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CURBING CORRUPTION

Thoughts in the wake of WB's cancelling the loan for Padma bridge project

PAGE 15

MONSOON IN MELBOURNE

Expats celebrate the arrival of Barsha through songs, poems

PAGE 11

Your Right to Know

OLD RULERS RETURN

PRI candidate Pena Nieto claims win in Mexico vote

PAGE 7

to provide' Padma fund

Jica to decide later

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ADB has said it is unable to finance the Padma bridge project after the lead co-financier World Bank pulled out of it, while Jica has made it known it will consult with the Japanese government before taking any deci-

However, a high official SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

PADMA 'GRAFT' ACC quizzes SNC-Lavalin's local agent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yester day interrogated a local agent of SNC-Lavalin in connection with the alleged corruption in appointing the Canadian company as the consultant for Padma bridge project. Sources involved in the ; on what information is available. The

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2 · figures we have arrived at are indicative in

ADB 'unable to provide' WB ignored Dhaka's Punish graft by provide' ADB ignored Dhaka's Punish graft by provide' and provide a proposals to end row

SHABAN 12, 1433 HIJRI

Muhith tells parliament, again blames Zoellick for taking 'hasty, imprudent' decision on Padma bridge loan

What price do we pay?

ciers in line.

implications.

. STAFF CORRESPONDENT

INAM AHMED

: Finance Minister AMA Muhith said in : parliament yesterday he believed former : World Bank president Robert Zoellick had never taken into cognisance any of · Bangladesh's proposals to end the staleof the Economic Relations : mate over the Padma bridge project.

NEWS ANALYSIS

: What future awaits the Padma bridge?

. What price do we have to pay now that

neither the World Bank nor the ADB will

· release funds for the project over allega-

itions of corruption? How costly will the

· exercise the public mind. The answer

appears pretty challenging after we did a

: study of the financial implications based

These are the questions that now

: funds from alternative sources be?

Bangladesh had continuously held discussions on the issue in Dhaka, Washington and other places between December last year and April this year, he:

"I believe that the World Bank president SEE PAGE 19 COL 5 **FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT-PAGE 12**

gross terms and may not be precise.

According to the co-financing arrange-

ment, if the lead financier, the World Bank

in this case, withdraws funds, the co-

Malaysian companies as the next finan-

Now let's have a look at the financial

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

suspects, revive WB loan: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

· The opposition BNP thinks Padma bridge pro-; ject is still possible to be implemented using the World Bank's fund by reviving the loan agree-· ment through taking stern actions against the cor-: rupt persons in line with ; the information provided by the Bank.

The party yesterday SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

bridge of immense *importance*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

: The Padma multipurpose bridge will lead to a \$6,000 million rise in GDP over · 31 years from 2015, a financers will also follow suit. So the : World Bank assessment whole loan amount will now have to be : shows.

generated from other sources. The gov-Its economic benefits ernment has of late been touting some ; will peak by 2032 with an annual return of about \$300 million a year.

> Besides, the bridge is expected to save

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

INLAND WATER TRANSIT

Renewal for 2 more years

India to pay Tk 10cr as maintenance fee

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and New Delhi yesterday agreed to renew the Rajshahi-Dhulian Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade for another two years and almost double the maintenance fees for six

Doikhawa-Sirajganj river routes inside Bangladesh.

Shipping Secretary Abdul Mannan Hawlader disclosed this while talking to reporters after

6 ROUTES

Kolkata-Chandpur-**Pandu-Silghat**

Kolkata-Chandpur-Karimganj

Silghat-Pandu-Ashuganj-Karimganj

Karimganj-Sherpur

Remove all illegal structures in 24 hrs

Govt issues order to free Dhaka footpaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to keep city footpaths free for public movement and ease traffic congestion on the streets, the LGRD ministry yesterday strictly directed the authorities concerned to remove all illegal roadside establishments, makeshift shops, banners and festoons within 24 hours. It also directed Dhaka City Corporation

and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to jointly remove all these structures, including the illegal offices of different political and social organisations, and the temporary "mango fair" stalls within 12 noon today if the respective persons do not comply with the directive in time.

