



## EMBRACING BAISHAKH

The biggest secular festival of Bangalee

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## THE APRIL 9 DRAMA

What the railway minister can do and will do

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## 100 YRS OF TITANIC TRAGEDY

The ship's sinking, with loss of 1,500 lives, is remembered worldwide

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### RAILWAYGATE SCANDAL

# Aide axed

*Under-fire minister also suspends GM, security chief; driver still missing; BB freezes accounts of APS, wife*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Railway minister's Assistant Personal Secretary Omar Faruq Talukder was sacked and Railway General Manager (East) Yusuf Ali Mridha and Dhaka Division Security Commandant Enamul Huq were suspended yesterday in connection with the railwaygate scandal.

The ongoing recruitment in around 3,500 posts in  
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BNP FOR SURANJIT'S RESIGNATION IN 48 HRS PAGE 2



Yusuf Ali Mridha



Enamul Huq



Kids or elders, nobody wants to be left out of the joy of Bangla New Year celebration. The photo was shot on Saturday morning on the Dhaka University campus where Baishakh, the first month of Bangla year, is welcomed with vibrant and colourful celebrations. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

### PM hears Suranjit

*'Not satisfied' with his explanation*  
HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Embattled Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta last night met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban and defended his position on the Tk 70 lakh scandal, said a source close to the prime minister.

But Hasina was not satisfied with Suranjit's explanations during the  
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### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Suranjit should go on his own

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta's refusal to resign and indeed his argument that he cannot be held responsible for the scandal involving his assistant personal secretary and others regarding the Tk 70 lakh episode damages his reputation further and erodes the moral standing of the government he has been part of since December last year.

The minister's questions regarding the entry of the vehicle carrying the money and those who held the money in their hands into the premises of the Border Guard Bangladesh headquarters at night look like a  
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## Touts out to fleece Libya jobseekers

*War-torn Tripoli yet to open its door fully to foreign workers*

PORIMOL PALMA

Manpower syndicates of both Bangladesh and Libya are out to "manage visas" to recruit jobseekers to war-torn Libya.

But the country still reels from security concerns, and employers are not recruiting many workers there now.

Officials of Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli said the brokers have already "managed" an estimated 10-15 thousand job

demands, but the embassy approved only around 1,500 after thorough inspections of the employing companies.

Foreign companies had left Libya after a civil war broke out there in the beginning of February last year and ended with the Western interventions in the third quarter of 2011.

Over 36,000 Bangladeshi workers were forced to return home during wartime.  
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## BCB shrugs off security worry

*Decides to send Tigers for Pakistan tour*

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday agreed to tour Pakistan to play two international matches at the end of the month. The one-day international is scheduled for April 29 and the Twenty20 international on the next day, both to be held in Lahore.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) was informed of the decision during the Dubai executive committee meeting, which concludes today. Bangladesh Cricket Board President AHM Mustafa Kamal and his Pakistani counterpart Zaka Ashraf are attending the meeting.  
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Bangalees divided by barbed wire fences between Bangladesh and India through the Omakhana border in Panchagarh on Pahela Baishakh and exchange greetings and gifts. PHOTO: STAR

## Souls reunite on border

Barbed-wire fence fails to separate them on Nabobarsho

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

They were neither dressed in bright, colourful clothes nor singing Rabindranath Tagore's ageless *Esho he Baishakh* in celebration of the Bangla New Year. Their day did not start with a platter of Panta bhat and fried Hilsa fish, the most sought-after menu of urban people on Pahela Baishakh.

But all the faces were glowing with happiness.

With the first sun of 1419 rising on the horizon, a feeling of joy swept over them at the thought of meeting those from whom they were separated by a man-made border.

It was at Omakhana border in Panchagarh sadar upazila on Saturday, the first day of Baishakh. Thousands of Bangla-speaking people had a get-together from two sides of the fence, though only for four hours from noon.

Scorching heat or barbed wires

could not spoil the reunion.

People from different districts of Bangladesh and India, especially those who cannot afford to visit their relatives on the other side through legal procedure, gathered on the Indo-Bangla border.

They talked and exchanged foods, cigarettes, pens, clothes, towels and of course friendly greetings. Many failed to fight back tears seeing their kin.

Those who came here on

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### Pay more for uninterrupted power supply

Proposes PDB

UNB, Dhaka

The Power Development Board (PDB) yesterday submitted a fresh proposal to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Berc) on providing uninterrupted power supply to the consumers at higher rates.

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### DCC ELECTIONS

## BNP still silent, aspirants active

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mayoral hopeful from BNP in Dhaka City Corporation (South) Asaduzzaman Ripon started electioneering yesterday while Abdul Awal Mintoo, mayoral aspirant for DCC (north), will go ahead after getting a formal declaration from the party.

The main opposition party, however, has not yet declared who will get party support to contest the  
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### HC stays DCC polls process until today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered stopping the process of divided Dhaka City Corporation polls until further hearing today.

It asked Additional Attorney General MK Rahman to inform the Election Commission (EC)  
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### MILITANTS ATTACK

## Nearly 400 escape in Pak jailbreak

BBC Online

Almost 400 prisoners escaped from a prison in Pakistan after it was attacked by Islamist militants, officials said yesterday.

At least 100 militants launched the assault on the jail in northwest Pakistan

around 1:00am Saturday.

Officials said some of the freed men were "dangerous" insurgents, including an inmate on death row for trying to kill former president Pervez Musharraf.

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### JU MURDER

## Arrest of 9 BCL men ordered

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against nine fugitive accused, also activists of ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh

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