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## Maitree Express fails to attract passengers

No let-up in harassment by Indian customs in the name of checking

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The Maitree Express Train could not be popular since its resumption four years ago due to objectionable actions by the Indian side in the name of checking passengers, said Bangladesh Railway (BR) officials.

Although the Indian authorities have stopped using the dog squad for checking passengers just last month in the face of strong objection from Bangladesh, they continue to confine passengers in a cage-like structure at the border station of Gede until the checking of all the passengers is over.

The passengers are not allowed to take their seats in SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Jaliapara village at Teknaf is inundated by a tidal surge from the river Naf yesterday due to a breach which appeared in a local embankment almost a year ago. As the river swells under the impact of every full or new moon, the rising waters rush through the breach, submerging the entire village.

### SQ CHY'S TRIAL Muhith says

sorry for losing temper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said

because of old age he at times lost his temper and he was sorry about that. **SEE PAGE 6 COL 4** 

# Witness Praphulla cross-examined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence yesterday cross-examined fifth prosecution witness Praphulla Ranjan Sinha in the case against BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

During the proceedings, defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena lost his cool following twisted comments from behind by the prosecution, which prompted the tribunal to ask Ahsanul to take rest for five minutes.

The tribunal also warned the prosecution that they would be removed from the courtroom if they failed to act decently.

The incident took place when the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

### get 1 lakh acres of land Mannan refutes

media reports STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Housing Abdul Mannan Khan yesterday refuted recent media reports that Indian business conglomerate Sahara India Pariwar will be given one lakh acres of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

#### WB gave graft info, says ACC STAFF CORRESPONDENT

PADMA GRAFT

**PHILIPS** 

The World Bank did share with the Anti-Corruption Commission some information on graft allegations in recruitment of Padma bridge project consultants, but the recent media reports on the issue were partial. SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

The Baily Star

**Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL** Do you think it is justified not to give new gas connections to domestic consumers? (19.6%)(78.9%)(1.5%)**TOTAL VOTES: 331** TODAY'S POLL Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that load shedding

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will come to a tolerable level

before Ramadan?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

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## Sahara won't | Road crash saves kidnapped man

4 arrested from hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was kidnapped from the capital by goons allegedly hired by his younger brother, and was being driven in a microbus towards Gazipur. But a road accident miraculously saved him from the clutches of the kidnappers, and perhaps his life.

Didar Ahmed Pulok, a businessman, was abducted by a gang of five from his Purana Paltan residence around SEE PAGE 19 COL 5







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