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# Dhaka proposes new concept of transshipment

## 'Coastal shipping' with India allows it to use Ctg, Mongla ports

REZAUL KARIM

Bangladesh has proposed providing transshipment facilities to India through the Chittagong and Mongla seaports by floating a new idea called coastal shipping.

India has instantly welcomed the offer and both countries agreed to explore the new idea for mutual benefit.

To this effect, Bangladesh has suggested signing an agreement or protocol for transshipment of Indian cargo by using conventional coastal vessels.

The proposal was made at a two-day shipping secretary-level meeting between Dhaka and New Delhi.

The meet ended yesterday with the signing of an agreement for renewal of the Protocol on Inland water Transit and Trade for the next two years.

Bangladeshi coastal vessels may be used commercially for transporting cargoes to and from India through Chittagong and Mongla ports, the proposal said.

Through implementing the plan, the rest of India will be

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**Jim Yong Kim**  
**Padma loan cancellation appropriate**  
*Asserts new WB chief*  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

New World Bank President Jim Yong Kim has said the global lender's decision to cancel the Padma bridge loan was appropriate.

Kim made the remark

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## PADMA LOAN NEGOTIATION FAILURE

# Minister biggest reason

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and SHARIER KHAN

The prime minister's reluctance to remove the minister in charge is the biggest reason for the government's failure in solving the Padma bridge project loan crisis with the World Bank.

Sources said the government was more or less flexible about all other outstanding issues.

According to a government letter to the bank on June 28 which was made public by the finance minister on July 1, WB high officials last October verbally asked Finance Minister AMA Muhith to remove the minister in charge and two officials to have the bank resume the project.

"The honourable prime minister was

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# Public interest sacrificed to protect one man

MAHFUZ ANAM

After sifting through the government's letters to the World Bank (WB) concerning the Padma Bridge, made public the other day, we cannot but conclude that it was all done to save one man.

The correspondence shows that all these negotiations, trips by our officials to the WB

 **COMMENTARY**

headquarters in Washington DC and meetings in Dhaka had helped us to cross all hurdles, but ultimately the deal fell through because the government would not agree to let one minister go "on leave".

Below we give an explanation as to how we reach such a conclusion.

At the end of the long and tortuous

Look for alternative sources  
*PM asks officials on Padma bridge fund*

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed top government officials to immediately find alternative sources of funding to begin construction of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge.

She asked them to assess Malaysia's offer of funding the bridge project, and come to a conclusion soon.

Giving the directive at a high-level meeting at her office, Hasina said, "Take urgent steps so that we can start construction immediately," a meeting

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## Major parties not sincere in fighting graft

## 'Dakat' Shahid killed in gunfight with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two main political parties in the country are "not sincere" in fulfilling their electoral pledges to tackle corruption, Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Ghulam Rahman has said.

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## Fire kills 5 Bangladeshis in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Bangladeshi workers, including two brothers, were killed in a fire in Taman Puchong Perdana area of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Saurav Babu, Ruman, Abdullah Al-Farhad and the brothers: Mohammad Basir and

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top listed criminal "Dakat" Shahid and one of his accomplices were killed in a gunfight with Rapid Action Battalion at Laxmibazar in Old Dhaka last night, Rab officials said.

Rab identified the second victim as Kalu, aged around 37.

A team of the elite force set up a check post at Laxmibazar of Sutrapur around 11:45pm yesterday following intelligence that "Dakat" Shahid and his gang might be in the area, Rab's Legal and Media Wing Director Commander M Sohail told The Daily Star.

Soon after, members of Rab saw three motorbikes speeding towards the check post. The Rab team signalled the bikers to stop, but they sped away, Sohail said over the phone around 1:30am today from the spot.

However, Rab personnel chased the bikes and managed to catch Shahid and Kalu from behind. The duo then fell on the road, still trying to run away, added Sohail.

The "criminals" opened fire as the Rab members approached them, prompting the force to fire back. The two died instantly, he said.

Rab recovered two pistols from the spot, said the top official.

Shahid was accused in 18 cases, including six for murder, according to Rab. Also, more than 100 general diaries were filed against him with different police stations in the capital.

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