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SHAH CEMENT

Be our trade, investment partners

Hasina invites Swedish entrepreneurs
UNB, Stockholm

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon Swedish business leaders and entrepreneurs to be Bangladesh's partners in investment, trade and innovative businesses for shared prosperity.

"Together we can bring a change in the lives of millions in both our countries," she said while taking part in the Bangladesh-Sweden Business and Investment Forum at Rosenbad Conference Centre of the Prime Minister's Office in Stockholm.

Hasina also invited the Swedish business leaders to visit Bangladesh to explore the immense opportunities for changing lives of millions in the two friendly states.

Meanwhile, Hasina left Stockholm for London yesterday en route to Dhaka, wrapping up her three-day bilateral official visit to Sweden.

After making a three-hour stopover in the British capital, the PM will depart for home and is expected to reach Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport today morning.

In her speech at the forum, Hasina mentioned that Bangladesh has the most liberal investment policy in South Asia where the cost of establishing business is relatively lower. "We enjoy 'duty-free, quota-free' access to the markets of the EU, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and New Zealand."

The PM said the Bangladesh-Sweden relationship was now deeper and stronger than ever before. "And this is the time to unlock the full potential of our relations."

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Influential traders pile up sand on the Dhaleshwari and thus narrow down the river near the Dhaleshwari-1 bridge in Munshiganj. The photo was taken on June 13.



Helmut Kohl no more

REUTERS, Berlin

Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the architect of German reunification, died yesterday, the mass-selling newspaper Bild reported. He was 87.

Bild reported in its online edition that Kohl died in the morning in his home in Ludwigshafen, in western Germany.

"We mourn," Kohl's Christian Democratic Union party (CDU) tweeted with a picture of the former

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LONDON HIGH-RISE FIRE

UK opens criminal probe, death toll 30

AFP, London

At least 30 people have been confirmed killed and dozens more are feared dead in the London tower block fire, police said yesterday, as firefighters continued searching for bodies amid outrage over the use of cladding blamed for spreading the flames.

"We know that at least 30 people have died as a result of this fire... I do believe the number will increase," police commander Stuart Cundy told reporters in front of the charred Grenfell Tower.

Cundy said police had started a criminal investigation but there was nothing to suggest "that the fire had been started deliberately."

He also said the last flames had finally been put out, two days after the fire broke out in the night between Tuesday and Wednesday in the 24-storey tower in a working-class enclave of the wealthy London borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

More than 70 people are unaccounted

for, according to media reports, although it was not known whether some of those were among the bodies recovered so far.

Police have warned some of the victims may never be identified because of the state of the remains.

Cundy said one of the victims was a person who died in hospital. Twenty-four injured survivors are still being treated, 12 of them in critical care.

Firefighters were using drones and sniffer dogs to search the building, saying that some of the upper floors are still inaccessible to humans because of concerns about the stability of the structure.

The area surrounding the council-owned tower has been plastered by desperate relatives with pictures of the missing, from grandparents to young children, and large numbers of volunteers were assisting survivors.

Queen Elizabeth II and her grandson Prince William visited a community centre

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ILO calls for sharing draft EPZ labour act

UNB, Dhaka

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has called for an advanced draft of the proposed Export Processing Zones (EPZ) Labour Act, 2016 of Bangladesh after reviewing it with a multi-stakeholder approach.

It said the draft should be shared with the ILO's Committee of Experts by August before placing it in parliament.

The newly created Tripartite Technical Committee (TTC) for amendment of the Bangladesh Labour Act has already held its first meeting and it is working so

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Snake-like robot that can save lives



MAIL ONLINE

A snake-like robot that measures 26 feet (8 metres) and is covered in short brush-like hairs has been built by Japanese scientists to help during large-scale disasters.

The bizarre machine can climb over walls and rubble and is designed to reach people trapped in hard-to-reach places after earthquakes and tsunamis.

The innovative creation is the first snake-shaped robot in the world that can move with its camera-mounted front tip off the floor, which it does by

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan June	Sehri	Iftar
21	17	6-51
22	18	3-38 6-51
23	19	3-38 6-52



SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 17

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 3-44	12-45	5-00	6-51	8-15
JAMAAT 3-54	1-15	5-15	7-01	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Chikungunya awareness campaign in city today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 10,000 students of medical and dental colleges and health technology institutes are going to conduct today a social awareness campaign on chikungunya in all 93 wards of Dhaka city corporations.

Teams from the city corporations would also take part in the campaign to destroy larva or pupae of aedes mosquitoes that transmit viral diseases -- chikungunya and dengue.

"We expect this massive campaign to create better understanding of how communities can eliminate breeding sources of aedes mosquitoes as well as the measures chikungunya patients should take," said Prof Dr Sanya Tahmina, director (communicable disease control, CDC) at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The initiative taken by the CDC unit of DGHS

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PHOTO: AFP

Posters and pictures of residents missing in the Grenfell Tower disaster are posted near the Latymer Christian Centre in west London yesterday.

1993 MUMBAI BLASTS

6 found guilty

AFP, Mumbai

An Indian court yesterday convicted six men over serial bomb blasts in the commercial capital Mumbai more than two decades ago that killed hundreds, the nation's deadliest attack.

They were found guilty of involvement in a series of coordinated bomb attacks that targeted the Mumbai stock exchange, the headquarters of the state airline and a popular shopping centre in March 1993, killing 257 people and injuring hundreds more.

The attacks were believed to have been staged by Mumbai's Muslim-dominated underworld in retaliation for anti-Muslim violence that had killed more than 1,000 people a few months earlier.

A specially designated court in Mumbai yesterday convicted the six for a range of offences.

Abu Salem, one of the key figures in the attacks, was found guilty of transporting weapons from Gujarat to Mumbai ahead of the blasts.

But Judge GA Sanap acquitted all six on the most serious charge of waging war against the nation.

All six were found guilty of offences under the Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act and five were also convicted of criminal conspiracy and murder.

A seventh defendant, Abdul Qayyam, was acquitted of all charges.

Those convicted will be sentenced at a later date. They could face the death penalty under the terrorism act, although Salem is expected to be spared execution.

He went on the run after the 1993 attacks and was only extradited from Portugal in 2005 after India assured Lisbon that he would not face the death penalty.

Salem is a former associate of Dawood Ibrahim, India's most wanted criminal, who allegedly masterminded the 1993 blasts.

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