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Commonwealth secretary general arrives in Dhaka

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamlesh Sharma arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit to discuss with government leaders and the Election Commission (EC) the progress towards restoration of democracy in Bangladesh.

Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain received the Commonwealth secretary general at Zia International Airport in the afternoon.

Sharma will meet Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda tomorrow.

The meetings are expected to cover ongoing collaboration between Bangladesh and the Commonwealth in various fields.

The Commonwealth secretary general will also discuss the preparations being made for general

# No polls without Khaleda: 4-party

Countrywide rallies held to press home 7-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the BNP-led four-party alliance yesterday said they would not participate in the December 18 election without Khaleda Zia.

They also demanded that the caretaker government clear the air over the BNP chief's polls participation before the announcement of election schedule on November 2.

They were addressing a gathering at the National Press Club auditorium.

"You must say loud and clear now if they [BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina) would be allowed to contest the election," said BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

"We want to make it clear that the four-party alliance won't take part in the election without Khaleda Zia," he headed.

He, however, said they welcome the Election Commission's decision to unveil the polls schedule on November 2.

The meeting was organised as part of the alliance's countrywide programmes to press home the

seven-point demand that includes lifting of the state of emergency, deferment of upazila polls and withdrawal of all 'false' cases against Khaleda Zia.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) Secretary General Shamim Al Mamun and Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami, among others, were the speakers.

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FOREIGN OBSERVERS EC taking steps to facilitate visa processing

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission is taking steps to facilitate visa processing for foreign observers to help them monitor the coming parliamentary election slated for December 18.

The EC will soon send letters to the home and foreign ministries requesting them to take special care so that foreign election observers do not face problems including visa complications.

A delegation from USAID, European Commission (EC), Asia Foundation, International Republican Institute (IRI) and National Democratic Institute (NDI) yesterday had a meeting with the Election Commission at its secretariat to discuss matters relating to visa processing.

Chief Election Commissioner

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# Review of Bibiyana power plant tender sought

SHARIEF KHAN

The power ministry is seeking the opinion of the government's Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) to see if the ongoing tender process of the 450MW Bibiyana Power Project complies with the procurement rules.

As the cabinet's purchase committee last month raised a number of questions about the Powertek Consortium--the tender's lone bidder from Malaysia and South Korea--and its bid, the ministry recently turned to CPTU of the Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the planning ministry.

"Based on the CPTU's review we shall ask the Power Cell [which floated the tender] to re-evaluate Powertek's bid," said a top source of the ministry.

The purchase committee had observed that the tariff offer of Powertek was too high and also the formation of Powertek Consortium was questionable. Malaysia company Powertek and Korean Keppo were pre-qualified along with other bidders back in January. Soon after the pre-qualification, Powertek and Keppo declared to form a consortium, thus narrowing down competition in the tender process that eventually drove away all other bidders.

Meanwhile on October 21, Powertek in a letter to the Power Cell reduced its proposed power tariff to US 4.399 cents from 4.53 cents.

Powertek's 22-year tariff offer is almost double that of the 450MW Meghnaghat project that offered 2.78 cents. In terms of taka, Powertek's offer stands at Tk 3.15

per unit while other developers now implementing small power projects seek a price of Tk 2.28 to Tk 2.79 per unit.

On October 22, Power Cell's consultant International Finance Corporation (IFC) in an e-mail said in terms of taka this tariff offer is Tk 2.38 per kilowatt hour (or a unit), which is 1.4 percent higher than the small power projects offering Tk 2.35 a unit, but equivalent to the tariffs for the larger 30MW small power projects.

The IFC said the government was currently renting 260MW at an average cost of Tk 7.252 per unit. "This is more than double the cost of the revised tariff offered by Powertek Consortium for 450MW at Bibiyana," said the letter.

A ministry source said the cell did not seek the IFC opinion on the

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DELIMITATION Hearing on writ petition continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday for third day continued hearing on the writ petitions regarding the Election Commission's (EC) redemarcation of constituencies.

The HC bench comprising Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Shamim Hasnain yesterday adjourned the hearing until Monday (today).

EC's counsel Advocate Mahmudul Islam yesterday told the court that the EC has issued a gazette notification on delimitation of parliamentary constituencies as per Article 124 of the Constitution.

He said as per Article 125 of the Constitution, EC's action under Article 124 could not be challenged in the court, so the writ petitions

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MADRASA STUDENTS HC rule on DU authorities to explain admission rules of 7 depts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a ruling upon the Dhaka University authorities to explain why the new admission conditions that disqualify Aleem graduates for admission to seven departments should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of justices Syed Mahmud Hossain and Quamrul Islam Siddiqui issued the ruling after hearing a writ petition filed by five DU admission seekers including Ibrahim Khalki, who secured GPA-5 in Madrasa Education Board examinations.

