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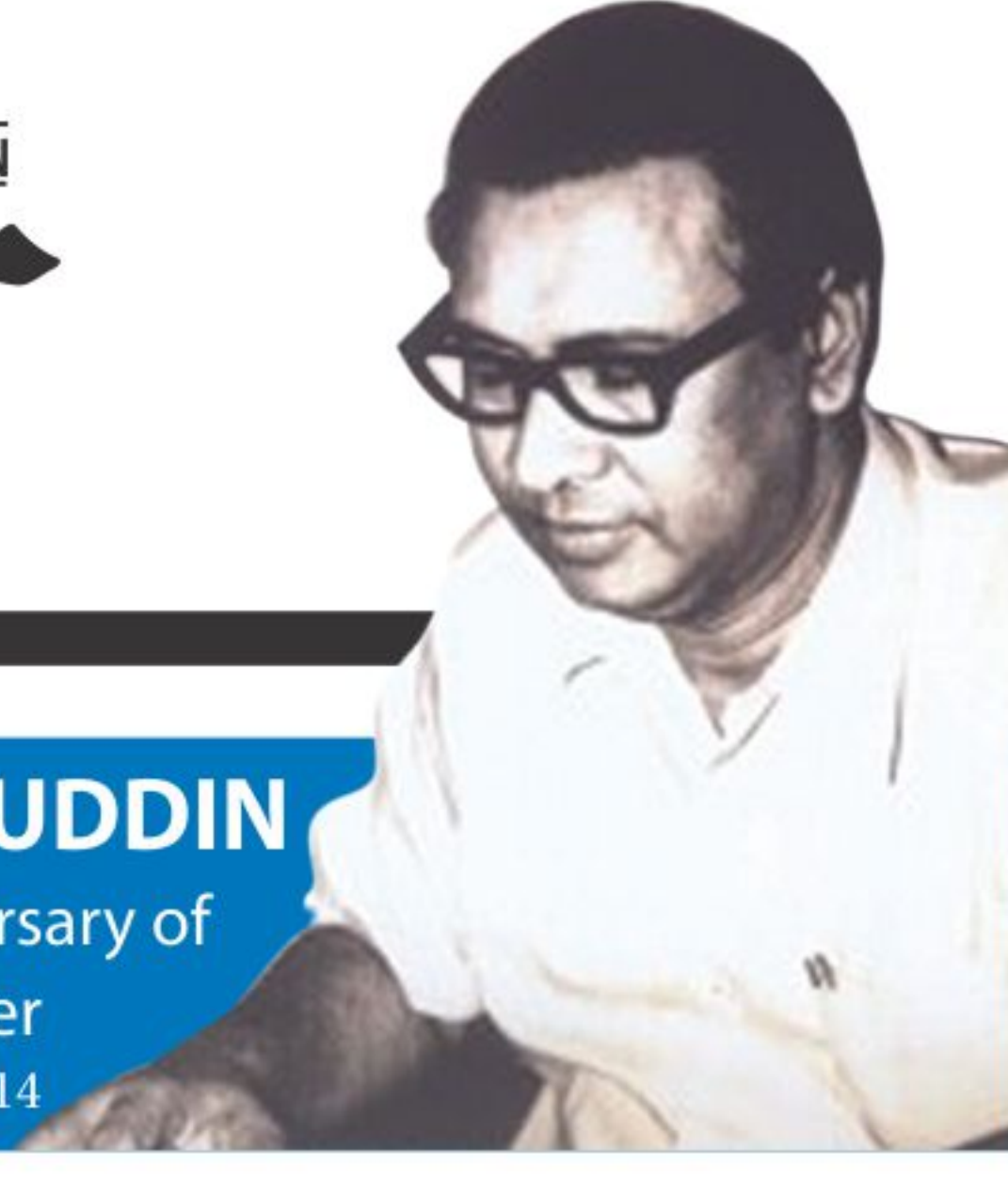
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Murdoch quits boards that control the Sun, the Times and The Sunday Times
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AMLA'S LANDMARK
Hashim Amla becomes the first South African to hit triple ton in Tests
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TRIBUTE TO TAJUDDIN
Today is the birth anniversary of the statesman and thinker
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PADMA BRIDGE FUNDING Govt may accept WB's 4th condition

