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DHAKA-ASHULIA EXPRESSWAY PM to open construction work today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will today inaugurate the construction work of Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway. She is scheduled to join the programme virtually from the Gono Bhaban at 10:00am, according to a Facebook post of the Press Wing of the Prime Minister's Office.



When the construction will be done, the road will facilitate people from 30 districts to enter and exit the capital quickly and easily.

The PM in early September gave the go-ahead to the draft loan agreement for the project.

Chinese EXIM Bank approved the long-delayed loan of \$1.2 billion (Tk 10, 226.53 crore) for the expressway, said project officials.

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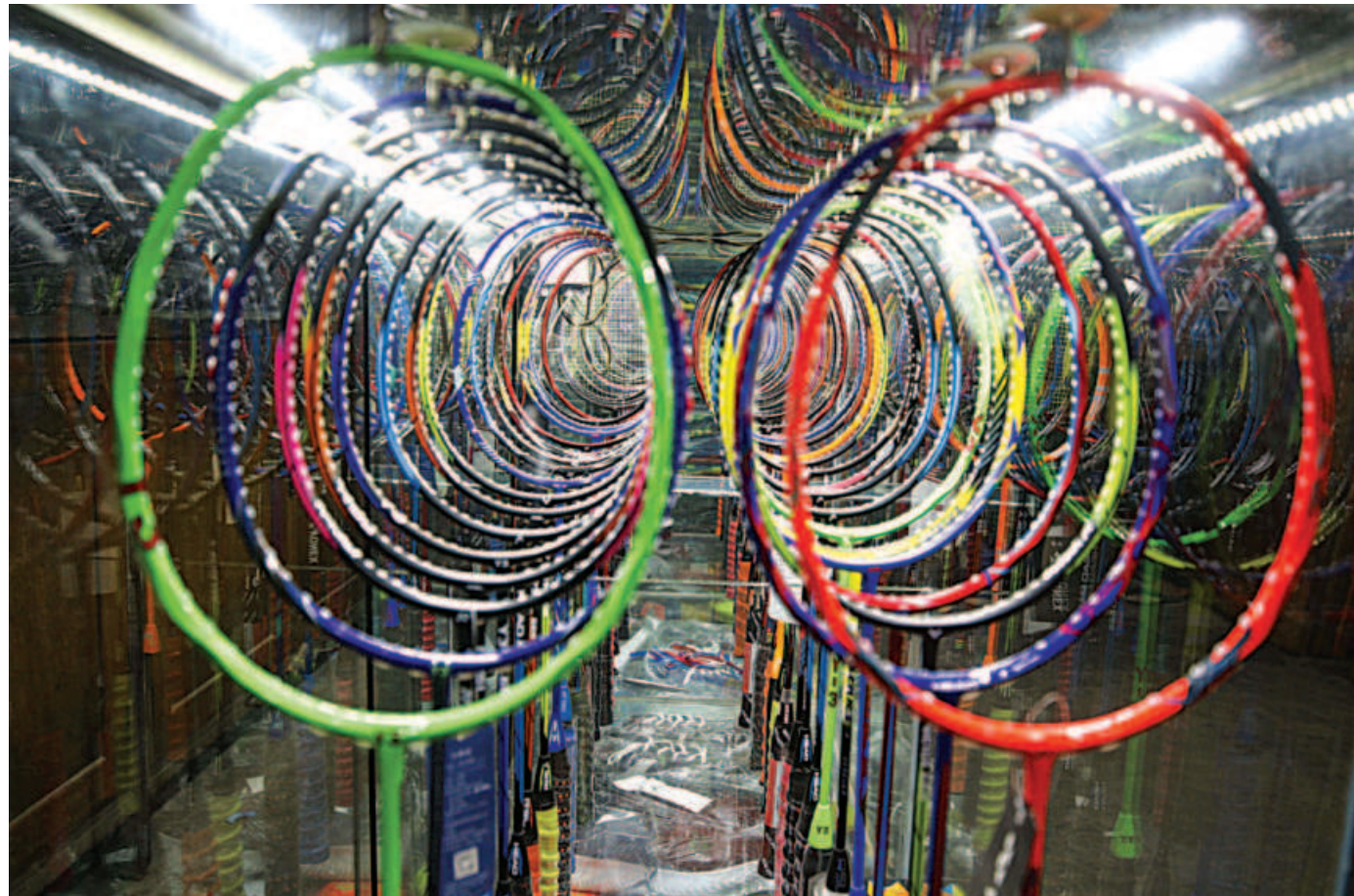


PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

With evenings getting slightly chillier every day, sports shops are putting up their badminton rackets on display. In high demand every winter, a racket can cost from Tk 250 to Tk 20,000 depending on quality. It won't be long till shuttlecocks are seen zipping through air on every street. The photo was taken at the Kazir Dewri Outdoor Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022
09 DAYS TO GO

Mueller 'never prepared so well' for WC, says Flick

AFP, Frankfurt

Germany coach Hansi Flick said star forward Thomas Mueller "has never been so well prepared before for a World Cup" when announcing his selection on Thursday.

Flick selected Mueller, 33, in his 26-man squad despite the Bayern Munich forward missing eight matches and playing less than 60 minutes in total since late September.

Flick said he was confident Mueller would arrive at Germany's pre-World Cup training facility in Oman "in full fitness".

Mueller, who won the World Cup in 2014 with Germany, will play in the showpiece event for the fourth time in Qatar.

Mueller has been left out of Bayern's squad for Saturday's match against Bundesliga bottom side Schalke with a back complaint.

Bayern manager Julian Nagelsmann said "I would just like

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Dash for gas imperils 1.5C climate goal

Experts warn at COP27 summit as Russia cuts off supplies to Europe

REUTERS, Sharm El-Sheikh

Countries scrambling this year to source more natural gas to replace supplies from Russia are risking years of emissions that could thwart climate goals, the research collaboration Climate Action Tracker said yesterday.

Efforts to stave off disastrous climate change collided this year with a global energy crisis of scarce gas and soaring fuel prices, as Russia sharply cut gas deliveries to Europe following its February 24 invasion of Ukraine.

"We're witnessing a major push for expanded fossil gas LNG production and import capacity across the world; in Europe, Africa, North America, Asia and Australia; which could cause global emissions to breach dangerous levels," said Bill Hare, CEO of research institute Climate Analytics, which together with NewClimate Institute forms Climate Action Tracker (CAT).

The planned projects could emit 10 percent of the world's remaining carbon budget - the cumulative amount that can be emitted if warming beyond 1.5C is to be avoided, CAT said. Among the projects are new gas drilling in Canada and liquefied natural gas (LNG) import capacity in Germany and Vietnam.

Countries agreed under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change to attempt to stop greenhouse gases heating

the planet to more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

Scientists have said going past 1.5C of warming would unleash far more severe climate impacts than the deadly wildfires, floods and rising seas already unfolding today. Currently, the world is 1.2C hotter than pre-industrial levels.

By October, Russian gas had plummeted to 7.5 percent of Europe's gas imports, down from 40 percent in recent years.

The dash to replace those supplies has bolstered plans to expand fossil fuel infrastructure, even as the European Union has proposed higher renewable energy targets to attempt to mostly replace Russian fuel with clean energy.



The International Energy Agency has said no new oil and gas fields should be opened if the world is hit the 1.5C goal.

CAT also calculated that countries' targets to cut emissions this decade would put the world on course for 2.4C of warming, versus 1.8C in a best-case scenario where countries achieved all of their announced pledges including 2050 goals - which would require tougher climate policies and far larger investments to shift to green energy.

Meanwhile, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who led a delegation of Democrats at the COP27 conference, yesterday said that she hopes Republicans will cooperate in the fight against global warming regardless of the outcome of midterm elections.

Bomb found in AL leader's home, 7 BNP men also sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Police arrested a local Awami League leader after finding crude bombs and gunpowder at his home in Narsingdi. They then went on to include seven BNP men when filing a case over the incident early Wednesday.

Iman Hasan, organising secretary of Alokbal Union AL, was arrested with the bomb-making materials at his home on Tuesday.

