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Opposition walks out on ZIA renaming

BNP's nationwide agitation tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition lawmakers yesterday walked out of parliament twice, protesting the renaming of Zia International Airport and a ruling party MP's remarks on Tarique Rahman.

The opposition and treasury bench traded salvos throughout the day's discussion on thanksgiving motion on the president's address.

In a related development the same day, BNP announced countrywide demonstrations for tomorrow against the government's changing the name of ZIA.

In the House, the opposition members staged the first walkout half an hour after the proceedings began at 3:10pm.

As they returned after 20 minutes, a heated debate over the practice of renaming establishments followed.

The opposition MPs stormed out of the House again at 7:00pm to protest AL lawmaker Zillul Hakim's remarks on Tarique Rahman.

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Children play amongst hazardous waste in the Shitalakkhya River. The exposed pipes emit waste from textile dyeing factories during the dry season. This picture was taken near Kanchpur Bridge in Narayanganj recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

15 named for Ekushey Padak-2010

UNB, Dhaka

Fifteen eminent people have been awarded Ekushey Padak-2010 in recognition of their contribution to different fields.

"Each recipient will get Tk 1 lakh, a gold-medal weighing three tolas and a citation," said an official announcement.

The recipients are Dr Golam Moula (posthumous) for language movement, poet Mohammad Rafiq in literature, late Sayeed Ahmed (posthumous) in literature (playwright), Helena Khan in literature, Dr Muntasir Mamun for research, late ASHK Sadik (posthumous) as social personality, Sangharaj Jyotipal Mohathero (posthumous) as social personality and AKM Hanif (Hanif Sangket) as social personality.

They also include Partha Pratim Majumder (mime artiste), Nasir Uddin Yusuf (artiste), late AKM Abdur Rouf (posthumous) as artist, Imdad Hossain as artist, Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul as music artiste, Begum Laila Hasan as artiste and Mohammad Alam (posthumous) as photojournalism.

RU syndicate member arrested over death

Violence plotted in Dhaka; attackers' cell phone records show Jamaat connection

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

In a major turn of events in the Rajshahi University violence investigation, the Detective Branch of Police yesterday arrested a member of the university syndicate in connection with the murder of RU student Faruk Hossain.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Sarder Nurul Amin said Siddik Hossain was arrested at Rajshahi Court area around 6:00pm yesterday. Siddik is the Rajshahi city Jamaat assistant general secretary and also the principal of Islamia College. He said arrested Shibir cadres revealed his name.

Meanwhile, three very high-ranking police personnel in Rajshahi told The Daily

Star that Jamaat and Shibir leaders in Dhaka planned the February 9 attack on Chhatra League at Rajshahi University and the attackers were present at the public meeting of Jamaat Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami in Rajshahi on February 7.

Sources say that investigators going through mobile phone call records of arrested Jamaat-Shibir cadres found they had made several calls to four Jamaat leaders, a pro-Jamaat Rajshahi University teacher and the college principal-slash-RU syndicate member during the attack.

The six are Rajshahi Jamaat Ameer Ataur Rahman, Rajshahi City Jamaat General Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Katakhal municipality Jamaat Ameer Mazedur Rahman, Motihar unit Jamaat

Ameer Abdus Salam, Rajshahi University Science Faculty Dean Prof Md Abul Hashem and Siddik Hossain.

They said these six people coordinated the attack locally at different Rajshahi University dormitories.

Three groups of Jamaat-Shibir men consisting nearly 1,000 cadres made the attack, police sources claimed.

Arrested Jamaat and Shibir leaders told police that Rajshahi University Shibir President Shamsul Alam Golap, General Secretary Mobarak Hossain and Rajshahi City Corporation Ward-26 Shibir President Hafizur Rahman led the three groups in the attack on Bangladesh Chhatra League activists.

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Govt projects \$23b plan

Seeks assistance for the communications mission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday projected an investment requirement of \$23 billion for projects in road, rail and river communications, including a separate railway bridge on the Jamuna and the second Padma Bridge.

It sought assistance from the development partners in this regard on the concluding day of the two-day Bangladesh Development Forum meeting yesterday.

In a presentation on the development projects for the communication sector, the government told the donors that it would require \$10 billion of \$23 billion in the next one and a half years.

