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Joydevpur-Mawna Road Tender floated again, costs shoot up

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

In a sudden move, the communications ministry last week floated a re-tender to upgrade the Joydevpur-Mawna road shelving a legal battle with a local contractor that lost the same contract on charge of fraudulence.

The re-tender will increase the cost of the work by Tk 240 crore at a time when the ministry is struggling to implement various projects due to fund crisis.

The cost for upgrading the 30km road has been estimated at Tk 569 crore in the new tender, whereas it was Tk 330 crore in the first tender.

The communications ministry under former minister Syed Abul Hossain cancelled the original contract with Intraco BD in September last year on charge of winning the bid by submitting a fake joint venture agreement with its Chinese partner Hebei Road and Bridge Group Company (HRBC).

Intraco protested against the allegation and went to the court, leaving the construction work suspended since then. The matter was pending with a three-member tribunal.

However, construction of the remaining 57km of the Joydevpur-Mymensingh Highway (Mawna to Mymensingh) is on under a Tk 904 crore government-funded project.

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Workers of Sinha garments factory clash with police on Dhaka-Sylhet highway after police tried to foil their attempt to block the road. Law enforcers, *inset*, fire teargas canisters and non-lethal bullets at the workers to disperse them. The workers had been agitating for a few days demanding a raise.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Traffic man talking on cell gets crushed under train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A traffic constable died after being hit by a train at Mohakhali level crossing in the capital yesterday.

The deceased Mahmudul Alam, 34, was talking over his cell phone while walking on the rail track, said Anwar Hossain, sub-inspector of Government Railway Police (GRP), Kamalapur.

Quoting locals, he said Alam noticed a train coming towards him and crossed on to the second line.

However, since he was busy talking on the phone he did not notice another train on that track approaching him from the other direction, witnesses said.

As a result, Dhaka-bound Egaro Sindhu Express hit him around 11:15am killing him on the spot.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Journo killed in Jessore

STAR REPORT

A journalist was hacked to death at Sharsha upazila in Jessore on Friday night, allegedly for reporting on a local drug-smuggling syndicate.

The victim, Jamal Uddin, 33, was a



Jamal Uddin

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Jobs of female domestic helps in high demand

HK, Singapore, Jordan may take up to 6,000 female workers monthly

PORIMOL PALMA

Huge job opportunities await Bangladeshi female domestic workers in Hong Kong, Singapore and Jordan with better wages and working environment amid uncertainty whether the authorities can best utilise the situation.

If the opportunities are tapped, Bangladesh might send around 5,000-

6,000 female domestic workers monthly to these destinations.

Around 2 lakh female jobseekers went to different countries since 1991 and currently around 2,000 such workers are flying abroad every month.

Presently, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman mainly recruit domestic workers whose monthly salaries

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TEESTA DEAL Delhi to convince Mamata

Plays down strained Congress-Trinamool ties

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Against the backdrop of strain in ties between Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress and its ally Congress over the presidential election nominee, the Indian government yesterday said it

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Suu Kyi vows reconciliation

Nobel speech after 21 years

AFP, Oslo

Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday pledged to keep up her struggle for democracy as she finally delivered her Nobel Peace Prize speech, 21 years after winning the award while under house arrest.

After a year that has seen sweeping



changes in her Southeast Asian homeland, Suu Kyi pledged to work for national reconciliation but also pointed to remaining political prisoners and continued ethnic strife in her country.

"My party, the National League for Democracy, and I stand ready and willing to play any role in the process of national reconciliation," said Suu Kyi,

As the festival of Eid approaches **The Daily Star** is putting together

Star Fashion

eid album 2012

Ahead of the country's largest shopping season. If you wish to participate, send outfits and accessories you would like to feature in the album.

Last date of submission June 20, 2012

Attention: Designers & Boutiques

Criteria for Participation:

1. Dresses, saris and accessories should express the mood of the festival.
2. Materials used should be locally produced.
3. All submissions must be accompanied with a short description of the product, including price.
4. Designs should be original and fabrics should suit the weather and environment.
5. The attires and accessories sent for the album are returnable.
6. Entry fee per submission is tk 500 (minimum 6 entries for each participating house).

Contact:
(For submission of products)
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Cell: 01711623905

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Advertisement Department
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E-mail: advdept@yahoo.com

Mother reeling from 35-hour nightmare

Killers still not known

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khaleda Banu, the 73-year-old mother who witnessed her daughter's killing in their flat on June 5, is fighting within to forget the 35 hours

she had spent with her hands and legs tied and mouth gagged. The bruises on her body still testify to the night-long brutality unleashed on her and her daughter Nishat allegedly over a property feud.

"I don't know how I survived. The killers tied my hands and legs and gagged me. I lay there trying to free myself for days while the body of my daughter was rotting in the next

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Bewildered Khaleda sitting on the floor of her Topkhana Road home on June 7, less than two days after criminals got into her home, tied her up and killed her daughter Nishat, right, to take six title deeds.



PHOTO: STAR

SPELLING BEE CONTEST Greenherald girl in final round

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

Sohaima Jabeen, a class-X student of SFX Greenherald International School in Dhaka, has become the fifth student to qualify for the grand finale of The Daily Star Spelling Bee Powered by Horlicks.

Usually very shy and quiet, Sohaima had to step out of her comfort zone in the TV rounds and in the divisional round to spell in front of an audience and a TV crew to make it this far, growing



Sohaima Jabeen

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NOTICE

This is a notification for all concerned.

B.I.T.'s second campus in Uttara is now complete - therefore the Head Offices will be re-located there - the new session will begin from August 2012.

In Uttara the classes will be from Play Group to Advanced Level.

In Gulshan, the classes from Play Group to Class V will remain where they are located.

Girls' Section will have classes from Class I - Class X.

Parents who have been wait-listed for admission, may now complete the formalities.

New Address in Uttara
Plot # 13, Road # 1/A, Sector # 14
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka.
Tel. No: 8957721 - 3

Ms. Lubna Choudhury
Founder-Principal, B.I.T.

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

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

Yes (15.9%)
No (80.0%)
No Comments (4.2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 409

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should accept the World Bank's five new conditions regarding financing of the Padma bridge project?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING June 17

	Azan	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