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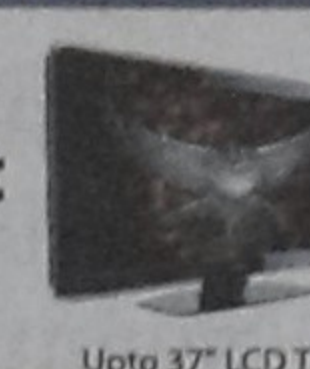
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## Govt to make polls acceptable to all parties

Says Adviser Zillur

DU CORRESPONDENT

Education and Commerce Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said yesterday that the government is working to create an election-friendly environment in the country so as to hold an election contested by all political parties.

Such an election will be acceptable to all, he said.

"We are already on the election-highway now and crossing one milestone after another. We are observing that everyone is getting involved in the process gradually," Zillur said while talking to the reporters yesterday.

He was at a reception organised by Dhaka Education Board to honour poor and meritorious students who achieved good results in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate exams (HSC).

The adviser said the responsibility of the government is creating an election-friendly environment in the country to make the general election acceptable to all.

He expressed hope that all political parties will participate in the process.

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## 'Unwilling' Petrobangla signs 'lucrative' MoU

Korea Consortium offers to invest \$7 billion

STAR REPORT

Petrobangla yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Korea Consortium led by obscure and inexperienced Korean company Luxon Global that wants to invest \$7 billion in power and coal sectors in Bangladesh in the next few years.

Other members of the consortium are Kores, Kepco and Posco.

Sources said an unwilling Petrobangla was made to sign the deal under pressure from the higher authorities almost in the way the past government had made the controversial Niko agreement.

Venture capital company Luxon Global's chief made his first visit to Bangladesh in 2005 and signed an MoU with energy ministry saying it would invest \$1 billion in energy sector, and was seeking a coal mining licence. But follow up inquiries by the government revealed that Luxon's official address in Seoul is non-existent.

Yesterday, Luxon Global's

President Seung Youb Lee signed the MoU on behalf of Korea Consortium at Petrobangla office. Jalal Ahmed, chairman of Petrobangla, signed the deal where Korean Ambassador in Bangladesh Suk-Bum Park was present, among others.

Mouazzam Hossain, local agent of Luxon Global, told The Daily Star that the company has a plan to set up a 1,000 megawatt (MW) coal-based power plant under the MoU signed yesterday.

"We cannot say exactly when the final agreement will be signed in this connection, but this is the start of the journey," he said. The MoU with Petrobangla is a follow-up of another MoU signed between the Ministry of Knowledge Economy of Korea and the energy ministry of Bangladesh on November 15 last year.

He also said both the sides will exchange delegations to share each other's experience in the field of energy under the new MoU. "The parties will exchange technical personnel to receive professional

training/studies. Korea Consortium is willing to grant scholarship to officials of Petrobangla for such training/studies as the parties will further agree," he said.

Executive Vice-president Sang Yeop Lee, Senior General Manager Chul Hee Hyun and General Manager of Luxon Yang Suk Joo, Group Leader Jeon Seok Kim and Manager of Posco Woo Suk Choi, Director General Seok Jin Song and Assistant Manager of Kores Yeon Hwa Kim were present at the deal signing ceremony on behalf of Korea Consortium.

**BACKGROUND**  
Since 2005-06, "one-man" company Luxon had been lobbying hard to get a hand on Dighipara and some ring-fenced gas fields with Bapex. Dighipara is one of the five identified areas where geologists have earlier detected coal deposits, with the primary indication of a proven 100-million tonne coal deposit and 600 tonnes of probable deposit.

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## Prothom Alo celebrates 10th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daily Prothom Alo yesterday celebrated its 10th founding anniversary with the pledge to bring about a change in the society.

Prothom Alo staffs in colorful dresses thronged the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the morning-smile on their faces, hope in their eyes and a call for change in their voices.