Hours later, Sub-Inspector Mohammad Yousuf Ali of Narsingdi Sadar Police Station filed the case, accusing Hasan and seven local leaders of BNP and its youth and student fronts.

The seven men are Jahidul Karim Jahid, member of BNP executive committee in Narsingdi; Mohsin Hossain Biddyt, president of Narsingdi Zilla Jubo Dal; Shamim Sarker, member secretary of Narsingdi Town Jubo Dal; Humayun Kabir Rasel, convener of Sadar Thana Jubo Dal; Nazrul Islam, former president of Narsingdi Zilla Chhatra Dal; Shah Alam Chowdhury, convener of Alokbal Union BNP; and Abdul Kaiyum Sarker, member secretary of Alokbal Union BNP.

According to the complaint, three crude bombs, 540 grams gunpowder, 74 pebbles and 54 glass marbles were recovered from Hasan's house.

It added that the accused conspired to illegally store explosives.

In the complaint, the sub-inspector

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Fresh gas found in abandoned Sylhet well

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Gas Fields Limited yesterday discovered gas reserves in an abandoned well in Sylhet's Beanibazar.

Shahinur Rahman, the managing director of the company, said it might be possible to produce seven to eight million cubic feet of gas and about 100 barrels of condensate from the well called Beanibazar-1 every day.

The volume he mentioned is 0.7 to 0.8 percent of the total gas produced by the three state owned companies.

"Presence of gas has been confirmed by testing. Testing will continue for the next three days," he added.

The well was abandoned in 2016 after 35 billion

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2 Bangladeshis among 11 dead in Malé fire

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshis were burned to death after a fire broke out at a lodging in Malé, said Sohel Parvez, first secretary (labour) of the Bangladesh High Commission in the Maldives.

A total of 11 foreign workers were killed in the fire. Of them, nine were Indians, reported Indian media.

Mohammad Taiyab, of Faridpur's Bhanga upazila, was undergoing treatment at Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital after suffering burns in the fire, Sohel told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We are in touch with the Maldives authorities to identify the dead," the official said.

He also said that the information he gathered suggested the workers were domestic helps. Most

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World's largest airplane to be rebuilt

CNN ONLINE



For avgeeks, the destruction of the world's largest commercial plane was one of the key images at the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In February, the Antonov AN-225 was attacked at its base in Hostomel, near Kyiv.

"The dream will never die," tweeted the manufacturers when it was destroyed.

Now it looks like they have stayed true to their word, with the company announcing that plans to rebuild it are already underway.

Nicknamed "Mriya" -- Ukrainian for "dream" -- the massive plane was built in the 1980s to carry

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A PRIMATE'S PLIGHT ... A Phayre's Leaf Monkey, also known as Phayre's Langur, all smiles as he hangs onto a tree in a forested area in Sylhet. While the primate is generally a happy-go-lucky one, its species is under severe threat due to habitat degradation and hunting. Locally sometimes referred to as "Choshma Bander", the monkey is indigenous to South and Southeast Asia, including Bangladesh, India and Myanmar. The animal often falls prey to illegal pet trade as well. With its number falling sharply, the IUCN has listed the Phayre's Leaf Monkey as "critically endangered" in its Red List. Bangladesh has already lost 80 percent of the primate over three generations.

PHOTO: ADNAN HOSSAIN

Bangladesh wants cheap oil from KSA: Nasrul Hamid

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh wants to import petroleum from Saudi Arabia at a relatively lower price, said State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid.

He conveyed such interest when Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Bangladesh Issa Bin Youssef Al-Dahilan met him at his office in the ministry yesterday.

"We are also interested in purchasing the fuel on deferred payment," he told the Saudi envoy.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues related to mutual interest and also possible solutions to the energy crisis in Bangladesh.

Welcoming the Saudi

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AB Bank stands by Honorable Prime Minister to help the cold-affected people

AB Bank Limited contributed (blankets) to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for distribution among the poor people of the country to alleviate their sufferings during the coming winter season. Her grace, Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received this contribution in person from Barrister Khairul Alam Choudhury, Chairman and Tarique Afzal, President & Managing Director of AB Bank Limited at the Prime Minister's Office.

