



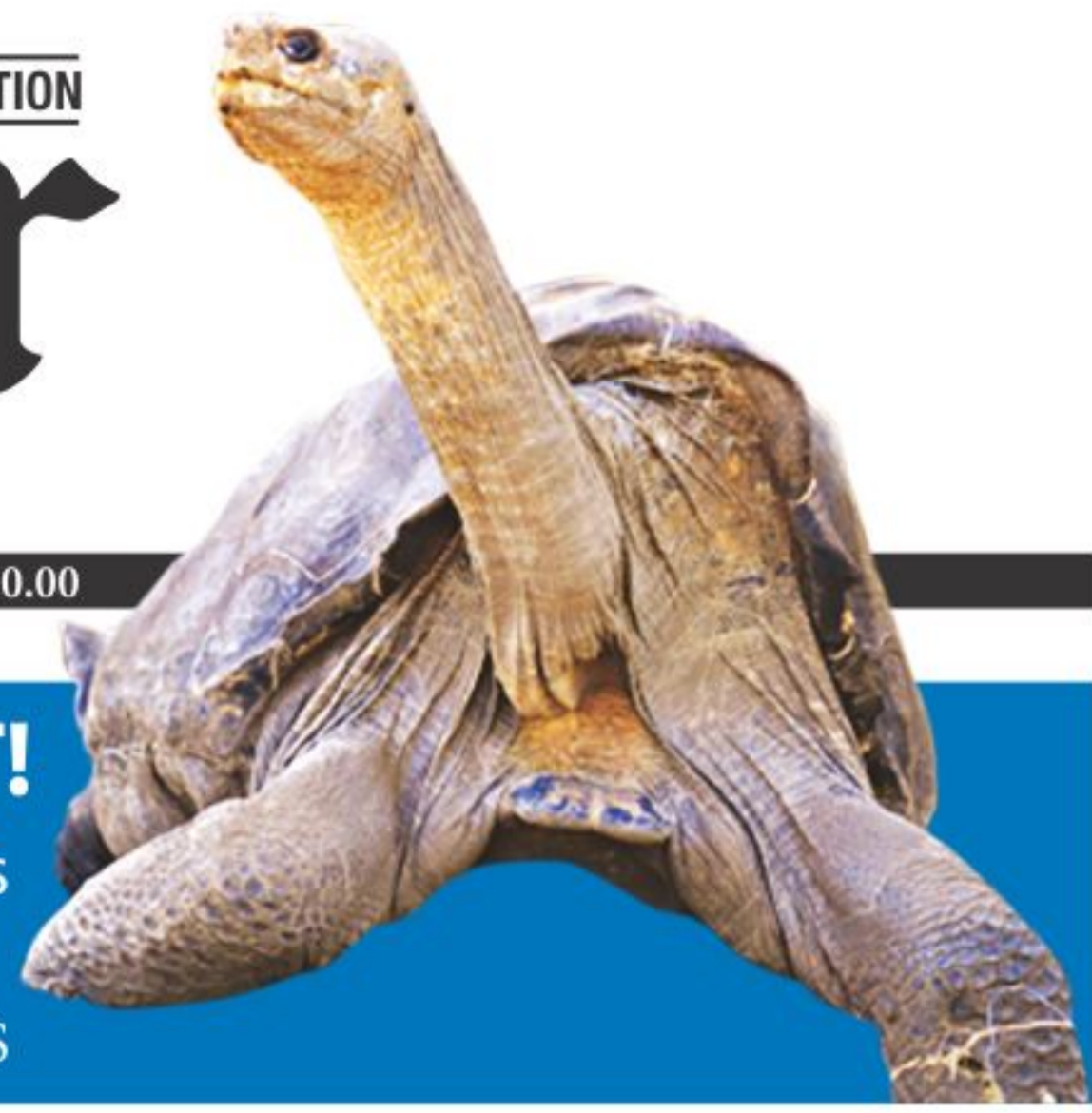
The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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His death officially made Galapagos tortoise extinct
RISING STARS

PM trashes WB graft allegations

Says govt to build Padma bridge with own fund, minister must quit if graft allegation is proved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday blasted the World Bank for cancelling its credit agreement with the government to fund the Padma bridge project and said her government must build the bridge even if it had to be with its own money.