The celebration programme began at the centre with a discussion meeting where speakers said the Bangla daily has always been with everything that is good for the last 10 years just as has been its slogan.

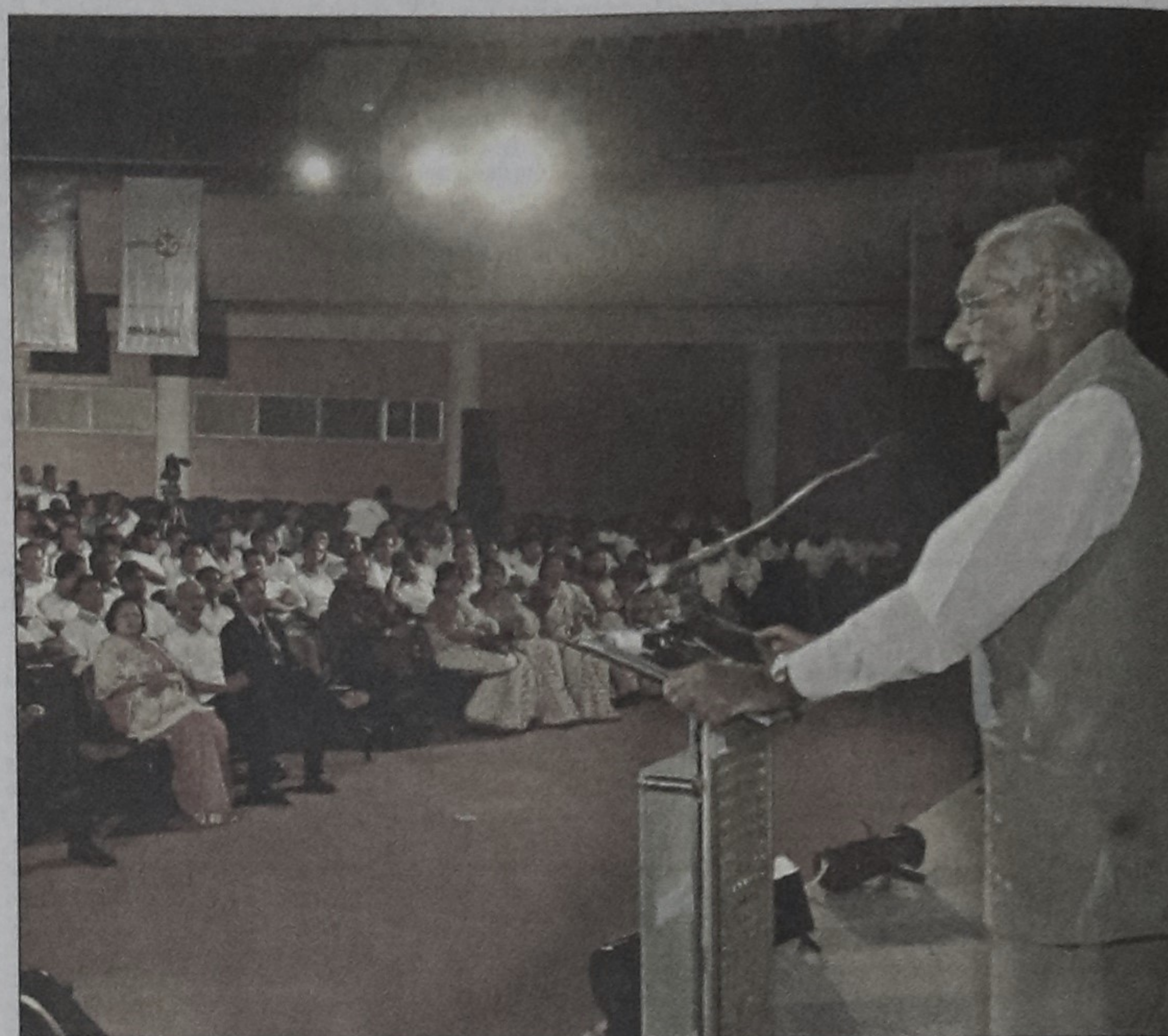
They said now the time begins for bringing a change.

