

Just vanished

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 "But Harris did not feel safe there and might have travelled to a European country," said the official, who recently went to Karimganj, Shilchar and Shillong of India for intelligence gathering.
 It is said that he went to England, where he had smuggled some of his illegally earned money.
 A former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader, who had close links with Harris between 2001 and 2006, claimed that Harris had no contact with the party for a long time but he maintained communication with his family members.
 "We came to know that Harris was sick and his relatives, including his brother, visited him when he was in India," said the leader.
 There was even a rumour that Harris had died, but it could not be confirmed.
 Joint Secretary General of BNP Rizvi Ahmed said, "We have no information about him but we have heard he is abroad."
 Superintendent of Police (SP) Joydev Kumar Bhadra of Habiganj said they knew nothing about Harris. Courts had issued arrest warrants for him and asked the police to produce him before it.
 Harris is among nine others who were accused in a supplementary

charge sheet in the Awami League leader and former finance minister AMS Kibria murder case yesterday. Kibria was killed in a grenade attack during a rally at Baidyer Bazar in Habiganj on January 27, 2005.
 The BNP leader, who bought fancy flats, cars and stashed away a large amount of money, was sentenced to different jail terms for corruption, money-laundering and keeping wildlife at home.
 In a corruption case filed by the anti-corruption commission, he was jailed for 69 years.
 Also an accused in the August 21 grenade attack case, Harris was just an ordinary car dealer but became a multi-millionaire in just five years through corruption and abuse of power. He made huge wealth illegally at home and abroad by helping dodgy contractors win government and private businesses.
 Harris is also an accused in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.
 He started his political career in BNP by joining the party's youth front Jubo Dal during late president Ziaur Rahman's regime. He was the joint secretary general of BNP until 2009.
 When Hawa Bhaban, the alternative power house of then BNP-Jamaat government, was set up in

2000, Harris was deputed there for "raising funds" for prospective election candidates of 2001.
 With election money bloating his personal account, Harris moved out of his humble Shanti Nagar home into a house in posh DOHS area of the capital.
 Before making his disappearing act, he stayed at a Gulshan house.
 By the time the BNP-Jamaat coalition won the election in 2001, Harris became very close to BNP chief Khaleda Zia. He was appointed the political secretary to the prime minister with the rank and status of a state minister.
 Investigators in 2008 found that Harris had 25 accounts with different banks. Most of those were in the names of his wife, brother, sister-in-law, sister and her son, and his former assistant.
 With the exception of the bank account with the PMO branch of Sonali Bank, all other accounts were used for stashing money gained from illegal sources.
 They detected that cash and properties of Harris, under other people's name in the country, was worth Tk 22.5 crore. Besides those, Harris had a house and a shopping arcade in London under different people's names.

Surprise flight

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 spectacle with big events following.
 So they rushed to the field, expecting people larger than life and events bigger than usual. Their expectation intensified when law enforcers cordoned off the field to ensure the chopper's protection. Five of them stepped down on the ground.
 But when they learnt that the five came to appear before a district court, they realised the show was not for them. Disillusioned, they got back to their drudgery.
 Later it was known that Sultan Ahmed, owner of Mother Textile, along with four of his family members Soyeb Sultan, Sharmin Sultan, Eliza Sultan and Emam Eunus were accused in a cheque dishonour case and they came to seek bail in the case.
 The court granted them bail, counsel of the accused said.
 Court sources said the accused were also seen to ride a vehicle, reserved only for government officials, before court proceedings began.
 Contacted, Md Abul Baset of Pabna DC office said he did not know anything about the vehicle.
 Asked about the huge security measures, Md Miraz Uddin, Pabna superintendent of police (SP), said it was their duty to ensure security for all citizens.

Farmers fall victim

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 unlikely to be fulfilled.
 "When the Bangladesh Army arrived, we felt that they would provide us with security," said Rahima, 50, yesterday at a press briefing organised by eight human rights organisations at the Dhaka Reporters Union.
 The rights bodies briefed media about the findings of a report which highlighted five cases from different parts of the country where land grabbing by corporate bodies and land acquisition of forest and agricultural land by the government have put residents' lives and livelihood at stake.
 Rahima, who constitutes one of the five case studies, described her plight after the army had started putting up flags and pillars around her homestead and told the islet residents to stop cultivating crops in arable land.
 "They did not even let us rebuild the hay-roofed houses which were badly affected in a cyclone that had occurred in 2012."
 The Association for Land Reform and Development, Ain O Salish Kendra, BLAST, Adivasi Forum, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Nijera Kori, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and TIB jointly organised the briefing.
 Referring to Char Carring, under Noakhali's Hatia Upazila, Khushi Kabir, executive director of Nijera Kori, said, "How can the land ministry allocate the same land both to the landless and the army?"
 12,000 acres of land in Char Carring were given to the army for its winter exercise. Besides, 35,000 acres of Zahaziar Char, which fall under three southern upazilas, were also given to the army after evicting 500 landless families from there, according to the report.
 The government decision to build a cantonment in Ramu, Cox's Bazar

