

Today's Spelling Bee words from Milestones!
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THE ARTIST RULES OSCARS
The black-and-white silent movie bags five awards including best picture
PAGE 11

PLOT TO KILL PUTIN
Russian and Ukrainian security services "foil a conspiracy"
PAGE 7

INDIA TO LINK RIVERS

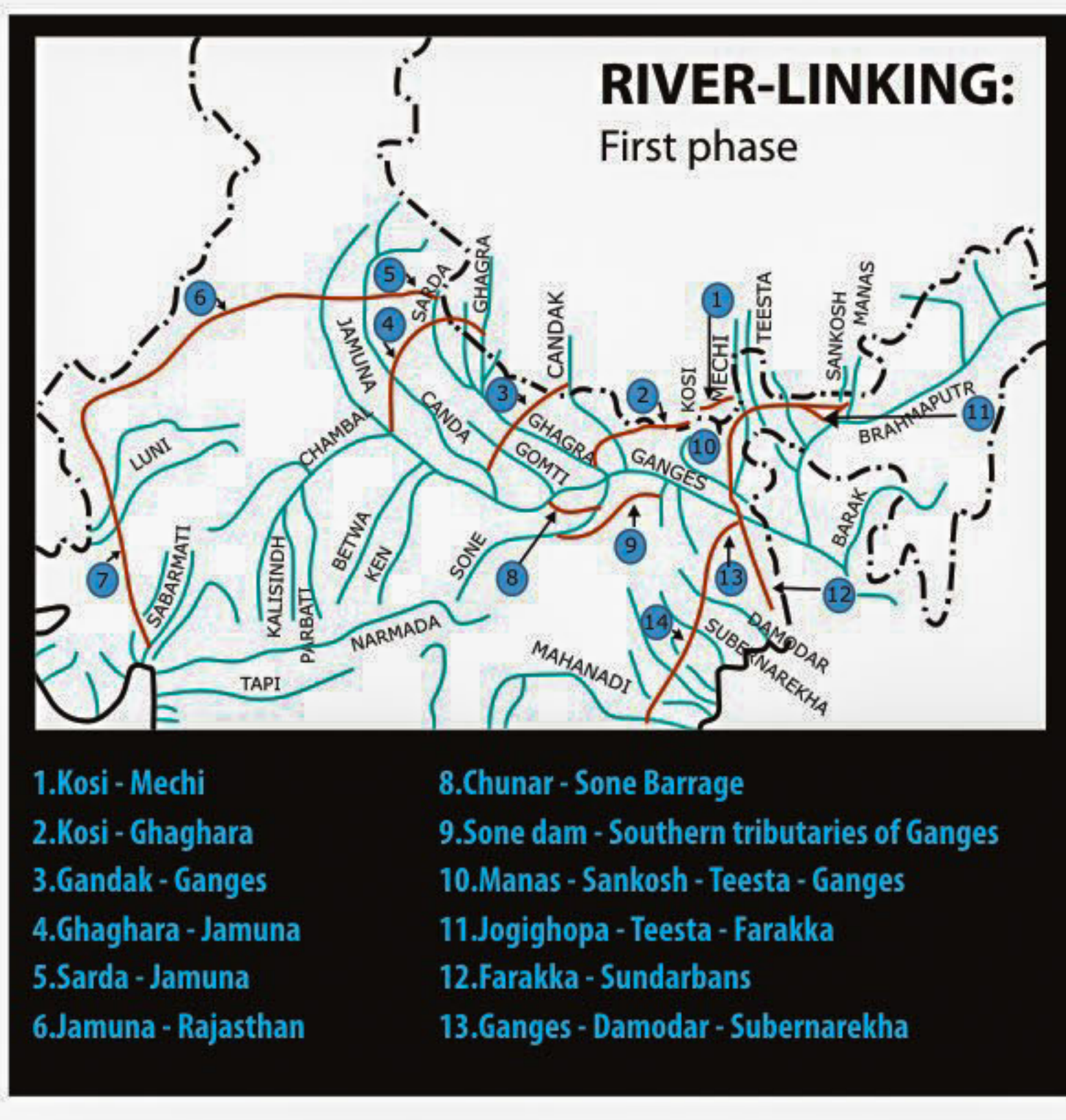
Contentious project gets court green light

Environmentalists in Bangladesh fear it would spell disaster

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA and PINAKI ROY
The Indian Supreme Court yesterday ordered the government to implement an ambitious project to link the major rivers of the region in a "time-bound manner".
The court also appointed a high-powered committee to plan and put into action the Rs 5,00,000 crore scheme.
The river-linking project was first devised in 1980 and has been under discussion ever since, reports BBC.

