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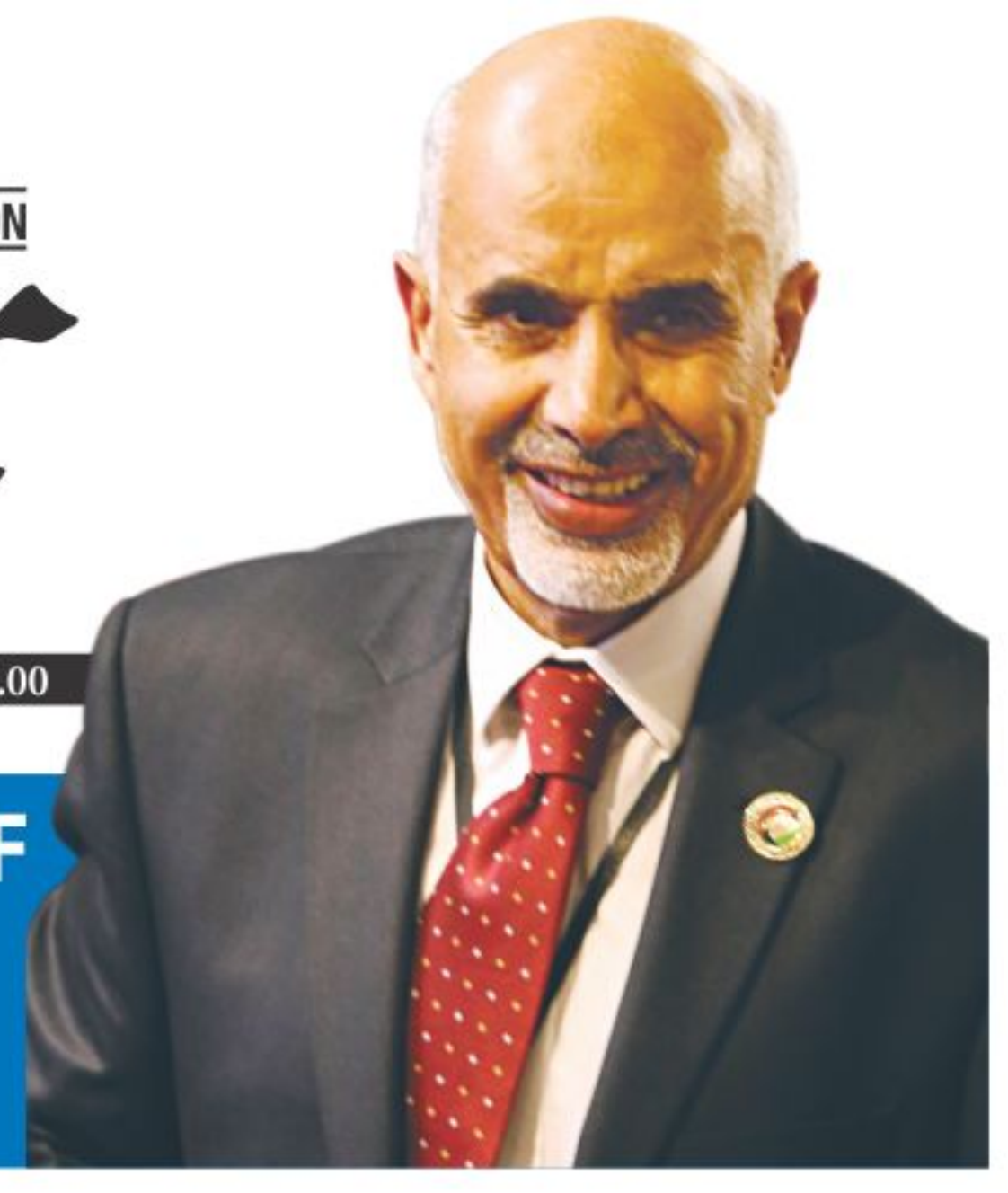


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A cost-effective long-term strategy can control the deadly disease
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Libyan interim parliament elects a pro-Islamist leader as its president
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PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT 'Donation' frenzy at govt offices

Commotion brews as some ministries go hyper-active

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Some over-zealous top officials have taken initiatives to collect donations at different ministries for the Padma bridge project even though the government has yet to issue any instructions to that end.

