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VIOLENT ELECTROAL TRANSITION

CPD worried about economy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday asked politicians to protect the economy from the negative impacts of an electoral transition.

"No economic activities and livelihood concerns, however large or small, should be held hostage to our unique democratic practices," the civil society think tank said in a media briefing while releasing its independent review report on the economic updates at its Dhaka office.

The report is titled "Bangladesh economy in FY 2014: Three months after the budget, three months before the elections", a subject on which Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, a distinguished CPD fellow who led the team that prepared the report, made a presentation.

The report was based on three broad issues – year closing figures of the economy and the starting benchmarks of the new fiscal year, movements of key economic indicators of the first quarter of 2013-14 and analysis of the political business cycle to understand its impact on macroeconomic prospects.

Bangladesh generally goes through a tumultuous time during every election year. Ruling and opposition parties take an antagonistic stand to realise their demands, causing sufferings to the masses and hurting the economy. The upcoming election is no exception and the country has already witnessed a lot of strikes and acts of vandalism,

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MORE ON B1



Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (L) is exultant after umpire Bruce Oxenford listened to his appeal for an lbw against New Zealand opener Peter Fulton on the second day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Tuesday. Rain interrupted the match for the second day running as the tourists could reach 107 for 3 in reply to the Tigers' 282.

PHOTO: STAR

FLIGHT FROM DUBAI

33kg gold bars found in toilet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered 280 gold bars worth around Tk 13 crore from a Dubai-based low-cost carrier at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

"On information, we recovered the gold bars wrapped in black cloth, which weighs around 33 kilograms, from the waste basket of a toilet of an aircraft of flydubai around 11:00am," said Md Iqbal Hossain, senior assistant superintendent of airport Armed Police Battalion (APBn).

None was arrested in

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| PRAYER TIMING | | | October 23 |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|---|
| | Azan | Jamaat | |
| Fajr | 4-50 | 5-25 | |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 | |
| Asr | 4-00 | 4-15 | |
| Maghrib | 5-36 | 5-39 | |
| Esha | 7-15 | 7-45 | |
| Source: Islamic Foundation | | |  |

Expressway route revised

Proposal awaits govt nod today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to drop the links of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE) at Mohakhali, Farmgate, Golapbagh and Maniknagar areas due to complications in acquiring land.

The communications ministry will place today the proposal at a meeting of the cabinet committee on economic affairs for approval, said ministry sources.

As per the revised final route of the expressway, it will now commence at Shahjalal International Airport and pass by Kuril, Banani, Mohakhali, Tejgaon, Moghbazar, Kamalapur, Sayedabad and Jatrabari.

The DEE will take traffic over the Gulistan-Jatrabari fly-over and end at Kutubkhali near the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

According to another proposal, the government will appoint a Thai-led joint venture company as the independent engineer for the Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE)

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DRONE STRIKES BY US

It can be classed as war crimes

Says Amnesty International

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

US officials responsible for the secret CIA drone campaign against suspected terrorists in Pakistan may have committed war crimes and should stand trial, a report by a leading human rights group warns. Amnesty International has highlighted the case of a grandmother who was killed while she was picking vegetables and other incidents which could have broken international laws designed to protect civilians.

The report is issued in conjunction with an investigation by Human Rights Watch detailing missile attacks in Yemen which the group believes could contravene the laws of armed conflict, international human rights law and Barack Obama's own guidelines on drones.

The reports are being published while Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's prime minister, is in Washington. Sharif has promised to tell Obama that the drone strikes – which have caused outrage in Pakistan – must end.

Getting to the bottom of individual strikes is exceptionally difficult in the restive areas bordering Afghanistan, where thousands of militants have

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Criminals hurl bombs at police station

5 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Five people including two police personnel were injured as unidentified criminals hurled crude bombs at Sadar Police Station in Bogra yesterday.

Some criminals boarding a motorcycle had hurled two bombs at the police station around 2:00pm, and fled the scene immediately, said on duty Assistant Sub-inspector Gul Bahar.

Five people including the policemen staying on the station premises had received injuries, he added.

The injured policemen are Lutfor Rahman, an operator of the station, and Jahurul Islam, a constable.

The other injured are Shahidul Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Pabna killings in '71 by Naxals, not Pak army

Witness for Nizami comes up with new theory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A defence witness in the war crimes case against Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday testified that he had never heard of the Jamaat leader's name in Pabna during the Liberation War in 1971.

Shamsul Alam, second defence witness who claimed to have been a freedom fighter from Pabna, Nizami's home district, said he had no idea if Nizami was the president of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, in 1971.

According to the prosecution documents, Nizami was the chief of Chhatra Sangha during the war.

In his testimony at the International Crimes Tribunal-1,

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A rickshawpuller in Dhaka University area wears a polythene sheet as a customised raincoat, though it can cover him only partially. Yet, he keeps his rickshaw rolling. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

Unusual rain at end of monsoon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just before the end of the monsoon, the country has been experiencing unusual October rains following three drier months in a row when the monsoon was supposed to be most active with heavy rainfalls.

Usually, the country experiences a maximum of eight rainy days in October, the Met office website says. But this time around, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

PSC FOR GAS BLOCK IN BAY

Petrobangla awaits green light today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Petrobangla is seeking today the approval of cabinet committee on economic affairs to sign a production sharing contract (PSC) for a block in the shallow waters of the Bay of Bengal with two foreign oil companies.

Australian Santos and Cayman Island-based KrisEnergy jointly won the bidding for block number SS-11 in August. The joint venture had submitted its bid on July 29.

Although their bid did not have to face any competition, the Petrobangla was satisfied with their proposal and qualification.

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The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL
Do you think that the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's formula on polls-time government is acceptable?

Yes (76%)
No (24%)

TOTAL VOTES: 337

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think that the formula and counter formula of the two major political parties will give any solution?

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