acquiring 1,800 acres of forest land and another one in Ruma, Bandarban acquiring 997 acres of hilly land also came up in the report.
 The report also mentioned a proposal to acquire 2,408.05 acres of land for building military infrastructure in Chatmohar, Pabna where 2,941 families own land.
 Acquisition of this land, which is part of the ecologically rich water body Chalan bill, will threaten the livelihood of many farmers and fishermen, speakers noted.
 Ifekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said: "We too want development and industrialisation, and protection by defence forces but not at the cost of public interest."
 The defence force was allocated about 50,000 acres of land including those near the Padma Bridge, he said adding that most of this was done on an ad hoc basis.
 He stressed the need for a National Defence Policy which would set the long term strategy of the defence forces and answer what was to be achieved, and why and how.
 "We need cantonments but we don't need to violate the rights of people whose tax money finances the sector," he said.
 The fifth case highlighted how the owner of four factories in Shailat, Gazipur is grabbing land, forcing people to sell their land. The report, however, does not mention the owner's name.
 Rezwana Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyer's Association (BELA), pointed out how the corporate body had been defying the law in the area in connivance with police and land administration officers.

Malaysia

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 information that the Malaysian police have recently launched a crackdown on illegal foreigners in Cameron Highlands."
 About the status of Bangladeshis in other parts of Malaysia, Sayedul said there did not seem to be any problems right now.
 Cameron Highlands district police chief DSP Wan Mohd Zahari Wan Busu said a preliminary investigation revealed that the detained workers were working without valid permits.
 Meanwhile, Malaysian Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi yesterday said agents bringing foreign workers illegally into the country should be sentenced to mandatory caning for the offence.
 He said he suggested this because imposing fines on agents did not seem very effective in deterring them from committing the offence again.
 On Tuesday, Ahmad Zahid said he wanted local employers to hire foreign workers directly to avoid being cheated by unscrupulous parties.
 "After receiving payment from employers, some agents don't pay the levy for the permits for recruited foreign workers," he observed.
 "This is what makes a legal foreign worker 'illegal' in the country, and also why those with expired employment periods become illegal," mentioned the minister.
Riot police raid Japan university
 Scores of fully-clad riot police raided a dormitory at a leading Japanese university yesterday, reports said, in an apparently heavy-handed response to a left-wing movement that may involve students.
 Television footage showed ranks of helmeted officers carrying shields and wearing protective clothing converging on the dormitory at the prestigious Kyoto University.

Harris among

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 dissatisfaction as the then Habiganj deputy commissioner was yet to be charge-sheeted.
 "We want to know his [the DC's] role during and after the attack. We think his name should be in the charge sheet," he said over the phone.
 Reza also said no investigating officer contacted them in the last one year. "We don't know in what manner the investigation is going on. In the last 10 years, people related to the investigation contacted us only four or five times."
 The family would come up with its formal statement on November 20, he added.
 Contacted, BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed said the party might make comments after going through the charge sheet.
 Ariful Haque, mayor of Sylhet City Corporation, said inclusion of his name in the charge sheet is a conspiracy.
 "I was stunned. No one involved in the investigation asked me anything. A vested quarter might have been envious of my win in mayoral polls," he told The DailyStar over the phone.
 The day after the grenade attack, Abdul Mazid Khan, organising secretary of Habiganj district AL, filed two cases -- one for murder and the other under the Explosive Substances Act -- with Habiganj Sadar Police Station.
 Munshi Atiqur Rahman of the CID, the investigation officer, submitted the first charge sheet on March 20, 2005 against 10 local BNP men.
 The family outright rejected it saying the investigation failed to detect the masterminds.
 Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Biplab Goswami accepted the charge sheet but couldn't start the trial as the complainant filed a

