



## SHRINKING PLAYGROUND

Siddheswari School management rented out part of the playground to shops

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## TRANSIT FOR INDIA

It involves many issues that must be examined in-depth

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## ASSANGE'S NEW TROUBLE

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange could face prosecution in Australia

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# Last-minute move on to finalise deals

Long-term framework agreement on cooperation on cards during Manmohan's visit

REZAUL KARIM

As two more days are left for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's arrival in Dhaka, bureaucrats of both countries are trying to finalise a long-term Comprehensive Framework Agreement on cooperation, and around a dozen of other deals that are expected to mark a turning point in the bilateral relations.

Diplomatic sources said the two countries are considering signing of the long-term framework agreement for forging close bilateral relations.

Bangladesh and India had a 25-year Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace signed on March 19, 1972. The two governments however declined to renegotiate or renew the treaty when it approached expiry in 1997.

A highly placed source in the Bangladesh government told The Daily Star that both prime ministers feel that a framework agreement setting the vision, principles, and modalities of the relationship is important.

Elaborating on the framework agreement, the source said it will provide a structure, and identify priorities of the relationship.

Bangladesh Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi told The Daily Star that Dhaka gave the Indian side a draft proposal for the framework agreement, which will basically lay the foundation and broad principles of the relationship between the two countries.

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As everything is set for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Dhaka visit on September 6, the Public Works Department authorities prepare welcome banner yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## THE DEALS

3 agreements on Teesta, Feni rivers, and power purchase

2 protocols on land boundary, tiger protection

5 MoUs on preservation of Sundarbans biodiversity, renewable energy, fisheries, BTV-Durdarshan,

## Joint efforts to save tigers

Border guards to patrol Sundarbans

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladeshi and Indian border guards are likely to patrol the Sundarbans waterways to protect the Royal Bengal Tiger.

A protocol in this regard

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\$1B CREDIT

## India okays disbursement of \$750m

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India has approved disbursement of \$750 million loan for 13 projects under a \$1 billion credit agreement, Economic Relations

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## TEESTA WATER

# Consensus on equal share

Shiv Shankar Menon pays surprise visit, meets water resources minister, PM's advisers

PINAKI ROY

Dhaka and Delhi yesterday by consensus agreed to have equal share of Teesta water during the dry season for an interim 15 years, until a final agreement is signed.

The two nations will sign the interim treaty during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan's visit to Bangladesh on September 6-7.

The major development came following a meeting between Bangladesh's Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen and Indian National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon yesterday afternoon in Dhaka.

Menon came yesterday on a short visit and to talk on Teesta water sharing at the Prime Minister's Office.

"We are hopefully getting 50 percent of the Teesta water. India has agreed on it. The deal will be signed on September 6," said Sheikh Wahiduzzaman, secretary at the Ministry of Water Resources, who was also present at the meeting.

However, he could not confirm exactly how much water available at Gazoldoba barrage point will be considered 50 percent of Teesta water during the dry season--from October to April.

"Under the interim treaty, we would measure the availability of water upon a joint survey," said the secretary, adding that this treaty will work out well as both the countries have agreed about basin-wise management of the Teesta water.

An expert from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said initially the water flow of the Teesta was over 5,000 CuSec during the lean period. But following

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## NOTICE

We do not bring out **BUSINESS** today, as economic activities slowed down due to public holidays on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. However, the pages will come out regularly

## BNP slams govt for 'secrecy' in agreements

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday criticised the government for maintaining secrecy about the agreements to be signed during the Indian prime minister's

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## WIKILEAKS REVEALS US CABLES

# Syed Abul 'less than honest' Yunus wanted to resolve row

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain last year told former US ambassador in Dhaka James F Moriarty that development of transport infrastructure in Bangladesh was critical to Awami League's re-election chances, according to diplomatic cables published by WikiLeaks.

Abul Hossain told the ambassador that completing major infrastructure projects in southwest, south-eastern and northern regions was critical to Awami League's re-election chances, said February 2010 cables of Moriarty.

Terming Abul Hossain "a less than honest" man in his business dealings, the envoy said the minister remained focused on delivering the infrastructure projects he and



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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Yunus wanted to resolve any misunderstanding with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina regarding Grameen Bank and his efforts, but he did not receive any appointment even after an urgent request, according to a diplomatic cable leaked by WikiLeaks.

In his August 12, 2009 cables, James F Moriarty, the then US ambassador to Dhaka, said he met with Nobel Laureate Prof Yunus on August 9 to congratulate him on winning the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The noble laureate reported that tensions between him and the prime minister continued but he hoped to meet her to clarify the misunderstandings.

During the meet, Yunus said the tensions with the PM complicated Grameen's efforts to work with the government.



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## PADMA BRIDGE Consultancy firm's 'graft' under scanner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Canadian authorities are investigating the SNC-Lavalin Group Inc upon a corruption allegation involving the \$2.9 billion Padma Multipurpose Bridge project, Reuters reported yesterday referring to a World Bank spokesman.

The probe follows a referral of WB officials about the company's alleged corruption in the bidding process for the bridge. The bank's spokesman said the WB is also continuing its own investigation.

