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KARZAI ADMITS FAILURE

The Afghan president says his govt failed to provide security for citizens

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SHACKLING PRISONERS

Muhammad Nurul Huda says it undermines basic freedom

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RUNA ROCKS DELHI

Live performance by diva Runa Laila mesmerises music lovers

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AL to face off against BNP

Goes for counter rallies in divisional HQs, dist towns from Wednesday; BNP starts road march on Monday

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The ruling Awami League has decided to launch a counter campaign to gain public opinion in favour of scrapping of the caretaker government system following the opposition's anti-government agitation over this issue. It decided to remain "active on the streets" by holding rallies in divisional and some district headquarters. Awami League insiders said party President Sheikh Hasina Thursday night decided to take part in the important rallies starting with one in Nilphamari on October 12, two days after the main opposition starts anti-government road march from Dhaka to Sylhet. The prime minister will hold another rally in Lalmonirhat on October 19. During the rallies, the Awami League chief and senior leaders are expected to give guidelines to party activists on how to deal with the opposition's movement and ask them to focus more on the government's success. They are also to urge them to be aware of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir's activities. The ruling party will also hold councils in ward and union units by December to gear up party activities at the grassroots level. Awami League has over 45,000 committees at ward and 5,000 at union levels. Insiders say that Awami League central leaders will

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The terracotta tiles on the memorial for martyred Dhaka University teachers, students and employees in front of the vice-chancellor's residence are being damaged due to lack of care. Some of them have also been stolen. The photos were taken yesterday. Story on page 3.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BNP mulls more road marches after Eid

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP and its allies will organise more road marches and public meetings after the Eid-ul-Azha to mount pressure on the government for reinstating the caretaker government system. Party leaders said tougher programmes including hartal and blockade might also be declared if their road marches towards divisional cities face government obstructions. BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia is scheduled to lead a march towards Sylhet on October 10 and another towards Rajshahi

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PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT WB takes hard line on graft allegations

Says no funding if govt doesn't take action

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The World Bank will not fund the proposed Padma Bridge project unless the government takes actions against alleged corruption in the project's tendering process, and brings changes at the top level of the communications ministry, sources in the finance ministry said. WB notified the government about its position in an exclusive letter to Finance Minister AMA Muhith during the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the bank in Washington late last month. The letter mentioned the lending agency's finding of corruption in the bidding for appointment of the project consultant, the sources added. After the finance minister returns home

from London, he will take up the issue with the prime minister for a final decision. "The finance minister held an exclusive meeting with the World Bank high officials in Washington. After that, the letter was given to him," said a high official of the finance ministry. WB found evidence of corruption by a business firm owned by an influential minister. Representatives of the minister's firm offered pre-qualified bidders arrangement for awarding of the job in their favour in exchange for commission. The World Bank Group's Integrity Vice-presidency (INT), an independent arm of the bank responsible for investigating allegations of fraud and corruption in the bank financed projects, investigated the allegation.

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ACC wants to probe Contacts WB for information

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has sent a letter to World Bank, asking for details of corruption allegation in the Padma Bridge project, BBC Bangla Service reported yesterday. "We actually don't know what the exact allegation is," ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman told the broadcaster. "Newspapers have reported about the corruption allegation raised by one of the bidders over appointment of the project consultant." An enquiry officer has already been appointed to

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Nobel Peace Prize goes to 3 women rights activists

BBC ONLINE



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee, Tawakul Karman

This year's Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded jointly to three women--Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberian Leymah Gbowee and Tawakul Karman of Yemen. They were recognised for their "non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work". Sirleaf is Africa's first female elected head of state, Gbowee a Liberian peace activist and Karman is a leading figure in Yemen's pro-democracy movement. The women will share the \$1.5m (£1m) prize money.

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10 injured in Comilla gas explosion

Houses damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An early Friday morning gas explosion shook Comilla town leaving at least 10 people injured and damaging houses. No official confirmation was available about the reason behind the blast that occurred around 3:00pm. Locals suspect it could have been caused by leaking of an underground gas pipeline recently repaired. Officer-in-Charge Mohiuddin Mahmud of Comilla Kotwali Model Police Station said the pipeline under a four-storey residential building

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N'GANJ POLLS CCTV cameras in 25 risky voting centres

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The Election commission (EC) is going to set up closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at 25 vulnerable voting centres during the upcoming city corporation polls in Narayanganj. The cameras will be installed in 25 vulnerable voting centres of nine wards out of 27 wards, said Returning Officer Biswas Lutfur Rahman. The EC may also set up the cameras outside the polling centres if required, he added. A team of EC yesterday visited the vulnerable centres and selected the places to install the cameras. The EC is also monitoring whether any candidate is violating electoral rules.

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Rubbish dumped by sugarcane sellers on Rampura Bridge in Dhaka clogs the canal below and generates stench almost unbearable for people within a few hundred yards of the bridge.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



PMO official 'tried to scuttle' Boeing deal

US envoy's allegation in 2009; the official terms it baseless

STAR REPORT

The US embassy in Dhaka had accused Prime Minister's Office Secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman of trying to scuttle the Boeing purchase in apparent efforts to personally profit off the deal, said a leaked diplomatic dispatch. The then US ambassador James F Moriarty at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 5, 2009 raised the allegation against Molla and sent the cable to Washington a few days later. "The Ambassador has made clear to the PM his acute distrust of Molla, who has consistently tried to scuttle the Boeing sale in apparent efforts to personally profit off the deal." The November 9, 2009 cable posted on whistleblower website WikiLeaks also said "Molla had absconded from a 2-week Anti-Terrorism Assistance Course in Washington to spend time with his brother in NY." In response to the ambassador's reassurances regarding Boeing's aircraft sale, Molla Waheeduzzaman said a

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