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Abul loves money, not country
Says Khaleda
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain loves money not the country, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said yesterday.
Abul had not done anything good for the country; rather, he was the one responsible for battered roads and highways, she said.
Khaleda's remarks came apparently as a reaction to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent comment that Abul was a patriot and he had stepped down voluntarily
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27 big Destiny buys cancelled

Cooperative department finds gross violation of laws
SAJJADUR RAHMAN
The government has cancelled 27 purchase deals of Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd (DMCSL) involving more than Tk 300 crore for gross violation of the cooperative law, said a top official of the Department of Cooperatives (DoC).
The void deals include purchase of Best Aviation, a local private airline, for Tk 66.27 crore and Alpana Chhayachitra (Ananda Cinema Hall at Farmgate) for Tk 65.65 crore.
With the cancellation, it has now become the legal obligation of the DMCSL management committee to get back the money the cooperative firm had spent for making the purchases. Otherwise, the 12 members of the committee must pay the money in equal shares.
Amiya Kumar Chattopadhyay, additional registrar of DoC, a government organisation to facilitate and regulate cooperative societies, said the DoC cancelled the deals last month because the cooperative firm did not take prior approval from it for making the investments.
According to the law, a cooperative
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GRAMEEN BANK Govt move denounced
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Three eminent citizens yesterday denounced the government move to amend the Grameen Bank Ordinance to give more powers to the bank's chairman to choose the managing director of the microlender, saying that it would destroy the "bank of the poor".
In separated statements, internationally
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FULL TEXT ON PAGE 15

The saga of a 'patriot' and a 'blood sucker'

Sheikh Hasina's gift to posterity
MAHFUZ ANAM
Leaders bequeath many gifts to the nations they lead. Sheikh Hasina will of course have her own share of them. While we leave it to history to judge her other gifts to Bangladesh, we can right away say that she will definitely be remembered by posterity for giving them two iconic figures -- a "patriot" and a "blood sucker".
While most at home and many abroad including one important global institution claim to have "credible evidence" of corruption against him, our Prime Minister found him to be a patriot. Why? Because he has resigned his cabinet post. When? After becoming the principal cause of cancellation of the World Bank funding for the country's biggest infrastructural project, not to mention harming the reputation and damaging the image of the country.



South Africa's double-amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius, the first double-amputee athlete competing in the Olympics, fires off the blocks in the London 2012 Olympic Games men's 400m round 1 heat at the Olympic Stadium yesterday.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Oscar Pistorius runs into history

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM, from London
Oscar Pistorius was late. The press at the mixed zones was getting antsy. There were some whispers about deadlines. From time to time, murmurs went up around the hundred or so who had packed into the limited space for the chance to grab a single quote from the South African.
Then someone said, "He is late because he is putting his legs on." Suddenly, the reality of Pistorius' achievement dawned on everyone. There were no more complaints. Everyone waited and although the rumour turned out to be just that, a rumour, (Pistorius was indulging the broadcast press) the stark reality of what the maverick South African had managed cannot be stressed enough.
The fact that he had just made Olympic history by being the first double-amputee to compete in the Games, is just the tip of the iceberg. Pistorius also finished a respectable second and qualified for the semifinals of his pet event, the 400-meters.
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Bumper-to-bumper traffic as far as the eyes can see as city dwellers try to get to malls yesterday afternoon for their Eid shopping. Every year the city's traffic system virtually falls apart ahead of Eid. This photo of Sonargaon intersection was taken from Bangla Motor.
PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Eid shopping frenzy chokes traffic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
On any weekend, it just takes five minutes to reach Farmgate from Shahbag intersection and vice versa by a car. But it was a bitter experience for the commuters yesterday as it took them a staggering 90 minutes to cross the two-kilometre stretch.
On the 15th day of Ramadan, city dwellers seemed to have come out of their houses on a shopping spree -- leading to huge tailbacks in the most important parts of the capital from noon.
Dhaka University student Palash took a bus from Shabagh around 4:00pm, to Farmgate. The bus remained almost unmoved due to heavy traffic.
When it reached near the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, he got asleep. Waking up from sleep after around one hour, he found the bus was yet to cross the Bangla Motor intersection, which is only half a kilometre from the hotel.
"Usually it takes five to 10 minutes to reach Farmgate from Shabagh."
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Garment jhut trader shot dead
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Unidentified criminals shot dead a jhut (garment leftovers) trader in the capital's Shewrapara area yesterday afternoon.
The victim, Noor Islam, 42, was a resident of Matikata in Dhaka Cantonment.
Noor's wife Nasima Begum said she and her husband went to Ikra
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NEXT POLLS FORMULA 'Small cabinet' brought to the fore

AL talks with allies, willing to sit with BNP
HASAN JAHID TUSHER
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has advised some leaders of Awami League to talk with political parties, including the opposition, about a possible "small cabinet" that would act as an interim government during the next parliamentary polls.
She has asked her party colleagues to raise the issue at informal gatherings with leaders other political parties.
Hasina has also suggested making the opposition leaders understand the significance of the constitution amendment which abolished the caretaker government system and that the consequence would not be good for any party if an unelected regime again came to power.
The premier made the suggestions to her adviser HT Imam and Abdur Razzaque, minister for food and disaster management, among others, after a cabinet meeting on Thursday, sources said.
Hasina, also the ruling AL president, told the party leaders that it would not be possible to restore the caretaker system, a demand the main opposition has been harping on.
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PM'S PROPOSAL Rafiqul sees positive

Wants response from opposition
UNB, Dhaka
Veteran jurist Rafiqul Haque yesterday called upon the opposition BNP to positively respond to the all-party interim government formula proposed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
He made the remarks while unveiling a video album, titled "Prohori" at a function at the city's Dhaka Reporters Unity in the morning.
Rafiqul said the prime minister's rigid stance on the interim government seems to have become slightly flexible. "So, the opposition should respond positively to the proposal of an all-party interim government."
"After the prime minister's statement before the
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