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**Genie cure by quack leads to boy's death**

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A child who was set afire by a quack for treatment died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday after fighting for life for 34 days.

Seven-year-old Fazle Rabbi of Bagmara in Rajshahi, who had neurological problems, was taken to local quack Abdul Wahed. The quack told his guardians the boy was caught by a genie and needed a 'fire treatment' to drive it away.

On October 20 midnight Wahed set Rabbi on fire to "oust the genie living inside him and causing severe headache".

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FRUSTRATION IN ADMIN  
**Promotion spree to see more OSDs**

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government is set to promote officers to the posts of deputy secretaries, additional secretaries and secretaries even though there are no vacancies, further increasing the number of officers on special duty (OSD).

Sources say that there are around 400 OSD officers in the ministry. At least 158 were made OSDs after being promoted to joint secretaries Sunday.

Promotion without vacant posts at various levels left many officers without work. Many did not get new responsibilities after promotions and remained in the same position. Sources said this is causing stagnation at work and frustration among them.

"The outdated wrong recruitment system

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivers a speech at the high-level plenary session of International Tiger Forum in St Petersburg, Russia yesterday. Story on page 1. PHOTO: PID

PADMA BRIDGE  
**WB funds to be released on time**

UNB, St Petersburg

World Bank President Robert Zoellick has assured Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that funds pledged by the global lender for constructing the Padma Bridge in Bangladesh would be released on time.

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**CJ now gets threat over phone**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified phone caller on Sunday issued threats to Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque and his family members, just three days after two Molotov cocktails were hurled on the compound of his

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**Strike at CNG stations deferred**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The owners of CNG refuelling stations and conversion workshops yesterday postponed their indefinite strike until December 20 after the government sought time to meet their six-point demands.

If the government fails to meet all their demands by December 15, all the CNG filling stations and conversion workshops across the country will go on an indefinite strike from December 21, said

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**Stampede kills 375 in Cambodia**

REUTERS, Phnom Penh

Cambodia searched for answers yesterday a day after a stampede killed at least 375 people on a suspension bridge where survivors said they were wedged into the crowd of living and dead for hours.

The government launched an investigation into why thousands panicked late on Monday on the pedestrian bridge connecting Phnom Penh to an island where mostly young people celebrated the last day of a festival marking the end of the rainy season.

Survivors recounted scenes of mass suffocation and desperate screams after thousands went into a frenzy to flee the bridge, apparently after shouts went up that some people had been electrocuted. Police said some also shouted that the bridge was about to collapse.

The victims suffocated or were trampled and some survivors said they were wedged into the crowd for hours. Police sprayed water so survivors could drink. About 755 people were injured.

"People were shouting that someone had been electrocuted, to run back," Touch Loch, 18, told Reuters. "I fell and people stepped on

me until I passed out. When I woke I was here in hospital."

"People were crying for their fathers and mothers."

Phay Siphon, a government spokesman, denied anyone was electrocuted on the bridge, which was adorned with flashing lights. He said it was designed to sway, but the movement took pedestrians by surprise and some shouted it was broken.

"The cause was panic, not electrocution," he told reporters who gathered in front of the bridge, which was littered with shoes and clothing left by victims.

Khon Sros, 19, said from her hospital bed some people had leapt off the bridge to escape but she had been pinned in the crowd from her waist down until police pulled her out.

"One man died near me. He was weak and didn't have enough air."

"I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD"

Touch Theara, 38, said she had been stuck in the crowd for three hours: "I thought I was dead... Police sprayed water at us. We were just opening our mouths to drink."

Prime Minister Hun Sen apologised for the

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**William, Kate to marry on April 29**

AFP, London

Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton are to marry on April 29 at Westminster Abbey, the historic London church where the funeral of his mother Diana was held in 1997, royal officials said yesterday.

Downing Street announced that there would be a special public holiday on the day, perhaps the biggest royal event in Britain since the ill-fated union of William's parents

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MUTINY IN LALMONIRHAT  
**23 BDR men jailed**

STAR REPORT

A special court yesterday sentenced 23 border guards to different terms in jail for their involvement in 2009 BDR mutiny in Lalmonirhat.

The court acquitted one of the 24 accused jawans of the district's 31 Rifles Battalion.

A three-member panel handed down the 23 jawans prison terms ranging from four months to five years and fined Tk 100 each.

The verdict was passed in presence of the defendants, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent.

Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Muhammad Saleh Ahmad headed the panel also comprising Lt Col Mahfuz Alam and

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**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think BNP has taken right step by expelling Nazmul Huda from the party?

Yes (59.9%)  
No (37.8%)  
No Comments (2.3%)

**Total votes: 1170**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you support BNP's hartal on November 30?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)



Cambodian police officials examine hundreds of shoes and other belongings on a bridge in Phnom Penh yesterday the morning after around 375 revellers died in a stampede on an overcrowded bridge. PHOTO: AFP

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**Soup up local government**  
*Urges discussion*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League Lawmaker AKM Mozammel Huq yesterday termed the Upazila Parishad Act a "black law" for allowing a law-maker board have control over upazila parishads and chairmen.

Huq, also the chief of the parliamentary standing body on land ministry, said amendment should be brought in the law to scrap the provision of empowering MPs as adviser to upazila parishads.

He was speaking at a roundtable "Local Government Elections and Strengthening Democracy" organised by

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