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# No promises from Pakistan

Meeting of foreign secys stalls on genocide apology, stranded Pakistani repatriation, asset sharing

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan once again avoided making any commitment to resolve long outstanding issues with Bangladesh, including apology for the 1971 genocide, repatriation of stranded Pakistanis, and sharing of pre-separation period state assets.

Since independence, Bangladesh has been asking Pakistan to resolve the issues which also include transfer of foreign aid that was meant for cyclone victims of 1970, and payment of war reparations. But all successive Pakistani governments, including the present one, have completely ignored the request, except repatriation of a small number of stranded Pakistanis.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes raised the issues again at the 5th round of Bangladesh-Pakistan Bilateral Consultations held in Islamabad on Monday. But conveying their position on the issues, Pakistan Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir said "they remain open to continue discussion on these at all levels".

Diplomatic sources said Pakistan officials' assurances since independence are merely rhetorical. They did not take any initiative to resolve the issues. Full diplomatic ties between the two countries were established in 1976.

However, on Bangladesh's request, Pakistan agreed at the meeting to provide access to information and database particularly on geological surveys and archaeological excavations

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PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Christians commemorate on All Souls Day all the faithful departed lighting candles inside the graveyard of Patharghata Church in Chittagong yesterday.

# Temperature down on drizzling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Temperature fell due to drizzling and set a winter-like weather in the early November in the country's different places -- especially the capital.

However, the meteorological department in Dhaka said this is a temporary situation and the temperature will rise today.

In their forecast released yesterday the met office said, the rain or thundershower is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Though the sky remained grey yesterday and the temperature fell and a cool breeze was blowing, the met officials said there is no chance of an early winter this year.

"The winter will not set in the country before December. The temperature fell as a low formed in the West Bay. It is supposed to cross the Orissa coast today [Tuesday] and the weather will be sunny again," duty-forecasting officer Shahidul Islam said.

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# Summit makes winning offer for Bibiyana-II

Ranhil-STG joint venture makes it for Bhola power project; PDB eyes deals on both by December

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local leading power company Summit along with its American partner General Electric yesterday gave a winning power tariff offer for the Bibiyana phase two 450 megawatt dual fuel combined cycle power project.

At the same time, Malaysian-Bangladeshi joint venture Ranhil-STG gave a winning offer for the Bhola 225 MW gas-fired combined cycle power plant.

Combined cycle plants use heat generated by simple cycle gas or oil generator unit to produce extra power and ensure

less fuel consumption and lower cost for power generation.

Summit-GE had earlier won the first phase Bibiyana 450 MW gas-fired power project by offering US 3.32 cents per kilowatt-hour over a period of 22 years.

This is the first time a local power company has been awarded with two such major power projects that might need around \$650 million investment.

But the Bibiyana phase two project is a dual fuel-fired project and the bidders were asked to offer both gas-based and furnace oil-based tariff. Summit offered US 3.98 cents or Tk 2.76 per kilowatt-hour

for gas-based power generation and 9.11 cents or Tk 6.73 per unit for furnace oil-based power. Its average tariff stood at 6.86 cents or Tk 4.74 per unit.

Its lone competitor Malaysian Powertek offered 4.6 cents for gas and 11.31 cents for oil-based per kilowatt power generation. Powertek's average offer stands at 7.97 cents.

In the Bhola project, Ranhil offered 3.43 cents or Tk 2.38 per kilowatt-hour, while its lone competitor Summit offered around 4 cents.

A top official of Power Development

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# Khaleda for midterm election

Delwar says it's not party stance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has said the Awami League-led grand alliance government has lost people's trust, and it should now assess its popularity through a midterm election.

"People have no confidence in this government, and it was proved in Chittagong City Corporation election. So the government should test its popularity through an election," she said last night.

Addressing the leaders of newly elected committee of

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# Bring no-trust motion in JS

Syed Ashraf asks BNP, says AL will step down if it loses the motion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging main opposition BNP to join parliament session and place no confidence motion against the government, ruling Awami League (AL) yesterday said it would step down immediately if it loses the motion.

"To unseat the government, she [Khaleda Zia] should place no confidence motion and show her logic. We would also counter it with our argument. If we lose the motion, we will resign immediately to pave way for fresh election. This is the democratic practice of changing a government," said AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam at a press conference at the party chief's political office in Dhanmondi.