The science and technology ministry high-ups appear to be a step ahead of others. They have already drawn up a chart fixing the donation amounts for employees at various tiers.

Rafiqul Islam, secretary of the ministry,

at a meeting last month instructed the officials and employees to donate the sums fixed for them.

The Padma bridge project was dealt a body blow when the World Bank on June 29 cancelled its \$1.2 billion fund for the bridge, citing a "corruption conspiracy".

In the wake of the loan cancellation, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared in parliament that the government would construct the bridge with its own resources.

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Russia's synchronised swimming team perform during the free routine final on way to retaining their Olympic gold at London Aquatics Centre on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Lightning kills 10 outside mosque

Sunamganj devotees struck just after Tarabih prayers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

At least 10 people were killed and around 20 injured by lightning at a remote village of Dharmapasha in Sunamganj last night.

The unfortunate incident took place around 9:30pm when devotees came out of a local mosque at Saraswatipur village just after offering Tarabih prayers, said Kabir Ahmed, a member of Joyasri Union Parishad.

Officer-in-Charge of Dharmapasha Police Station Md Bayes Alam confirmed the deaths and injured

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INTERIM GOVT FOR POLLS Unelected people not to be in govt

AL, allies respond to BNP's reported formulas

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The Awami League-led ruling grand alliance will not accept any proposal or formula of an unelected interim government to conduct the next parliamentary elections.

Leaders of the alliance have vehemently rejected main opposition BNP's idea of forming a non-party caretaker government.

BNP thinks a caretaker government either comprised of 10 former Supreme Court justices or 10 eminent personalities nominated by AL and BNP could be formed to conduct the election.

However, according to grand alliance leaders, BNP must

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U-19 Cricket World Cup begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

The ICC U19 Cricket World Cup gets underway in Australia today with four matches featuring on the opening day.

Asian rivals Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will lock horns at the Allan Border Field in Brisbane in the

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One among billions

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM from London

Usain Bolt walked into Thursday's press conference asking for drum-rolls.

Before he walked out following a frenzied 40 minutes of verbal jousting and congratulations, he took the microphone and told everyone, "I am a legend, bask in my glory." In between, he admitted that he would be better as a winger if he was good enough for Manchester United, published his credentials for T20 cricket

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Usain Bolt



COSTLY CHAOS

A policeman falls flat to the ground after being hit by a brickbat on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday. A clash between hawkers and traders in the afternoon injured at least ten people, including two cops. One of the wounded police personnel, who were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital initially, was later shifted to intensive care unit of Square Hospitals. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: COURTESY



BANGABANDHU AIRPORT Project goes to fridge

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The government has abandoned the much-talked-about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib International Airport project after years of serious move to build a world-class airport along with a satellite city.

The Prime Minister's Office in April returned a civil aviation ministry proposal for final selection of a site out of four locations without any suggestion or recommendation. The

nod would have paved way for beginning a feasibility study.

"The PMO neither approved the proposal nor made any comment on it. It just sent the proposal back to the ministry after several weeks," said an official in the ministry wishing anonymity.

"It means," the official added, "the Tk 50,000 crore project has been scapped."

However, Civil Aviation Minister Faruk Khan told The Daily Star last

week, "We're not moving ahead with the airport project after cancellation of the World Bank funding in Padma bridge in June."

Since April, all activities relating to the airport project remained stalled.

Also, there are no activities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib International Airport Construction Cell, which was formed to plan and supervise the mega project. Recently, the cell's head, a joint secretary of the

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