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under ICT

The Telecommunications Division of the posts and tele-

communications ministry (MoPT) is likely to be merged

with the newly formed Ministry of Information and

Communication Technology (ICT), amid objections

by government high-ups, according to different ministry

officials. It will soon be placed at the cabinet meeting for

If implemented, the ICT ministry, led by Syed Abul

Hossain, the former communications minister, will have

the organisations under the Telecommunications

Division, including Bangladesh Telecommunication

Office has already reached the two ministries concerned.

A proposal on the matter from the Prime Minister's

An ICT ministry official said that they have already

On the other hand, the MoPT differs over the matter

Yeafesh Osman, state minister for the newly formed

and will give its response on Sunday, said a senior official

science and technology ministry, told The Daily Star

Recently, the issue has been taken into consideration

ABDULLAH MAMUN

from the former.

Regulatory Commission.

sent positive remarks on the proposal.

approval.

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Mirsarai Tragedy

Trucker to stay 5 years behind bars

Mofizur Rahman

DWAIPAYAN BARUA and KAILASH SARKAR

A Chittagong court yesterday awarded five years' imprisonment to the trucker responsible for the July 11 road crash in Mirsarai upazila that killed 44 people, most of whom were

students. Truck driver Mofizur Rahman was handed three years' jail term and fined Tk 10,000, and in default, to suffer six more

months in jail for the deaths. The court sentenced him to two years' imprisonment and penalised Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer three more months

behind bars for causing injuries.

Farida Yasmin of Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court delivered the verdict in a teeming courtroom.

As per section 304 (B) of the Penal Code, the death of a person due to reckless driving is an offence bailable and the highest punishment for this is three years' jail or fine or both.

The district Public Prosecutor (PP) Abul Hashem said the convict would have to serve five years in prison as the court had directed to that his punishment be SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hold a joint press briefing at the Bali Conference Centre yesterday. Hasina is on an official visit to Indonesia.

7 initiatives for true democracy

PM proposes at Bali meet

UNB, Bali

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina proposed a sevenpoint initiative at the Bali Democracy Forum yesterday to establish an equitable society through true

democracy. "Attaining true democracy, which has so far proved to be the best way of establishing an equitable society, is, however, a lengthy process requiring undivided and committed attention from the leaders of the nation," she told the forum.

PBCP leader

killed in Rab

'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Purbo Banglar

A leader of the outlawed

Communist Party (PBCP-

ML) was killed in a "shoot-

Action Battalion team and

his cohorts in Alamdanga

out" between a Rapid

upazila of Chuadanga

Mokaddes Moka, 40, of

upazila, was the regional

commander of the party.

Jamjami village, a team of

Rab-6 chased some PBCP

members around 2:00am,

The outlaws took ref-

uge at a villager's house

from where they opened

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

fire on the elite force

Bhadua village in the

While patrolling

Rab sources said.

early yesterday.

The deceased,

Kushtia

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

BDR MUTINY TRIAL 10th witness names 4 more jawans who shot officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another officer of the erstwhile BDR yesterday named four more jawans who shot their officers at the Darbar Hall minutes after the mutiny broke out in the Pilkhana headquarters in 2009.

While testifying at the Dhaka Metropolitan SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Jordan jobs made tough Telecoms to go

Restriction on recruitment of Bangladeshis after reports of labour strike, sexual abuse

PORIMOL PALMA

Only after one year of lifting the ban, Jordan has tightened up on recruitment of Bangladeshi workers following reports of sexual abuse of female workers and labour strike.

"Jordan's labour ministry is following strict rules regarding fresh recruitment of Bangladeshi workers. But we are trying hard to melt the ice," Lubna Yasmine, first secretary (labour) of Bangladesh embassy in Amman, told The Daily Star over the phone recently.

On an average 700-800 workers went to Jordan a month in the first nine months of this year, but the number came down to less than 100 in October and also in November, said Mohammad Abdullah, managing director of Bangladesh Overseas **Employment Services Limited** (BOESL), the state-owned recruiting

Jordan considers the reports on sexual abuse of female workers and labour strikes a threat to free trade agreement between it and the US that allows duty-free access of Jordanian garments to US market. That is why Jordan is not allowing fresh recruitments from Bangladesh, said the officials.

This followed a number of events. Over 400 Bangladeshi female

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

CRACKDOWN ON PROTESTERS

US sent arms

Says Amnesty

The United States continued to send crowd control weapons to Egypt, even as security forces pressed their violent crackdown on protesters there, Amnesty International

Egypt last month carried at least seven tonnes of chemical irritants and riot management agents such as tear gas,

It strongly criticised the US government's decision to

EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Chittagong-4208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue,

Dhaka-1215, Tel: 9144330 (Hunting) & 8124944, Fax: 9144332, 8125155, 8126154, GPO Box No: 3257, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net,reporting@thedailystar.net

rally in city this month

BNP to hold

of the ministry.

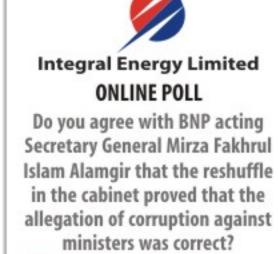
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday decided to hold a rally in the capital this month protesting the splitting of the Dhaka City Corporation.

The decision came at a late-night meeting at the Gulshan office of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. Presided over by

Khaleda, the meeting also **SEE PAGE 19 COL 3**

The Daily Star



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able to begin the construction of the Padma Bridge which has been stalled due to graft allegation? PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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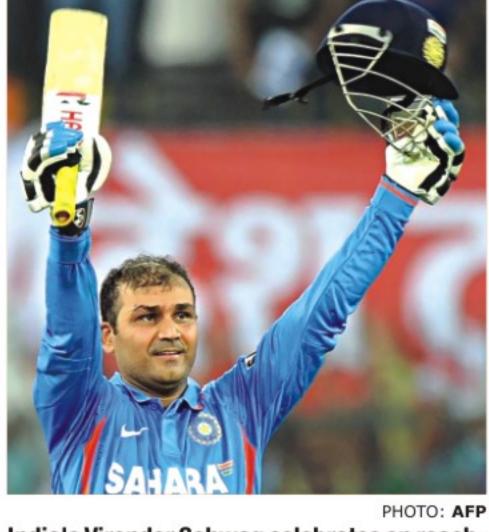


Sehwag slams record score AFP, Indore

India opener Virender Sehwag smashed the highest score in oneday international cricket on Thursday as he made 219 off 149 balls in the fourth match against the West Indies. The 33-year-old joined compa-

triot Sachin Tendulkar as the only batsmen to hit double-centuries in the 50-over format when he passed 200 in the 44th over of India's innings at the Holkar Stadium here. Tendulkar, the world's leading

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



India's Virender Sehwag celebrates on reaching the double century in the fourth ODI against West Indies in Indore yesterday.

to Egypt

AFP, Washington

saidWednesday.

The rights group said one recent shipment arriving in and was destined for the country's Interior Ministry.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

