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## AL lawmaker Taposh escapes bomb attack Car damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals hurled a bomb at Awami League lawmaker Fazel Noor Taposh's car in front of his law chamber near Prime Bank at Motijheel last night leaving at least 13 people injured.

Nur-e-Alam, personal secretary to Taposh and a victim of the incident, said as they were getting into the car,

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## FLAG MEETING Nasaka rejects reports on troops build-up

STAR REPORT

Myanmar border security force Nasaka yesterday denied mobilising its troops along Bangladesh border at a battalion commander-level flag meeting with Bangladesh Rifles at Maungdaw in Myanmar.

They denied mobilising troops along the border but said their forces were supervising various development activities there, said Lt Colonel

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## First batch of hajj pilgrims flies to KSA

UNB, Dhaka

The first batch of 518 hajj pilgrims flew for Saudi Arabia yesterday as Biman Bangladesh Airlines started month-long hajj-flight operations.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader, as chief guest, inaugurated the Biman Hajj Operations 2009 at Zia International Airport at noon. State Minister for Religious Affairs M Shahjahan Mia was present as special guest.

The pre-hajj flight operations will continue till November 21 while the post-hajj flights carrying the hajjis back will start on December 1 and continue till January 1.

A total of 58,634 pilgrims

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STAR: SHAFIQUK ALAM

Illegal makeshift shops are seen to have encroached upon a large portion of Kutubkhali canal, a tributary of Dholai Khal.

## 43 canals demarcated, grabbers identified

JS body decides to get the troublesome job to PM for directives

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The Land Survey Department of the land ministry has finally demarcated the capital's 43 canals lost to grabbers and identified persons and institutions that encroached upon the water bodies.

On receiving the list of canals and grabbers, the parliamentary standing committee on land ministry at a meeting decided to take up the issue to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her directives as it believes it will be a troublesome task to recover the canals and need a concerted effort.

According to the Land Survey Department, influential individuals grabbed most of the canals where they

erected multi-storey buildings for markets, educational institutions and residences.

Even, a few government institutions including the Dhaka City Corporation built roads and markets on some canals, according to the department.

"It is a major success that the Land Survey Department has finally identified the locations of the canals and prepared a list of the grabbers. Now, we will take the matter to the prime minister and request her to form a high powered committee to recover the canals," AKM Mozammel Huq, chief of the parliamentary body, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He said they would hand over the lists

to the prime minister, on her return from abroad.

The committee would be formed with police, judiciary and other government institutions as the recovery drive will require coordinated efforts, he added.

"It is a mammoth task as many establishments have been built on the canals and the grabbers are quite influential and have already managed fake documents for ownership claim," Mozammel said.

The parliamentary body had asked the Land Survey Department last July to prepare the list within a month. But the survey department failed and said it was facing difficulties in identifying the

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## Kutubkhali canal waits to be history

PINAKI ROY

Locals and a vested interested group are killing the remaining part of Kutubkhali canal, a tributary of Dholai Khal, despite the call of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for excavation of city canals to protect the environment.

This leftover of the canal is an example how a navigable wide waterway could turn into a stagnant filthy ditch.

An elderly inhabitant of the locality, Md Atikullah, 70, can clearly remember how big boats once sailed through this canal.

"During my childhood I saw big boats sailing through this canal. We used to fish here," said Atikullah, owner of a bed and quilt shop by the Kutubkhali in Dania.

But encroachment and filling up of its bed just quicken the death of the tributary of Dholai Khal, which was once connected to the Buriganga and Dhaleshwari rivers. During that time, boats carrying goods from the Shitalakhya river used to take a short cut through this canal to go to the Buriganga.

But now it is nothing but a pool of filthy stagnant waters. The narrowed down Kutubkhali canal is now connected with two box culverts underneath the Dholapara Bazar Road and Kajla in Demra.

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## PM reaches Stockholm

UNB, Stockholm

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Stockholm yesterday to a warm welcome to attend the European Development Days events in the capital of Sweden.

A flight of Qatar Airways carrying the prime minister and her entourage landed at Stockholm Arlanda International Airport at 6:40am (local time) amid dense fog.

