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Ten Bangladeshi teams reach the tech competition's final round

IT & TELECOM

NEPALI DEADLOCK

Maoist PM will disband cabinet and form national unity govt

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SHAHEED JANANI'S BIRTHDAY

Jahanara Imam remembered for her fight to bring war criminals to justice

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Japan keen to invest

Asks govt to fix infrastructure first during talks, says metro rail financing is on

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan has no reservations about changes in Dhaka's metro rail plan; rather, it is very positive about funding the project.

The statement came from Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Katsuya Okada during bilateral talks with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital yesterday, official sources said.

Okada is the highest ranking Japanese official to tour Bangladesh since foreign minister Taro Aso's visit in 2006.

The most prestigious visit from Japan was by prime minister Yoshiro Mori in 2000. The last top-level trip from Bangladesh to Japan was by PM Sheikh Hasina in November 2010.

Okada, who arrived here yesterday on a two-day official visit, renewed the Japanese commitment to fund the \$2.9 billion Padma bridge project, coordinated by the World Bank.

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MORE IN STAR BUSINESS



Rows and rows of vehicles stretch as far as eyes can see, on the Mohakhali flyover and the road beneath in the capital. The photo was shot around 12:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

Enact law to ban hartal

FBCCI urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday demanded a law to ban hartal, considering the loss it inflicts on the country's economy.

"The government should enact a law banning hartal. Hartal impacts negatively on the economy," FBCCI President AK Azad told The Daily Star after a meeting of the FBCCI governing council at its office in the capital's Motijheel.

The meeting was organised to discuss the current political situation and the economy.

The FBCCI held the discussion a day after a meeting of top business leaders on hartal and economy at Westin Hotel in Dhaka.

BNP leaders stay underground

Rizvi's bail plea rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi landed in Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after a court denied him bail in two cases filed over the recent hartal violence in the capital.

A metropolitan magistrate's court also rejected the police petitions seeking to take the BNP leader on a 15-day remand.

In another development, the High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to BNP lawmaker Mahbubuddin Khokon, an accused in one of the two cases.

Rizvi was arrested from the capital's Kakrail area on April 30, the last day of the second back-to-back countrywide shutdown in protest at the disappearance of BNP leader Ilias Ali and his driver.

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INDO-BANGLA TIES

Power import faces Mamata hurdle

Joint coal-fired plant to take time

SHARIER KHAN

Import of 250 megawatts of power from India at a competitive price by the middle of next year faces a hitch as the Power Grid Company of India (PGCI) is not getting clearance from the West Bengal state government to buy land for installing a

related switching station.

Alongside this state-to-state import, the Power Development Board (PDB) has floated a tender for purchasing another 250 MW power from the open market of electricity in India. But import of that extra power also depends on the same switching station in

Behrampur near the border in West Bengal.

Importing this power may give Bangladesh an early respite from load shedding as the government's performance so far is poor in implementing large and cheaper long-term power projects, which are unlikely to be

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ASIF KEPT STANDING

Dr Kamal taken aback by court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court cannot keep a respondent to a writ petition standing before it because such a person is not a contemner, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain told an HC bench yesterday.

Kamal made the observation before the bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim that had kept Dhaka University professor Asif Nazrul standing during a writ hearing on April 15.

Prof Asif faces charges of making "provocative comments" on who would come to power next.

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