The speakers observed that the change will begin with the transformation of the self of individuals who will then try to bring about a change to their surroundings, the society and the country.

They said from now on the slogan will be "Change yourself and change others".

Eminent Indian columnist Kuldip Nayar, Chairman and Managing Director of Mediastar Ltd Latifur Rahman, members of

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Eminent Indian columnist Kuldip Nayar speaks at a programme celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Prothom Alo at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Decision on HC judges' appointment likely today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Judicial Commission (SJC) is likely to make a final decision today regarding appointment of new judges to the High Court (HC) division of the Supreme Court (SC).

The commission sits today in its third meeting recently to prepare a final list of recommendations to the president to fill vacant posts.

Sources said separate lists of names of the people eligible for the posts of the High Court judges would be placed before the commission during the meeting, with Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin in the chair, for recommendations to the President for their appointments.

The law ministry has already prepared a list of 27 names and the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has prepared a list of 10 lawyers for the posts of the High Court judges.

The list prepared by the law ministry includes 15 judicial officials at the level of the district

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Students of Jahurul Haq Hall of Dhaka University chase students of F Rahman Hall during a clash on campus yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## EC seeks bank records of 9,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has sent a list of around 9,000 prospective candidates in the upcoming parliamentary election to the state-owned banks and utility service providers to identify defaulters among them.

Compact discs (CD) containing the names will be gradually sent to the private banks. The list includes the names of all contestants of the last three parliamentary elections and also the winners and their closest contestants in the national polls since 1973.

The EC also asked the banks and utility providers to update the status of their clients so that it can easily identify loan or bill defaulters among the candidates during submission of nomination papers.

As per the Representation of the People Order (RPO), the defaulters with loans rescheduled 15 days before submission of nomination papers can contest the elections. The utility bill defaulters have to

follow the same procedure if they intend to participate in the next parliamentary election.

The EC said a person will be considered 'defaulter' if he or she has defaulted on loan or a portion of loan. Both the default loan owner and guarantor will be disqualified for candidature in the next elections.

However, an individual who owns maximum Tk 1 lakh in default crop loans will be eligible for contesting the election. The EC for the first time stands against utility bill defaulters alongside the loan defaulters. Any aspirant candidates having default bills for gas, electricity or telephone will not be eligible for contesting the elections.

The officials of state-owned banks said it will be difficult to update the status of so many clients.

They will send the lists to the divisional offices and are now preparing bank statements of

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## Tigers launch SA campaign today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh launch their South Africa campaign today with a Twenty20 international against the hosts at the New Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.

The match begins at 10pm Bangladesh time with Ten Sports providing live coverage.

The match will have a slightly different name since the latest version of cricket is marketed in South Africa as Pro20.

The Tigers, who won three out of nine matches in this format of the game, played their last Twenty20 international in 2007 in South Africa in the World Championship where they fared quite well. They beat West Indies and made it to the Super Eights.

There was some good news for the Tigers after it was announced that home captain Graeme Smith would miss the game due to an elbow injury. Off-spinner Johan Botha will stand in for Smith. But Dale Steyn's return will definitely boost the Proteas.

Besides the Twenty20 match, Bangladesh will take on South Africa in three one-dayers and two Tests this month.

## Sector commanders make public names of 50 war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum yesterday made public their preliminary list of 50 war criminals, which includes the names of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Matur Rahman Nizami and its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid.

The forum released the list during a conference of freedom-fighter representatives from across the country at the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh yesterday afternoon. It demanded that the government tries the war criminals under the International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973.

The forum leaders also said they would soon publish a complete list of war criminals, who were under trial before December 31, 1975 and were released by the then president Maj Gen (ret'd) Ziaur Rahman.

