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Saarc Summit to focus on connectivity

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) is expected to approve "Connectivity for Shared Prosperity" as the theme of its 18th Summit scheduled to be held in Kathmandu from November 22-27.

The Saarc advisory committee formed by the government of Nepal has recommended adopting "Connectivity for Shared Prosperity" as the key theme of the summit, diplomatic sources said.

The advisory committee has been formed to recommend measures and agenda for the summit.

This idea comes barely a week after Sri Lankan President Mahinda

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Left, Phulgazi Police Station in Feni is flooded with waist-deep water rushing through breaches on an embankment. Top, an area of Demra in Dhaka is water-logged following downpours over the last few days.

PHOTO: STAR

Fraudsters used old MP hostel as office!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fraudsters opened a temporary office at an old MP Hostel and deceived people for one year despite top security inside the National Parliament premises.

Sources said outsiders in connivance with an influential caretaker of the hostel lured people into giving them money for jobs and maintained liaison with different ministries to win bids.

The illegal activities surfaced when Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police on Tuesday night busted three of the gang -- Mahmudul Hasan alias Monir Hossain, 42, Hassan Mahmud alias Ripon, 42 and Yusuf Ali, 32.

They were arrested at an MP Hostel

located at Block-4, said Sub-inspector Saiful Islam. He added they had also arrested hostel caretaker Salahuddin, 45, the next day.

A case was filed on Wednesday accusing the four and two other employees of parliament -- Idris Ali, a fourth class employee, and Sujit Kumar Dey, an administrative officer.

SI Saiful, who is the investigation officer in the case, said Mahmudul had been identifying himself as a major or a DGI official while deceiving people.

He used to carry fake visiting cards and use a car with a sticker that was supposed to be used only by lawmakers, added the SI.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Maliki bows out as Iraqi PM

UNSC adopts resolution targeting IS militants; EU to arm Kurds

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqis and foreign powers voiced relief yesterday after Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki agreed to step down, as the UN targeted Islamist militants and the EU backed the arming of their Kurdish rivals.

As aid groups tried to cope with the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by Islamist advances in northern Iraq, ingredients of a fightback began falling into place.

In New York, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution aimed at weakening Islamists in Iraq



SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Heavy rain inundates low-lying areas

Major rivers swell; embankment damaged in Feni

STAR REPORT

Torrential rain submerged different parts of Chittagong city yesterday, while the Muhuri and Kohuya rivers in spate breached a flood protection embankment in Phulgazi upazila of Feni, inundating 15 villages.

Several thousand people in low lying areas of Chittagong division have been marooned as those areas went under water. Water entered houses and submerged hundreds of acres of farmland.

The water level has increased in all major rivers in the country due to downpours in last couple of days.

Out of total 83 stations, the water level rose in 73 stations, including six flowing

above danger level, while only eight marked a fall and two remained unchanged, said a bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

"Active monsoon was causing torrential rain across the country which might ease from tomorrow [Sunday]," said a forecasting officer at Dhaka Met office.

Heavy to very heavy rainfalls are likely at places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions today, he added.

All the maritime ports have been asked to hoist cautionary signal number three, meaning all the fishing boats should stay close to the coast.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



BNP activists and supporters gather in front of the party's Nayapaltn headquarters yesterday as police bar them from entering the office. Law enforcers had been guarding the place since morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Day of prayer, truce in Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

Palestinian worshippers attended weekly prayers, relatively confident of their safety yesterday as a fragile ceasefire held for a second day and tough talks loomed on a more lasting peace.

For the first time since fighting began between Israel and Hamas on July 8, residents in Gaza City were able to attend the main weekly Friday prayers without fear of being killed. At least 1,962 Palestinians and 67 people on the Israeli side have died in the conflict.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Elio, the ideal commute car