Speaking in parliament, she dismissed the World Bank's corruption allegations in the project. She said, "Their [World Bank's] blame is not acceptable at all."



Defending her government's actions taken following the World Bank's allegation, the premier said the moment the minister's involvement in the said corruption would be proved, the minister would be fired.

"All of a sudden the World Bank came up with allegations of corruption. But they could not provide any evidence. How could there be corruption when they had not released even a single penny for the project?"

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A slum is built on the lake in Rupnagar of Mirpur in the capital. Unscrupulous people are building the shanties and renting them out to poorer dwellers of Dhaka.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Shab-e-Barat tonight

BSS, Dhaka

Muslims across the country will observe the holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, tonight.

Devotees will pass the night through prayers, recitation from the Holy

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WB DECISION ON PADMA LOAN

Govt may go for compromise move

Efforts for alternative ways continue; govt to brief dev partners on its stance

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government may send a high-profile team with new compromise proposals to the World Bank headquarters to make the bank reconsider its cancellation of the Padma bridge loan, said a finance ministry official.

The government has called a special meeting of the Local Consultative Group (LCG) on July 9 to clarify the government's

position on this issue to its development partners.

The government is also considering alternative ways to arrange funding for the project.

The global lender on June 29 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.

The WB's decision to cancel the credit

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Biggest mystery of universe 'uncovered'

Scientists find 'Higgs boson' particle after long research

REUTERS, Geneva

Scientists at Europe's CERN research centre have found a new subatomic particle, a basic building block of the universe, which appears to be the boson imagined and named half a century ago by theoretical physicist Peter Higgs.

"We have reached a milestone in our understanding of nature," CERN director general Rolf Heuer told a

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PROPOSED TRANSHIPMENT DEAL WITH INDIA

Shippers see scope to earn millions

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh has bright prospects for earning millions of dollars by operating its vessels to carry goods to and from neighbouring countries through the coast of the Bay of Bengal, businessmen say.

The initiative, if materialises, can also cut the cost of Bangladesh's imports from India by reducing the present transport bill by up to two-thirds.

Bangladesh on Tuesday proposed providing transshipment facilities to India through

Chittagong and Mongla seaports using the coastal belt. India has welcomed the offer, and the two countries agreed to explore the new idea for mutual benefit.

In January, Bangladesh and Myanmar agreed on a similar deal and adopted a draft Standard Operating Procedure to promote and facilitate trade and commerce between the two countries using the coastal belt.

"This is a big opportunity and Bangladesh should do the same

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A lot of money was spent to have the mosaic on this wall in New Market but street vendors' illegal occupation of the pavement is depriving city dwellers of the beauty.

A nice artwork messed up

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

The eye-catching mural at the capital's New Market-Nilkhet intersection has literally gone out of sight.

The wall painting depicts Dhaka city's colourful history of 400 years. But thanks to negligence of the city corporation, makeshift shops set up by hawk-

ers along the wall obstruct the view of the artwork.

Hawkers from around the area also dump their wastes alongside the wall, ruining the lower portion of the painting.

Created by Mrinal Haque, the 80 feet long and eight feet high artwork was built in 2006 ahead of the celebration of Dhaka's 400 years. The undivided Dhaka City

Corporation initiated and supervised the project.

The noted sculptor expressed frustration over the sorry state of the spot, and held the city corporation responsible for it.

Some officials of the city corporation and Heritage, the firm that implemented the project, looted the sponsor's money collected for the work, he alleged. Because of

this, the project is yet to be completed.

So far, Tk 7 lakh was spent on the project, with much of the work remaining undone.

"The firm did not even pay my contract money. I sent two letters to the city corporation authorities demanding the money, but nobody responded," Mrinal tells

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Stop mass trial of BDR mutiny

HR Watch urges govt, calls for disbanding Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mass trial for the February 2009 BDR mutiny is fundamentally flawed and the accused are subjected to gross human rights violations, claimed a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW).

Releasing the report at a press conference at Brac Centre in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday, HRW



Brad Adams

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Rab protests HRW report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours after the release of Human Rights Watch's report yesterday, Rapid Action Battalion rejected outright the report terming it baseless, motivated and fabricated.

"Human Rights Watch's report is baseless and intentional. It is trying to instigate militancy and criminal activities to deteriorate law and order in

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