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SEC forms committee to introduce flawless computation methods on the bourses

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The former Karnataka CM is shown arrested for his involvement in illegal land deals

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LIVING WITH MUSIC

The Daily Star in conversation with Rathindranath Roy

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PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

2 other financiers now opt to 'wait'

Jica, ADB decide to see how govt settles WB's graft allegations, reports private TV channel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following the World Bank's lead, the Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) have "withheld" funding for the Padma bridge project, reported Channel i last night.

Jica said it would wait for the outcome of the talks between the WB and Bangladesh government over corruption allegations involving the project.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the report.

Talking to a Channel i reporter in Japan,

Ichiguchi Tomohide, director of Jica Bangladesh Desk, said, "Of course, our stance against corruption is quite stringent."

The World Bank is handling the matter. But since Jica has not received enough information from the bank, it will wait and see, Ichiguchi said.

He said the Canadian police with the WB are probing the matter, and Jica is waiting for the WB and Bangladesh government to reach a settlement.

"We have just extended the deadline for effectuation of the loan agreement...We

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A truck trundles down a fast lane of Mirpur Road near Asad Gate in the capital with a load beyond its capacity. The iron rods sticking out could cause a major accident as they hide the truck's tail lights and could cause vehicles behind to misjudge the length of the rods in the dark.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NEWS ANALYSIS

Shame weighing down on us

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The Bangladesh Development Forum will not meet in Dhaka early next month. The government would like us to know, if we go by media reports, that the postponed meeting could take place sometime in February next year. Had these been normal times dominated by equally normal circumstances, we would not be unduly surprised by the move.

But, then, these are not normal times. With the World Bank making it clear that corruption has come into the entire Padma Bridge question, that it is suspending its promised funds to the government unless the issue is

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Myanmar to 'take back' Rohingya refugees

Updates foreign office on fresh initiative; newly formed Myanmar govt also agrees to discuss undocumented Rohingyas in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The newly formed government of Myanmar has agreed to take back registered Rohingya refugees currently staying at two refugee camps in Cox's Bazar but made no decision on the large number of undocumented Rohingyas living in Bangladesh.

The number of refugees in

Nayapara and Kutupalong camps is now 28,000 and the Myanmar government agreed that a large portion of the listed refugees are Myanmar nationals, said Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes yesterday at a press briefing at the foreign ministry.

Apart from the refugees, a huge number of undocumented Myanmar nationals are living in Bangladesh

without refugee status, he said referring to the unregistered Rohingyas.

"Although they do not have refugee status, we are not forcing them out of the country on humanitarian ground," Quayes said, adding that the Myanmar authorities have agreed to discuss the undocumented nationals.

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Telenor seeks to know problems

