Network, according to a message received here yesterday.

During the meeting, the World

Prayer Timing

October 15

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-45	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Council

Kiwis clinch series as Taylor hits ton

BISHWAJIT ROY from Crg

Bangladesh lost a golden opportunity to score a series victory over a major Test-playing nation as New Zealand clinched the three-match Brac Bank ODI series 2-1 with a comprehensive 79-run win here at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The batsmen failed miserably for the second game in a row as their chase never really took off and the Tigers were restricted to 170-8 in 50 overs in pursuit of the Black Caps' 249-7, built around Ross Taylor's third one-day hundred and Jamie How's 73 off 82 balls.

The 12,000-strong port city crowd were left disappointed as the chase faltered by the 20th over. More than half the crowd left when skipper Mohammad Ashraful failed to connect his favourite

scoop over his right shoulder off the bowling of all-rounder Jacob Oram.

Ashraful's dismissal made it 57 for four, and the door was slowly closing for the Tigers.

Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim fell in quick succession and although Nayeem Islam, batting for the first time in the green and red, hung around for a patient 46 off 106 balls, it was game over for the Tigers.

Tamim Iqbal, who got a let-off as early as the first ball of the Bangladesh innings when Taylor spilled an easy chance, struck five boundaries in his 39-ball 35 as the hosts were off to a decent start but the middle-order collapse resurfaced at the wrong time.

For the visitors, it was pacemen Kyle Mills and Jacob Oram and off-spinner Jeetan Patel who did most



New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor executes a perfect square-cut to backward point during his match-winning century in the third and final ODI against Bangladesh at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Mere touch costs life
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw-puller was killed by an influential person's associates yesterday just because his hands touched the latter's body.

The victim was identified as Rafiqul Islam, 35.

The tragic incident occurred at Adabor in the capital at about 9:00 pm.

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This initiative is sponsored by the Nokia Supernova range of devices (Nokia 7210, 7210 & 7610). Tk. 1000 from the sale of each authorized Nokia Supernova device during October and November 2008 will be contributed to raising breast cancer awareness.

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