Bangladesh has been opposing the plan since 2002 as the then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee formed a taskforce to get the project going against the backdrop of the acute drought that year.
Vajpayee then said the scheme would "free India from the curse of floods and droughts".
The project that aims to link 30 major rivers and divert the Ganges and the Brahmaputra rivers was also opposed by other neighbouring countries and environmentalists.

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No water, no transit

Khaleda slams India over one-sided affair

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and DILIP ROY, from Lalmonirhat
Every deal with India, including transit, corridor and trade, has to be annulled if the neighbouring country does not ensure fair share of common river waters, said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday.
"The rivers Teesta and Padma have dried up. We also want friendship but it must be maintained in a reciprocal manner. Nothing one-sided can persist," she said in a huge rally at Collectorate ground in the northern bordering district of Lalmonirhat.
The rally was organised as part of her series of programmes and road marches to drum up support for the restoration of caretaker government system.
Terming the government a failure, incompetent, corrupt and murderers, the leader of the opposition

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PHOTO ON PAGE 20

PADMA BRIDGE
Muhith for talks with WB
HASAN JAHD TUSHER
The government might go for World Bank funding for the much-awaited Padma bridge project, considering that the Malaysian offer would be costlier.
For the Padma bridge construction, the WB was

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CARETAKER, OTHER ISSUES

Allies drifting away from AL

Ruling party sits with its partners today to bridge the gap

HASAN JAHD TUSHER
Distance between ruling Awami League and its grand alliance partners has been widening over the last few months centring a set of issues including the much talked about interim administration for holding the next parliamentary election.
The gap between AL and its partners in the 14-party coalition became evident and was discussed in the political circle after most components of the coalition recently sat together in a meeting

excluding AL.
A number of AL's 14-party partners and Jatiya Party (JP) of the grand alliance feel that the issue of the process of holding the next general election must be resolved to avoid political uncertainty and chaos.
Samyabadi Dal is the only 14-party component which is still faithfully following the lead of ruling AL on the issue. AL is still undecided about the process of holding the next election and thinks that there is still time to

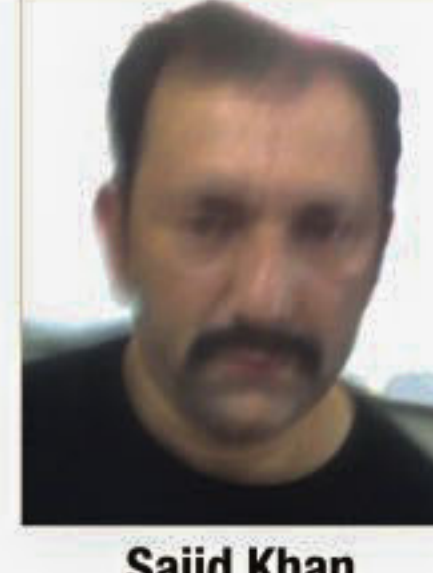
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BPL T20 CRICKET

Pak 'fixer' arrested

SPORTS REPORTER

Sajid Khan, a Pakistan national, was put on a two-day remand yesterday for questioning in his alleged involvement with match-fixing in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 tournament.
Assistant commissioner of DB (North) Mishuk Chakma told The Daily Star that a Dhaka court granted the remand after the Detective Branch of police produced Sajid, a 35-year-old resident of Karachi, before the court.
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) handed over Sajid to the police on Sunday



Sajid Khan

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Presidential Clemency Controversies can be costly

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Exercise of the presidential power to grant clemency over the last two years has led to a perception of the misuse and abuse of such extraordinary constitutional authority. The way the authority was exercised to benefit only the ruling party men also appears to be a severe blow to the rule of law.
Furthermore, the office of the president, Bangabhaban, has become mired in controversy on the issue.
But the bigger truth is that President Zillur Rahman exercised this extraordinary authority on the advice of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. And the two ministries--law and home assisted the premier in formulating her advice to the president to this effect.
Whatever the fact, it is Bangabhaban that has had to face sharp criticism for all the instances of presidential clemency occurring during the tenure of the present government.

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SEE EDITORIAL

BID TO TOPPLE GOVT

Involvement of 'parties' under probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The allegation that certain political parties and civilians were involved in the recent attempt in the army to overthrow the government is being examined, Planning Minister

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সবার শক্তিকে এক সুতোয় গাঁথতেই



রবি বিশ্বাস করে অমিত শক্তিদর এই তরুণরা জেগে উঠলেই আসবে বলমল সকাল। আর তাই তারুণ্যের সব শক্তি আর সম্ভাবনাকে এক করতেই রবি'র একরশ শার্ভিস: সার্কেল, সরল ২১, সিম চালু, ম্যাজিক ভয়েস, লোকেটর

an axiata company

জ্বলে উঠুন আপন শক্তিতে

