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Punish cops for killing opposition activists

Khaleda asks govt

UNB, Dhaka

Accusing the government of the killing of five supporters of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami during their countrywide mass procession, BNP chief Khaleda Zia has demanded suspension of the police members for the killings.

The opposition leader said the government cannot avoid its responsibility for killing the BNP-Jamaat activists as police gunned down the opposition activists upon directives of the government.

She made the remarks while addressing the leaders and workers of BNP and Jamaat of Chandpur and Laxmipur districts

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Local kids selling corals to tourist is very common in Saint Martin's Island. They are unaware of their seemingly innocent act which puts the island's biodiversity at stake. Many set up small shops damaging and breaking corals along the beach. The photos were shot last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



17 Shibir men held in Ctg

Cops suspect anti-state activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Seventeen activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were detained in New Mansurabad area of Chittagong yesterday evening on suspicion of hatching anti-state plot, police said.

The detained, Shamsuddin Ahmed, 22, Nasimul Arefin, 18, Sazzad Hossain, 21, Maharul Islam, 21, Shahidul Islam, 21, Muhin Uddin, 21, Akram Hossain, 20, Nurul Alam, 20, Fakhruddin Ahmed, 21, Manik Hossain, 19, KM Mawla, 22, Syedul Islam, 20, Faruk Hossain, 20, Kamrul Islam, 26, Md. Hasan, 18, Ishtiaq Hossain, 20 and Nizam Uddin, 21,

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Secretariat security to go automated

Scanning devices, vehicle surveillance system to be installed

M RAHMAN

In a bid to beef up the existing security system at the secretariat, the government is set to install automated scanning devices at all of its six gates, phasing out the existing manual system which often fails to check around 18,000 employees and visitors every day.

Under the proposed system --

expected to be in effect in six months -- the visitors' identity, accreditation and vehicle pass will be scanned. Once cleared, bars installed at the gates will automatically be lifted allowing the visitors enter.

With the help of Radio Frequency Identifier (RFID) device, the new automated system will be able to detect and read entry and exit passes from a distance of 20 meters, said a

home ministry source.

He also said the device will also scan files, documents and other materials passing through the gates to detect whether these contain any explosives or harmful particles.

Both the two existing scanners at the secretariat gates went out of order around six years ago, officials said, leaving security at the crucial

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

BRTA mulls fitness test at pvt workshops

Says its 2 offices cannot handle large number of vehicles

SHARIFUL ISLAM

As Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) lacks adequate facilities for carrying out motor vehicles' fitness test, it is planning to assign the task to selected motor vehicle repairing workshops in private sector.

The planning is at the initial stage. The road transport authority will decide how many such workshops in the capital can be given the task, officials at the BRTA said.

BRTA's Mirpur and Ekuria offices check the fitness of vehicles registered in the capital. On an average, Mirpur office carries out fitness test for around 450 vehicles while Ekuria office in Keraniganj for 220 vehicles a day, they said.

At present, motor vehicle owners have to stand in queue before the BRTA offices for long hours spanning from morning to afternoon to get their vehicles' fitness tested.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



UK minister quits over speeding row

AFF, London

British Energy Secretary Chris Huhne resigned yesterday after being told he will face criminal charges over allegations that he dodged a speeding penalty, but vowed to prove his innocence.

Director of Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer announced that Huhne and his ex-wife, Vicky Pryce, will be charged with perverting the course of justice over the alleged incident in 2003 and will appear in court on February 16.

Starmer announced the charges in a rare televised public statement, ending months of speculation

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Abdullahhel Kafi Raton always wanted to visit Amar Ekushey Boi Mela and at last his dream came true.

Book lovers flock to Bangla Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdullahhel Kafi Raton fulfilled his life long dream yesterday as he visited stall after stall at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela premises.

"My dream has come true," said Raton, a physically-challenged young man from Kushtia who visited the fair on a wheelchair.

"I followed news surrounding this fair ever since I was a child. In previous years, I had to collect books from the fair through friends. Today I finally am here and I cannot tell you how happy that makes me!" he said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

FEAST FOR MP'S NEW HOUSE Stampede kills elderly man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly man died and 15 others were injured in a stampede at a feast celebrating the inaugural of a local lawmaker's new home in Rajshahi yesterday.

The dead is Moslem Uddin, 75, of Ahmedpur village under Bagha upazila.

Meanwhile, Sayeb Ali, president of Awami League's Yusufpur union unit, was killed in a road accident at Mongli on his way home from the feast, police said.

Lawmaker Shahriar Alam hosted the feast at Joygunnesa Primary School where elites and several thousand locals were invited.

The stampede happened when people in their hundreds competed to enter the school premises after the noon prayers, said Ali Ahmed Hashmi, officer-in-charge

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

EDUCATION TOUR Children of BSF members arrive today

BSS, Dhaka

A 23-member delegation of school-going children of the Border Security Force (BSF) members will arrive in Bangladesh today on a 4-day 'education tour' following invitation by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The delegation including two BSF officers and wife of another officer will be accorded a reception on behalf of the BGB in Benapole on their arrival

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

CONTEMPT OF COURT CHARGES

Pak PM to respect court verdict

Says conspiracies will be revealed soon

AGENCIES

Embattled Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said yesterday he will respect the outcome of a supreme court move to indict him on contempt charges.

"I will go there and I will present my stance before the court," Gilani told reporters in the eastern city of Lahore.

He said the matter was "sub-judice" and he should not comment on the issue, but



added that he "will respect the court order" and reiterated his opposition to conflict between state institutions.

"I have attended the court when summoned in the past and I will attend again now," he said, adding that "every body should follow the constitution".

Gilani told reporters that he had said before that conspiracies were being hatched to stop the Senate elections.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that restoration of caretaker government (CG) system is impossible?

Yes (9.1%)

No (90.0%)

No Comments (0.9%)

TOTAL VOTES: 658

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed that the Search Committee for a new EC is a stage-managed drama?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ
রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, রাজউকের আওতাধীন এলাকায় নির্মাণাধীন/নির্মিত ইমারতের সাইটে রাজউক এর ভূয়া কর্মকর্তা/ভূয়া কর্মচারী পরিচয় দিয়ে ইদানিং কিছু অসাধু ব্যক্তিবর্গ ইমারতের মালিকগণকে অহেতুক হয়রানি করতঃ আর্থিক সুবিধা লাভের চেষ্টা করছেন। এতে রাজউকের ভাবমূর্তি ক্ষুণ্ণ হচ্ছে।

এমতাবস্থায়, সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে এ সকল অসাধু চক্র সম্পর্কে সতর্ক থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। এরূপ ঘটনা জানার সাথে সাথে রাজউক/আইন প্রয়োগকারী সংস্থাকে জানানোর জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

রাজউকের সাথে যোগাযোগের প্রয়োজনীয় টেলিফোন নম্বরসমূহঃ ০১৭৩০০১৩৯০২-০৬, ০১৭৩০০১৩৯১৩।

সচিব
রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা
ফোন- ৯৫৬৯০৪৫
জিডি-৫৫০