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A MODERN APPROACH

Shykh Seraj for a push to sustain success in agriculture

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MYSTERY AND MAGIC

The unique features of Tagore's paintings and sketches

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WIN FOR HOLLANDE

The socialist has been elected as France's new president, early estimates show

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Land deal too to take time

Pranab tells editors of constitutional hurdles before ratification; assures govt of Teesta deal, says river-linking won't hurt Bangladesh; India to convert \$200m loan into grant

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Exchange of adversely possessed lands and 162 enclaves, and demarcation of boundary with India will be delayed indefinitely, as the Congress-led Indian ruling coalition lacks the required majority in the Lok Sabha to ratify the land boundary protocol with Bangladesh.

electronic media at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. He also claimed the controversial river-linking project in his country would not affect Bangladesh since the rivers originating from the Himalayas are not going to be linked. The rivers flowing only within India would come under this project. Pranab said it requires special majority, meaning a constitutional amendment, for ratifying

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Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

RIVER-LINKING PROJECT Experts stay concerned

Find Pranab's assurance far from reality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee yesterday reassured that India's river-linking project will not harm Bangladesh as it does not include any Himalayan river that flows down to Bangladesh. Many Bangladeshi analysts contest his view and say the project has already affected Bangladesh with India diverting Teesta water to Mechi River in Bihar through the Mahananda. India has been diverting water from the Teesta to the Ganges basin though the water was supposed to feed the Brahmaputra river in Bangladesh, said Engineer M Inamul Haque, former director general of Water Resources Planning Organisation (Warpo).

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Good ties with all parties

Pranab tells Khaleda of India's policy; Teesta, Tipaimukh dam, border killings discussed in 40-min meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expecting a "peaceful and democratic Bangladesh", visiting Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee yesterday said his country wants to establish ties with all the political parties of Bangladesh, not with just a specific one. During a meeting with BNP

Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office, Pranab emphasised the need for interaction between the peoples of two close neighbours to strengthen the bilateral relationships based on trust. For this, Khaleda said, dialogues have to be continued. BNP Vice-Chairman Shamsur Mobin

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All deals to be implemented

Pranab tells PM

BSS, Dhaka

India yesterday said it would implement all the agreements signed earlier with Bangladesh in the greater interest of the two neighbouring countries.

"We are firmly committed to implementing all deals signed earlier with Bangladesh," visiting Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said as he called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday noon.

"Although it is late, these agreements will be materialised soon," a Prime Minister's Office spokesman quoted him as saying.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

US sides with Grameen Bank

Hillary speaks against any govt action that may hurt microcredit feats; meets Yunus, Abed; insists politics has to change; stresses fair probe into killing labour leader Aminul; flies to Kolkata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said the USA does not endorse any action of the Bangladesh government to undermine the achievements of Grameen Bank.

Before wrapping up her 20-hour Dhaka tour yesterday, Hillary said she had followed the problems stemming from a change in the management in Grameen Bank.

She was speaking at a town-hall style gathering of Bangladeshi students and



civil-society representatives organised by the US Embassy at International School Dhaka. "I highly respect Muhammad Yunus and I highly respect the work he has done and I hope to see it continue without being affected or undermined by any government action," she said. She praised Grameen as one of the "best development organisations in the world," a model that has been replicated across the developing world.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

BNP leaders sneak into HC

Dodge possible arrest before seeking bail today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Avoiding strict police surveillance, some senior BNP leaders, accused in blast and arson cases, took shelter inside the High Court premises yesterday evening. They are planning to appear before the court today to seek bail. Party insiders confirmed that some BNP leaders

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

FRESH PROGRAMME BNP to stage demo on Wednesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance yesterday declared demonstration programmes for Wednesday to press home its demands including return of its missing leader M Ilias Ali.

Party standing committee member Moudud

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

MLM bosses arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The managing director and the general manager of unipay2u, a multilevel marketing company, were taken on police remand yesterday, hours after their arrest over fraud.

The two along with other top officials went into hiding late last year following filing of cases against them on charges of amassing huge money through cheating,

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Muntasir Hossain Emon

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BREAKING: Khaleda gives govt four more days to find out BNP leader Ilias Ali, threatens to go for tougher programme if govt fails to trace him.
thedailystar.net

BREAKING: BNP calls dawn-to-dusk hartal for Sunday, Monday for getting back its leader M Ilias Ali
thedailystar.net

BREAKING: An hour after issuing a notification asking public servants to refrain from investing in stockmarket, government withdraws it.
thedailystar.net

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