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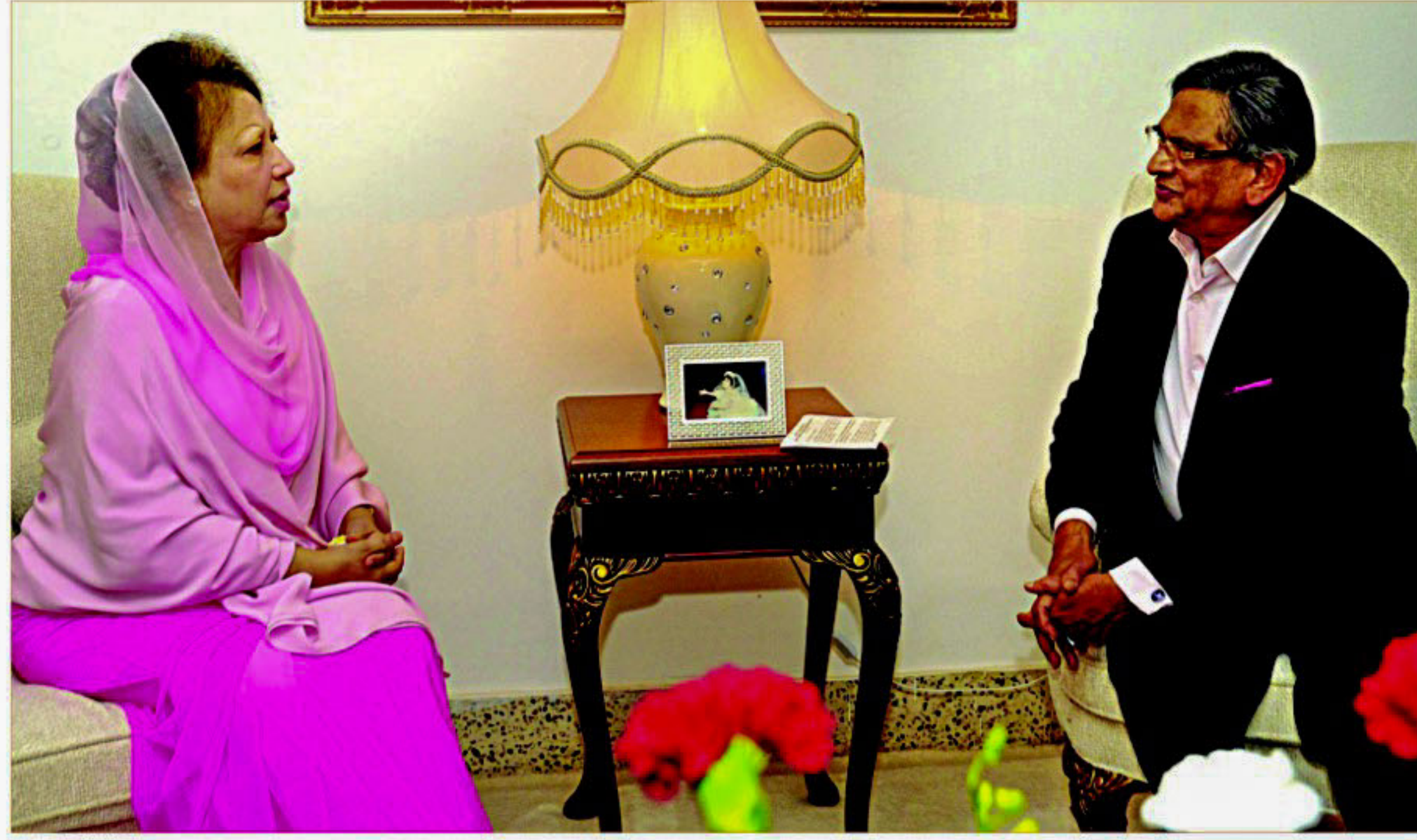
Many may miss amnesty chance

Malaysian employers unwilling to pay levy for regularisation of illegal workers

PORIMOL PALMA
A large number of undocumented Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia might be left out of the regularisation process due to refusal of many employers to pay the levy they are supposed to pay for the foreign workers.
There are around five lakh Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia with an estimated three lakh of them undocumented. And almost all of them want to stay back and work, said officials at the Bangladesh high commission in Kuala Lumpur.

