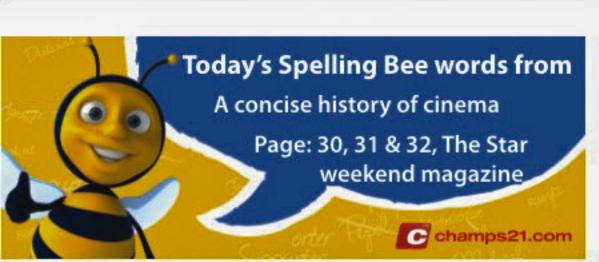
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CHILD RIGHTS

Life of kids living in urban slums and deprivation they face

PAGE 10-11

WORLD MARKETING SUMMIT

Hasina insists on marketing for consumer well-being

PAGE B1

Misdeed after midnight

Money changes hands as overloaded trucks cross weighbridge at Bangabandhu Bridge with ease

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Bangabandhu Bridge

It was just after midnight on the western edge of Bangabandhu Bridge on International Mother Language Day and loaded trucks were queuing up at the toll plaza. A lot of heavily loaded trucks; the queue stretched for over a kilometre and they kept on arriving.

They were queuing up at the weighbridge set up near the toll plaza, which was commissioned so that overloaded trucks do no pass and cause damage to the expensive Bangabandhu Bridge.

The official limit for a six-wheel truck is 16 tonnes but that mattered little. Trucks with a lot more load were allowed to pass and some with loads more than twice the limit was given the go-ahead. Some were not even weighed.

The operators of the machine did not ask even one to unload the extra tonnes or refuse one to pass. The police were there too but they were not doing anything about it.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority officials **SEE PAGE 6 COL 4**



Having bribed the toll collectors of Bangabandhu Bridge, overloaded trucks queue up on night of February 21 before the weighbridge at the western edge of the bridge. Even though the limit is 16 tonnes for any six-wheeler, no overloaded truck that has paid the bribe is denied passage.

PHOTO: M ABUL KALAM AZAD

chief of a parliamentary body, are

still bill defaulters, according to

information provided by Post and

Telecommunications Minister

Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju in parliament

yesterday.

March 1971

DU students raise flag of Bangladesh

March 2,

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

1971 dawned in East Pakistan with the popula-

tion in a mood of outright rebellion.

And that despite the fact that on the preceding day, when General Yahya Khan announced the postponement of the national assembly session, governor of East Pakistan Vice Admiral S M Ahsan had been replaced by zonal martial law administrator Lt Gen Sahibzada Yaqub Khan.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

China

India

STAR REPORT

spokesman says.

DCC polls at end of May

Schedule to be announced next month

be held any day in the last week of May, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Mohammad Zabed Ali said yesterday.

Talking to journalists after a meeting of the Election Commission (EC), he said schedule of the election will be: announced in the last week of next month.

headed by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, who took charge · on the party policymakers early last month.

The EC headed by his predecessor ATM Shamsul Huda . polls considering the in April 2010 had moved to hold the long overdue polls to : "anti-government sentithe DCC in May the same year. But the Awami League-led: ment" among the people, government did not agree with the EC move.

But the Huda-led EC refused to do so due to time: has already boycotted the

Pasighat

Guwahati

dilemma over backing candidates

· ups are split over backing · candidates in the upcoming Dhaka City

the party's mid-level lead-: ers are largely in favour of endorsing the aspirant

A group of leaders are · for not boycotting the : party insiders said.

BNP faces RPO given a dodge At least 6 contested JS polls despite being bill defaulters

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

· Although the BNP high-

Corporations (DCC) polls,

The main opposition SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Polls to the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will

It will be the first major election under the new EC : planning to put pressure

In November last year, the government split the DCC : The elections to the into two by amending the relevant law and made it man- · bifurcated DCC will be datory for the EC to hold the polls by the end of February · held in May. this year.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

FE Financial Express

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League lawmakers

ASM Feroz and Rahmat Ali were

supposed to be declared disqualified

as candidates in the ninth parlia-

mentary election for defaulting on



SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



phone bills, according to the

At least four former lawmakers also

Feroz, a whip, and Rahmat Ali,

Representation of the People Order.

contested the general election in 2008

despite being bill defaulters. They,

however, were defeated in the polls.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RENATA LIMITED DBL GROUP AND **NESTLE BANGLADESH** FOR INSPIRING CORPO BANGLADESH TO ENGAGE BEYOND BUSINESS **Standard Chartered Financial Express CSR Award**

River-linking on priority

Says Indian water minister OUR CORRESPONDENT,

New Delhi

The Indian water resources minister yesterday said the issue of interlinking of rivers was high on the ministry's agenda but maintained it could not move ahead before taking states on board.

"As far as the question of interlinking is concerned, the government is seized of the matter and it **SEE PAGE 6 COL 3**

BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

The river Brahmaputra that originates

from Tibet in China has almost dried up at

a town in northeastern Indian state of

Arunachal Pradesh, a state government

East Siang district found that the water

level of the river receded too much, said

People of century-old Pasighat town in

Water 'nearly dries up in Arunachal'

Bangladesh

Bay of Bengal

Indian state govt suspects China might have diverted the int'l river by building dam

> He expressed apprehension that China could have diverted the water of the river, which is known as Yarlong Tsangpo in Tibet, or there could be some artificial blockade due to which this has happened,

Tako Dabi in Itanagar, the capital Arunachal, Wednesday night.

PTI reports.

On June 9, 2000, the water level of the in one of the most reputed

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Indian HC's clarification, our reply

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday sent a clarification to a news item headlined 'Issue bilateral, action unilateral' on our March 1, 2012 issue. Following is the full text of the clarification, signed by First Secretary (PP) Manoj Kumar Mohapatra:

The High Commission of India in Dhaka strongly objects to the incorrect depiction of India's map

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1