The WB said it had

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## WIFE'S TREATMENT

# Justice Khairul took money as per rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

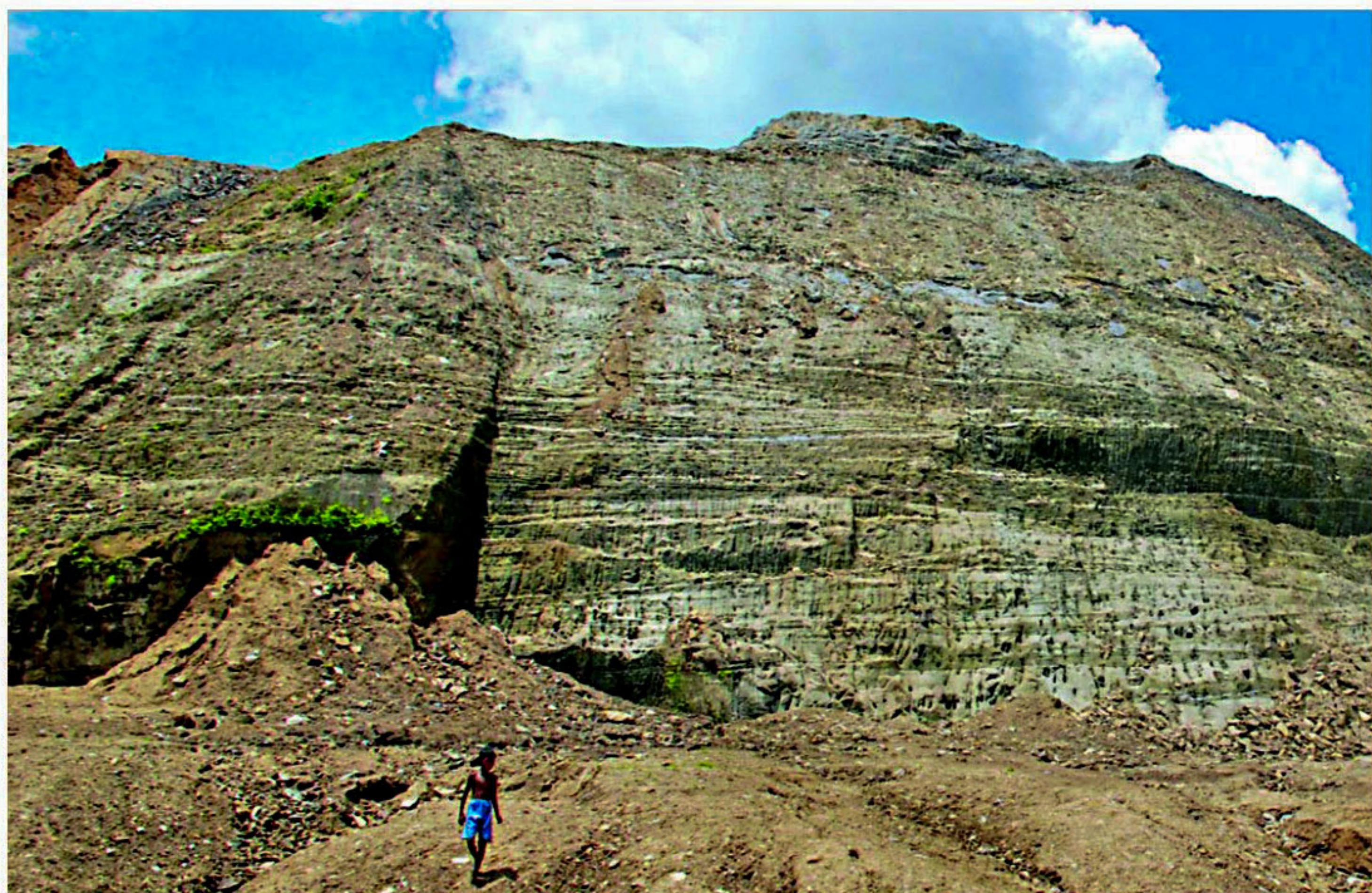
Former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque received Tk 10.37 lakh from the prime minister's relief fund for his wife's medical treatment abroad, reliable sources told The Daily Star.

The leader of the opposition might have used this to accuse Justice Khairul of nullifying the caretaker government system for money. Opposition chief Khaleda Zia on Wednesday said Justice Khairul had nullified the system for money.

Her statement triggered widespread debate between ruling and opposition camps. The camps had been at loggerheads since the apex court delivered the verdict in May.

The BNP-led opposition camp had criticised the chief justice for delivering the verdict which led to the cancellation of the caretaker government system. The government used the verdict to abolish the system passing the

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One of the hills that have been cut by local influentials for an unauthorised housing project at Sitakunda in Chittagong ignoring environmental laws.

PHOTO: STAR

## Clampdown on cutting Ctg hills

DoE fines 9 about Tk 2cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined nine people around Tk 1.91 crore for cutting four hills to develop residential areas at Pahartali in the port city and in Sitakunda upazila without environmental clearance.

The department served notice on them saying they must stop digging the hills by Thursday or face legal action, said Md Jafar Alam, director of DoE (Chittagong).

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud along with a DoE team on a sudden visit yesterday found four big hills at Pahartali and adjoining Jangal Latifpur in Sitakunda were being dug.

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State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud along with a DoE team find freestyle hill-cutting at Pahartali and near Jangal Latifpur in Sitakunda yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR