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THE UNSUNG HEROES

Voluntary blood donors are the safest source of blood

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THE BROKEN PROMISE

The BSF is yet to stop border killings, despite Indian assurance of restraint

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SHENZHOU 9 LAUNCH

China will send its first female astronaut into space today

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PADMA BRIDGE FINANCING

WB lays out 5 conditions

Writes letter to PM

REJAU KARIM BYRON

The World Bank has finally broken the ice over its financing of the Padma bridge project proposing five new conditions for the government to ensure corruption-free implementation of the project.

In a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina early this month, WB Vice President Isabel Guerrer elaborated the steps the government has to take

to get WB funding for the massive project, finance ministry sources told this correspondent on Wednesday.

In September last year, the WB suspended its funding of the \$2.9 billion Padma Multipurpose Bridge project on graft allegations. It had committed \$1.2 billion.

In her letter, the WB vice president said a high-powered investigation team has to be formed to probe the allegations of corruption in the

bridge project.

An independent firm has to be appointed to monitor implementation of the project, the letter said.

According to the WB proposal, the independent firm will not be under the government or any co-financier of the bridge project. It will make its recommendations independently, and the authorities concerned will implement those.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Border Guard Bangladesh personnel patrol around a pagoda in the Rakhine-dominated Chowdhury Para of Teknaf yesterday to prevent any untoward incidents. Meanwhile, people of the area, regardless of their religion, pray for peace across the border.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Arrests aim to suppress opposition

Says Fakhrul on his release

STAR REPORT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul yesterday alleged that the government arrested the opposition leaders as part of its ill-tactic to suppress the opposition's ongoing movement.

"This is unprecedented

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Mount pressure on Myanmar

Analysts defend govt decision, ask world to press for lasting solution to Rohingya crisis

PORIMOL PALMA

World leaders should exert pressure on Myanmar for a lasting solution to the longstanding problems of the Rohingyas who have been facing serious human rights violations for decades, international relations experts say.

The Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine state are victims of internal politics, and

sheltering those seeking refuge in Bangladesh to escape the recent communal violence in Myanmar is not the solution, they observe.

The Daily Star talked to several leading international relations experts yesterday in the wake of a debate whether or not Bangladesh should open the border for the Rohingyas.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Provide safe haven for refugees

UN urges Bangladesh again

STAR REPORT

The UN refugee agency yesterday urged Bangladesh to provide a safe haven for people fleeing unrest in Myanmar's Rakhine state after authorities refused entry to boatloads of refugees.

"We have firsthand reports of the Bangladeshi

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Teknaf prays for peace of all

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and DWAIPAYAN BARUA, from Teknaf

What the people of Teknaf now seem to want most is peace in the Rakhine state of Myanmar.

At Juma prayers yesterday, Muslims of the upazila sought the Almighty's blessings for communal harmony in the neighbouring country, where violence between Rohingya Muslims and Rakhine Buddhists has left dozens of people killed over the last week.

They prayed also for calm in Teknaf, an

upazila on the river Naf in southern district of Cox's Bazar.

Bangladeshi Rakhines also offered prayers for an end to the sectarian violence in the western state of Myanmar.

"We prayed for peace on either side of the border," Amir Ahmed, president of a local association of imams, told The Daily Star.

"While we [imams] asked all to pray for the Muslims who face brutal attacks in Myanmar, we urged all not to go for any agitation or procession here."

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সকাল ১০টা-রাত ৯টা

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