The list of war criminals

includes the names of Golam Azam, a member of the then East Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami, Jamaat leaders Maulana AKM Yusuf, Delwar Hossain Saidee, Md Kamruzzaman, Abbas Ali Khan, Abdul Kader Mollah, Mir Kashem Ali, BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, his father Fazlur Quader Chowdhury, Maulana Abdul Rahim, Hamidul Haque Chowdhury, Khaja Khairuddin, Mahmud Ali, Md Abdul Aleem, Julmat Ali Khan, Kazi Kader, Khan Abdul Sabur Khan, Maulana Farid Uddin, Shah Md Azizur Rahman, Maulana Abdul Mannan, Dr Abu Motalab Malek, Md Yusuf, ABM Khalek Majumder, ANM Yusuf, Nurul Amin, AQM Shafiul Islam, Abdul Matin, advocate Md Anuruddhin, Maulana Nuruzzaman, Maulana Md Ishaq, Golam Sarwar, Md Akter Uddin Ahmed, Maulana

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## 25 hurt as DU students clash

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 25 students of Dhaka University (DU) were injured yesterday in fresh clashes between the students of two DU dormitories on the university campus.

Sources said the clashes erupted at about 2:00pm after a group of resident students of AF Rahman Hall, mostly activists of BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), hacked two students of Jahurul Haq Hall with machetes in front of the dormitory following Monday's clash.

Seriously injured Babu, a student of Law, and Zakir were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the others received treatment at the DU medical centre.

At least 30 resident students of the two halls were injured in a string of clashes on Monday over playing cricket on the Muhsin Hall playground.

Following the attack on the two, a group of students from Jahurul Haq Hall attacked the students at AF Rahman Hall with iron rods, sticks, machetes and cricket stumps leaving at least 15 students wounded, eyewitness said.

The students of AF Rahman Hall later made a counter attack on Jahurul Haq Hall students and beat them up leaving at least seven

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## 39 drown as ferry sinks in Philippines

AFP, Manila

Thirty-nine people were killed yesterday when a ferry capsized in a freak accident in the central Philippines, the local police chief said, the latest in a line of maritime disasters to hit the country.

The ferry, with 119 people listed on board, keeled over after being struck by a freak wind off the island of Masbate, according to Senior Superintendent Ruben Sindac.

"The Don Dexter Kathleen capsized due to a freak accident, it was hit by a high wind despite fair weather and calm waters," Sindac told local radio.

He said rescue services recov-

ered 39 bodies while 76 survivors had been pulled from the water.

Sindac did not rule out the possibility that there may have been more people onboard the ferry.

It is a common practice for inter-island ferries to be overloaded with last-minute passengers boarding without being listed in the manifest.

The navy, coast guard and local authorities were continuing to search the area between Masbate and Sorsogon port in southern Luzon, he added.

The coastguard described the vessel as a large wooden-hulled outrigger, the main mode of trans-

port between the 7,000 islands that make up the Southeast Asian archipelago.

Sindac said the ferry had just left the port town of Dimasalang on the north east coast of Masbate for Sorsogon port 80km away.

Second Lieutenant Jeffrey Collado, the local coast guard chief, said four people were still missing despite fears that there may be more still unaccounted for.

Collado said the ferry was hit by a "freak whirlwind" that rose suddenly when the ferry left port.

He said 76 people were rescued by boats that rushed to the site.

Navy, coast guard and local

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1. Two thieves climb on the back of a moving covered van near EPZ Gate in Chittagong yesterday. One of them picks the lock of the van door while the other keeps watch. 2. They open the door. 3. Finding the van empty they lock the door. 4. They get off the van.

PHOTO: STAR

## Non-brand edible oil prices rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of non-brand edible oil increased by Tk 5-10 per litre in city markets in the last three days.

Retailers alleged that a section of mill owners in collusion with some businessmen have created an artificial crisis of oil targeting the upcoming Eid-ul Azha.

Soya bean oil was sold for Tk 103-105 a kg yesterday at Karwan Bazar while it was Tk 98-100 three days ago.

The price of super palm oil

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