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# Govt eyes very modern airport

Feasibility study in areas under Gazipur, Mymensingh districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is launching a feasibility study for building a state-of-the-art international airport near Dhaka considering future demand for air transport.

"We have taken steps to carry out a feasibility study for constructing a modern international airport," said Shafique Alam Mehdi, secretary-in-charge of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, at a press briefing yesterday.

The aviation regulator has primarily formed a committee to carry out the study to chalk out the location, area span and required investments for the airport, said Mehdi.

The press meet was organised at Zia International Airport (ZIA) to share CAAB's present and future development activities in

facilitating the growth of the aviation sector.

The study will be conducted targeting the area between Gazipur and Mymensingh districts, he said.

The move to build another airport is so devised as the amenities and look of ZIA, which deals with more than 80 percent of air traffic in Bangladesh, are not impressive enough as a modern airport.

Another reason, continued the secretary-in-charge, is the growing settlements surrounding the airport in the capital.

"However, ZIA will not be abandoned. The airport might be used for carriers operating on short-haul international destinations," he said.

The committee would submit the feasibility report within the next three months. Later an international consultant will design the

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## Prothom Alo celebrates 11th founding anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11th founding anniversary of Bangla daily the Prothom Alo was celebrated across the country yesterday with the slogan "you start, others will definitely change".

The celebration was held at 22 different points in the capital and 150 places throughout the country. The main programme was held at Rabintra Sarobar in Dhanmondi.

Prothom Alo employees and members of Bandhu Shobha took position at 22 points in the capital and greeted people with gifts for using footbridges.

The daily has been campaigning to bring qualitative change in the society. It launched a campaign seeking

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PHOTO: STAR

Crowds in cheers at the 11th anniversary celebration of the Prothom Alo at Rabintra Sarobar in the city's Dhanmondi yesterday.

## PM shares climate change woes with world leaders

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night exchanged views with world leaders in a videoconference about the adverse impacts of climate change and the remedial measures.

In the video conversation from her official residence Jamuna, she exchanged views with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, President of Mexico Felipe Calderon and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen chaired the videoconference titled 'Copenhagen Commitment Circle (CCC)' organised ahead of the Copenhagen summit on climate change.

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## Latif's JS outburst totally expunged

Speaker deletes his 'fish market' remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented move, Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday completely expunged Jute and Textile Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui's October 12 statement from parliament proceedings.

"The minister's statement under section 300 of the rules of procedure was against the rules of procedure. Therefore, his (Latif) entire statement was expunged from the parliament proceedings on that day," the speaker said.

The speaker also expunged two words he (speaker) used on October 11 from parliament proceedings.

The parliament officials told The Daily Star that such

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## Rejoinder, our reply

General Secretary of Haji Muhammad Moin Hall unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Dhaka University Muhammad Mohiuddin has protested a portion of the report headlined "DU Mohsin Hall Repairs: Toll-seeking BCL leader halts work" published in The Daily Star on Monday.

In a statement, Mohiuddin claimed that the report was baseless, false and fabricated. He alleged that the report was published to harass him politically and ruin his "bright political future".

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## Bangabandhu, family didn't beg for life

Chief state counsel tells SC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Neither the father of the nation nor any of his family members begged for their lives on August 15, 1975, but their killers are now begging for theirs, chief counsel for the state in Bangabandhu murder case told the Supreme Court yesterday.

Advocate Anisul Huq made the point while making his submissions before the court on the 23rd day's hearing of appeals of five condemned convicts in the case.



Quoting from eyewitness statements, he said even 10-year old Sheikh Russel, the youngest son of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, did not beg for his life.

Russel requested the killers to take him to his mother, but they murdered him instead, he said.

He said Bangabandhu and his family members showed courage in the face of imminent death.

When Bangabandhu's wife Begum

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## Matia slates WB over slow fund release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday expressed her dissatisfaction over the World Bank's (WB) lengthy process of releasing funds for development projects, saying such nature of funding cannot really help

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## Thaksin now Cambodian govt's adviser

AFP, Phnom Penh

Cambodia said yesterday it had appointed fugitive former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra economic adviser to premier Hun Sen in a move that adds to tensions between the countries.

The appointment was announced on state television

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## FINAL ODI TODAY Tigers' chance to end year on a high

BISHWAJIT Roy from Ctg

Bangladesh go into the fifth and final one-day international against Zimbabwe today with a hope to sign off a memorable year in style by winning the game at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

The series was over after

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| Prayer Timing |      |        |
|---------------|------|--------|
| November 5    |      |        |
| Fajr          | Azan | Jamaat |
| 5:55          | 5:55 | 6:30   |
| Zohr          | 1:45 | 2:15   |
| Asr           | 5:00 | 5:15   |
| Maghrib       | 6:30 | 6:34   |
| Esha          | 8:15 | 8:45   |

Source: Islamic Foundation



It's a common scene every day at Shanir Akhra -- vehicles using one of the two lanes get stuck in tailback as the other lane is closed for construction work of a box culvert on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Though the work is scheduled to be finished before the Eid-ul-Azha, it would take almost a month to open it to traffic.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## BNP may expel a few reformists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP might expel a few more leaders from the party on disciplinary grounds since they were vocal about bringing reforms in it during the immediate past caretaker government's tenure, party insiders said.

A number of young leaders of the party met Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office on Tuesday night, and requested her to take stern action against some persons including her adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Z A Khan, who are known as 'reformists', they (insiders) said.

The leaders alleged that ZA Khan is now working with

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## Nizami re-elected Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Matiur Rahman Nizami has been re-elected the ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami for next three years, a party press release said yesterday.

He will take the oath as the ameer in the next meeting of Majlis-e-Sura, the highest policymaking body of the party, on December 7.

Rafiquddin Ahmed, chief

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## 30 more insurgents killed in Pakistan

Militants gun down 2 women teachers; troops advance on Taliban

AFP, AP, Islamabad/Khar

Pakistani troops were yesterday locked in deadly street battles with Taliban fighters, pushing a ground offensive deeper into militant-held territory, the military said.

A senior military official told AFP the army had "taken" the strategic town of Sarogha in the

third week of fighting, while 30 Islamist insurgents were reported killed in the last 24 hours.

Pakistan has vowed to quash Tehreek-e-Taliban in South Waziristan, part of the border area with Afghanistan that Washington calls the most dangerous place in the world because of the abundance of al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters.

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## CLIMATE CHANGE Govt to set up int'l centre on adaptation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said Bangladesh adopted a climate change strategic plan and seeks to establish an International Climate Adaptation Centre in the country.

Under the plan, she said strategies are formulated to manage disaster through agricultural diversity, ensuring food security, dredging major rivers to keep them navigable, creating green belts and developing coastal forests.

The foreign minister said this while discussing with a

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## Amended PPA Act passed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed a bill after amendment to the Public Procurement Act (PPA) to allow persons without past experiences to get public work contracts worth up to Tk 2 crore.

From now, procuring entities will not take into

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## OnlinePoll

Do you think the government will be able to return vested property to the rightful owners?

- Yes (10.8%)
- No (85.9%)
- No Comments (3.3%)

Total votes: 725

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think police will be able to stop the earth filling and encroachment on the Turag river in 48 hours following the High Court directive?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)