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TRANSFORM DIGITAL

Hasina asks Khaleda to vacate house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged her political arch rival, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, to vacate her Dhaka Cantonment residence if not for anything else but on "humanitarian grounds".

"According to the law, Khaleda Zia cannot get two government residences. How she got them is a mystery," said the premier while inaugurating a two-day workshop for ruling Awami League's district

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

EC wants MPs to lose seat for loan default

Drafts proposals to amend RPO for that

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission is looking to recommend changes in the electoral laws so that loan defaulters can be disqualified as lawmakers.

It also plans to propose giving back to the military personnel the power to arrest offenders on the polling day without warrant.

The commission has already drafted

proposals to that end, and will soon hold talks with the political parties and civil society leaders to firm those up, said EC sources.

Currently, individuals defaulting on loans can contest the parliamentary election by rescheduling their debts seven days before filing candidacy applications.

The existing laws also do not provide for scrapping membership of an MP for

default in loan payment.

If the EC proposals translate into laws, a lawmaker defaulting on loan will lose his seat.

Talking to The Daily Star on Thursday, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussein said the Representation of the People Order (RPO) needs to be amended to prevent loan defaulters from holding House seats.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

5 suspected robbers beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat five suspected robbers to death and injured another at Habibnagar of Kadamtoli in the capital early yesterday.

They also recovered 11 knives and eight pieces of equipment intended for breaking into houses.

Two of the dead were identified as Firoz, 28, and Ameer, 30. The rest could not be identified.

Suspect Nazrul Islam was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and was stated to be in critical condition.

Police also arrested another robber of the gang Md Mahfuz, 25.

Among the five dead, two died on the spot

while three others died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Locals and community leaders of the area said following recent escalation of robbery incidents they introduced neighbourhood watch at night in the area. A team of the neighbourhood watch saw 25-30 men together at dead of night and they were behaving suspiciously.

Officer-in-Charge of Kadamtoli Police Station Kazi Ayubur Rahman said the team approached the gang around 3:30am and an altercation ensued over the gang's intentions.

Mamunur Rashid, joint secretary of Habibnagar Samaj Kalyan Sangsad, told The

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

War crimes investigators visit Pabna

Locals mention name of Nizami

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Family members of war victims and locals told a probe team that Motiur Rahman Nizami and two other Jamaat leaders were allegedly involved in killing over two thousand people in Ishwardi upazila during the Liberation War.

The 11-member probe team of International Crimes Tribunal yesterday obtained firsthand information from witnesses on how local people including freedom fighters were killed by Pakistani army personnel and their local collaborators during the war.

The team led by prosecutor

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Devil-May-Care Kids: Urchins play on a running train. The railway authorities remain indifferent though several children have died playing like this. The photo was taken near Airport Station recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Four militants held in Tongi

Handmade bombs, publications on militancy seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four suspected members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh were held with nine handmade bombs and publications of the banned militant outfit at a hotel in Tongi early yesterday.

Commander Mohammad Sohail, director of Rab legal and media wing, told journalists that acting on a lead, Rab personnel arrested them from two rooms of Hotel Channel International at Tongi Bazar at about 12:30am.

They are Ehsar members Nurul Islam alias Sonu, 25, of Dinajpur, Ekram Hossain, 25, of Bogra and Hafez Mahbubur Rahman, 22, and Mizanur Rahman, 55, of Mymensingh.

Intelligence officials of Rapid Action Battalion said the detainees were closely linked to other JMB militants trying to regroup on the outskirts of the capital to carry out subversive activities in Dhaka.

The JMB men came to Tongi from Mymensingh on Thursday afternoon to meet one of their top leaders as part of a plot to carry out subversive activities in the capital, Sohail said at the Rab headquarters.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prof Yunus against govts in social business

UNB, Wolfsburg, Germany

Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus said here yesterday that people interested in social business will never seek government support and facilities.

He fears if governments provide special facilities to social business like tax cut, many people will gather to take those advantages in the name of social business.

If governments come to do social business, they would use power for taking advantages, which should not be done, said Prof Yunus. "That is why I am saying the government of a country must not involve in social business."

Yunus, managing director

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

CLIMATE CHANGE FALLOUT

Rushanara to stand by Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British Labour Party lawmaker Rushanara Ali has pledged to mobilise international support for Bangladesh in efforts to adapt to climate change.

"I will use my position as much as I can to support Bangladesh," said Rushanara, also UK shadow minister for International Development.

She was speaking at a meet-the-press on "Mock Climate Tribunal" scheduled for Monday. The Oxfam's Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL) has organised the mock tribunal.

On the responsibility of wealthy nations on the issue, she said the most powerful nations must ensure that climate change remains at the heart of their international development programme.

Climate change "cannot fall off the international agenda" due to the global financial meltdown, said the first-ever British lawmaker of Bangladesh descent.

Rushanara said she would try her best to ensure that the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



MID-TERM POLLS

Obama admits shortcomings in leadership

REUTERS, Washington

US President Barack Obama admitted in an interview aired yesterday that he focused on policies but failed to rally people behind those initiatives, leading to Republicans' historic gains in congressional elections this week.

"We were so busy and so focused on getting a bunch of stuff done that we stopped paying attention to the fact that leadership isn't just legislation," Obama said in an excerpt from a CBS "60 Minutes" interview.

Republicans describe their Tuesday midterm elections win, in which they took control of the House of Representatives and gained seats in the Senate, as a repudiation of the healthcare reform law and economic stimulus programmes that dominated Obama's first two years in office.

But the president told CBS he would seek to mend his ways in the run-up to his own re-election campaign in 2012.

"It's a matter of persuading people, and giving them confidence, and bringing them together, and setting a tone and making an argument that people can understand," Obama said.

"We haven't always been successful at that and I take

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

GOLDEN HARVEST

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The above ratings have been done on the basis of equity based capital structure, good infrastructure, good corporate management, good profitability, good debt repayment history and capacity, expanding business network, strong supply chain to procure raw materials, good quality compliance and diversified product line etc.

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