The directive came at a meeting on easing traffic jam in the capital at the **SEE PAGE 19 COL 8**



sewerage overflows. The photo was shot yesterday.

Tarique's bail in 3 cases extended for a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday extended bail for BNP leader Tarique Rahman for one year in three cases of extortion and tax eva-

A vacation bench of Justice Kamrul Islam Siddiqui and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman granted the bail after hearing three petitions seeking extension of a previous bail order.

Tarique, senior vicechairman of the main opposition BNP and son of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia, is now in London for treatment, his counsel barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon told The Daily

The BNP leader is

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Flood situation starts improving

Drinking water crisis in flood-hit Gaibandha

STAR REPORT

Flood victims in Gaibandha were struggling for clean drinking water yesterday as most of the tube wells went under floodwater.

The overall flood situation in several northern districts remained unchanged, while the situation in the south has become normal.

Water level in most points of the rivers in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Jamalpur remained static, said officials at Bangladesh Water Development Board.

However, the water level rose in some points located downstream.

"In Chilmari point of the Brahmaputra, the water flow increased by 4 cm to 43 cm, while it rose by 15 cm to 106 cm at Bahadurabad point of Jamuna," said Abdul Wazed, additional secretary at flood and disaster management ministry, told The Daily Star.

The water will recede at all points in a day or two, he added.

Meanwhile, a child drowned Sunday evening and a woman died in a floodrelated accident in Sirajganj yesterday, reports our Sirajganj correspondent.

The kid, Rakibul Hasan, of Bardhul village in Belkuchi upazila drowned when he was playing in floodwater.

The woman, Jahan Ara, was hit hard by the pole of a boat pushed by strong current of floodwater near the Hard Point of Sirajganj Town Protection Embankment. She was sitting near the boat, which was tied to a concrete block.

Seriously injured Jahan Ara of Ekdala Mahalla in Sirajganj municipality died on her way to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Floodwater flowing through the eroded dyke of Dhunat in Bogra inundated new areas in the northern part of Sirajganj. Water level of Karatoa, Bangali,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

RECRUITMENT SCAM

Mridha, 8 other rail officials interrogated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday interrogated nine Bangladesh Railway officials including suspended general manager (east zone) Yusuf Ali Mridha in connection with alleged corruption in recruitment.

ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya said the railway SEE PAGE 19 COL 4 PRICES OF ESSENTIALS

Minister warns profit mongers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Admitting that some essentials are already selling at high prices ahead of Ramadan, Commerce Minister GM Quader yesterday warned of stern action against persons responsible for the price hike.

"We have made a cost analysis that shows increasing prices of daily necessities is totally unjustified," the minister said in parliament.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, he also said his ministry has taken measures to find out businessmen charging high prices of essentials,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Credit Ratings

Credit Rating was done by the National Credit Rating Ltd. (NCR) on the basis of Audited Financial Statements as on 31.12.2011 which shows substantial improvement. The summary of the rating is presented below:





NCR has assigned AA (Pronounced Double A) rating of Pubali Bank Limited in the Long Term and ST-1 in the Short Term. This level of rating indicates very strong capacity for timely servicing of financial obligations in Long Term and strongest capacity for timely payment of financial obligations in Short Term. NCR performed the present rating assignment based on the Audited Financial Statements of 31 December 2011 and other relevant information. The present rating takes into account among others, Bank's comfortable capital adequacy, improved asset quality, continued profitability, adequate liquidity and reduction in non-performing loan (NPL) levels to single digit (gross 2.05%).

Pubali Bank Limited was assigned AA3 in the Long Term and ST-1 in the Short Term by CRAB on 06 March 2011 which had a validity of 1(one) year from the date of rate assigned on the Audited Financial Statements of 31 December 2010.

