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SECOND EDITION

Today's Issue 24 Pages

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REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XX No. 258 • DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2010 • ASHWIN 21, 1417 BS • SHAWAL 26, 1431 HIJRI • 24 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know
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Ganges barrage work from 2012

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to begin construction of the long-awaited Ganges Barrage in Rajbari district in December 2012 to preserve the river water during monsoon and release it during lean period.

The barrage will facilitate irrigation of about 19 lakh hectares of arable land in greater Kushtia, Faridpur, Jessore, Khulna, Barisal, Pabna and Rajshahi districts, Water Resource Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen told journalists yesterday.

Revived four decades after the original

initiative, the ambitious project will also allow construction of a 118 to 160 megawatt hydro power plant at the site.

"People from 19 districts will be directly benefited once the project is implemented," Ramesh said.

It will take 2-3 years to construct the main barrage, and 10-12 years to complete the project at an estimated cost of Tk 12,000 crore.

"This barrage will retain surface water. This will help replenish the sub-soil water which we are extracting in a way that is sure to cause desertification," the minister said.

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War trial after 4 decades a conspiracy to create chaos

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said a conspiracy is on to throw the nation into chaos in the name of war crimes trial four decades after the general amnesty to the collaborators.

"The real war criminals had been released after the Liberation War. The then

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DHAKA RIVER GRABBING Govt now tries to save jetties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has filed a petition with the High Court to protect the jetties set up for commercial purposes on the four rivers around the capital.

It apparently marks a change in the government's stance on the four rivers -- Buriganga, Balu, Turag and Shitalakhya.

The Attorney General's Office on Monday filed the petition for either modification of the earlier HC directives for removing the jetties, or two years' time to dismantle the structures.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore yesterday wrapped up hearing on the

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Tigers triumph

Shakib steals the show in first one-dayer

Bangladesh superstar Shakib Al Hasan pulls one on way scoring an enterprising 51-ball 58 in the first one-day international against New Zealand at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BISHWAJIT ROY

Daniel Vettori's pre-series prediction came true as Shakib Al Hasan almost single handedly guided Bangladesh to a nine-run victory in the rain-interrupted first one-day international of the five-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"Shakib is the main threat for us", was the words from the New Zealand skipper and the world's number one all-rounder was simply brilliant in scripting Bangladesh's second victory against the

Kiwis in front of 14,000 spectators who

braved the scorching heat.

Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid congratulated the Bangladesh team on their brilliant victory.

Shakib's well-composed 51-ball 58 that contained eight sweetly-timed boundaries gave Bangladesh a reasonable total of 228 on a slow track and then his four-wicket burst made sure New Zealand were restricted to 200 for 8 after the Duckworth-Lewis method revised the target at 210 runs from 37 overs.

The target was revised after rain stopped play for nearly one hour with New Zealand scoring 85 for four in 15

overs and Bangladesh grabbed the opportunity with both hands despite some sloppy fielding.

Shakib not only contributed with the bat and the ball but also led the team brilliantly in the absence of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who left the field in the very third over after twisting his ankle while releasing the first delivery of his second over and took no further part in the match.

Bangladesh didn't feel his absence as the slow bowlers including Naem Islam, who claimed the vital wickets of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Asif, Baki win bronze in shooting

ANISUR RAHMAN from New Delhi

From gold medallist in 2002 to forgotten man in 2010, Asif Hossain Khan's journey from Bangladeshi golden boy to relative obscurity has been remarkable indeed. And ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010, Asif had been constantly derided in many quarters for being

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Cop killing case finally dropped

49 BCL men now free following govt's 2nd petition with the same court 12 days after rejection of 1st one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court on Monday granted a government petition for withdrawal of a murder case against Chhatra League leaders.

The same court on September 22 last rejected the first petition of the government for dropping the case.

Judge Rabiul Hasan of the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal accepted the petition this time and ordered exemption of the 49 Chhatra League men accused in the case.

The case was filed in connection with the murder of police officer Bashir Ali that took place on February 11, 1996.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Ayub Mia, who moved the petition on behalf of the home ministry, confirmed it to The Daily Star yesterday.

The same tribunal on September 22 rejected the first petition and ordered continuing the trial with a directive for considering the Supreme Court order, not the home ministry recommendation, as the basis for trying a case.

It was the first rejection of a government petition for withdrawing a case filed for "political vengeance" after the ruling Awami League (AL) assumed power.

Asked what prompted him to make the same

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

CONTEMPT PETITION EC Sohul challenges HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court (SC) challenging the High Court order that directed him to appear before it on October 7 in connection with a contempt of court petition.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Muzammel Hossain fixed October 7 for hearing the petition at the regular bench of the apex court.

Ruling Awami League lawmaker of Chandpur-1 constituency MK Alamgir on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



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