no-confidence petition.
 As the tribunal rejected the petition, the complainant sought time for lodging a petition with the High Court for a stay on the proceedings. And the tribunal granted the petitioner 10 days.
 Upon an appeal by the complainant, the HC on May 5, 2006 stayed the proceedings. Following another appeal, the Sylhet tribunal on May 14, 2006 ordered further probe into the cases.
 Reinvestigation began after the AL came to power in 2009.
 The new IO, Rafiqul Islam, submitted the second charge sheet to a Habiganj magistrate's court on June 20, 2011.
 This time Lutfozzaman Babar, state minister for home of the BNP government at the time of the murder, and Mufti Abdul Hannan, chief of banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji), and 14 others were named.
 The CID found involvement of Babar in the killing plot executed by the Huji militants. The ex-state minister and the Huji chief are now behind bars and facing trials in some other criminal cases.
 A week after the second charge sheet submission, Kibria's wife Asma Kibria filed a petition with a Habiganj court expressing no confidence in the investigation. The court then forwarded the case documents and the petition to the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal.
 Following two petitions by Asma and the tribunal prosecutor, tribunal Judge Dilip Kumar Debnath on January 5, 2012 ordered the CID to carry out further probe by a senior officer who yesterday submitted the supplementary charge sheet.

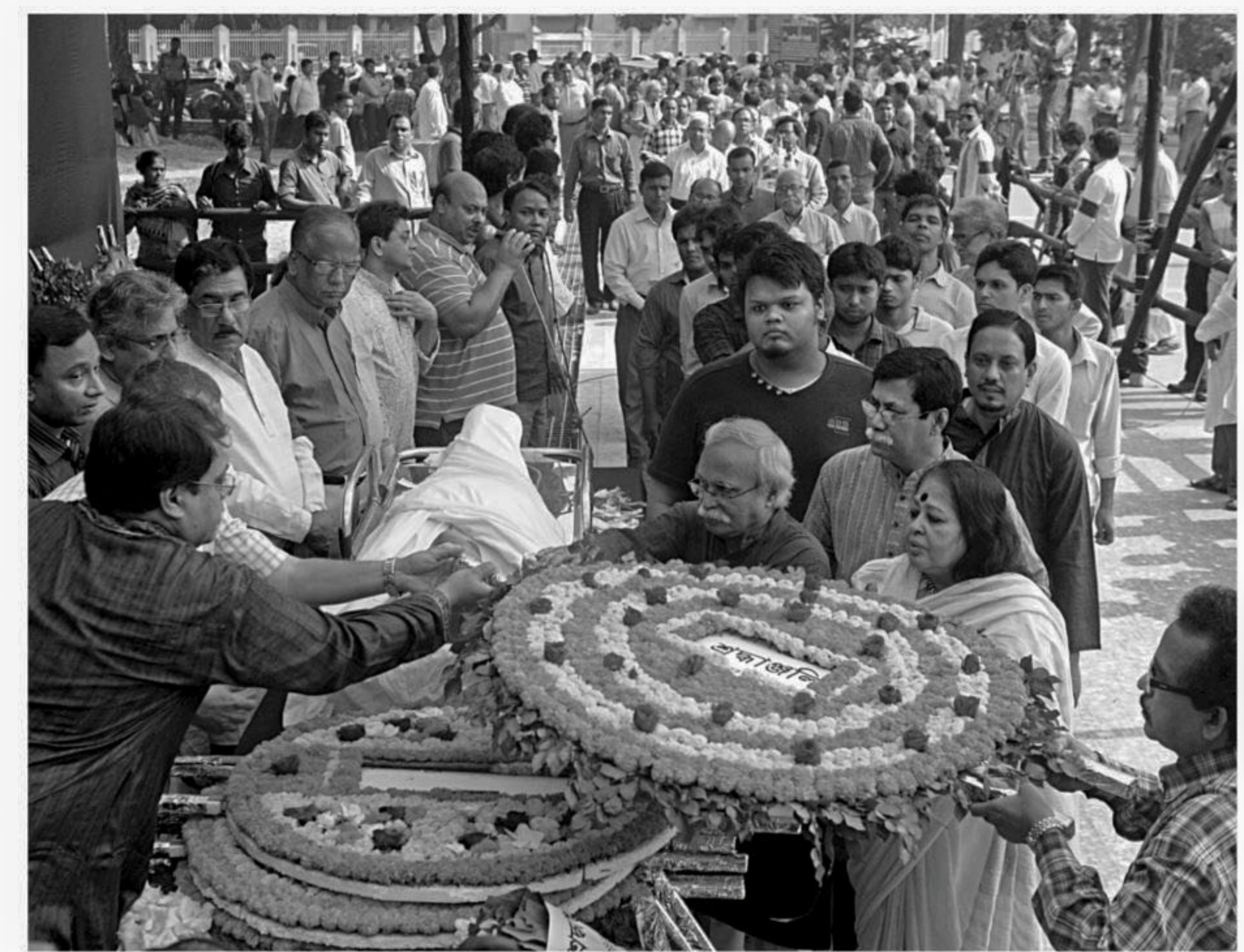


PHOTO: STAR
GOODBYE, THE LIGHTHOUSE! People queue up to pay their last tribute to eminent educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. The former caretaker government adviser passed away on Tuesday night. An Oxford graduate and two time vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, the much-revered author was honoured with the Bangla Academy Award and the Swadhinata Padak for his contribution to Bangla literature.

