

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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## DHAKA ART SUMMIT

The four-day event begins at National Theatre Hall of Shilpakala Academy

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## OPENING NEW BANKS

May be good if there is strict monitoring

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## CAMERON ON ASIA TOUR

The UK PM urges people not to confuse Islam with extremism

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# Corruption conundrum

*Suranjit's defence for his APS raises questions; APS, railway GM incommunicado; outcry over stashed money continues; new probe body also an in-house affair; AL terms it sad incident*

STAR REPORT

The Monday night recovery of a stash of money from the vehicle of the rail minister's assistant personal secretary has opened a Pandora's box of reports on a web of corruption centring recruitment of about 7,000 people in the railway.

At the same time, Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta's insistence that his APS did nothing wrong has raised suspicion of his involvement in the scandal.

Many have also questioned his forming probe bodies manned by the very people serving under him.

On Monday at 11:30pm, APS

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Suranjit's APS Omar Faruq owns a flat in this building at Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

PHOTO: KAILASH SARKAR

RAILWAY CTG ZONE

## Bribery nexus involves Mridha

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Persons who got jobs in Bangladesh Railway East Zone in the last one year, almost all of them had to pay bribe ranging from Tk 2.5 lakh to Tk 6 lakh to a nexus of the zone's General Manager Yusuf Ali Mridha, some other senior officials, and some leaders of local Railway Sramik League.

The allegation was made to The Daily Star by Railway Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad's

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## It's Sengupta telecoms

Regulator gives Suranjit's son lucrative interconnections licence

SAJJADUR RAHMAN and ABDULLAH MAMUN

Rail Minister Suranjit Sengupta's son Soumen Sengupta was awarded a Tk 5-crore telecommunication gateway licence yesterday, just two days after the railwaygate scandal involving the minister's close aide and two top railway officials.

Soumen, who worked at internet service provider Agni Systems Ltd six months ago, had to pay the telecom regulator Tk 5 crore in licence fees. The amount was paid between March 2 and April 2.

Prior to his joining at Agni Systems, Soumen worked for Nextgen Networks, an IT firm, from March 2010 to May 2011, according to his profile on social networking site LinkedIn.

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I will quit, if graft proved  
Says Suranjit, terms it a conspiracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta has defended himself against his alleged links to Monday's cash haul and dismissed it as a conspiracy to ruin his political image.

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## Criticism from all around

*Free probe, punishment to culprits demanded*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A barrage of criticism continued against Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta in connection with Tk 70 lakh being found in his assistant personal secretary's car and his handling of the matter.

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Recast probe body makes no difference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid widespread criticism, the railway ministry yesterday recast one of the two committees it had formed earlier to probe the recovery of Tk 70 lakh from the possession of the railway minister's assistant

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets Turkey President Abdullah Gul at the latter's office in Ankara yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## PM, Turkish president hold talks

7 deals signed

UNB, Ankara

Bangladesh and Turkey have appreciated each other's steps to thwart any unconstitutional move to take over power, agreeing that democracy is essential for development of any country.

During a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, Turkish

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## Our Corporate Head Office and Principal Branch have moved to our new premises

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