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United States Courthouse, Seattle
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in Short

2G TELECOM SCAM
India's former telecom minister held



OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's former telecom minister A Raja has been arrested along with his two former associates in connection with \$40 billion scam in sale of second-generation (2G) spectrum licence. He was arrested at the Central Bureau of

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Bangladeshi 'bomb plotter' denies charge



BBC ONLINE

A Bangladeshi national working for British Airways (BA) in England conspired with a radical preacher to blow up a US-bound aeroplane, a London court has heard. From his Newcastle home, Rajib Karim shared details of his BA contacts in e-mails

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PRAYER TIMING February 3		
Azhan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		



We Deeply Mourn

We are deeply grieved at the sad demise of our dearest Chairman, Former C.O President Guard Regiment and Ex-Director of TCB Lt. Col. **Dewan Zahedur Rahman (Rtd)** 2nd son of late Dewan Abidur Rahman Chowdhury and late Hafiza Khatun Chowdhury who died on 01.02.2011 at Philadelphia, USA (Innalillaihi wa Innaillae Raziun) at 6.00 PM. His Body was buried at Philadelphia. During his death he was 63 years old. He left 2 brothers, 2 sisters, colleagues, friends and a lot of well-wishers.

We all are praying to Almighty Allah let Him be kind enough to his departed soul. A Dua Mahfil for his departed soul has been organized which will be held on **04-02-2011 after Asar Namaj at Circuit House Zame Masjid, Capt. Monsur Ali Sharoni, Kakrail.** All of his relatives, colleagues, friends and well-wishers are cordially requested to attend this Dua Mahfil.



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Pro, anti-Mubarak protesters clash

One dead, over 400 wounded; agitation continues; parliament suspended; curfew eased

AFP, REUTERS, Cairo

One person died and hundreds were injured as supporters of embattled Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak clashed violently yesterday with opposition protesters after storming their rally in central Cairo, witnesses said.

According to a Reuters report, early in the morning, 403 people were injured.

Protesters from both sides threw stones

at each other in Tahrir Square, the epicentre of opposition demonstrations, a day after the Egyptian president refused to heed demands to step down and vowed to stay to the end of his term.

"The pro-Mubarak NDP (National Democratic Party) and the secret police dressed in plain clothes, they invaded the place to get rid of the revolt," said protester Mohammed Zomor, 63.

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GRAMEEN BANK Govt sends letter to embassies, donors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The banking division of the finance ministry last week sent a letter to different embassies and donor agencies located in Dhaka, explaining its intention behind constituting a committee for reviewing activities of Grameen Bank.

Following is the full text of the letter:

Grameen Bank started its journey in 1976 to address the probability of

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SAARC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEET FEB 8-9

Visa exemption for VIPs high on agenda

REZAUL KARIM

The upcoming meeting of the Saarc Council of Ministers will be dominated by a proposal to exempt certain categories of people from visa requirement to travel within the eight Saarc countries, diplomatic sources said.

To be held in Thimphu on February 8-9, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Council is also expected to take stock of various other initiatives, like forging greater integration, ending terrorism in the South Asia region and discussing the progress made in the implementation of regional Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT).

The meeting of the foreign ministers of the member states would seek to expand the list of categories of professions exempt from travel visa requirements in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

At present members of parliament, top bureaucrats, higher court judges, 100 identified business leaders, sportspersons and leading journalists may visit all Saarc countries on a Saarc visa.

However, India has been seeking a modification of the scheme to implement

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Locals of Arial Beel celebrate, flash victory sign as the government yesterday announced refraining from building Bangabandhu International Airport there.

PHOTO: STAR

MUTINY IN KUSHTIA

72 more BGB jawans jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Seventy-two jawans of 32 and 35 rifles battalions of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were sentenced yesterday to jail terms ranging from four months to seven years for their involvement in 2009 mutiny at Kushtia.

The Special Court-17, headed by Commander of Kushtia BGB sector Lt Col Nazrul Islam, also fined each of the convicts Tk 100.

However, the court acquitted Subedar Hossain Ali, an accused of 35 rifles battalion, as the charges brought against him were not proved.

Of the convicts, 61 belong to 32 rifles battalion in Kushtia while the rest 11 to 35 rifles battalion in Chuadanga.

The court started delivering judgement at about 8:45am, which continued for four hours.

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think action should be taken against unscrupulous persons who influenced the government to pick Arial Beel area for the new airport that led to the violent protest and death of a policeman?

Yes (82.8%)

No (14.8%)

No Comments (2.4%)

TOTAL VOTES : 506

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think suing BNP chief Khaleda Zia in the Munshiganj violence was justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

Mega plan for railway

Tk 43,500cr to be spent to revamp the ailing state-run sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has proposed 127 projects of around Tk 43,500 crore in the sixth five-year plan to revamp the coun-

try's railway by expanding network and purchasing huge number of passenger coaches.

In response to lawmakers' queries in parliament, she said the sixth five-year

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Top level govt meeting held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high profile meeting of President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Abdul Hamid, and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam was held last night in

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No arrest warrant for defamation

JS passes bill amending CrPC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed a bill scrapping the provision of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for directly issuing arrest warrant against journalists, writers and others for writing or saying anything defamatory.

The amendment to the CrPC, however, introduced a provision for issuing summons against them.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed proposed passage of the bill, which was placed in parliament in January last year.

During the passage of the bill independent lawmaker Fazlul Azim said the British rulers made the provision to prevent journalists from attacking their colonial rule.

A number of BNP lawmakers also submitted notices to take part in the process for passage of the bill, but their notices were not raised due to their absence in the House.

In response to Azim, the law minister said the provision

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