The DU vice chancellor, provost, controller, registrar, controller of examinations, deans of the

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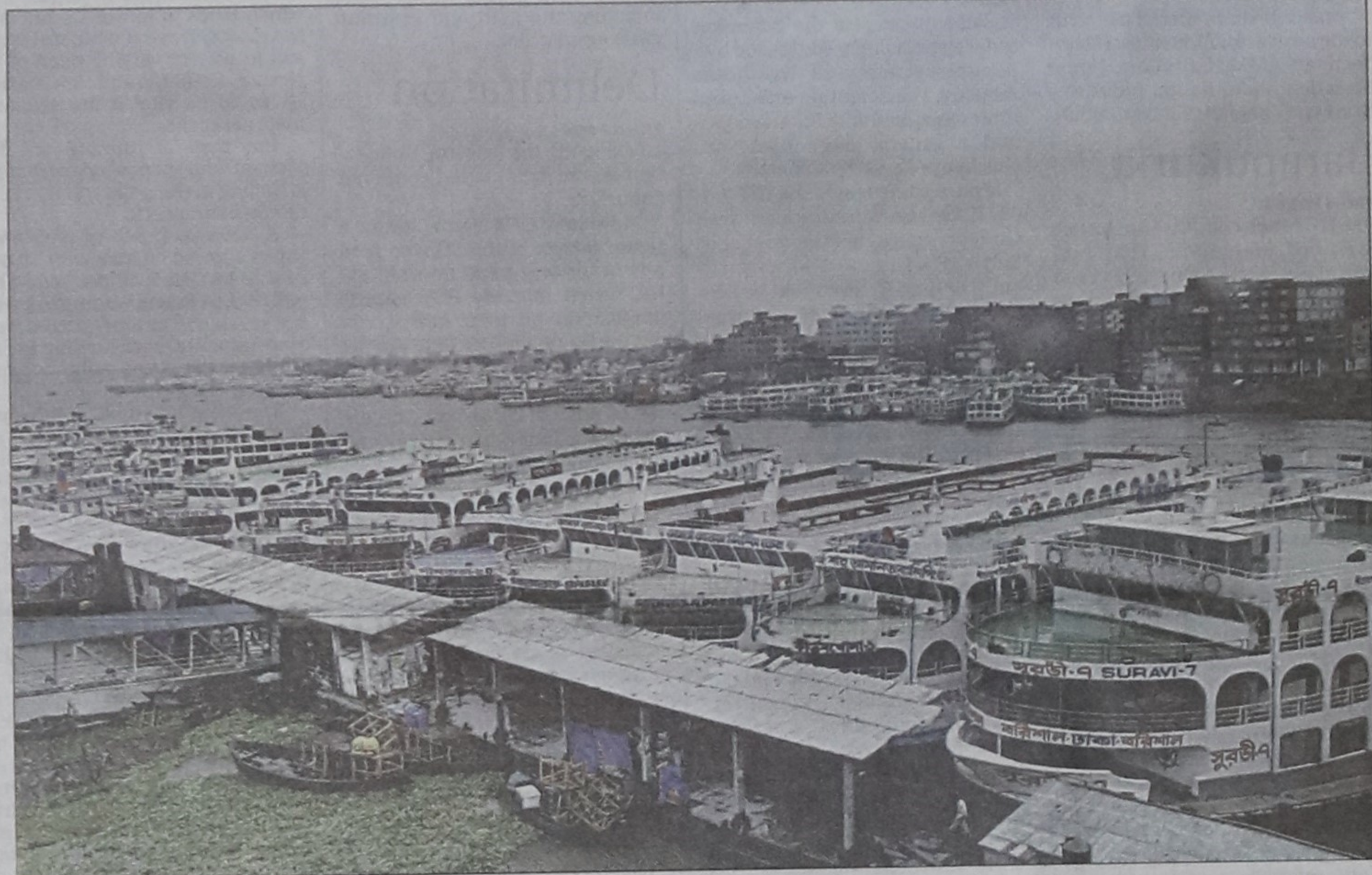


PHOTO: STAR

Launches remain stationary at Sadar Ghat in the capital yesterday as the government prevented them from operating in the inclement weather.

# Human chain protests removal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of eminent citizens of the country yesterday protested the removal of Baul (folk singer) sculptures at Airport intersection and the conspiracy of communal forces to destroy the culture of the country and achievements of the Liberation War.

The senior academicians, poli-

ticians and human rights activists yesterday formed a human chain in front of the National Museum in Shabbagh and called upon people to join their movement to protect the culture and heritage of the country.

Prof. Khan Sarfar Murshid presided over a brief rally that was also held there.

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# TAX EVASION CASE Warrant issued to arrest SQ Chy

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs adviser to former premier Khaleda Zia after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a tax evasion case against him.

