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CTG NEW MOORING Govt moves to lease terminal out to UAE operator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

After signing agreements with two foreign operators for the Laldia and Pangaon terminals, the government is now moving ahead with its plan to lease out the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), the largest operational facility of Chattogram port, to another foreign operator. Preparations are underway to finalise an agreement with UAE-based DP World by December, despite widespread protests over the plan. The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has proposed forming a seven-member committee to evaluate the tender for operating NCT under a Public Private Partnership arrangement. On November 16, CPA Secretary Md Omar Faruk sent a letter to the shipping ministry seeking approval for the committee, to be headed by Additional Secretary Md Mahbub Alam Talukder, also the board

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Mushfiqur Rahim wears a wry smile as he returns to the dressing room, unbeaten on 99 at the end of the first day's play of the second Test against Ireland in Mirpur yesterday. The 38-year-old needs one more run when play resumes today to become only the 11th batter to reach the three-figure mark in 100th Test.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mobile retailers demand tax cuts, NEIR launch delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile phone retailers yesterday demanded a reduction in taxes on imported handsets and a delay in launching the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR). NEIR, which identifies and blocks stolen or unauthorised devices using their unique 15 digit IMEI numbers, is scheduled for rollout on December 16 after years of delay as the government looks to prop up the country's local handset manufacturing sector. Many mobile retailers fear their businesses will collapse if NEIR is enforced. Subsequently, at a press conference, the Mobile Business Community, Bangladesh (MBCB), which claims to represent mobile phone retail shops, demanded pushing the rollout back by a year to clear their inventory. Bangladesh's grey market accounts for about 40 percent of all handsets, with devices entering the country illegally, according to the local handset manufacturers. Under the existing tax structure, NEIR's implementation will hurt ordinary consumers by driving up handset prices, MBCB said. They also said that the local handset manufacturers had formed a "syndicate" pushing for the rushed rollout. MBCB also protested the Detective Branch's detention of its Secretary Abu Sayeed Piyash. On Tuesday night, after MBCB announced the press conference for Wednesday, DB officers picked up Piyash and Mizanur Rahman Sohel, founder and chief executive

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3 Bangladeshis 'shot dead by Libyan mafia'

They were trying to reach Italy;
bodies reportedly dumped in
the Mediterranean



Munna, 24 Imran, 22 Bayezid, 20

JAHID HASAN, Shariatpur

Three young men from Madaripur, who set out dreaming of Italy's shores, were allegedly shot dead by a Libyan mafia while attempting to cross the Mediterranean. Their bodies were reportedly thrown into the sea. Families and locals identified the victims as Imran Khan, 22, of Adityapur village in Madaripur Sadar; Munna Talukdar, 24, of Durgabaddi village in Rajair upazila; and Bayezid Sheikh, 20, of Ghoshalakandi village in the same upazila. The three left home on October 8, hoping Italy would offer a better future. They were first taken to Libya. Their families said they learned yesterday through a broker that all three had been killed on November 1 while attempting the sea crossing. Shipon Khan of Adityapur village, who has lived in Libya for a decade, allegedly arranged their journey. Local sources said he is known for sending young men from Madaripur and neighbouring areas to Italy through

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LABOUR MARKET IN MALAYSIA Strict conditions raise fear of syndication

Dhaka renegotiating terms

PORIMOL PALMA

The criteria Malaysia has set for selecting Bangladeshi recruiting agencies for a fresh round of labour intake have stirred concern among experts, industry insiders, and government officials, who fear the conditions could concentrate power in the hands of a few large agencies. They said that seven of the 10 conditions Malaysia sent to Bangladesh on October 27 can be met by many among the more than 2,000 licensed agencies. These include having a valid licence for five years, experience of sending workers to at least three countries in that period, a certificate of good conduct, no record of forced labour, trafficking, extortion, money laundering or labour-law breaches, and five written testimonials from employers. It is the remaining three conditions that are seen as prohibitive -- a record of recruiting at least 3,000 foreign workers in the past five years; training and assessment centres fully controlled by itself; and a permanent office of at least 10,000 square feet for the last three years. The government, recruiting



CONDITIONS FOR AGENCIES

- Recruiting at least 3,000 foreign workers in past 5 years
- Training and assessment centres fully controlled by itself
- Permanent office of at least 10,000 square feet for last 3 years

agencies, and migration researchers say these requirements are impractical. Speaking yesterday after inaugurating the "Overseas Employment Platform" at a Dhaka

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No let-up in arson, crude bomb attacks

Cop hurt in Pallabi
STAR REPORT

Incidents of arson and crude bomb attacks continued yesterday in parts of the country, including an attack in front of Pallabi Police Station in the capital that injured a policeman. The attacks came two days after the International Crimes Tribunal sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her former home minister to death. Centring the verdict, the Awami League, whose political activities are banned, announced lockdown and shutdown programmes. At least 50 arson attacks -- mostly targeting buses -- and dozens of crude bomb explosions have been recorded nationwide over the past week. In Dhaka yesterday, two crude bombs went off in front of Sagufta gate near Pallabi Police Station around 8:30pm, injuring a police officer. Miscreants threw the bombs from the Kalshi flyover, causing fear among the public, said

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Saudi prince 'knew nothing'

Says Trump about Khashoggi killing contradicting US intel, elevates KSA to non-Nato ally



REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that Mohammed bin Salman knew nothing about the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents, offering a fierce defense of the visiting Saudi crown prince that contradicted a US intelligence assessment. The controversy over the killing of Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist and US-based critic of the Saudi leadership, flared again in the Oval Office in front of cameras as the kingdom's de facto ruler made his first White House visit in more than seven years, seeking to further rehabilitate his global image tarnished by the incident. Trump later announced that he was designating Saudi Arabia as a major non-Nato ally, and the two sides announced agreements on arms sales, civil nuclear cooperation, artificial intelligence and critical minerals. The White House announced Trump had approved future deliveries of F-35 fighter jets and the Saudis had agreed to purchase 300 American tanks.

Curacao become smallest World Cup nation



AGENCIES

The tiny Caribbean nation of Curacao became the smallest country ever to qualify for the World Cup on Tuesday after a 0-0 draw against Jamaica in Kingston, with their coach Dick Advocaat, at 78, set to become the oldest coach at the showpiece event. Advocaat's appearance in 2026 will break a long-standing record: the oldest person to coach at a World Cup was previously Germany's Otto Rehhagel, who was 71 years and 317 days old when he managed Greece in their final group game against Argentina at the 2010 tournament in South Africa. A nerve-shredding finale to the CONCACAF qualifying campaign saw Curacao -- with a population of just 156,000 -- squeeze into next year's finals in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



After harvesting, cabbages being packed into sacks in a field to be sent to Dhaka and other parts of the country. Traders buy each piece of this winter vegetable from farmers at Tk 10-15, depending on size, but it is sold in markets at Tk 30-35. The photo was taken in Rajshahi's Paba upazila.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Rivalry with '4 Star Group' led to killing of Kibria

Says Rab; two more
suspects held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rivalry with a criminal gang known as the "Four Star Group" over establishing dominance in the Mirpur area led to the killing of Jubo Dal leader Golam Kibria, the Rab said yesterday after arresting two suspects. The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) also said political feud with rivals also played a part in the murder. "This was a planned murder," Lt Col Mahbub Alam, commanding officer of Rab-4, told a press briefing at its media centre in Karwan Bazar. "The suspects are professional killers, each with multiple criminal cases against them." Rab-4 arrested Monir Hossain, 30,

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