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# Chinese firm to get the job

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A Chinese company is going to get the job of connecting the public administration up to the upazila level with the capital by establishing an information network.

The cabinet committee on purchase may approve today the proposal of awarding the job worth Tk 1,087 crore [\$133 million] to the company. Bangladesh has taken the amount as loan from the Chinese Exim Bank.

According to the Ministry of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) proposal, the project will bring all government offices at district and upazila levels under the network, which would also provide video-conference facilities.

The project will connect 55 government offices in each district and 30 at each upazila to the single network based on internet.

Video-conference facilities will be set up at 800 points including the offices of 421 upazila nirbahi officers throughout the country.

Training laboratories will also be set up at Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) and 12 public and private universities for building up expert human resources for maintenance of the installations and equipment.

Moreover, data centres will be strengthened, disaster recovery centres constructed and wireless network set up at Bangladesh Secretariat for introduction of e-governance.

Besides, tablet and personal computers will be given to the government officials.

As per the contract, the Chinese company would supply and set up equipment and do the related works of the project.

Earlier in May, the government signed an agreement with the Chinese Exim Bank regarding the loan, which has an interest rate of 2 percent. The total amount is repayable within 20 years including five years' grace period.

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Some sleep, some play cards and some others sit idle in the early hours of yesterday. People started swarming Kamalapur Rail Station since Friday afternoon for train tickets that were to be sold yesterday morning. The rush for tickets has set in with Eid-ul-Azha 10 days away.

PHOTO: ENAMUL HAQ

## Leak raises concern over war tribunal's security

2 arrestees remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leak of the draft verdict against BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury has exposed the dismal state of security at the war crimes tribunal.

A cleaner's access to judges' chamber, some employees' overnight stay inside the court building and use of electronic devices at the court, which

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PRAYER TIMING October 6		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr 4-45	5-20	
Zohr 12-45	1-15	
Asr 4-15	4-30	
Maghrib 5-53	5-56	
Esha 7-30	8-00	

Source: Islamic Foundation

## TEESTA, LAND DEAL PLEDGES Aiyar believes India failed to deliver

TAMANNA KHAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

India's relations with Bangladesh are crucial, but New Delhi has not been able to deliver on its promises to Dhaka concerning the Teesta waters and land boundary, veteran Indian diplomat-turned-politician Mani Shankar Aiyar has said.

The ties between the two countries, however, have strengthened during the tenure of Sheikh Hasina government, he observed.

Aiyar, who has deep interest in India's foreign policy towards its neighbours, was talking to journalists during his visit to Dhaka to attend a conference on "Religion and Politics: South Asia".

Recalling his association with Bangladesh since its birth, Aiyar said, "I was made the secretary of a committee that was to effect relief supply to Bangladesh on the day of Liberation and I used to visit Bangladesh very frequently in 1972, before many of you were born."

A member of the Indian National Congress, Aiyar was petroleum and natural gas minister from May 2004 to January 2006, and youth affairs and sports minister till 2009. He was also the first minister for development of

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## Ban Jamaat for its 'criminal acts'

Civil society members demand at national convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Rukhe Darao, a platform of progressive and pro-liberation forces, yesterday reiterated its demand that the Jamaat-e-Islami be banned immediately under the Anti Terrorism Act, 2009 for "its criminal activities".

International Crimes Tribunal had identified Jamaat as a criminal organisation that committed genocide, rape and atrocities in association with the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971, it said.

The atrocities committed by Jamaat in the last few months were rarely perpetrated in the last four decades. "So, it's urgent to ban Jamaat," said eminent journalist Abed Khan while reading out a declaration of a national convention organised by the group in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan.

He added the opposition party and some local and international rights organisations were spreading propaganda to "foil" the ongoing war crimes trial, without giving any suggestion for amendments to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973.

Bangladesh Rukhe Darao was launched on April 20 this year. It has held rallies in divisional headquarters to press home a five-point demand, including banning of Jamaat and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir.

It also demands that the government expedite the war crimes trial and execute the verdicts, resist communal violence and stand by its victims, take

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## 'He never let us read his books'

Recalls Farooq Maududi, son of Abul A'la Maududi

TAMANNA KHAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

Brought up under the shadows of Syed Abul A'la Maududi, preacher of Sharia-based state in the subcontinent against secular democracy, Syed Haider Farooq Maududi managed to rise above his father's fundamental ideology.

A strong critic of his father's Jamaat-e-Islami, the Islamic revivalist party from which Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has evolved, Farooq is now in Dhaka on his first visit here after the Liberation War.

He talked to The Daily Star about his father's philosophy, party and present politics in South Asia.

On the creation of Jamaat-e-Islami in 1941, Farooq said his father's political ideology was a result of the era he was

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



## The Tube of the future

MAIL ONLINE

A futuristic train that could on day become the future of underground rail travel has been unveiled.

A full-size concept model of Inspiro - a driverless train that is more energy efficient than current models in use with more creature comforts for commuters, will go on show at an exhibition in London.

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Do you agree with BNP high-ups that all the signs indicate the Awami League would adopt all measures to stay in power during the next parliamentary polls?

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অভিনন্দন

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা কর্তৃক দারিদ্র্য বিমোচনে বাংলাদেশের অসামান্য অবদান এবং তাঁর সরকারের সফলতার স্বীকৃতি স্বরূপ "দি ইন্টারন্যাশনাল অর্গানাইজেশন ফর সাউথ সাউথ কো-অপারেশন" পুরস্কার গ্রহণ করায় ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ও সকল কর্মকর্তা - কর্মচারীদের পক্ষ থেকে প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনাকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন।

ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