Johan Nordenfeldt, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps of Sweden received Sheikh Hasina at the airport. Swedish Ambassador to Dhaka Britt F Hagstrom and Bangladesh Ambassador in Sweden Imtiaz Ahmed were also present.

The prime minister and her entourage were driven straight to their designated hotel in a colourful motorcade. Several hundred Bangladeshis welcomed her at the hotel lobby.

All-European Awami League (AL) president Anil Das Gupta, Vienna AL leader Nazrul Islam, German AL leader Hasnat Miah and Sweden AL leader Jahangir Kabir, among others, led the Bangladeshi community.

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## Liberation War testimonies handed over to envoys

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Museum yesterday handed over The Testimony of Sixty, a publication of sixty world-renowned personalities including Senator Edward Kennedy and Mother Teresa on crime against humanity during the liberation war in 1971, to foreign envoys.

Trustees of the museum Dr. Sarwar Ali, Rabiul Hussain, Ali Zaker, Ziauddin Tarek Ali, Asaduzzaman Noor and Akku Chowdhury handed over the reprinted books to ambassadors of different countries including USA, France, Russia, India and European Union.

"We have reprinted the book and given those copies to

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## ACC paid Tk 10cr extra in lawyers' fees

JS body reveals CAG report; asks for recovering the money

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has found anomalies in payments of Tk 10 crore in excess to lawyers as 'fees' by the immediate past Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) during the last caretaker government, a parliamentary committee disclosed yesterday.

In a special report, the CAG also questioned payments of over Tk 6 crore to different intelligence agencies by the erstwhile commission as 'incentives' for boosting the anti-graft drive

during the interim regime.

Citing the report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings yesterday recommended recovery of the Tk 16 crore from the immediate past ACC chief, two of its commissioners, and its erstwhile secretary and director general.

"We asked to recover the looted public money from them by applying the provisions of the Public Demand Recovery Act 1913," Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, chief of the

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## State allowed to make submissions SC rejects appeal by convicted killer Farooq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday rejected a petition filed by Syed Farooqur Rahman, a convict in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case.

Farooq Rahman, on September 29 this year, filed the petition praying for not allowing the state counsels to make submissions before the court against the appeals filed by the convicts, on grounds of delay in filing the summary of appeals by the state.

After hearing arguments of Farooq's counsel Advocate Khan



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## Gridlocks, potholes vanish in Abul magic

Communications minister goes to Kanchpur, sees nothing; rebukes media for jam stories

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, back from Kanchpur

It was a hectic three-hour preparation before Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain visited the Kanchpur Bridge area to see for himself if the area is really prone to perennial traffic congestion as was reported in the newspaper.

Before his visit the local administration and law enforcers of Narayanganj district made sure that the minister would see no traffic jam on the Dhaka-Narayanganj highway leading to Kanchpur Bridge.

The potholes at different places of the highway were filled hurriedly with gravels to make sure a jam-free road, especially at Shanir Akhra as everyday long tailbacks of vehicles are very usual there.

The minister drove along the highway and witnessed no tailback and then claimed there had never been any gridlock.

No traffic jam came in sight of the minister indeed! But it was at the cost of the local administration and law enforcers of Narayanganj

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## A date with Dr Nightmare

Idris undergoes surgery twice in 2 hours as scalpel blade left inside his abdomen

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Two hours after a surgery, a patient had to have a second surgery as a Dhaka Medical College Hospital surgeon left a scalpel blade inside his body and stitched up the wound.

Idris Mia, the 38-year-old patient and a migrant worker, became the victim at Bangladesh's largest public hospital.

One of the surgeons who was present during the operation said it was "a simple mistake". He said the blade of the scalpel apparently became loose and fell inside the patient's gaping wound without them noticing it.

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The scalpel blade that a DMCH surgeon left inside a patient's body during an operation on October 19. Inset, Idris Mia, the unlucky patient, who had to undergo a second surgery for removal of the blade.

PHOTO: SHAKHAT JAMIL



আমাদের এনি পারপাস লোন সম্বন্ধ করতে পারে আপনার সব ইচ্ছা

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