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PHILIPS

PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

Govt mum on 2nd WB report

Donor calls for thorough probe, punishment to culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has asked the government to thoroughly probe the allegation of corruption in Padma Bridge project, and take action against those involved.

The WB made the call in a report to the government last month.

“When the World Bank finds serious and credible evidence of fraud and corruption in its projects, we refer our findings to the concerned national authorities in our member countries,” WB Country Director Ellen Goldstein told The Daily Star yesterday.

“This is the course we pursued in Bangladesh related to the Padma Bridge project, first in September 2011 and again in April 2012. We expect the authorities to take action, conduct a thorough investigation, and hold wrongdoers accountable,” she said in response to an email query over the project.

But she would not elaborate on the allegations made

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



Sand and grit traders occupy a vast tract of the Turag river at Gabtoli in the capital for years but yesterday the authorities confiscated the sand and the grit. They also tore down, *inset*, structures built by the unscrupulous traders.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ/ PALASH KHAN



Bangladesh exposed to security risks

Says UK climate security envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting UK Climate Security Envoy Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti yesterday said Bangladesh, one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters, is also exposed to potential security risks.

Such risks may come in the form of higher criminal activities and terrorism, said Morisetti, who was on a two-day visit in Bangladesh to assess the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Navy adds spl war unit to fight terror

SHARIER KHAN

Bangladesh Navy has commissioned a Special Warfare Diving and Salvage (Swads) unit to strengthen anti-terrorism and anti-piracy drive in the Bay of Bengal during peace time and to go for drastic measures during crisis.

With its organogram approved by the finance ministry in late March, the unit commissioned on December 27 last year is presently looking at a drive to clear the Bay of pirates and smugglers involved in arms trade and drug trafficking. The unit will have around 900-strong manpower.

“During peace time, this will be a complementary force with the coast guards in drives against smugglers, armed groups and terrorists in the Sundarbans area,”

said navy chief Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed.

The US government is assisting Bangladesh Navy to train and develop the force by giving it as grant dozens of rigid inflatable hull boats, defender class vessels and arms and ammunition. The navy is also procuring equipment using government funds from other countries.

From late 2008, the navy has been hammering on setting up this unit and began giving special warfare training to some navy personnel from the following year. It aims at completing training of all the personnel by 2015.

“We have been pursuing naval commando for a long time. We had naval commando in the erstwhile Pakistan Navy. It

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Rab rejoinder, our reply

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) sent a rejoinder contradicting a part of a news item published in The Daily Star headlined “Rescue Dinar - Family of ‘missing’ Sylhet JCD leader appeals to govt” on April 29.

The rejoinder, sent by the elite force’s legal and media wing director on behalf of its director general, stated that it was not based on truth that a team of Rab-1 picked up Dinar, an opposition-backed student leader, from outside his relative’s house in Uttara along with another activist, Junayed, as mentioned in the report.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 8

DU teacher reappears

Cops, colleagues bin his claim of abduction

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka University teacher reappeared on his own at a Khagrachhari police Station yesterday, 42 hours after his alleged abduction from Dhaka, giving rise to more questions than answers.

On his appearance at Dighinala Police Station around 1:30pm, Nuruddin Alo, a lecturer of political science department, claimed to police that he had been abducted and tortured, but he somehow managed to escape.

He sought help and collapsed on the floor of the police station. Police then sent him to Dighinala upazila hospital for treatment.

Two hours later, he narrated to police and the media

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Mollah, Alim defend themselves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence of Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah and former BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim placed arguments before the International Crimes Tribunal-2 seeking their discharge from the cases of crimes against humanity.

Placing arguments for Quader, Abdur Razzaq, chief defence counsel, told the tribunal, “There is no reason behind holding the trial after 40 years, other than teaching the political opponents a lesson.”

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A trench is dug for development work along the central reservation of Rokeya Sarani in the capital and people are crossing it this way knowing very well of the risks involved. There appears to be minimal warning of danger and safety precautions for vehicles using the busy road.

Green spaces deter asthma, allergies

BBC ONLINE

A lack of exposure to a “natural environment” could be resulting in more urban dwellers developing allergies and asthma, research has suggested.

Finnish scientists say

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



HISTORY DISTORTION

Arrest order for ex-BOU VC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Ershadul Bari, former vice chancellor of Bangladesh Open University (BOU), in connection with a charge of distorting Liberation War history.

The court also directed officer-in-charges of Alamnagar Police Station in Rangpur and Gazipur Police Station to submit a report by June 14 on the execution of arrest warrant.

Bari has two residences; one in Rangpur’s Alamnagar and another in Gazipur.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government should allow whitening of undisclosed income only after imposing tax plus a penalty, not at a flat tax rate?

Yes

66.4%

No

31.1%

No Comments

2.5%

TOTAL VOTES: 399

TODAY'S POLL

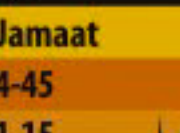
Do you agree with BNP leader Moudud Ahmed that the government has to take initiative to reach a consensus on next national elections under a neutral government?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

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PRAYER TIMING			May 10
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-10	4-45	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-36	6-40	
Esha	8-00	8-30	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

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