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AL moves to revamp grassroots

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Central leaders of ruling Awami League will start organisational tours across the country next month aiming to strengthen its grassroots level activities, which have apparently been to a standstill since the party assumed office on January 6.

The party will also hold council of a number of district units and form new committees during the tour.

Earlier on July 24, AL's national council re-elected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina president and elected Syed Ashrafur Islam general secretary. Later, the party announced the names of AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) members.

But no meeting of the newly formed committee has been held so far. Party insiders

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BNP top brass under pressure to bring Tarique back

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Mid-level BNP leaders, known as close aides to Tarique Rahman, are mounting pressure on the party leadership to bring him back but Khaleda Zia is still unwilling to take decision in this regard.

Party insiders said Khaleda, also leader of the opposition, may visit Saudi Arabia soon to perform Umrah as she has already received an invitation from the Saudi authorities.

They also hinted that the BNP chairperson might go to London and Bangkok to visit her sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman who are under treatment.

Chairperson's Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan, however, said she (Khaleda) has no plan to visit London and Bangkok. "But she may go to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. She does this every year on invitation of the Saudi government," he told The Daily Star, adding that possible date of her visit has not been fixed yet.

Meanwhile, a group of BNP leaders have already started lobbying for accompanying the party chairperson if she goes to London to visit Tarique Rahman as they think that it would be easier for them to persuade Tarique to make formal announcement for returning to politics.

In a statement before leaving the country on September 12 last year, Tarique said he retired from active politics with effect from September 11. He along with his wife and daughter are now staying in London.

But BNP's joint secretary general Goyeshwer Chandra Roy on Tuesday said Tarique is still senior joint secretary general of the party and that he has been away from party activities due to illness. "Tarique did not retire from politics," he said categorically.

Party insiders said some senior and mid-level leaders are eager to meet Tarique to discuss his possible return to the country and the

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Businessman arrested for beating cop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested Azad Group Chairman and Managing Director Abul Kalam Azad Thursday night on charge of assaulting a CID inspector.

Azad, owner of the Grand Azad Hotel located at Purana Paltan, was arrested at around 11:30pm after Criminal Investigation Department Inspector Golam Sarwar filed

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Dhaka's concern must be addressed

Indian minister says on Tipaimukh project

TAWFIQUE ALI, from New Delhi

India should address Bangladesh's concerns over the proposed Tipaimukh Dam on the river Barak, said Indian State Minister for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh during an interaction with reporters at a regional workshop yesterday.

"Bangladesh's concerns over the proposed Tipaimukh Dam are quite obvious and they must be addressed," said Ramesh on the second day of a two-day South Asia Media Briefing on

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3 drown in boat capsized

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least three people drowned and five others remained missing as a boat capsized in the river Arialkhan at Doukarchar under Raipura upazila in the district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Mannaf, 70, Mizan, 8, and Faruk, 25, while the missing couldn't be identified.

Locals said the boat sank due to overloading of passengers while crossing the river

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Info commission waits for office space, rules

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government has neither framed any rules nor set up an office for the Information Commission formed two months ago, which is delaying enforcement of the Right to Information Act, 2009 and depriving citizens of information.

Failing to get an office, the commission recently started working temporarily at the National Institute of Mass Communications without any office staff or logistics support. "We could not start working in full swing

mainly due to not having an office," said Chief Information Commissioner M Azizur Rahman. "We also do not have any manpower but we are going to NIMCO regularly to prepare the rooms provided to us for official use, holding meetings and doing the primary tasks," he told The Daily Star.

After the formation of the commission on July 1, it sought a place somewhere in Dhaka to set up the head office. The information ministry then wrote to the housing and public works ministry for allocation of a building to house

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Criminal killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A criminal was killed during a 'shootout' between the law enforcers and his gang in a sugarcane field at komorpur near Faridpur town early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sanjit Kumar Biswas, 32, resident of Munshi Bazar area under Gerda union of the district.

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People of Keraniganj demonstrate on the First Buriganga Bridge yesterday as they did not get gas and electricity supply for even two hours in an entire day.

PHOTO: STAR

Highway blocked for gas, power

UNB, Keraniganj

Local people put up a barricade on Dhaka-Maowa highway near the Buriganga Bridge in Hasnabad area yesterday, demanding smooth supplies of electricity and gas in the area.

Hundreds of people took position on the busy highway after Jum'a prayers at about 3:00pm disrupting traffic for three hours.

