



INBOUND VOICE CALLS

Earnings from international incoming calls dropped 23pc in 2016

PAGE B1

'FOCUS POOR AT START'

Bangladesh coach Hathurusingha talks about batsmen's lack of concentration

PAGE 14

'MANDATE BY THE POOR'

Indian PM terms his party's near-historic victory in state polls

PAGE 8

Big boost for Navy

PM opens 2 Chinese-made submarines

AGENCIES

Bangladesh Navy started its journey as a "three-dimensional force" yesterday as two submarines were commissioned in its fleet for the first time.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally commissioned the twin submarines named "Nabajatra" and "Joyjatra" at a colourful ceremony at the Chittagong Naval Berth at noon, report BSS and UNB.

She handed over the commissioning order to the commanding officers of the submarines bought from China and formally unveiled their name plaques.

"We never want to be engaged in any war with anyone, but if anyone attacks us we want to give them a befitting reply...we must have preparation all the time...we're doing whatever necessary keeping that in mind," she told the ceremony.

Bangladesh is a peaceful nation and the country's foreign policy is to maintain friendship with all. But Bangladesh never compromised with anybody when it came to its self-respect, she said.

"With the induction of the submarines, Bangladesh Navy has started its fresh

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspecting the newly commissioned submarine, Nabajatra, at Chittagong Naval Berth yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

ZIA CHARITABLE TRUST CASE SC clears way for trial of Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to continue trial of the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The apex court upheld a High Court order that rejected Khaleda's petition seeking stay on trial proceedings in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2011.

In another development yesterday, the ACC moved a petition before the SC chamber judge against an HC order which stayed the proceedings in the Niko corruption case against the BNP chairperson and several others.

Last week, the HC transferred another case against Khaleda -- the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case -- to Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court, and asked it to complete trial proceedings within 60 days after receiving the order.

The BNP chief is now facing 25 criminal cases, including five for corruption. Four of the five graft cases were filed during the tenure of the last caretaker government.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

'IS present in Bangladesh, carried out Dhaka attack'

Says international security expert; police say no evidence of the terror group's presence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international security expert has said terrorist organisation Islamic State has presence in Bangladesh and that it carried out the Gulshan attack last year, something the Bangladesh authorities have repeatedly denied.

"The group that mounted the Holey Artisan attack is not the JMB. In fact, it is the IS," Prof Rohan Gunaratna, head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore, told a regional conference in Dhaka yesterday.

Presenting his paper, "Deradicalisation of Militant: An Approach for Disengagement and Reintegration into Society," Gunaratna said police should have immediately responded to the Holey



Prof. Gunaratna

Artisan attack and not wait for the commandos to come.

The terrorists in the café did not take any hostage or negotiate with the government. Rather they killed all of them they wanted to kill in the first phase of the July 1 attack, which killed 21 people, 17 of them foreigners.

The second phase was propaganda and the third phase show-down, said the professor, who is also a trainer for national security agencies, law enforcement authorities and military counter-terrorism units.

A press release issued by the police headquarters later in the day said they did not find any evidence of IS presence in Bangladesh. "There are some homegrown

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1
RELATED STORY ON PAGE 16

NEWS ANALYSIS

Another saffron wave in India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Was it the "Modi tsunami" or a "saffron wave"? The spectacular show by India's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in legislative assembly elections in the key political battleground of Uttar Pradesh reflects a consolidation of votes cutting across caste and religion affiliations. BJP has secured 312 of the total of 403 seats in the state -- a stunning mandate that even BJP President Amit Shah acknowledged as "unexpected".

The result this year mirrors the 2014 parliamentary poll battle when BJP won 73 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP. If analysts today are talking about a "Modi win" rather than "BJP win" in the state, there is a reason for this. Two and a half years ago, it was Modi and Modi alone on whom BJP had relied on heavily to sail through and the same was repeated in the assembly elections this time. Unlike its rivals, BJP went to polls in UP without projecting a chief ministerial candidate simply because no one has the charisma or vote-catching ability than that of Modi.

The election victories in UP, Uttarakhand and impressive gains in Manipur will be a big boost to BJP's bid for a

SEE EDITORIAL

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Our heartiest congratulations to **Mr. Md. Monir Hossain**, Managing Director of **Fariha Spinning Mills Limited**, for being awarded **CIP (Commercially Important Person)** by the Govt. of People's Republic of Bangladesh for his outstanding contribution in the national export trade. Mr. Md. Monir Hossain is a distinguished and enterprising personality of Financial, Textile, Energy & Industrial Sector and noted philanthropist of the country. We wish him good health and long life.

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2 killed in 'gunfight' with cops

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two alleged robbers were killed in a "gunfight" with police in Tala upazila of Satkhira early yesterday.

They are Bidyut Kumar Bachhar, 46, of Maguradanga village, and Talha Sheikh, 26, of Sujanshah village in the upazila.

Hasan Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tala Police Station, said a police team, led by sub-inspectors Mozaffar Hossain and Nazmul Haque, was on a regular patrol on Saturday night.

During the patrol, the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1