



## ISLAMI BANK TO CHALLENGE

Mulling legal ways to confront the allegations of terror financing in US report

PAGE B1

## WINDOWS 8 SOON

The new operating system will be available from October 26

SEE IT & TELECOM

## RAHUL FOR BIGGER TASK

Decided a more proactive role, awaits decisions from congress chief, PM

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# The lights go out

Humayun Ahmed (1948-2012)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular writer Humayun Ahmed is no more. Aged 64, he died while undergoing treatment for cancer at a New York hospital last night.

His wife Meher Afroz Shaon and younger brother Professor Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, a reputed writer himself, were present when he breathed his last at Manhattan's Bellevue Hospital at around 11:20pm Bangladesh time.

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PHOTO COURTESY: FOISAL MASUM

## Silence of the storyteller

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

At first sight, Humayun Ahmed came close to resembling an academic. Bespectacled, speaking in a low voice, he quite belied the truth of his being a writer. That image of the academic became him. After all, he had once been a teacher at Dhaka University. The subject he taught was chemistry. He could have stayed there, could have climbed the ladder to even higher academic perches. But then came *Nondito Noroke*, in the defining,

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## PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

# Govt weighs 4 options

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government now considers four options for implementing the Padma bridge project nearly three weeks after the World Bank pulled out of the country's biggest ever infrastructure project.

The options include formation of a new consortium of the ADB, Jica and IDB, and inviting fresh tenders asking bidders to finance part of the project, said finance ministry officials.

The options were discussed at a meeting of secretaries at the finance minister's residence last Tuesday. Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi was also

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LOCAL FUNDS FOR PADMA BRIDGE, B1

## BUET IN CRISIS Teachers' 'respect' embarrasses Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday the Buett Teachers Association embarrassed him by postponing their demonstration for two days mentioning that they had taken this decision to show respect to him.

"They [the association] would have shown respect to me had they accepted the call we had made after the meeting [on



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## VC PANEL ELECTION Court clears JU for polls today

*Agitating teachers to continue hunger strike, sit-in*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has directed the government to take steps to ensure a peaceful and fair vice-chancellor panel election of Jahangirnagar University. The election is to be held today amid opposition from a section of teachers.

In response to a writ petition yesterday,

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The road in front of Sayedabad bus terminal in the capital is in a mess due to the long-running construction of a flyover and trenches dug for laying utility lines. A meeting at the Prime Minister's Office on March 15 set a three-month deadline for building the flyover that would connect Jatrabari with Gulistan. The deadline ended more than a month ago. There are few signs, though, that the work will be finished anytime soon. The photo was taken yesterday.

# Fighting flares up in Syria

*Residents flee capital amid crackdown fears; China, Russia veto sanctions*

AGENCIES

Syrian troops were mobilised yesterday in a drive to oust armed rebels from parts of Damascus, as fighting raged for the fifth consecutive day for the control of the capital.

Tanks, artillery and helicopters were deployed and clashes reported south-west and north-east of the city as people were fleeing the capital amid fear of a large scale crackdown, a day after a bomb attack that killed three top regime figures.

At United Nations, efforts to forge a diplomatic solution appeared to collapse when Russia and China vetoed a Security Council resolution for the third time that threatened Syrian authorities with sanctions if they did not stop using heavy weapons and pull troops from towns.

The veto prompted an angry Western response. The UK, US and France said the UN had failed the people of Syria. The US said it will now work outside of the council to confront President Assad.

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