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ARMY'S ROLE IN FAKHRUDDIN-LED CARETAKER GOVT

## Advisers acted differently

STAR REPORT

Mainul Husein, law adviser to the past army-backed caretaker administration, was exceptionally frank in acknowledging the military's leading role in the government affairs while other advisers including the chief adviser studiously avoided saying the M-word.

The then US ambassador Patricia A Butenis wrote it in a cable, recently released by WikiLeaks, after holding separate meetings with Chief Adviser

Fakhruddin Ahmed, Mainul and other advisers.

"The chief adviser was smooth and business-like in making the government's case for far-reaching reforms. During the 45-minute meeting, there was not even an indirect reference to the military role in his government's creation and operation," Butenis wrote in another cable on January 29, 2007.

She wrote the cable sent to Washington after the meeting with the then chief adviser the same day.

A day before meeting the chief adviser, Butenis met Mainul and wrote a cable on the meeting on January 31.

In some other cables, the US embassy, however, reveals how the military was consolidating its role in the affairs of the caretaker government installed on January 12, 2007, a day after the declaration of the state of emergency.

The US diplomat, Geeta Pasi in March 2007 in a cable said the International Airport for SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

#### UN GEN ASSEMBLY PM flies to NY today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for New York today to attend the 66th United Nations General Assembly.

An Emirates flight carrying the premier will take off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 9:30pm.

Hasina is scheduled to land at John F Kennedy **International Airport** tomorrow at 2:15pm (local time). She will have a stopover at Dubai

BANGABANDHU AIRPORT

# Char Janajat picked as priority site

Sirajdikhan of Munshiganj also under consideration

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader has picked two sites from a list of four suggested by a cell for constructing a new international airport.

The minister asked the cell to give priority to the site at Char Janajat of Shibchar upazila in Madaripur for the project, said officials at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

The other site is in Keyain of

Sirajdikhan in Munshiganj.

The directives came after Joint Secretary Joynal Abedin Talukder, chief of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib International Airport Construction Cell, made a presentation on the four sites at the VIP lounge of Shahjalal International Airport on September 8.

The minister instructed the cell chief to conduct a pre-feasibility study on Char Janajat and Keyain, and submit a report to

**SEE PAGE 19 COL 5** 

This road with

huge potholes

in the capital's

Mohammadpur

become almost

impassable. It

has remained

state for the

last one year.

in such a sorry

area has

SIT-IN ON EID DAY

### Road safety campaigners under watch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Intelligence agencies, on instructions of the prime minister, are collecting information about the key organisers of the Eid day rally for road safety at the Central Shaheed Minar. Hundreds of people had joined the rally, part of a civic

movement, to press home a seven-point demand including resignation of the communications minister. Columnist Syed Abul Maksud has been leading the

movement from August 24 following the demise of noted filmmaker Tareque Masud and media personality Mishuk Munier in a road crash on August 13.

Members of the intelligence agencies have already visited the building, in one of whose apartments the columnist lives. They talked to him and guards of the building and enquired about his car, driver and other personal details of him.

"It is really unfortunate that we are under intelligence agencies' watch. We are not against the government or the prime minister but irregularities and mismanagement," said Abul Maksud.

**SEE PAGE 19 COL 8** 



PHOTO: STAR

#### Suspect denies organ trade

EMRAN HOSSAIN and KONGKON KARMAKER, from Joypurhat

Hours after his arrest for alleged links with human organ trade, Nafiz Mahmud said his organisation, Columbia : Labaid Specialized Asia Healthcare, has nothing to do with the illegal trade. Hospital has failed to

Healthcare, at a press briefing yesterday at the office of · documents on two liver Joypurhat Superintendent of Police, claimed that his : transplants, police say. organisation helped six to seven kidney transplants that : took place in India. He also claimed that all the donors : papers, they [the hospital were very close kin of the organ recipients.

The police insist that Nafiz is involved in organ trade · ple of days' time," Kalai and they cite statements of people who have been · Police Station Officer-inarrested earlier in this connection.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

: LIVER TRANSPLANTS

#### : Labaid seeks time to submit documents

EMRAN HOSSAIN and · KONGKON KARMAKER from Joypurhat

Nafiz, the "country manager" of Columbia Asia · provide investigators with

"When asked for the : authorities] sought a cou-· Charge F Karim said

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

ASSAULT OF PABNA GOVT OFFICIALS

## All accused cleared of charges by cops

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

All the Awami League men, who allegedly assaulted government officials in Pabna during a recruitment test exactly a year ago, are set to be acquitted of the charges.

Masum Billah, investigation officer of the case, has recently submitted the final report to the court, stating the allegations against the 33 accused, all Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League men, could not be proven for lack of witness.

"During the investigation, nobody mentioned the names of the accused involved with the incident. Therefore, the final report was submitted recommending their acquittal," Masum Billah told The Daily Star.

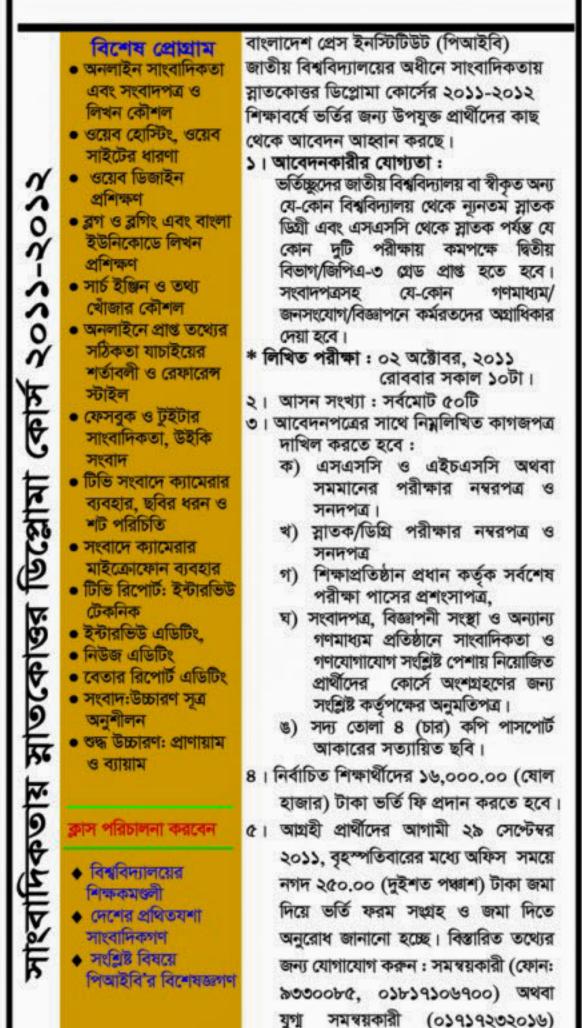
A Pabna court on September 29 will decide on whether to accept the report, which was placed in May.

On September 17 last year, more than 100 Jubo League and Chhatra League SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

> **Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL** Do you think Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain's invitation to TIB to investigate irregularities in the (37.9%)(56.1%)(5.9%)No Comments I **TOTAL VOTES: 253** The government has decided to allow opening more private banks. Do you think it's a good decision? PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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PHOTO: STAR