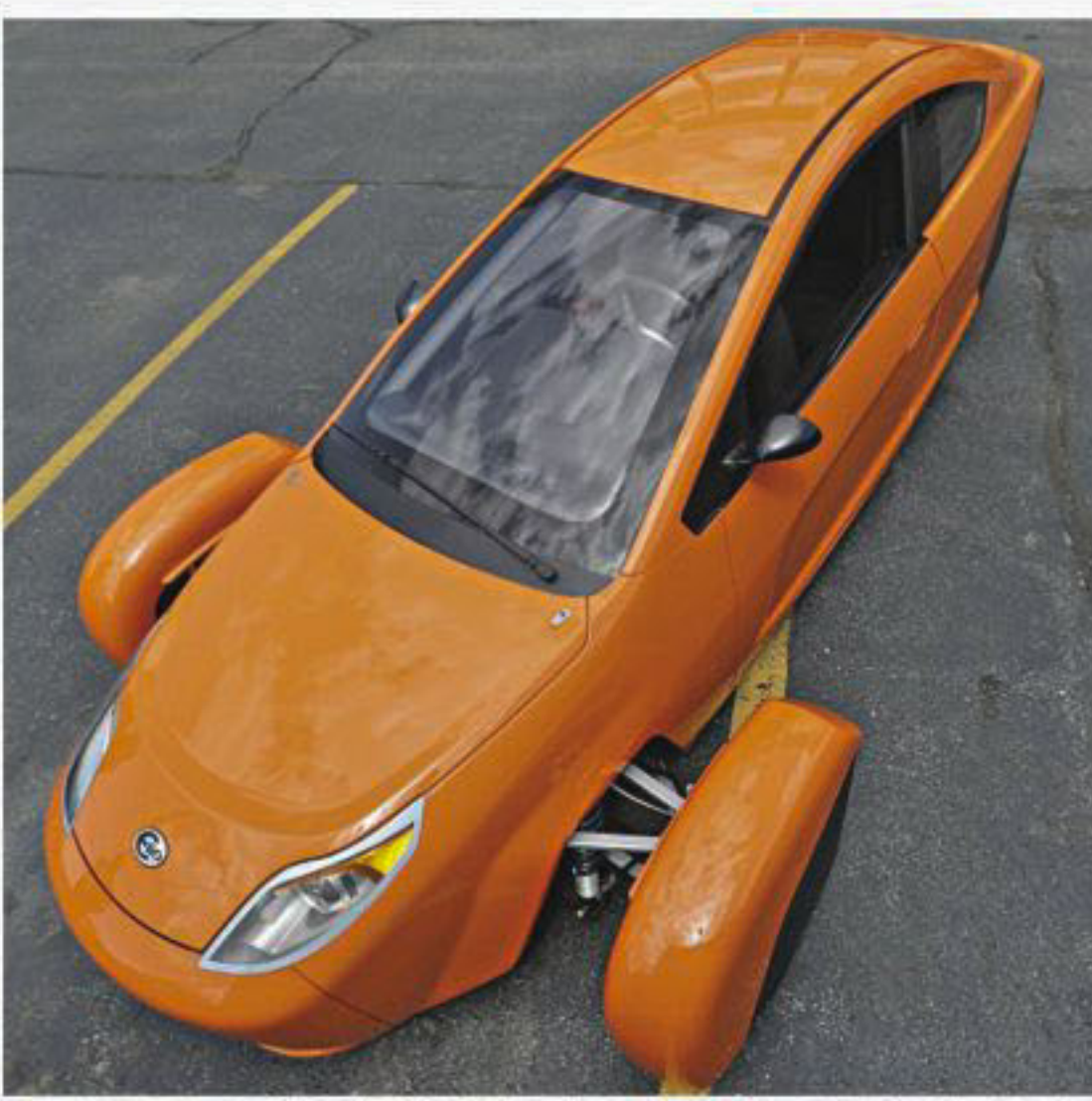
MAIL ONLINE

It might look like a bizarre toy car with stabilisers, but the Elio could soon be taking over roads across the US.

The three-wheeled \$6,800 (£4,075) vehicle seats two passengers and goes 0 to 60 mph in 9.6 seconds. It is the same length as a Honda Fit, but half the weight at 1,250lbs (570kg), allowing it to do 84 miles to the gallon.

The Elio has a three-cylinder, 0.9-litre engine and a top speed of more than 160 km/h.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



180 CONFINED BANGALDESHIS Iraqi employer to clear salaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Iraqi employer of the 180 Bangladeshi workers who are allegedly confined to their workplace at Najaf in the war-torn country will clear their two months' outstanding salaries in nine days.

Abu Torab Housing Project chairman visited the Bangladesh embassy in Baghdad on Thursday and promised the ambassador to pay the workers' salaries for June and July on August 17 and 24 respectively, said Khondaker Showkat Hossain, expatriates' welfare secretary, yesterday.

The salaries could not be cleared on time as the lack of security was hampering banking in Iraq, he added, quoting Maj Gen Rezanur Rahman Khan, the ambassador.

The employer also said the project would start soon and the workers would be paid all the other outstanding money later.

The Bangladeshi workers have been languishing at the workplace in restive Iraq for over two months.

Under constant watch by security guards of their employer, the expatriates are passing their days at a makeshift house without enough food and water.

Recruiting agency Career Overseas Consultants Ltd had

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with TIB chairperson Sultana Kamal that the newly formulated national broadcast policy is conflicting with the country's Right to Information (RTI) Act?

Yes (92%)
No (8%)

TOTAL VOTES: 192

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with some educationalists that the numbers of GPA-5 achievers is raising but the quality of the education is not improving?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING August 16

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-38	6-41
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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