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# China shelve Ctg-Kunming rail link plan

*Cites opposition from Myanmar as reason*

**HASAN JAHID TUSHER**, back from Kunming, Yunnan, China

China has shelved the proposed railway project between Chittagong and Kunming due to opposition from Myanmar.

However, China is good to go for the road project connecting the two countries to boost bilateral trade and commerce.

Highly placed Bangladesh government sources said the Myanmar government late last year suddenly refused to allow China to build the rail links through its territory, irking the Bangladeshi and Chinese governments.

Li Jeming, vice-minister for commerce of Yunnan provincial government, during a press briefing for Asian journalists in Kunming told The Daily Star, "We're always keen on establishing a rail link between Kunming and Chittagong, but we have to give up the idea for now as Myanmar is against it."

Replying to The Daily Star, he said the Yunnan provincial government had even provided Myanmar with \$2 billion financial support so that rail lines could be built on its territory.

He said they were now putting their attention on building railway link between Kunming and Laos, which

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A girl runs across the Dhaka-Mawa highway at Keraniganj in front of a bus ignoring the danger she is putting herself into. Just over two weeks ago, a road accident left 12 people dead just 500 metres down the road.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Tiger cubs get new home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three Bengal tiger cubs, which had been rescued Monday from a smuggler's house in the capital, were shifted to Dhaka Botanical Garden last night from their temporary shelter at a private mini zoo in Hatirpool.

They will be kept in a room at the botanical garden under the supervision of the Dhaka Zoo authorities.

"I am now examining the new facility and soon the cubs will be brought here," said Shahidullah, curator of Dhaka Zoo, last evening.

A committee of experts had decided to move the cubs from the private zoo as they felt the facility was not congenial for tigers.

The three-month-old cubs were recovered in a terrible health from the house of wildlife smuggler Abdul Kader. Kader and

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# POLLUTION DRIVE TIB slams industries' demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday strongly condemned the demand from a section of business leaders to stop anti-pollution drives.

Terming the demands illegitimate, irresponsible and immoral, the corruption watchdog in a statement called upon the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# QATAR WC PREPARATION Asian workers at risk of abuse

## Rights body HRW raises alarm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of thousands of South Asian migrant construction workers, including Bangladeshis, in Qatar risk serious exploitation and abuse, says a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW).

Workers reported a range of problems including unpaid wages, illegal deduction of wages, crowded and unsanitary labour

camps and unsafe working conditions, when the Gulf state is building huge stadiums to host Fifa World Cup in 2022, noted the report released on Tuesday.

They are often forced to accept jobs or working conditions they did not agree to before leaving their home countries, or to continue work under conditions of abuse, revealed the 146-page report, adding that

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

# BSF kills 1 Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Thursday night in Thakurgaon.

The victim was identified as Md Faruque, 22, son of Md Alabul of Choroigati village under Baliadangi upazila of the district.

Police and local sources said the BSF personnel of Borabula Camp opened

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

# Pranab set to be president

*India's ruling UPA announces his candidature*

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India's Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee yesterday appeared poised to be the country's next president--the first Bengali to adorn the top constitutional post-- after his candidature was announced by ruling Congress-led UPA.

The announcement promptly drew groundswell of support from other parties.



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A vendor sells unhygienic soft drink from a fish tank near New Market of Chittagong city yesterday. Exhausted by the summer heat and their hard work, many rickshaw pullers are seen having the drink oblivious to the health hazard it brings.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Unhygienic drinks flood Ctg city

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

During the scorching summer, people in Chittagong city are drinking various unsafe colourful drinks from roadside vendors risking being infected by waterborne diseases.

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# Bridge collapses with 8 vehicles

*One killed, several injured*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An old bailey bridge with eight vehicles plummeted into a canal on Sylhet-Companyganj road in Borni area of Sylhet last night leaving one person dead and 12 others injured.

Six stone-laden trucks, a microbus and a CNG run auto-rickshaw plunged into Borni canal around 9:15pm

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# The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government should accept the Rohingyas seeking refuge in Bangladesh following the sectarian clashes in Myanmar?

Yes (65.9%)  
No (31.5%)  
No Comments (2.6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 425

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the opposition leader wants to take Bangladesh backwards?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)  
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

# PRAYER TIMING June 16

	Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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