A chase and counter chase took place as police tried to disperse the protestors, leaving at least 10 people, including three policemen, injured.

The unruly mob pelted brickbats at the law enforcers during the melee and damaged six buses.

Later, three platoons of the law enforcers from Dhaka rushed to the spot and quelled the trouble.

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Saudi prince hurt in killing attempt

Suicide bomber blows himself up

AP, Riyadh

A suicide bomber lightly wounded a senior prince largely credited for Saudi Arabia's anti-terrorism campaign when he blew himself



up just before going into a gathering of well-wishers for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the state news agency said yesterday.

It was the first known assassination attempt against a

member of the royal family since Saudi Arabia began its crackdown on al-Qaeda affiliated militants eight years ago following the Sept. 11 terror attacks in

the United States. The militant who attacked the assistant interior minister, Prince Muhammad bin Nayef, late Thursday at the Ramadan gathering in Jiddah had

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2 BCL men held for 'mugging'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Dhaka College unit and their associate on charge of mugging and recovered a firearm from their possession at the city's Gabtoli.

The arrestees are Abdul Momin, a masters student of political science and Shahidul Islam Shaheed, an honours final year student of sociology, while the associate Monirul Islam of Kalyanpur.

Momin resides at room 111 of North Hostel and Shaheed

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My sincerest request to the citizens of Chittagong

Dear citizens of Chittagong, Let me begin first by congratulating you. Meanwhile, you came to know that Chittagong has been nominated as one of the venues of the upcoming ICC World Cup to be held in 2011. I pay my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the citizens of Chittagong for their consistent support and commitment in this regard.

Dear citizens, As City Mayor, I would like to bring to your notice the roles we should play as responsible citizens and devoted cricket fans. From this moment onward, we should play our own part to make this city a cleaner and healthier one, so that we can represent this lovely city to the world in the most appropriate manner. This requires not only cleaning up the city, but also upholding the aesthetic beauty of the buildings and establishments to the world.

From now on, we will be making adequate preparation to adorn the hotels and restaurants worthwhile for making the stay convenient for the people coming from different countries of the world. I earnestly hope that through organizing this magnificent event, this lovely city will come to limelight, and its fame and recognition will spread throughout the world. We extend our hands to contribute to this magnificent venture as sincere campaigners. As the proud Mayor of Chittagong, the venue of ICC World Cup-2011, let me congratulate you from the bottom of my heart once again.



ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury
Mayor
Chittagong City Corporation

CCC/PRD-234/09
GD-3919

OnlinePoll

Do you agree with Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka that there is no corruption in DCC?

Yes (13.8%)
No (85.3%)
No Comments (0.9%)

Total votes: 789

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think under the current circumstances hospitals and private clinics are capable enough to tackle Swine Flu outbreak?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Aug	Sehri	Iftar
7	29	5-17	7-23
8	30	5-17	7-22
9	31	5-18	7-21

Prayer Timing		
August 29		
	Azhan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-17	5-27
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-23	7-33
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Iran opposition leaders should be punished for unrest

Says Ahmadinejad

AFP, Tehran

Iran's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called for the first time yesterday for the punishment of opposition leaders over the unrest unleashed by his disputed re-election.

"Serious confrontation should take place with the leaders and main instigators of the incidents. Those who provoked, organised and implemented the enemy's line should be confronted firmly," Ahmadinejad said in a speech at Tehran Friday prayers carried live on state radio.

It is the first time Ahmadinejad has made such a call against his political opponents, who have charged his re-election was fraudulent.

"Those from lower ranks and the ones who were deceived should be treated

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Kalim A. L. Khan

WE MOURN

Mr. Kalim A. L. Khan, the youngest son of Late A. M. Zahiruddin Khan (Former Minister of Industry and Planning, People's Republic of Bangladesh) and Mrs. Asma Z. Khan and grandson of Late A. K. Khan, breathed his last yesterday morning, Friday, August 28, 2009 at Singapore General Hospital (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raje'un). He was 32. Kalim was the Director of INFOCOM LTD. of A. K. Khan Group. He leaves behind his wife, mother, brother, two sisters, family members, relatives, friends and countless well wishers to mourn his untimely death.

His first Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque on Sunday morning at 10 am, and his second Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Jamiatul Falah Mosque in Chittagong after Johr prayer. He will be buried in his family graveyard at SHAMA, Batali Hills, Chittagong.

May Allah the almighty grant his soul eternal peace. We seek prayers from all for his departed soul.

All the family members