The AL spokesperson made these statements against the

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# Facebook generation loneliest

Reveals BBC Radio survey

IANS, London

Britain's 16- to 24-year-olds, the so-called Facebook generation, are lonelier than any other age group, even pensioners.

One in three said they were bored with their lives, compared to just eight percent of pensioners, and 28 percent complained that loneliness was making them unhappy.

More than a quarter revealed they turned to alcohol for comfort, and half admitted to using junk food as an emotional crutch, reports the Daily Mail.

The depressing picture of life for young people in Britain emerged from a survey into national happiness levels, conducted for BBC Radio 3.

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# SEDITION CHARGE Top Jamaat leaders, Shibir chief sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chief of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), acting ameer and acting secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami and five other top leaders of opposition political parties were sued in a sedition case with a Chittagong court yesterday for making "derogatory remarks" about the prime minister and home minister.

Abu Taiyab, general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra

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A bird hunter is seen hiding inside a trap set up on a crop field at Poolhat village in Nilphamari. A fake rare bird is also placed on a stick to attract birds of the same species. Bird hunting has become almost unstoppable.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

# PRISONER OF WAR DEAL HC bench goes for split orders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A division bench of the High Court yesterday passed split orders on a writ petition challenging the 1974 agreement among Bangladesh, India and Pakistan under which 195 Pakistani prisoners of war (POWs) were released.

Senior member of the bench Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque rejected the petition.

And junior member of the bench Justice Syed Abu Kowser Md Dabirush-shan issued a rule upon the government to explain within four weeks why the tripartite agreement should not be declared illegal.

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# HIV threat gets ominous for improper info flow

Roundtable stresses bigger media role to prevent epidemic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A significant number of young people in Bangladesh are vulnerable to HIV infection, as they are not getting proper information on how to prevent the disease, experts said.

Blaming the absence of proper information dissemination process, they said the youth are engaging in risky behaviours like unsafe intercourse and certain

drug abuse that pose a threat of spreading HIV.

The opinions came up at a roundtable on 'Strategic Information and HIV Prevention Among Adolescents' organised jointly by The Daily Star and the UNFPA at The Daily Star's conference room yesterday.

The discussants said media could play a crucial role in filling the information gap and make the young people aware of how

the deadly virus is transmitted.

They stressed the need for public-private partnership, linkage between formal and informal sectors, central and local governments, modern and folk media working together to combat the HIV threat. The opinion of the young people should be considered while formulating HIV prevention policies and strategies, they observed.

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# ILLEGAL BILLBOARDS REMOVAL CCC mayor kept confined for 3hrs

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of an outdoor advertising owners association confined Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) mayor to his office room for three hours at Nagor Bhaban protesting a drive of CCC to remove illegal billboards in the port city yesterday afternoon.

CCC led by its magistrate Sheikh Saleh Ahmed conducted a drive at Sholoshahar area and removed six unauthorised billboards at 2:00pm, sources said.

Protesting the drive, around 50 members of Chattagram Outdoor Advertising Owners Association went to Nagor Bhaban and kept Mayor M Monjur Alam hostage from 2:30pm to 5:30 pm.

As the CCC employees tried to resist the protestors, a clash took place between them that left seven employees including mayor's personal gunman injured. The protestors also ransacked Saleh Ahmed's room.

Sources said, all the protestors were members of Jubo League.

To reach a solution, Mayor Monjur called a meeting with the members of the association at 4:00pm. The members gave a memorandum to the mayor in the meeting.

"Our magistrate removed six illegal billboards at No 2 Gate of

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# BABAR'S REMAND Plea for stay rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court rejected a petition seeking a 15-day stay order on the court order that placed former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar on a five-day remand in connection with the 10-truck arms haul case.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mahabur Rahman yesterday rejected the petition filed by Babar's lawyers, at the

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# OnlinePoll

Do you think actions will be taken against lawmaker Aslamul Haq for obstructing Dhaka Wasa and district administration's joint drive to reclaim the Kalyanpur canal?

Yes (17.4%)  
No (81.5%)  
No Comments (1.1%)

Total votes: 534

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government decision to privilege freedom fighters' grand children with the freedom fighters quota to fill up 710 vacant posts of nurse is justified?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

# Prayer Timing

November 3

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-34
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation