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No climate deal yet in sight

Negotiators struggle to close the gap; Hasina arrives

PINAKI ROY, from Copenhagen

The high level segment of Copenhagen climate change summit started yesterday as the negotiators were struggling to close the gap and reach an agreement.

Observers and negotiators said no significant progress has been achieved in emission cuts and feared the situation would remain the same until the end of the summit.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has arrived at Copenhagen at 12:50 local time (6:50 pm BD) yesterday to attend the ongoing

UN climate change conference.

Hasina along with 27 heads of government deliver her speech at the summit in between 9pm and 12am Bangladesh time.

The talks resumed on Monday on two parallel tracks -- new target under Kyoto Protocol and under long-term cooperative actions against climate change.

The negotiators were trying to make up some lost time by running some sessions into the late night on Monday.

"Some progresses have been achieved in

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TERROR CHARGE

Bangladeshi jailed in US for 17 years

STAR REPORT

Ehsanul Islam Sadeque, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin, was sentenced to 17 years in jail for plotting to aid terrorists by filming landmarks and sending the clips abroad.

US District Judge Bill Duffey also convicted Sadeque's friend and co-defendant 24-year-old Syed Haris Ahmed and sentenced

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PROCUREMENT RULE ROW

7 conditions given for 27 WB projects

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The World Bank (WB) has proposed seven conditions for the government regarding 27 projects being implemented with the bank's financing to ensure competitive bidding for the remaining work.

The proposal followed amendments to the Public Procurement Act (PPA), relaxing the procurement rules, despite the WB's reservations.

The WB has now sent a revised draft agreement to Economic Relations Division (ERD) regarding these 27 projects. It seeks the government's acceptance of the draft, sent last week, which includes the seven guidelines.

The first of these conditions says the procuring authorities will not hold any post-bidding negotiation with the lowest evaluated or any other bidder after the bid is opened.

The revised draft also said, "Bids should be submitted and opened in public in one location immediately after the deadline for submission; re-bidding shall not be carried out, except with the WB's prior agreement; lottery in award of contracts shall not be allowed; bidders' qualification, experience requirement shall be mandatory."

The draft further said bids shall not be invited on the basis of percentage above or below the estimated cost and contract award

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WB allays worries over PPA row

Says support to continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite having reservations about the recently amended Public Procurement Act, the World Bank reiterated its support for Bangladesh, saying the amendment actually concerns only one third of the bank-funded procurements.

The WB in a press release yesterday said the amended Public Procurement Act involves only local procurement contracts that are less than a third of the total WB-funded procurement.

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Disqualified yet Jasim still MP

He draws remuneration as EC waits for verdict copy

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Maj (ret'd) Jasim Uddin, who became disqualified from continuing as an MP following an Appellate Division verdict in October, drew remuneration and allowances for October and November from the Parliament Secretariat.

Earlier on October 18, the Appellate Division rejected Jasim's leave to appeal petition against a High Court verdict that declared illegal the Election Commission's decision to allow him to contest the polls from Bhola-3 constituency on Awami League ticket.

Legal experts say the verdict means Jasim's candidature in the ninth parliamentary polls was illegal and he has become

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Loan, bill defaulter loses MP status

HC asks EC to declare BNP's Mahmudul winner in Tangail-5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday voided parliamentary membership of Abul Kashem, a Jatiya Party lawmaker of Tangail-5 constituency, and declared his election candidacy illegal.

Kashem was found a loan and telephone bill defaulter. As per the Representative of People Order (RPO) a defaulter cannot participate in the national elections.

The court also directed the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to declare BNP candidate Maj Gen (ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan elected for the constituency since he got the second highest number of votes from this constituency in December 29, 2008 parliamentary elections.

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Jewellery shop looted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted gold ornaments from a jewellery shop near Khilgaon Police Station yesterday and made away exploding a handmade bomb.

Md Hazrat Ali, owner of Munni Jewellers at Khilgaon Taltola City Corporation Market, claimed that 200 tolas of gold were looted from the shop on the ground floor of the market.

However, police said that seven tolas of gold were looted.

The robbers also stabbed Tajul Islam, 30, manager of the

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Delwar slams move to rename ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday lambasted the government for practising the "culture of renaming," saying that the government would face dire consequences if the name of Zia International Airport is changed.

"The culture of changing names of establishments is nothing but a mistake by this government and it has to pay for such wrongdoings in future," he said in a BNP organised discussion to mark the Victory Day at Mohanagar Natya Mancho.

On Monday, a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided in principle to rename the Zia International Airport as Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) Airport.

Delwar Hossain said Awami League wants to establish itself by changing names of all landmarks. "Now it is a question whether they will change the name of the country."

He said BNP had never denied the contribution of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the liberation war and "there is no scope to do so". His role is historically recognised, added Delwar.

"On the other hand, Zia made the declaration of independence and participated in the war but Awami League does not

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OnlinePoll ✓

How do you evaluate BNP's new standing committee?

☐ Bad (75.1%)

☐ Good (20.4%)

☐ No Comments (4.5%)

Total votes: 964

TODAY'S POLL

Would you support if the government renames Zia International Airport as Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

December 16

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-20	6-55
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-22	6-25
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

একাত্তরের চেতনা দিয়ে বোনা
প্রতিটি বিজয়, প্রতিটি সম্ভাবনা



কেবল স্বাধীন দেশ নয়
বিজয় মানে

অর্থনীতিতে সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ



স্বাধীন জাতি হিসেবে আমরা যা কিছুই অর্জন করে চলছি, তার সবকিছুর
সাথে জড়িয়ে আছে ৭১-এর বিজয়ের প্রেরণা। জন্মলগ্ন থেকে সেই প্রেরণাই আমাদের উদ্বুদ্ধ করেছে প্রতিটি কাজে
আর সাহস যুগিয়েছে সামনে এগিয়ে যাওয়ার।

কেবল সার্বভৌম একটি ভূখন্ডের জন্যই নয়, ৭১-এর যুদ্ধ ছিলো অর্থনৈতিক মুক্তির জন্যও।
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