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Depression gathers pace
Rain, wind batter
coasts
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A monsoon depression in the northwest Bay and adjoining areas might trigger a heavy rainfall and 3-5 feet high wind-driven surge inundating low-lying areas of 14 coastal districts, offshore inlands and chars.

A special bulletin of the Met Office at 1:00 pm yesterday said the depression originated from a well-marked low and was centred at about 415 km west-southwest of Chittagong port, 410 km west-southwest of Cox's Bazar port and 210 km south of Mongla port. "It is

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Saifur dies in car crash

The reform man

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The BNP leader, 77, died on the spot after a jeep carrying him fell into a roadside ditch at Kairala in Ashuganj at 2:30pm as its driver lost control over the steering while trying to save a stray cow.

Country's longest-serving finance minister Saifur was on

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ECONOMISTS MOURN SAIFUR ON B1,
SAIFUR'S LAST SYLHET VISIT ON
PAGE 15. CONDOLENCES AND STORY
ON BNP'S MOURNING ON PAGE 2

STAR REPORT

An assiduous person that he was, Bangladesh's longest serving finance minister M Saifur Rahman was loved by the audience for his serious remarks laced with humour, often in his own Sylheti dialect. Wherever he was, he always carried an air of freshness in ideas, vigorous conviction and straightforwardness. And through decades of his political career and wisdom, Saifur almost became a true statesman, often criticising his own party's stances on issues such as hartial and anti-privatisation sabre-rattling. Inside his party, he was one of the few saner heads respected across the file and rank.

Saifur Rahman's political mindset was moulded while he was a student and he actively engaged himself in different progressive organisations and movements. He participated in the Language Movement in 1952 when he

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1932- 2009

M Saifur Rahman was born in Baharmardan village of Moulvibazar in 1932.

He graduated from Dhaka University in 1953 and became a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in 1958.

He participated in the Language Movement in 1952 as vice-president of

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Safety still missing

5 burnt at ship-breaking yard;
HC order stuck in legal tangle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Five workers sustained severe burns at a ship-breaking yard in Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

The victims--Hossain, 35, Ashek, 20, Md Kuddus, 32, Jahangir, 28 and Khokon, 22-- were rushed to the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Fire broke out at Kabir Steel Yard in Baro Aulia while the workers were cutting a Korean ship with gas cutters around 9:00am, police said.

Assistant Registrar of the burn unit Dr Khalid said the condition of Hossain and Ashek were critical.

The workers very often become victims of such incidents due

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As people throng New Market and Science Lab areas for Eid shopping, hawkers occupy the pavements of Mirpur Road and parked cars narrow the road down triggering nagging traffic jam. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

3 killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Three suspected criminals were killed in separate incidents of 'shootout' in Khulna, Kushtia and Pabna Friday night and early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Arifur Alam Akkas, 45, a pirate active in the Sundarbans, Murad Hossain alias Bholu, 40, a leader of outlawed Gano Bahini, and Hasan Ali alias Hasan Kosai, 32, a cadre of Janajuddha.

Police said Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel arrested Akkas, accused in a number of cases, from his Khalishpur residence in Khulna city Friday evening.

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Procurement rules finally amended

Donors' objection overlooked

REJAL KARIM BYRON

The government has finally amended public procurement rules despite donors' objection, keeping the provision for limited qualification for development project purchases worth up to Tk 2 crore and dropping reintroduction of the lottery system.

Considering recent inflation, it has increased purchase limits for "exceptional" cases and reduced the tender period in a few instances "for hassle-free, quick implementation of ADP".

After coming to power, the Awami League government tried to introduce the provision for

getting procurement orders up to Tk 2 crore without any qualification and tried to reintroduce the lottery system for such purchase.

The World Bank and Asian Development Bank raised serious objections to this.

The amended public procurement rules (PPR) now relax several qualification criteria for a contractor bidding for a job worth less than Tk 2 crore.

Sources said the amendments were brought in the standard tender document already placed in the website of the Central Procurement Technical Unit.

At present, when a contractor bids for a job

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PM tells of threats 2 years back

UNB, Geneva

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the expatriate Bangladeshis to extend their wholehearted support to her government in building a modern digital Bangladesh by 2021 through salvaging the country from what she said the ruins left over by past rulers.