Question over patient's death at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 A patient died yesterday at the Square Hospitals after she was taken off life support without her family's consent, alleged family members.
 "They [the hospital] didn't even feel it necessary to inform me about their decision of withdrawing the life support," alleged Mohammad Ziauddin, the deceased's husband.
 The dead, Momtaz Zia, was admitted to the hospital on October 19 following her second cardiac arrest. She was put on life support on the day. However, she was removed from life support on October 23 and again given the service the next day as her condition worsened.
 The hospital's Management Support Service Manager Col Nurul Alam did not comment on the family's allegation when the reporter met him at the hospital around 11:00pm.
 Zia also alleged that no physician was present from 3:30pm when his wife had been removed from life support.
 "She began to choke after her life support had been removed," alleged Zia, who entered the hospital's Coronary Care Unit (CCU) around 4:30pm to see her wife.
 An hour later, Zia was informed that his wife's condition was worsening. After arriving at the CCU again, he found Momtaz dead.
 According to Zia, the on-duty nurse at the CCU told him that the doctor had decided to run a test trial to see whether the patient could survive on her own.
 "I simply fail to understand how the life support of a dying patient could be withdrawn," said Dr Ibrahim Bhuiyan, Momtaz's friend.
 "Even if the doctor felt it was necessary, the trial should be completed within 10 to 15 minutes."
 Tanjima Bony, Momtaz's niece, claimed that the hospital threatened to stop Momtaz's treatment on the seventh day of her admission, if they (the family) did not pay hospital bills immediately.
 "I paid Tk 1,50,000 on that day and Tk 4,00,000 later," said Bony.

PM unwell; trip

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 been suffering from cold and fever and advised complete rest.
 Diplomatic sources said Hasina was scheduled to visit the UK from November 16 to deliver a speech on "Girls Education" in Oxford Union on November 17.
 The president of Oxford Union, a debating society in the city of Oxford, England, had invited the PM to the event.
 From London, she was due to fly to Rome, Italy on November 18 to attend the Second International Conference on Nutrition, an inclusive inter-governmental meeting on nutrition jointly organised by the Food

and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization.
 PMO sources said Hasina's back-to-back visits to the UK and Italy might further upset her health as severe cold weather is prevailing in Europe.
 As the 18th Saarc Summit is slated for November 26-27 in Kathmandu, the PM's advisers and physicians have suggested that she should take rest for complete recovery from illness so that she could attend the summit.
 The presence of heads of state or government of the Saarc member countries is mandatory for holding the summit. The PM is scheduled to fly to Nepal on November 24.

Suicide or murder?

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 April last year.
 Shamarukh did MBBS form Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and was preparing for FCPSC.
 Humayun and his parents claim that she committed suicide by hanging with a scarf tied to the iron bars of bathroom's ventilator, police say.
 But her father Nurul Islam, an assistant PDB engineer in Jessore, alleged that she was murdered by her in-laws. "My daughter told me several times that her husband tortured her."
 Humayun and his parents have been made accused in a murder case filed by Nurul.

Police have detained Humayun, who practises law at the High Court, and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy, said Officer-in-Charge Abu Bakar Siddique of Dhanmondi Police Station.
 "She was absent at dinner. It was found that the bathroom was locked from inside. As she did not respond to repeated knocks, we broke open the door around 2:00pm and found her hanging," the OC quoted Humayun as saying.
 Shamarukh's female friends who saw the body said the back and left hand bore injury marks alongside those spotted in her throat.

Nature reserves on the rise but funds lacking: UN

AFF, Sydney
 marine areas by 2020.
 With more than a million square kilometres made protected zones in the past two years, "the physical coverage aspect of the target is likely to be met," it said in a report.
 But more needed to be done to ensure "protected areas are appropriately located in areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are effectively".
 The United Nations Environment Programme said that countries were on track to meet targets to protect 17 percent of land and 10 percent of

marine areas by 2020.
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Job Opening

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Application deadline: November 22, 2014
 Only short listed candidates will be invited for interview
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