The proposed 6.10km-long second Padma multipurpose bridge will connect Paturia and Goalanda, establishing communication network from Dhaka to the west and

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Govt pledges to boost democracy

Agrees with donors to strengthen JS bodies, ACC, judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will strengthen further the standing committees of the parliament, Anti-Corruption Commission, and the judiciary to consolidate democracy, human rights, and good governance in the country, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

At a media briefing following the conclusion of the two-day Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) 2010, the finance minister also highlighted the issues agreed upon by the government and development partners.

"We have agreed that the three basic democratic institutions must be strengthened further. But they also must be transparent and accountable," Muhith said.

In the first day of the forum, donors expressed their concerns over stalling pace of democracy's consolidation, and UN Resident Coordinator Renata Dessallien in her written speech said democracy is being hampered by excessive competition between the two major political parties.

When the finance minister's attention was drawn to Dessallien's observation yesterday, he said the issue was raised in her written speech, but there was no discussion on the matter in the forum. He, however, said the concern will be addressed by strengthening the three institutions.

Planning Minister AK Khandker, Prime Minister's Adviser Dr

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CLIMATE CHANGE Bangladesh wants control over fund

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh sought full control on administering and managing the multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) at the two-day Bangladesh Development Forum meeting yesterday.

"The government would not accept anybody as middleman," Finance Minister AMA Muhith told the reporters at the concluding briefing of BDF meeting at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

"We told them [development partners] that we want administrative control over the fund. We require technical assistance from others."

He also pointed out that technical and fiduciary management might be given to the World Bank.

MDTF was formed in London in 2008 to help Bangladesh adapt to the climate change.

Accordingly, the UK has

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Schoolboy run over

Protesters torch truck

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Agitated locals vandalised and torched a truck after it had run over a schoolboy near Government Azizul Huq College at Fulbari in Bogra district town yesterday morning.

The boy was identified as Mashur Rahman Pappu, 17, a class-X student of Armed Police Battalion School and College.

Pappu, hailing from Kalai upazila of Joypurhat district, was residing at Al Hamza private hostel in the town.

Police said a sand-laden

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Mashur Rahman, a student of Armed Police Battalion School and College, inset, died when a truck ran over him near Azizul Haque College in Bogra last Tuesday. Angry locals and students set fire to the truck and erected a barricade on the street by burning tyres.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Govt combats terrorism as per people's mandate: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government is fighting against terrorism and extremism as people voted her party to power to do so.

"We are fighting against terrorism and extremism, because people of this country voted us to the power to do so," Hasina said when a 10-member Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) of UK branch called on

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Agri input cards for farmers launched

UNB, Netrakona

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged farmers to make Bangladesh self-sufficient in food as her government launched a new help line to assist the peasantry in cash and kind.

"Make best use of all facilities sponsored by our government. Increase food production to build a food-sufficient Bangladesh so that we do not have to rely on others for food. If we want to save the country, our farmers and agriculture will have to be saved," she said.

The PM was addressing the inaugural function of the newly introduced Agri-input Assistance Card and Cash Assistance programme for the country's farmers on

Balikandi Madrasa premises in Teligati union of Atpara upazila here.

The premier distributed cards among 20 farmers. A total of 1.82 crore farmers of the country will get the incentives under the recipe.

With the Agriculture Input Assistance card, the farmers will receive money from banks as cash subsidy to buy diesel. For drawing the subsidy and monetary transactions, the farmers can open bank accounts for only Tk 10.

Moreover, the condition for keeping minimal money with a bank account has not been tagged to operating the farmers' accounts. Also, the farmers need not have any identifier to open the account. The agriculture-assistance card will

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star 19th ANNIVERSARY THREE PART SUPPLEMENTS

The Daily Star, the most widely circulated national English daily is bringing out a 240-page, four-colour Special Supplement to mark its 19th birth anniversary.

The central theme of this supplement is: **A Testing Year**. This Special Supplement will come out in three parts on the following dates.

- Part 1: Politics and Governance (23 February, 2010)**
- Part 2: Economy and Climate Change (24 February, 2010)**
- Part 3: Policies and Institutions (25 February, 2010)**

Eminent intellectuals, professional experts, distinguished members of academia and civil society, corporate sector leaders and journalists are contributing to this grand supplement.

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