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## Active BNP, cautious AL

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The BNP chairperson's road trip to reach out to the Rohingyas living in refugee camps is a refreshing deviation from a long hibernation of the party in terms of drumming up support.

It carried two vital messages in Bangladesh's polarised political landscape – that the country is heading for a long-shot "inclusive election" in 2018 and that the BNP is all out to boost its get-in-touch-with-the-people effort.

However, this push of the BNP took its rural ruling Awami League a bit by surprise. The AL appeared curious and cautious.

Ruling Awami League leaders think this is a clear indication that the BNP will take on the upcoming national polls.

They believe the political situation is shown by the BNP's move after Khaleda's homecoming ending a dreary month-long UK tour on October 18, was designed to be part of its campaign for the polls. And the BNP was sending a message to the nation about its popularity and strength.

"BNP will surely join the next election and thus the party has taken some strategies to give a boost to its leaders and activists. Khleda Zia's Cox's Bazar tour was not only for relief distribution, it was Khaleda Zia's political tour," a secretary-level leader of the AL told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

Asked, AL presidium member Kazi Zafarullah told The Daily Star that he thinks gathering party leaders and activists during Khleda Zia's programmes is part of the BNP's strategy to enhance the party's morale, as it had no political programme for a long time.

"Khleda Zia, through her activities after returning from the UK, is giving a signal that the party is heading for elections and that the party is preparing for it," he added.

The ruling party leaders also think BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia might visit some

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ATTACK ON KHALEDA'S MOTORCADE IN 2015

## Probe fails to find AL men!

But BNP men charged in counter-case by AL

RAHUL ISLAM AND SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The police probe into the 2015 attack on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's motorcade in the city's Karwan Bazar has failed to identify any of the attackers though photographs of many of them were published in the media.

The BNP chief's convoy came under attack during a campaign for city corporation election in April. Two and a half years later, her motorcade was attacked twice within only four days this week in Fem.

But what happened in the name of probing the 2015 incident is puzzling. Khleda's bullet-proof car was damaged in the attack, and the media exposed the identities of the attackers and their political affiliation with the ruling Awami League.

Probing the incident for more than a year, the police official concerned found no merit in the case filed by the BNP. The official submitted the final report to a Dhaka court at the end of last year, saying the complaints in the first information report were found to be false.

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This file photo shows BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia getting into her car as pro-Awami League activists go berserk and attack her motorcade at Karwan Bazar during a campaign for her party-backed mayoral hopeful in Dhaka North.

PHOTO: FILE

## 1<sup>ST</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY



The 1<sup>st</sup> death anniversary of Dr. Abul Quasem, eminent Professor of Anatomy, Ex-Principal of Dhaka Medical College and Chairman of Sunny Trading and National Apparel Ltd., is on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

A Dos mafhil will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 at Masjid-Un-Noor, Gacha, Gazipur, Dhaka after Jumma prayers. All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the Dos mafhil and pray for his eternal peace.

On behalf of,  
Members of the Family,  
Staff of Sunny Trading Agency  
and National Apparel Ltd.

## Dhaka doesn't need wetland!

No need for water retention areas, say realtors at public consultation on DAP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka city needs no wetlands and water retention areas around it for storm drainage and environmental conservation, said influential realtors at a public consultation yesterday.

They termed the current detailed area plan (DAP) of the capital "faulty" and "questionable" and urged Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripaksha (Rajuk) to revise it in adequate consultation with them in consideration of current "reality."

"There is no necessity for wetlands and water retention areas all around the city for storm drainage. These rather breed mosquitoes," said Gazi Mozammel Haque, assistant inspector general of police, who spoke for Ananda Police Housing scheme located by 300-foot Purbachal Highway.

He was speaking at the consultation meeting on the updating process of Dhaka's DAP organised by Rajuk at its Dilksa head office.

Conservation of wetlands and water bodies should be done in light of "reality" and not on the basis of CS or RS land records, he said.

By reality he meant whatever wetlands are filled up and developed should be accepted as it is in the upcoming DAP.

Md Sohel Rana, vice-president of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh, echoed the same. He added only artificial drainage system would be sufficient for freeing the city of waterlogging.

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## The Farmers Bank Limited

Head office , Gulshan, Dhaka-1212.

### Price Sensitive Information

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Company in its 12th Meeting held on August 10, 2017 has unanimously approved the proposal for issuance of "The Farmers Bank Prosperity Bond-2017" for Tier-2 Capital amounting to Tk.500 Crore to maintain Capital to Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR) of Basel III Implementation along with Capital Conservation Buffer subject to approval of Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission.



Company Secretary

### Bhola gas real: Bapex

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Country's energy explorer Bapex has completed two pending geological tests to confirm existence of high-preserved extractable natural gas, only 5km away from Shahabpur field.

"The gas is burning," an excited Merehal Hasan, the project director and a DGM of Bapex, told The Daily Star.

Early morning yesterday the Bapex conducted the perforation test, a method to determine the flow pressure of the gas field, which is believed to be an extension of Shahabpur field.

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Mother, son murdered in city flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wife of a businessman and one of his sons were murdered inside their home in the capital's Kakrail area yesterday.

Police recovered the bodies around 6:30pm. Both of them bore marks of injuries from sharp weapons.

The victims were identified as Shamsun Nahar Karim, 46, wife of businessman Abdul Karim and their son Sajadul Karim Shaon, 17, an A-level student. They lived in their own six-storey building on Kakrail VIP Road.

Police found Shamsun Nahar's body next to a prayer mat (jamatam) in her bedroom on the fourth floor of the building. Shaon's body was found on the staircase of the third floor.

Police could not immediately say anything about the motive behind the double murder.

Rashida Begum, a domestic help of the house, said that she came to the

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ROHINGYA CRISIS

## US assures help in repatriation



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has assured Bangladesh "both financial and diplomatic" support for the safe, sustainable and dignified repatriation of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals.

Washington and Dhaka also agreed to continue the pressure on the Myanmar government in this regard.

The assurance was made by the visiting Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, Simon Henshaw, during his meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, yesterday.

The acting assistant secretary, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday with a delegation after a visit to Myanmar, deeply appreciated Bangladesh's decision to temporarily shelter more than 600,000 forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals and stated that Bangladesh "responded extremely well" to this unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 10

Boat with 100 JSC examinees sinks, 2 drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, BURMA

Two female students drowned after a boat capsized in the Pagla river in Nabinagar upazila yesterday morning.

At least three others were injured and three remain missing in the incident.

The deceased were identified as Soma Akter, 14, daughter of Sishu Mia of Gachhola village under Birgaon union in Nabinagar upazila and Md Shahidul Akter, 15, daughter of Syed Md Shahidul of Amtoli village in the upazila.

Alidina Akter, 15, daughter of Abdul Alim of Amtoli village of the upazila, was severely injured in the incident and her condition remains critical.

The girls were all Junior School Certificate (JSC) exam candidates from Birgaon High School & College in the upazila.

According to sources, around hundred students boarded a boat to cross the river on their way to Krishnanagar Abdul Zabbar High School exam centre.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 10



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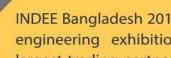
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Bhola gas real: Bapex



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