NBR Deputy Tax Commissioner Ikhtiar Uddin Mohammad Mamun yesterday filed the case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court against the former BNP lawmaker.

NBR sought Salauddin's tax evasion upon his income of Tk 3.08 crore for the years 2002 to 2008.

After hearing the case, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque

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# 11 killed in Pakistan border fighting

10 more militants killed as rival groups clash

AP, AFP, Khari Peshawar

Troops fought Taliban militants in separate battles in northwestern Pakistan yesterday, killing 11 in an insurgent stronghold overlooking the Afghan border while 15 other militants were killed in fighting between rival groups in Swat valley.

Jamil Khan, the No 2 government representative in Bajur, said eight fighters died and several others were injured when helicopters and artillery shelled several areas Sunday morning.

Three more insurgents died in a gunbattle at a checkpoint in Tang Khata, a village supposedly under

the control of security forces, Khan said. Khan said there were no troop casualties in either battle.

At least 15 people including 10 Taliban militants were killed in a gunbattle with locals in a northwestern Pakistani Swat valley rocked by a violent campaign for Islamic law, officials said.

The clash erupted when supporters of radical cleric Maulana Fazlullah tried to kidnap a religious leader who has raised a Lashkar, or armed group, against Taliban militants, a military official said.

"Scores of Taliban raided Mandal Daag village in (the) Matta district of the valley to abduct Pir

Samiullah," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Samiullah's men resisted the attempt and the ensuing gunbattle left 10 militants dead, he said.

Among them were four Taliban commanders, including bomb making expert Mullah Shamsheer and two close aides of Fazlullah, he added.

Five members of Samiullah's Lashkar were killed in the exchange, which continued for several hours.

Samiullah, who heads a 500-strong armed group of local people and his supporters, has demanded

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# Cops identify 19 DU students who vandalised VC office

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police have identified 19 Dhaka University (DU) students involved in the vandalism at the office of DU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz.

"We have identified 19 Dhaka University students who were involved in the vandalism after examining several pictures," said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shahbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim while talking to reporters yesterday.

He said most of them appeared to be activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

On October 18, over a hundred madrasa students along with a few DU students vandalised the VC

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# JP distributing nomination forms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) led by HM Ershad yesterday started distributing nomination forms among candidates for all 300 constituencies although the party may contest the upcoming election under grand alliance with Awami League (AL).

"Hope, we will contest the December 18 election under the grand alliance with AL. But, we have started distributing nomination forms to make a list of eligible JP candidates. Final selection of my party's candidates will be made in consultation with Sheikh Hasina and top leaders of the grand alliance," JP chairman Ershad said while inaugurating the distribution

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Prayer Timing		
October 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-32	5-35
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

# ৮টি ব্র্যান্ডের গুঁড়োদুধ বিক্রয়, বিতরণ ও প্রদর্শন বন্ধ করা সংক্রান্ত জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

৮টি ব্র্যান্ডের গুঁড়োদুধ বিক্রয়, বিতরণ ও প্রদর্শন বন্ধের লক্ষ্যে ২৩/১০/২০০৮ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বৃহস্পতিবার মাননীয় হাইকোর্টে এক রীট পিটিশনের প্রেক্ষিতে মাননীয় আদালত বিদেশ থেকে গুঁড়োদুধের পরীক্ষার রিপোর্ট না আসা পর্যন্ত উক্ত ৮টি ব্র্যান্ডের গুঁড়োদুধের বিক্রয়, বিতরণ ও প্রদর্শন বন্ধের নির্দেশ প্রদান করেন। উক্ত ৮টি ব্র্যান্ডের গুঁড়োদুধ ও উৎপাদক দেশসমূহ হলো ইয়াশলী-১ (চীন), ইয়াশলী-২ (চীন), সুইট বেরী-২ (চীন), ডানো (ডেনমার্ক), রেড কাউ (অস্ট্রেলিয়া), ডিপ্লোমা (অস্ট্রেলিয়া), এ্যানলিন (নিউজিল্যান্ড) ও নিডো ফর্টিফাইড (নিউজিল্যান্ড)।

এ বিষয়ে কার্যকরী ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা হলো।

মোঃ আজমল হোসেন  
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# সম্মানিত করদাতা হোন

সময়মত আয়কর রিটার্ন জমা দিন  
 এবং  
 এস.আর.ও নং-২০৮ এর অধীনে  
 অধোষিত বৈধ আয় ঘোষণার সুযোগ নিন

# আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিলের এবং

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# CONGRATULATIONS

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**MR. K.M. MAHMOOD UR RAHMAN**



On the occasion of 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Highspeed and Recipient of International Maritime Day Award 2008, for his extraordinary contribution to the Maritime Sector of Bangladesh by the Honourable Adviser, Ministry of Shipping.

We pray for his long life, good health and prosperity

- Employees of Highspeed Group