



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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28 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE : Tk 10.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXI No. 318 | AGRAHAYAN 24, 1418 BS | MUHARRAM 12, 1433 HJRI

FUTURE OF MARKETING

Experts call for portraying a positive Bangladesh in World Marketing Summit

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ASHRAFUL RECALLED

The struggling batsman gets included in 15-man Bangladesh squad for Tests against Pakistan

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CRACKDOWN IN SYRIA

President Bashar al-Assad says he feels no guilt about his crackdown on a 10-month uprising

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2001 PERSECUTION BNP rejects probe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP on Tuesday rejected a judicial commission report into the 2001 post-polls violence, claiming it has been prepared to keep BNP leaders away from politics and next elections.

"A partisan commission has prepared a concocted report to keep our leaders away from politics and next polls," BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan office.

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See the Sports Page for SAFF Football Championship news



Mega projects go haywire

Communications gets govt's all dream schemes in a mess

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and SHARIER KHAN

The dream projects in the communications sector are more or less stalled owing to fund crunch, wrong selection of bidder, inefficiency of the relevant ministry and inflexibility at the highest level.

As a measure to get out of this stagnant situation, the government on Monday removed Syed Abul Hossain as the communications minister and gave the charge to Obaidul Quader.

Talking to The Daily Star before the reshuffle, Abul Hossain had blamed the fund crisis and complexities in government procedure behind the stalemate.

The Padma Bridge project had

become uncertain as the government appeared to be unwilling to remove Abul Hossain. The World Bank, the project's lead financier, had brought corruption allegation against the former communications minister and it seemed unless he was removed the bank would not release funds for the project.

The Metro Rail project that was expected to be the main solution to the problem of city commuting has also become uncertain due to the opposition of the Bangladesh Air Force to a part of its route. Instead of brushing aside the objection, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opted for an alternative

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I'm not after money

Quader pledges transparency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Taking over as chief of a crisis-ridden communications ministry, Obaidul Quader yesterday said he had no intention of indulging in corruption and pledged to work sincerely through maintaining transparency.

"I don't have any intention to make my pockets heavy," the newly appointed communications minister told reporters.

Asked about his priorities, after an introductory meeting with high officials of his ministry, he said he would put all his efforts into beginning the construction of the Padma Bridge. "Some problems have come up on the way to the



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PADMA BRIDGE

Talks restart as Abul goes

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Fresh talks between the government and the World Bank, aimed at the withdrawal of the latter's suspension of the Padma bridge funding, have begun soon after Syed Abul Hossain was removed from the communications ministry.

The World Bank had suspended the funding over allegations of corruption against Abul.

As part of the fresh dialogue, WB's country director in Dhaka Ellen Goldstein held a meeting with the new Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

This was Goldstein's first meeting with the new communications minister, who took office yesterday following Monday's cabinet reshuffle.

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Big chance missed in Bonn

HAMID MIR, Bonn, Germany

Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the US emerged as the biggest losers at the Bonn conference on Monday. The Bonn conference revealed many claims but most of the participants were convinced that they could not achieve anything without Pakistan. Hamid Karzai tried to give the



Hamid Mir

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TRIAL AGAINST SAYEDEE

First witness testifies

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday recorded the first witness' deposition narrating how Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee and other collaborators helped the Pakistani occupation forces to commit atrocities and crimes against humanity in 1971.

Prosecution witness and freedom fighter Mahabubul Alam Hawlader of Pirojpur completed his deposition yesterday while witness and freedom fighter Ruhul Amin Nabin of the same district began giving his deposition to the court recollecting the events that took place 40 years ago.

Hawlader, who was 20 years old in 1971, worked as a spy for the freedom fighters.



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CARBON EMISSION Rich nations not for legal binding

INAM AHMED, from Durban

As indications are clear that the developed countries are set not to give a second lifeline to the Kyoto Protocol, the only legally binding emission control mechanism, a deep sense of resentment prevails among the poor countries and a last minute effort is afoot to get at least a much compromised and weak agreement.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and South African President Jacob Zuma are trying hard to get a decision that will keep the Kyoto Protocol on virtual life support

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CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

World warned over failure

AFP, Durban

UN chief Ban Ki-moon has warned climate talks that failure to overcome deadlock placed the world in peril, and begged countries to spare the endangered Kyoto Protocol.

"Without exaggeration, we can say: the future of our planet is at stake -- people's lives, the health of the global economy, the very survival of some nations," Ban told environment ministers at the start of a four-day meeting on Tuesday.

"I urge you to carefully consider a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. In the absence of a global binding climate agreement, the Kyoto Protocol is the closest we have," he said.

The conference under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has until Friday to determine the fate of the Kyoto Protocol, the only legally binding



Ban Ki-moon

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CONGRATULATIONS



Fakir Mashrikuzzaman Neaz Deputy Managing Director of Fakir Knitweaves Ltd. is receiving National Export Trophy (2nd Time) for the year 2009-2010 from Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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