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CELEBRATING FIFTY
Some takes aging as a complement rather than a curse
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FACEBOOK SHARE DEBUT
The eight-year-old social network hit capital market yesterday with a value of \$104bn
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ADIEU, DISCO QUEEN!
Donna Summer, five-time Grammy Award winner, passes away
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From left, Towhid Samad, chairman of Bangladesh General Insurance Company; Anwar Hossain, chairman of Anwar Group; Ehsan Khasru, managing director of Prime Bank; M Anis Ud Dowla, chairman of ACI; AMA Muhith, finance minister; Mahubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh; Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group; Sharmin Hossain, chairman of Fresh and Safe Agro; Ramesh Natarajan, vice-president of DHL Express, Rest of South Asia; and Desmond Quiah, country manager of DHL Express Bangladesh, pose at the 12th Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka last night. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ADP FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR Focus on power, communications

2 sectors may get 30pc funds including allocation for Padma bridge; ADP to be 18pc bigger

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

In the national budget for the coming fiscal year, around 30 percent of the Annual Development Programme funds will be allocated for the power and communications sectors including the Padma bridge project.

The planning ministry will place the ADP proposal at a meeting of the National Economic Council today, said a ministry official.

According to the proposal, the size of the ADP will be Tk 54,300 crore, which is 18 percent higher than the revised ADP of the current fiscal year.

Of the amount, Tk 30,750 crore or 57 percent will come from the government's own resources and the rest from external resources.

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Business heroes win accolades

The Daily Star, DHL Express award 6 businesspeople, institutions; special award goes to Latifur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not many occasions can bring together so many business icons, corporate executives, academics and civil society members than did last night's business awards ceremony organised by The Daily Star and DHL Express.

It was a triumphant night that recognised the most successful businesspeople and companies in the country.

The Daily Star, the country's most-read English newspaper, and DHL Express, the world's leading logistics company, jointly honoured the best companies and

individuals who have shown the greatest flair and integrity in running businesses over the years.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed out the 12th Bangladesh Business Awards, regarded as the premier business award in the country, to six winners, including one posthumously, at a glittering gala event at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka last night. A special award went to Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group.

The Best Enterprise of the Year award for 2011 went to

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Lifetime Achievement Award Mahubur Rahman, president of ICCB	Best Enterprise of the Year ACI
Lifetime Contribution Award (posthumous) MA Samad, former chairman of BGIC	Outstanding Woman in Business Sharmin Hossain, chairman of FASAL
Business Person of the Year Anwar Hossain, chairman of Anwar Group	Best Financial Institution Prime Bank
Special Recognition Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group	

Political unrest a major challenge for businesses

SOHEL PARVEZ

The growing political unrest has added to the challenge facing the entrepreneurs who are already grappling with increased fuel and electricity prices, higher exchange rates against the dollar and steep interest rates on bank loans.

These factors combined are pushing the cost of business even higher.

The country's business leaders made the observations at the 12th Bangladesh Business Awards, organised by The Daily Star and DHL Express, at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

They said political instability and hartals do not only take a toll on their day-to-day operations but also dampen investment sentiments.

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RMG LABOUR UNREST Instigations, rumours led to most incidents

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Garment workers engage in violent clashes at times on rumours or slightest instigations for lack of proper counselling and poor relations with the management, industry insiders say.

Except for the massive labour unrest for wage hike in 2010, most other incidents of unrest in the sector happened either following rumours of death of fellow workers or on instigation, they add.

At present, about 3.5 million workers, 80 percent of them women, are employed in garment sector. Most of



the workers come from rural areas and have no education and formal training. The management depends on on-the-job training of the workers for lack of training institutes in the country.

"We don't go to factories for counselling, but we do that at training sessions," said Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, assistant executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, country's lone public labour institute at Dhanmondi in the capital.

"But the workers should have neutral platforms at factories where they can lodge their complaints or

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LICENCE FEE SOURCE ACC probe clears Soumen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission found no wrongdoings by Soumen Sengupta, son of minister Suranjit Sengupta, while investigating how he got Tk 5 crore to obtain an interconnection exchange

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BNP in the soup

Arrests of leaders make June 11 rally hard to hold

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

With record number of its top leaders in jail, BNP is having a tough time in preparing for the rally on June 11, the day after the party's ultimatum for restoring caretaker government system expires.

In fact, many BNP leaders are unsure about whether the rally is possible at all if

the detained senior leaders of the party, including its acting secretary general, are not released.

Insiders said the planned countrywide visit by BNP central leaders might be delayed due to the latest political development.

They also said party high-ups were

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