Muhith says govt trying to resolve the issue regarding sending accused public officials on leave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government may consider accepting the World Bank's fourth condition to persuade the global lender to review its cancellation of the Padma bridge loan. The bank's fourth condition was that the government send on leave public officials and ex-communications minister Syed Abul Hossain, who were allegedly involved in corruption in the project. Finance Minister AMA Muhith told reporters yesterday that the June talks between the government and the WB ended in a stalemate simply because of the bank's fourth condition. "Though Ellen Goldstein [the WB country director] had spoken of two unresolved issues, there was actually one

issue, not two," the minister said, implying that the issue involving the Anti-Corruption Commission was not really a problem. "There was a little problem with the World Bank's fourth condition. We are trying to see how it can be resolved." He indicated that the government was working to send those public officials on leave. If the issue of the fourth condition can be solved, the project's work can start very soon, said Muhith. The WB cancelled its \$1.2 billion credit for the Padma bridge project on June 29, saying it had proof of a corruption conspiracy involving Bangladeshi officials, executives of a Canadian firm and private individuals.



Vehicles caught in a long tailback on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital around 5:20pm yesterday, the first working day in Ramadan. The capital saw huge traffic congestions yesterday, especially near the iftar hour. Inset, desperate to reach home and have iftar with family members on time, a large number of people elbow their way onto a bus at Farmgate around 5:10pm yesterday.
PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Pranab first Bangalee president of India



OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi
India's ruling Congress-led UPA candidate Pranab Mukherjee yesterday won the presidential election by a huge margin, defeating his challenger Purno Agitok Sangma, who was backed by the main opposition BJP and some other parties. Mukherjee, 76, will be sworn in by the Chief Justice of India as the country's 13th president on Wednesday in the Central Hall of Parliament. He will be the first Bengali to occupy the

PM greets Pranab

BSS, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted India's newly-elected President Pranab Mukherjee, describing his election as a recognition of the Congress leader's vast experience and knowledge gained over the last 50 years in politics. "On behalf of the people and the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and on my

Burial might not be at Nuhash Palli

Humayun's family considers 3 options; body arrives today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Humayun Ahmed might not be buried at Nuhash Palli in Gazipur as his family now considers three other options. The body of the celebrated litterateur, who died in a New York hospital on Thursday, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today.



Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard.
SEE PAGE 19 COL 1 MORE ON PAGE 9

PADMA 'GRAFT' ACC quizzes 3 sub agents of SNC-Lavalin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday interrogated three top officials of three sub-agents of the Canadian company SNC-Lavalin in connection with alleged corruption in the Padma Bridge project. ACC directors Mir Md Zainul Abedin Shebli and Mirza Zahidul Alam

Human rights should get more attention

EU ambassador urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government needs to pay more attention to human rights of people in every community as human rights violation amounts to the violation of democracy. European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh William Hanna said this at a seminar in the capital yesterday, also urging the state to protect the rights of indigenous people.
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A parliamentary team visits a bazaar in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday to check if traders are charging extra prices of essentials.
PHOTO: STAR

MONIPUR HIGH SCHOOL Students forced to pay 'Padma fees'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Monipur School and College authorities in the capital were allegedly collecting money from its students in the name of Padma bridge project. Even though there was no directive of the education ministry to collect money from students for the purpose of the bridge, the renowned school in the capital collected Tk 50 to Tk 1,000 from each student, alleged parents and ministry sources. "The teacher asked Tk 100 from my child for the Padma bridge project," wishing anonymity said a guardian, whose son was in class-II of the main branch of the school. Meanwhile, the government yesterday issued a show-cause notice upon the principal of the school asking him to explain within three working days as to why money was collected from students. Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) issued

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ELECTRICITY BILLS Govt may revive lowest slab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government is planning to restore the common lowest slab facility for all power consumers, which could help users cut the astronomical rise in their monthly bills. Perhaps, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Berc) is considering introducing the lowest slab facility for all customers, Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, energy adviser to the premier, said yesterday. "We as well as the Berc are looking into the issue," he said. The adviser was talking to reporters after making public the "Poor People's Energy Outlook Report 2012" at the conference room of Local Government Engineering Department Building in the capital. Some residential users have been experiencing a four-fold rise on their monthly energy bills since March this year not only due to the rise in power tariffs but also for a change in the tariff structure.
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