



## AMNESTY UNCERTAINTY

Malaysian HR organisations doubt success of amnesty for undocumented foreign workers

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## GRAFT IN INDIA

Kuldip Nayar says it is time to stem the rot

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## PERU GETS NEW PRESIDENT

Leftist former army officer Ollanta Humala sworn in as president of Peru

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# Central bank under political pressure

Intense lobbying for approval to 15 new banks

REJAUZ KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank has been under pressure from politicians to give approval for at least 15 new banks, finance ministry officials say.

Some ministers, Awami League lawmakers and business groups close to the ruling alliance are lobbying government high-ups for permission to set up new banks.

Currently, 47 banks--local and foreign--are operating in the country.

From 2001 till date, the central bank has received 82 applications, but none of them meets the requirements for obtaining licence, said a BB official.

If it finds that allowing new banks is viable, BB will invite fresh

applications through an advertisement, the official said.

The number of new banks, however, will not cross three, added the

### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Political decisions vs business

INAM AHMED

Political debates often overshadow economic decisions -- the US budget debate or the Greek debt crisis is a pointer. But when things relate to

official.

Speaking in the budget session in June, Finance Minister AMA Muhiht

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financial institutions, politics takes a backseat because any buffeting of the financial system can cause havoc. This is why it is only natural to get worried when the finance

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PHOTO: STAR

The signboard, which asks bus drivers to stop a few hundred metres further down the road near Indira Road, is not the only sign in Farmgate giving the message. There are plenty of traffic police officers deployed there to direct traffic but drivers keep stopping their buses just after the left turn from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue creating a bottleneck. The photo was taken yesterday.

# Expressway faces delay

Work now starts in March next year due to row over land acquisition, lack of financing

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Despite highest political commitment, the government could not launch the Dhaka Elevated Expressway project on schedule as it could not complete acquisition of required land, while the project contractor could not arrange necessary financing.

Construction of the Tk 8,703-crore ambitious infrastructure was sup-

posed to start by July 19 this year. The government has now shifted its target date to March next year.

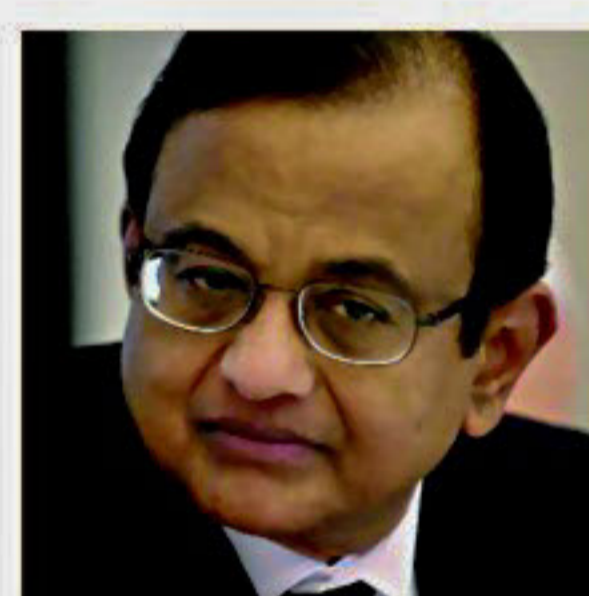
Officials of the communications ministry say the authorities have yet to acquire 18 acres of land along the 21-kilometre alignment of the expressway. Besides, it is also facing resistance from the owners of 258 structures between Shahjalal International Airport and Kutubkhali

that need to be demolished.

The authorities also could not ensure 25 acres of land to be used as the construction yard in a convenient location.

Moreover, the authorities also could not resolve all of the 17 direct and indirect conflicting points the expressway would encounter with other ongoing infrastructure projects.

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## Indian home minister in city

Border management deal today

STAR REPORT

Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram arrived in Dhaka last night on a 24-hour visit to discuss border issues with Bangladesh officials.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun received him at Shahjalal International

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## TORTURE OF DU STUDENT 2 policemen suspended

Mother visits Kadar at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two police officers were suspended yesterday over their involvement in torturing Dhaka University student Abdul Kadar in custody.

They are Sub-inspector Alam Badsha and Assistant Sub-inspector Shahidur Rahman of Khilgaon Police Station in the capital.

Masudur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that they also wrote to the police headquarters for taking action against Helal Uddin, officer-in-charge of the station.

The moves came a day after the High Court ordered the law secretary and the inspector general of police to



Abdul Kadar

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## LDP, BNP agree on 'tougher agitation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party President Col (retd) Oli Ahmad agreed with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to forge a tougher anti-government movement "to save the country from the ongoing crises".

"Our movement against the ruling government will be a digital movement," Oli said, adding that he will make an important announcement today after a meeting with his party leaders.

He said this at a press briefing last night held at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office following the meeting with Khaleda

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The Dhaka City Corporation signboard at Hatirpul Bazar shows prices of essentials. The DCC is supposed to update the board but it is the market authorities who are doing the job every day. Even then, there is a wide disparity between what the chart says and what the price actually is in the market. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

শুভ উদ্বোধন

০২ আগস্ট ২০১১

উত্তরায় সর্ব বৃহৎ শীতাতপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত শপিং সেন্টার

বিল্ডিং ফর ফিউচার লিঃ

পান শিবিং, (৩৯ ও ৪১ তলা), ৩৯ ও ৩৯/১ পাছাশ, ডাকা-১২১৫, ফোন: ৮১৫৪১০০৪, ০১৯১৩০৭১৩০৭  
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কুষ্টিয়া শাখা

বিকাস সুপার মার্কেট (দ্বিতীয় তলা)  
৯৫/১৭০, এন. এস. রোড, শাপলা চত্বর  
খানাপাড়া, কুষ্টিয়া।

কবিগুরু রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর এবং লালন শাহের পূণ্য ভূমি **কুষ্টিয়ায়**

বেসিক ব্যাংক-এর **৩৬তম** শাখার

**শুভ উদ্বোধন**

শুভ উদ্বোধন করবেন  
জনাব শেখ আব্দুল হাই বাচ্চু  
চেয়ারম্যান, বেসিক ব্যাংক

আগামীকাল রবিবার, ৩১শে জুলাই, ২০১১

**BASIC** **বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
শতভাগ মরক্কোর মালিকানাধীন ব্যাংক