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NEW GDP BASE

Govt to calculate economic growth in line with a new base year 2005-06

PAGE B1

TOUGH JOB AHEAD

Japan's new prime minister unveils his cabinet as he begins the task of economic revitalisation

PAGE 7

EXIT OF A BUSINESS LEGEND

Ratan Tata retires on his 75th birthday tomorrow, handing over the reins of his business empire

PAGE B4

No compromise on caretaker

Khaleda tells govt, addresses rallies across Dhaka, warns of more hartals if energy prices hiked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said her party had no objection to the Awami League government's completing its tenure, but warned of tougher, non-stop movements if the Hasina administration does not restore the caretaker government system.

She called on the government to convene a special session of parliament for the passage of a bill for a non-party government system, which the government scrapped in June last year.

Addressing roadside rallies at different places in the capital as part of her mass contact programme, the former prime minister also threatened of calling more hartals and blockades should the government further hike prices of electricity, gas and water.

Starting from Gabtoli around 11:00am she ended the daylong rally at about 6:45pm at Badda, where she promised to cancel all the agitation programmes if the caretaker system was brought back to the constitution to oversee general elections.

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From a vehicle marked press, BNP chief Khaleda Zia speaks at a rally in Dholai Khal during the opposition's mass contact campaign in the capital yesterday. Another photo on page 2.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

It's almost like hartal day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City commuters experienced a travelling bliss during the opposition's mass contact programme yesterday as many citizens stayed at home and only a few public transport plied the streets for fear of trouble.

During the recent anti-government demonstrations and strikes, many commuters became victims of violence. The worst of all of them was tailor Bishwajit Das, who was killed in Old Dhaka during the opposition's

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Retrial sought despite having no provision

Says Ghulam Azam's counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ghulam Azam's counsel Abdur Razzaq said even though there was no provision of retrial under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, the tribunal could exercise its inherent power to reinstate the case.

Former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam, thought by many to be the symbol of war crimes during the Liberation War, is facing five charges of crimes against humanity, genocide and other grievous crimes.

His counsel Razzaq

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Azad verdict anytime soon

War crimes tribunal concludes case proceedings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The crimes against humanity trial against expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad concluded yesterday and the verdict could be delivered any day.

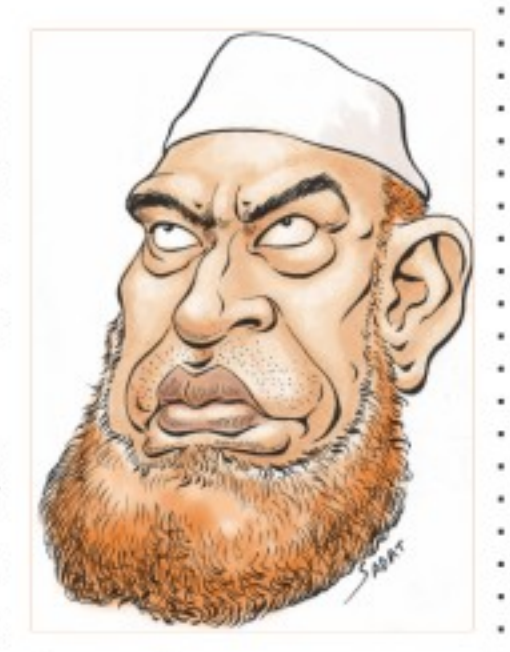
The International Crimes Tribunal-2 kept the case as CAV (Curia Advisari Vult, a Latin legal term), which according to lawyers means the verdict could be delivered any time.

Wrapping up the closing arguments, prosecution appealed for capital punishment for absconding Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, while the state-appointed defence counsel sought his acquittal from the eight charges of crimes against humanity.

Among the nine cases pending with two tribunals,

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RELATED STORIES ON PAGE 2 AND 3



NGO TEAM VISIT Dhaka not happy with Ankara

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has sharply reacted to Ankara over misuse of "on arrival visa" facilities by a NGO delegation, which visited Bangladesh from December 20 to 24 and reportedly advocated in favour of the accused under trial for war crimes.

The foreign ministry yesterday summoned the Turkish Ambassador in Bangladesh Mehmet Vakur Erkul and handed him a strong note of Dhaka's displeasure over the NGO team's visit, misuse of visa and advocacy for the war crimes accused.

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PADMA BRIDGE GRAFT CASE 2 key accused held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two prime accused of Padma bridge corruption conspiracy -- ex-secretary of Bridges Division Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and superintendent engineer of Bangladesh Bridge Authority Kazi Mohammad Ferdous -- were arrested in the capital's Shahbagh area yesterday.

An Anti-Corruption Commission team led by its director Mohammad Tahidul

Islam made the arrests in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh at around 1:30pm.

The duo will be produced before a Dhaka Court today with remand prayers for seven to 10 days each, ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin told reporters at the ACC office in the evening.

The arrests were made about an hour

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Keep vigil PM asks armed forces to foil 'plot against independence'

BSS, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all, including members of the armed forces, to remain alert against the misdeeds of the anti-liberation force.

"It's your sacred duty to protect the country's

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

৩০ বছরে ইসলামী ব্যাংক

ইসলামী ব্যাংক এম ক্যাশ

হাতে হাতে সাথে সাথে

২৪ ঘন্টা

ব্যাংকিং আপনার হাতের মুঠোয়

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ইসলামী ব্যাংক আমাদের ব্যাংক

Ten years have sailed by
As if in a moment,
Your memories urge us on
Like a flowing torrent
You're with us every day
In our hearts and minds
Your lovely, gentle heart
Reminds us to be kind

Fondly Remembering
Aaron H. Chowdhury (Danny)
On the 10th Anniversary of his untimely passing

Anita Chowdhury (Dida), Bula & Tapan Chowdhury (Parents), Anika Chowdhury (Sister)
And all loving members of the family