Late last month, Malaysia offered amnesty to irregular foreign workers, giving them opportunity to get regularised for jobs or return home without facing penalty.
Those unregistered will face arrest and punishment.
For regularisation, the workers must get registered with the government. The registration process will begin on July 18 and continue for two weeks.
Once registered, the workers will be given immigration cards allowing them to

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Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna calls on Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Deal details should be made public

Khaleda tells Krishna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Details of all the deals between Bangladesh and India, including transit, should be made public before the signing, said Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia yesterday.
"It should be ensured that agreements between the countries benefit both sides. But before the signing, people must know the details of the deals through parliament," said Khaleda when Indian External Affairs Minister

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Related structures being built

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The construction work of the Padma Bridge and river training is yet to start but work on related structures like rehabilitation centres is going on in full swing, says the communications minister.
"About 75 percent of the work has been done. We hope the rest will be completed soon", Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain said while visiting

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HARTAL TOMORROW BNP, Jamaat lend support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday announced a two-day fresh agitation programme including a mass hunger strike protesting the arrest of opposition activists and "attempt to kill" the opposition chief whip during the 48-hour hartal.
As part of the programme, both the parties will stage anti-government demonstrations across the country today. BNP will arrange the agitation in front of the party's central office at Nayapalton.
The BNP-led opposition also extended "full support" for the 30-hour hartal called by a 12-party alliance to be enforced from 6:00am on Sunday.
The countrywide shutdown was called in protest

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Transit for only peaceful purposes

Says Indian external affairs minister, leaves Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna yesterday asserted that the transit through Bangladesh is for peaceful purposes only.
Transit is for improving the lives of people. It will spur economic growth and development on both sides of the border; it is not simply a flow of goods and services across frontiers in the context of transit, he said while delivering a lecture prior to his departure from Dhaka ending his

three-day visit here.
Bangladesh International Institute of Strategic Studies organised the lecture on "India and Bangladesh: Partners in Progress" at its auditorium yesterday morning.
Replying to a question from the audience, he said India would transport only goods if the transit is given. He said India is always a peace-loving country and it wants peace, prosperity and stability in the region and also throughout the world.
He said there is no way India,

which extended tremendous support during Bangladesh's birth, could do anything that goes against Bangladesh. Highly praising Bangladesh for its recent economic development, Krishna said Bangladesh thanks to the achievements has reached the centre-stage of global affairs.
On Indo-Bangladesh commonality, the minister said India and Bangladesh have a natural propensity to work together in varied and

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NATURAL WONDERS 10 lakh votes for Sundarbans in 2 weeks

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR
The Sundarbans received more than 10 lakh votes through text messages in the last two weeks for its inclusion as one of the world's new seven natural wonders.
The largest mangrove forest of the world was also the most voted wonder in the contest in the last one month.
The Sundarbans, however, has a long way to go to secure the position, as it contests against the

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EU supports social business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Strengthening social business and promoting innovative methods of accessible finance are not only a matter of justice but also a concrete way to help the poorest of the poor, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso has said.
He said social business is also "a smart investment in our shared future. The European Commission will therefore continue its substantial aid to microcredit projects across the globe."
The European Commission president made the remarks after a meeting with Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus at his office in Strasbourg in France on Wednesday, said a statement from Yunus Centre yesterday.
They talked about the role of the EU in promoting microcredit and social business across the world. Prof Yunus thanked Barroso for his support for social business that could be a concrete way to solve social problems around the globe.
The two also discussed the introduction of appropriate laws and regulations in the European Parliament that would support social business.
After the meeting, Barroso told the press: "I

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WAITING FOR 'POLITICS OF CHANGE'

Pictures of now and then show political culture has not changed a bit. Politicians in opposition always come under ruthless police attacks and leaders in power waste no time to claim that no wrong has been done. Have not the politicians learned a lesson yet? Should not the people expect them to wake up and put an end to the criminal practice of thrashing opposition by law-enforcers?

PHOTO: STAR

NOW



Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque under police assault on Manik Mia Avenue during hartal on Wednesday.



Police action on BNP lawmaker Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anne at Shahbagh intersection.

THEN



Then opposition leaders Matia Chowdhury and Mohammad Nasim taste the wrath of police during hartal on Bangabandhu Avenue.



Police charge truncheons on then Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master in Motijheel.

MOLESTATION Victim off to Singapore for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The class-X student of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, who was molested allegedly by her teacher, went to Singapore for treatment Thursday night.
She will undergo treatment at Mount Elizabeth Hospital for the elbow injury she sustained during the incident. She got hurt when accused Porimol Joydhor tied her hands, said victim's grandfather.
Her parents and brother accompanied her to Singapore, he said, adding that the victim's father, who has a heart condition, fell sick on Monday and he also needs better medical care.
Asked whether their absence would affect the case, the grandfather said saving lives is the priority now and the rest depends on the people of the country and the media.
He also claimed of receiving threats over the phone from anonymous callers.
According to the victim's written complaint to the school authorities, Porimol, a teacher of Bangla department of the school's Bashundhara branch, sexually assaulted her for the first time on May 28 and then again on June 17 when she went to his coaching centre at his residence in Badda.
The incident sparked a

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