She made the call at a reception accorded to her by All European Awami League (AL) in the ballroom of Grand Hotel Kempinski on Friday evening, with its president Anil Das Gupta presiding over the function.

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Screening slackens at land ports

STAR REPORT

Health screening at land ports has been sloth against the widespread occurrence of swine flu infection in the country.

Every day thousands of people are checking in and out through the country's 16 land ports for business and other purposes. But the heedless health screening at the ports is making people more vulnerable and exposed to the infectious flu.

At Benapole, no screening is done on the truckers and their helpers although around 1,000 of them check in and out through the port. It leads to put some 20,000 people of that area at risk of catching the pandemic flu.

Though two medical assistants were recruited for health screening of thousands of people at the port, no medical equipment was provided for them. The medical officers are just asking people about their health. In a situation where the swine flu epidemic is worsening in India, the Bangladesh government is not taking enough precaution to prevent entry of infected people through the land ports.

Against such a backdrop, no awareness campaign is taking

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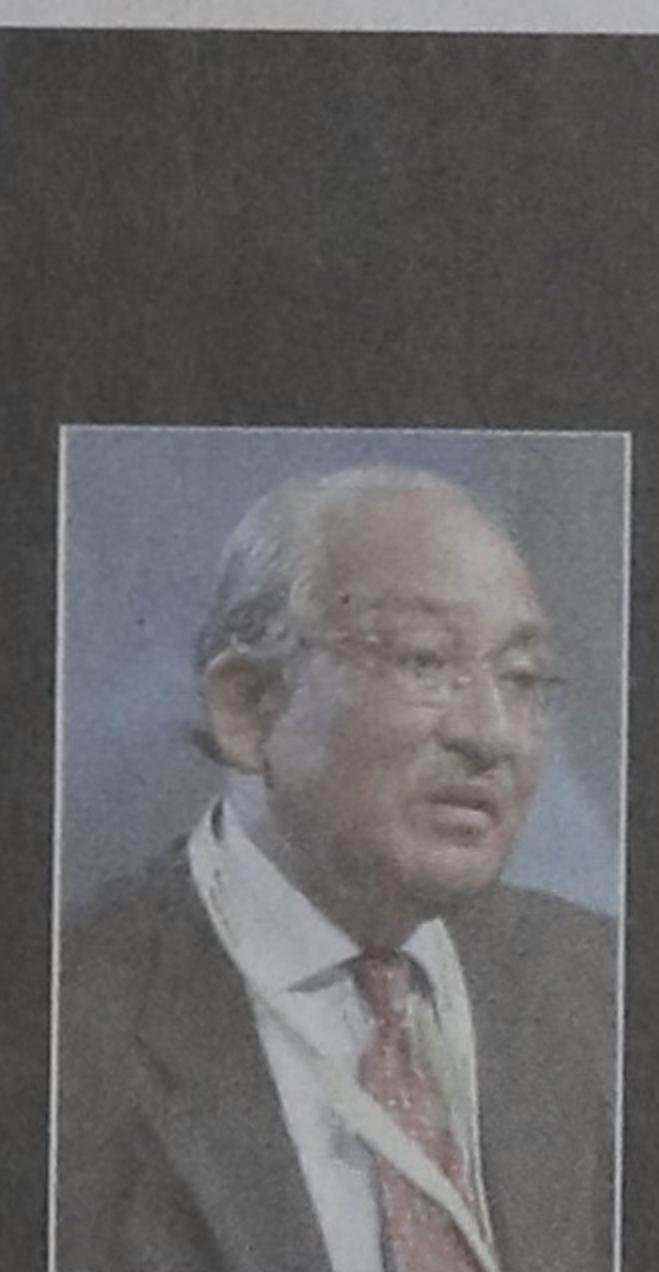
Govt moves to ensure uniform medicare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to providing a uniform treatment management of swine flu across the country an 18-member national technical committee was formed yesterday to prepare a guideline on clinical management of the pandemic influenza A/H1N1.

The committee headed by Prof MA Faiz of Sir Salimullah Medical College and Hospital, in association with Bangladesh Society of Medicine, has already prepared a draft guideline, said

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আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাত

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