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THE RAINBOW MAN

After Mandela, there will be loud silence

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GOOD TIME FOR RMG

Int'l buyers are increasing their orders from Bangladesh

PAGE B1

'SAD DAY IN ROCK 'N' ROLL'

Tributes pour in for former Deep Purple keyboardist Jon Lord

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Terror financed due to HSBC failure

US probe into British bank's operation in Bangladesh exposes links of 2 local Islamic banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd and Social Islami Bank Ltd came into the spotlight yesterday for their alleged links to terrorist financing after a US Senate report exposed British banking giant HSBC's internal governance failure to control flows of suspect funds.

One of the banks was allegedly funding al-Qaeda, and Osama bin Laden's brother-in-law held shares in a company that has shares in the bank.

In all these cases, profit motive rather than cautions from various levels within the bank and standard procedures ruled the game.

More thoughts were given to the bank's making \$47,000 in revenue that might go up to \$75,000 a year

PROBE FINDINGS

- HSBC supplied dollars to Islami Bank Bangladesh and Social Islami Bank, despite evidence of links to terror finance
- HSBC did not subject Islami Bank Bangladesh to enhanced monitoring for suspicious transactions, despite recommendation
- At Social Islami Bank, ownership stakes were held by two terrorist organisations; a bank chairman was found to be involved with criminal wrongdoing

later than to the terrorist links the banks allegedly had, or the US authorities' view of the banks.

A report of the US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on

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FULL TEXT IN STAR BUSINESS



PM's remark unexpected

Says BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opposition BNP has termed the prime minister's remark "linking Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus" with the scrapping of the Padma Bridge loan deal by the World Bank "unexpected".

"A person who is holding the responsible post of Prime Minister should not

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World to see we can do it

PM tells Sramik League about Padma bridge with own fund

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government will show the world that it can construct Padma bridge with the country's own funds.

"We have liberated the country through a war and now we want to make it self-reliant. We don't want to beg from anyone," she said.

Hasina, also president of the Awami League, was addressing the national council of the ruling party's associated body Sramik League at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

The PM said she received overwhelming response from different sections of people to her efforts to generate funds from domestic sources for implementing the bridge project. "Inshallah, we will show the world that we can."

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Beat them up!

Says Muhith about Padma 'extortionists'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No one has been assigned to collect money from people for the construction of the proposed Padma bridge, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

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Mob kills 3 'robbers'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Three robbers were beaten to death by a mob as they tried to flee after looting a house in Narsingdi town early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Noor Mohammad, 35, of Shibpur; and Abdul Jalil, 30, and Anwar Hossain, 30, of Raipura upazila of the district.

A band of 15 to 16 robbers entered the house of

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Buet negotiations take wrong route

VC threatens to recruit new teachers; education boss says agitating teachers against peaceful solution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the agitating Buet teachers threatened to resign en masse, the vice-chancellor yesterday said he would hire teachers if necessary. For his part, the education minister suspects somebody might be trying to hinder the crisis reso-



lution efforts.

"Is there any scarcity of teachers in Bangladesh? If they [agitating teachers] resign, we will definitely recruit others," VC Prof SM Nazrul Islam told reporters, replying to queries at his residence yesterday.

"Don't private universities

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MISSING OF ILIAS ALI 3 months on, no progress yet in probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies are yet to make any progress in tracing BNP lawmaker Ilias Ali, who went missing along with his driver from the capital's Banani area in the small hours of April 18.



Bhuiyan Mahubb
SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

A blast, some questions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was injured when a bomb exploded in her handbag in the capital's Agargaon yesterday. Police suspect the explosive was activated by a mobile phone.

Police detained the injured, Ayesha Siddique, assistant programme officer of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), and her colleague Zubayer Ahmed and one Nurul Islam in this connection.

During primary interrogation, Zubayer confessed to planting the explosive in Ayesha's bag "to teach her a lesson". He claimed he had a romantic relationship



with Ayesha but they had been coming up against some issues recently, said Zakir Hossain Mollah, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Zubayer bought the bomb from Nurul Islam for Tk 20,000, police said, quoting Zubayer.

Ayesha, 31, was undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) under police custody.

She told The Daily Star that Zubayer, programme officer at BCC, called her over her mobile phone, asking her to meet him

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



Buet students take part in a sit-in at the university's administrative building around 11:30am yesterday. There was hardly any headway in resolving the ongoing crisis at the engineering university yesterday with its vice-chancellor unwilling to step down and agitation going on for his removal.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Worker killed in Ctg ship breaking yard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker died after a large iron plate fell on him at a ship-breaking yard at Bhatiari in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong early yesterday.

The victim Md Khorshed Alam, 20, worked at SRS Ship Breaking Yard and hailed from Kotapara in Sitakunda upazila.

Inspector (Investigation) Aminul Islam of Sitakunda Police Station said Khorshed was seriously injured around 4:00am. He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctors

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Witness testifies in camera for first time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time at the international crimes tribunals, a witness testified and was cross-examined behind closed doors yesterday.

In the case against Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah at the three-member International Crimes Tribunal-2, the traumatised female witness deposed in camera in front of three prosecutors and defence lawyers each, court officials and the accused.

Her cross-examination will resume today.

Mohammad Ali, the conducting prosecutor of the case, yesterday told reporters that a female prosecution witness had given testimony before the tribunal and defence counsels had cross-examined her in camera.

"As the case proceedings were held in camera, we cannot disclose what happened or what was said in the courtroom," said Mohammad Ali.

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Mamata finally backs Pranab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Ending weeks of suspense, Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday announced that her party would support UPA candidate Pranab Mukherjee at the July 19 presidential polls against opposition-backed nominee PA Sangma.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting in Kolkata where Mamata met some important legislators of her party.

Announcing the decision to the media, she said, "We did not have a choice. We are supporting him individually. It is a political decision."

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