



OUR 'DEMOCRATIC' ELITES

The reality of Bangladeshi democracy -- one-man or one-woman show

PAGE 14

EXECUTE SWAP DEAL

Enclave people in Panchagarh end their hunger strike

PAGE 9

NOT INSANE

Breivik, the Norwegian mass killer, is "sane enough" to face trial

PAGE 7

Let's ride on two giants

Prof Yunus spurs country to cash in on ever-growing China, India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's future depends on a world-class seaport and a technology savvy young generation who would drive the country into a new global order in less than two decades, said Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus yesterday.



Bangladesh must be prepared for 2030 when the world order would change dramatically, he said.

He said China and India would become the world's largest and second largest economies respectively by that time. If

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Festival sows new hope

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens of Chittagong have demanded that policymakers act fast to realise the prospects of turning

Chittagong into an economic and connectivity hub.

They want people from all walks of life, including intelligentsia, civil society,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus speaks at the closing ceremony of Odmmo Chattagram festival in Chittagong yesterday evening.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

Deal signed for the second time

Malaysian consortium to finance it; work to start this year, end in 54 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday penned a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Malaysia on cooperation in the construction of the Padma bridge.

However, the agreement was ratified without cancelling the loan deals entered earlier with the World Bank (WB) and three other donors.

Under the MoU, both countries will also work together for developing other infrastructures in

Bangladesh, according to a press release issued by the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia's Special Envoy to India and South Asia on infrastructure, Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

PM flies to Turkey today

Deals on trade, air service likely

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for Turkey today on a three-day official visit.

During her trip, the two countries will make several deals on promoting bilateral trade and investment, introduction of direct air service between Dhaka and Ankara and opening of direct banking

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Ministry car, Tk 70 lakh, some puzzles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At around 11:30pm on Monday, a railway ministry car pulled over at the main entrance to the Pilkhana BGB headquarters in the capital and its driver hollered that there were stashes of bribe money in the vehicle.

BGB personnel on guard at the gate searched the car and found Tk 70 lakh.



They seized the money and detained the driver, Ali Azam, and three others who turned out to be railway minister's Assistant Personal Secretary (APS) Omar Faruq Talukder,

Bangladesh Railway General Manager (East) Yusuf Ali Mridha and its Chief Commandant Enamul Huq, said sources

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



Students of Dhaka University fine arts institute yesterday gear up for Pahela Baishakh by bringing out a riot of colours from the depths of their imagination on flamboyant paper masks.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

33rd BCS preliminary test June 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The preliminary test of 33rd Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations under Public Service Commission (PSC) will be held on June 1.

The one-hour long examination will begin in all centres of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet simultaneously at 10:00am, said the PSC.

Against 4,206 vacant
SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Summit's big power projects in limbo

It fails to arrange fund, refuses to surrender

SHARIER KHAN

The fate of two large gas-fired private power projects -- Bibiyana-1 and 2 -- has become uncertain as the contractor, local company Summit, can neither arrange finance for those nor will it give up trying.

As per the agreement with the government, Summit was supposed to close its finance in February for both the projects -- each with 341-

megawatt capacity. The company won the tender for these projects by offering a very low price of around Tk 2.6 per kilowatt hour for 22 years.

In February, Summit sought one month's time but till date it could not arrange the fund.

The company claims it is facing the problem because the World Bank, which initially promised a partial risk guarantee (PRG), has

refrained from doing so apparently because it won't fund anything unless the Padma bridge corruption allegation is cleared. The WB's PRG gives all lenders the confidence that it will finance such power projects.

In this situation, the government cannot cancel the contract with Summit and go for a re-tender or take any other measure, said a high

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Marginal farmers to get stimulus

Govt moves to raise Aus rice production

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will provide a Tk 35 crore stimulus package for 3.55 lakh marginal farmers to boost rice production in the upcoming Aus season.

Under the package, farmers will get for free 8kg of Narica or 5kg of high-yielding paddy seeds, 16kg of urea and 10kg of DAP and MOP fertilisers per bigha of land, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said at a press conference yesterday at her secretariat office.

She said Narica paddy seeds will be distributed mostly among the farmers of the uplands as it is drought tolerant and could be harvested within 90-100 days.

Last year the government provided Tk 34.93 crore worth of stimulus package for the farmers for cultivating Aus.

This year around 48,966 hectares of land in 56 districts will be brought under Aus cultivation, the minister said.

"Last year, we saved around Tk 300 crore in foreign

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

River-linking needs int'l agreements

Says Indian high official

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia yesterday said a variety of environmental, economic and technical issues need to be settled before implementation of the ambitious inter-linking of rivers.

Referring to the Himalayan component of rivers inter-linking, Ahluwalia said "effective exploitation" of capacity of these rivers is critically dependent on the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

2nd Death Anniversary of Tanzir Fahim Jumma (Ovi)



**IF TEARS COULD BUILD A STAIRWAY
AND THOUGHTS A MEMORY LANE,
WE WOULD WALK UPTO HEAVEN
AND BRING YOU HOME AGAIN**

- Sajjatuz Jumma & Dilara Jumma (Parents)
and beloved Brother & Sister