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CANNES LIONS

Where creativity takes the centre stage

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'I KEEP TRYING'

The desire to make a great film still drives Woody Allen

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15 YRS UNDER CHINA

Hong Kong marks the occasion as a new leader takes office

PAGE 7



MUHITH RESPONDS TO WB

- WB statement insulting, undesirable, mysterious
- Canada refused to provide Dhaka with evidence
- Govt took steps to remove WB's suspicion
- WB did not take into cognizance leadership change in bridge project
- Discussion takes place in parliament today

PADMA LOAN CANCELLATION

Govt wants WB to review decision

Muhith says WB's evidence not acceptable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government hopes that the World Bank will reconsider its decision to cancel the funding of the Padma bridge project, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

Muhith held a press conference to clarify the government's position a day after the global lender cancelled its \$1.2 billion credit for the project claiming to have proof of a corruption conspiracy involving Bangladeshi officials, executives of a Canadian firm and private individuals.

He said the executive director, who represents Bangladesh at the bank, had been continuing talks with WB officials on the matter.

In his statement, the minister said the government had kept the other financiers informed about its steps and hoped that they would analyse

the WB's step.

"In order to reach an understanding with the World Bank and keep the Padma bridge project completely free of corruption, we had accepted many of its demands," Muhith told journalists at his office in the capital yesterday evening.

"Our purpose was to resolve the matter in such a way that we would not have to sign any humiliating memorandum of understanding over possible corruption, and the Anti-Corruption Commission would not accept any terms of reference with a foreign panel in order to maintain its independence."

Muhith said the government wanted to reach an understanding with the WB by exchanging letters with it on the project's implementation and the issue of continuing the probe.

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FULL TEXT OF GOVT STATEMENT-PAGE 19

BRIDGE FUNDING Govt now focuses on alternatives

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

A day after the World Bank scrapped the loan agreement for the Padma bridge construction, the government said it had "alternative sources" to

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

WB suggested freezing Abul's bank accounts

Says ACC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman

Ghulam Rahman yesterday

said the World Bank had

earlier this year suggested

that the commission seize

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

WB asked for removal of minister

Cites govt letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday released a set of letters it had earlier sent to the World Bank on the Padma bridge issue.

In one of the letters, Iqbal Mahmood, senior secretary at the Economic Relations Division, said the WB President for South Asia had communicated to the finance minister that the bank would resume the project if two officers and the minister in charge (Syed Abul Hossain) were moved out.

The government assured the global lender that it would take action against the officials allegedly involved in corruption in the Padma bridge project.

The finance minister made available the letters at a press conference at his office in the secretariat.

"We have refrained from disclosing the letters from the World Bank, as we wait for the global lender to reconsider

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1
GOVT LETTERS TO WB -- PAGE 13

Spain crush Italy to retain title

AFP, Kiev

Defending champions Spain secured an unprecedented third successive major trophy as they beat Italy 4-0 in the Euro 2012 final here Sunday.

Goals from David Silva and Jordi Alba gave the world champions a comfortable advantage.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

NARSINGDI MAYOR MURDER

Charge sheet to be challenged

Investigation influenced, alleges brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A Narsingdi court yesterday accepted the charge sheet that was submitted clearing 11 of the 14 accused in the killing case of Narsingdi mayor Lokman Hossain.

The charge sheet, that comes eight months into the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Lokman Hossain

Padma bridge graft culprits to be tried

Warns Khaleda

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said if her party was elected to power in future, the people involved in the Padma bridge corruption would be brought to justice.

She said this while visiting the areas recently hit by landslides at Yasin colony under Khulshi Police Station in the port city in the morning.

She went to Chittagong to stand by the victims, she said, adding her party would always stand by disaster-stricken people.

The opposition leader reiterated her commitment to building two

SEE PAGE 7 COL 7



Vendors carry on their activities, occupying most of the Gulistan-Nawabpur intersection and obstructing the flow of vehicles, which results in severe traffic chaos. The photo was shot recently.

PHOTO: STAR

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Short Term	ST-2
Date of Declaration of Rating	28.06.2012

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