Its CEO meets PM amid GP's standoff with telecoms regulator

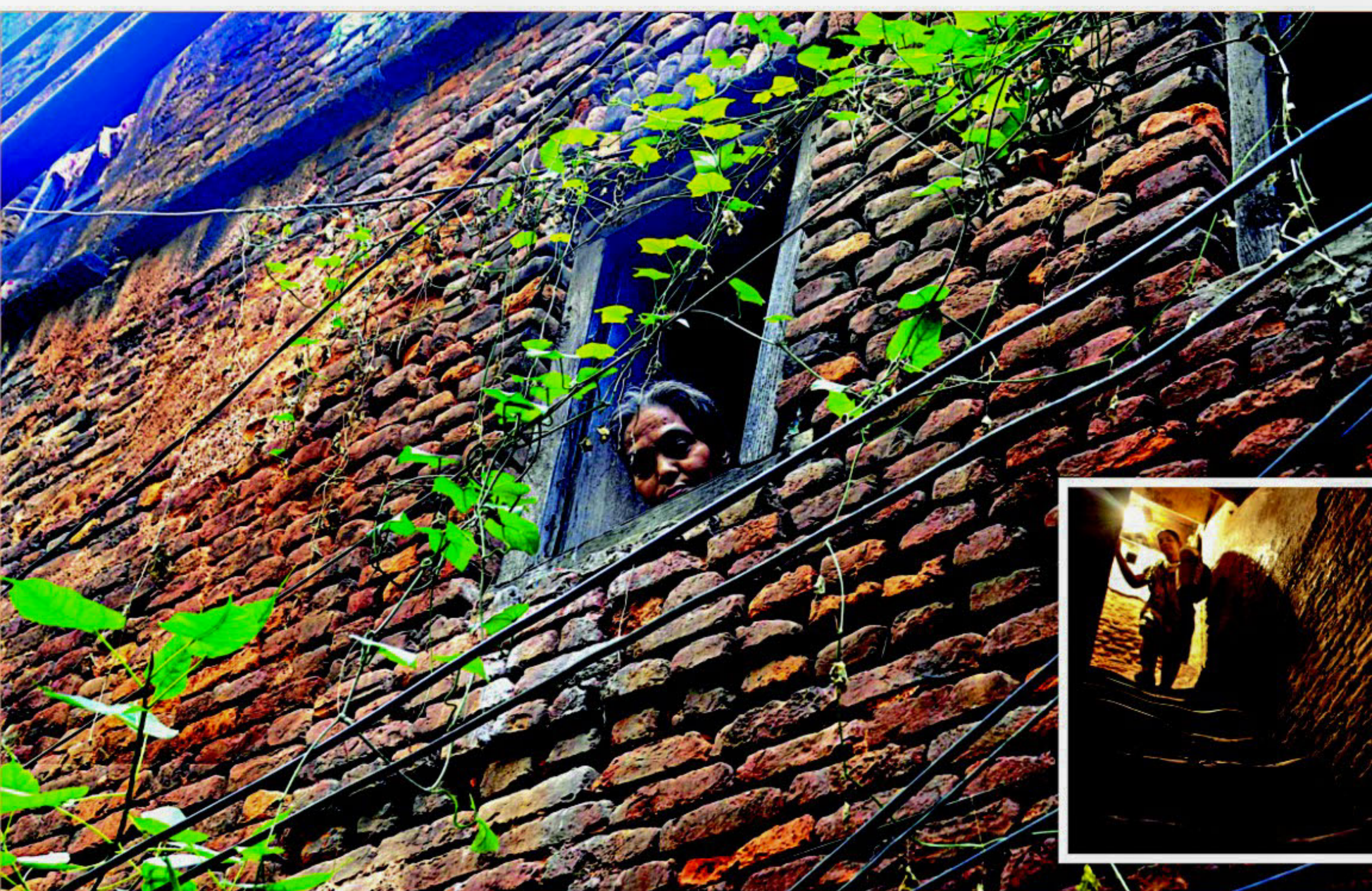
UNB, Dhaka

Telenor Chief Executive Officer Jon Fredrik Baksaas met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban yesterday evening and discussed matters relating to Grameenphone.

Norwegian telecoms giant Telenor is the major shareholder of mobile phone operator GP.

Jon Fredrik Baksaas, who was accompanied by Norway Ambassador in Dhaka Ragne Birte Lund, wanted to know whether there is any obstacle for them to do

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A woman looks out the window of a run-down building on Pannitola Lane in Old Dhaka. The bricks are barely held together as shrubs grow out of cracks. Inset, the dark and damp staircase of the building with worn-out steps.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Living with danger

Dwellers in highly vulnerable Shakhari Bazar buildings find themselves trapped in multiple inheritances, Vested Property Act, heritage law

PINAKI ROY and MAHBUB MORSHED

A 55-year-old woman, who declines to be named, has been living in a century-old rickety building at Shakhari Bazar in old Dhaka for more than three decades.

The structure was in a better shape when she moved into it as a young bride. As years passed by, it got from bad to worse for lack of repair, and has become one of the most vulnerable buildings in the area.

Plasters had fallen off its worn-out walls long time back. Huge cracks have developed on the floor over the years.

Despite knowing the risk of living in such a tumble-down building, she had no choice but to live in the house on Pannitola Lane to raise her three children.

She told The Daily Star that she and her family members want to build a new structure dismantling the old

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Rising population gets food job challenging

Govt sits on sizeable stock as world observes food day today

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladesh observes World Food Day today with its public stock of food grains at a record high in two decades -- more than 1.5 million tonnes.

But on the question of a sustained agricultural growth to feed an ever increasing population with the farmland dwindling, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur

Razzaque finds the job "increasingly challenging."

In the wake of declining international support for agriculture and increasing volatility of global food prices, Bangladesh still walks a tight-rope, the minister as well as experts think.

The country's cereal output was more than 30 million tonnes both in fiscal 2009-10 and 2010-11. The output was sufficient to meet the annual

food requirement of 150 million people provided they consume the standard per capita 182.5 kg of rice, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

However, there is a persisting debate over the real size of the population.

In 2010-11, import of rice and wheat stood at 5.3 million tonnes.

In a release issued ahead of the

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BNP, allies prepare for October 18 road march

UNB, Dhaka

The main opposition BNP and allies are preparing for a road march towards the northern districts on Tuesday to drum up support for their demand that the caretaker government system be reinstated.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will lead the two-day journey from the capital at 10:00am. On the way to Chapainawabganj,

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Experts decry metro route change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail route through Bijoy Sarani is not at all an obstruction to air operation at Tejgaon airstrip, said noted professionals at a roundtable yesterday refuting air force's arguments.

Mukto Akash, a monthly magazine, organised the roundtable at Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) in the capital.

The realignment of metro through Khamarbari would definitely spoil the world famous architectural site of the Sangsad Bhaban, as the metro's turning radius will encroach on 157-feet of its premises, said architect Iqbal Habib, joint

secretary of environmentalist group Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon.

Bangladesh Air Force, which raised objections to the 19-metre high metro route along Bijoy Sarani, has been successfully operating helicopters and relief cargo planes with more than 200 tall buildings around the airstrip, he said.

The tall buildings include 22-metre high Novo Theatre in its approach funnel with 33.5-metre high Falcon Tower and 51.82-metre high Trust Bank building in the inner surface. Such structures exist because they complied with international

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