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WB allegation without proof

Muhith says about Padma bridge project after meeting ADB deputy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday claimed that the World Bank had raised corruption allegations over the Padma bridge project without any evidence.

"There was no evidence of corruption. So, it is a spurious complaint, and imaginary," Muhith told reporters after a meeting with the visiting vice-president of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Xiaoyu Zhao, at the finance ministry in the capital.

The finance minister's remark comes several days after Ellen Goldstein, the country director of the bank, said the WB stood by its investigations, and urged the government to pursue its own probe into the corruption allegations and hold the wrongdoers accountable.

Muhith was hopeful that the country's biggest-ever infrastructure project would begin by this November with a new planning.

He said under the fresh arrangements, Bangladesh government, not World Bank, would coordinate the project, even if the bank funds the project.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Mahmudul Haque, a student of BL University College, is hung from the ceiling while Ferdausur Rahman alias Munna of Govt Azam Khan Commerce College stands blindfolded at Khulna Sadar Police Station on Sunday. Inset, OC SM Kamruzzaman. PHOTO: STAR

Violent cops closed in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The officer-in-charge and three constables of Khulna Sadar police have been closed to police headquarters for involvement in torturing two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists picked up during Sunday's hartal.

Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shafiqur Rahman took the disciplinary action against the four on Sunday night following media reports on the pro-opposition JCD activists being tortured in custody.

According to a police probe, the four -- OC SM Kamruzzaman and constables Abu Sufian, Mamun Akhter and Shudhanshu -- brutally

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

'Land grabbers' torch 5 houses of indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Alleged land grabbers burned down five houses of indigenous families in Shikpur Adivasi village in Tanore upazila early yesterday.

The houses were set on fire around 2:00am when **SEE PAGE 19 COL 8**



Railway plans to hire 5,000

Interim minister wants to check graft allegation in recruitment of 1,400

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway has decided to hire 5,000 more at a time when an investigation is on into alleged corruption in the recruitment of 1,400 people in recent months.

"We will place advertisements [in newspapers] in this regard soon," said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday at Railway Bhaban in the capital.

The recruitment is essential as the railway sector has fallen short of station masters, drivers and security guards, he

said adding a total of 146 stations were now closed due to a shortage of staff.

Quader, however, admitted that years of irregularities and misdeeds by a vicious circle inside the railway had crippled the sector.

The railway will continue limping along if the vicious circle cannot be resisted, he said but did not elaborate.

The minister said he had smelt a rat in the recent recruitment of 1,400 people. He had received complaints that recruitments were made in exchange for bribes.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Dhaka, Delhi to Qatar keen review pledges

Set to exchange trips in early May

REZAUL KARIM

Dhaka and New Delhi will host two ministerial-level exchange visits in May to review the agreements made during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January 2010 and her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh's trip here in September last year.

Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee will arrive in Dhaka on a two-day visit on May 5 which will be immediately followed by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni's two-day official visit to India on May 6 or early on May 7.

Foreign ministry officials said the visits are intended to expedite implementation of the agreements and commitments made by the two sides and untangle the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

to invest

Energy, communications interest the Gulf nation; PM returns today

BSS, Doha

The Qatar government yesterday expressed its keen interest to invest in different sectors like communications, power and energy and infrastructure in Bangladesh. Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-

Thani showed the interest in a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office here. Briefing reporters, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam

Azad said the two leaders discussed issues relating to bilateral interests.

The Qatari premier said Bangladesh and Qatar now SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

A bus requisitioned by police is burning near the BNP headquarters at Nayapaltan in the capital yesterday around 7:00pm, an hour after the opposition's dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal ends. has expressed grave concern as the hartal called by main opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP demanding trace of its missing leader Ilias Ali steps on the third consecutive day. Federation of Bangladesh

Hartal is not

the solution

Lament businesses

The country's business community

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex trade body, yesterday called a media briefing for today to urge the political leaders to keep from hartal and find an alternative to solve the deepening political crisis.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

মনোনয়নের জন্য দরখান্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

Men to live as long as women

Life expectancy gap closing



BBC ONLINE

The gap between male and female life expectancy is closing and men could catch up by 2030, according to an adviser for the Office for National Statistics.

Prof Les Mayhew said the difference SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



MORE ON PAGE 2

the ongoing Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent examinations? (55.7%)

(42.3%)No Comments I (2.0%)**TOTAL VOTES: 948**

TODAY'S POLL Do you think it was justified

for the finance minister to blame the democratic system of government for the compromise over whitening black money?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews



- □ সম্মানিত নগরবাসীর অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা ওয়াসার সায়েদাবাদ পানি শোধনাগার প্রকল্পের (ফেজ-২) আওতায় রাজধানীতে আগামী ডিসেম্বর ২০১২ নাগাদ দৈনিক আরও ২২.৫ কোটি লিটার পানি সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে গুলশান শুটিং ক্লাব থেকে গুলশান লিংক রোড হয়ে তেজগাঁও তিব্বত পর্যন্ত রাস্তায় খনন কাজ চলছে।
- পाইপ বসানোর কাজে যানবাহন ও পথচারী চলাচলে সাময়িক বিঘ্ন ঘটার জন্য ঢাকা ওয়াসা কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছে। লাইন স্থাপনের এ সময়টিতে আমরা যানবাহনগুলোকে উল্লেখিত সড়কগুলো যতটা সম্ভব এড়িয়ে চলার অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি। ঢাকা ওয়াসা নাগরিক সমাজের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করছে।

ওয়াসা-জঃতঃ ২০৬/২০১২

জিডি-১৭৭৯

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উল্লেখ্য যে, উপজেলা কমিটি হতে জেলা কমিটিতে মনোনয়ন পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখ ৩০ এপ্রিল ২০১২খ্রিঃ এবং জেলা কমিটি/ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ও অন্যান্য সংস্থা হতে সদর দপ্তরে মনোনয়ন পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখ ৯ মে ২০১২খ্রিঃ। উল্লেখিত সময়ের মধ্যে পুরস্কার সংক্রান্ত আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহ ও বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানার নিমিত্ত জেলা/ উপজেলা মৎস্য দপ্তরে যোগাযোগের জন্য আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি এবং প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

মৎস্য অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ।