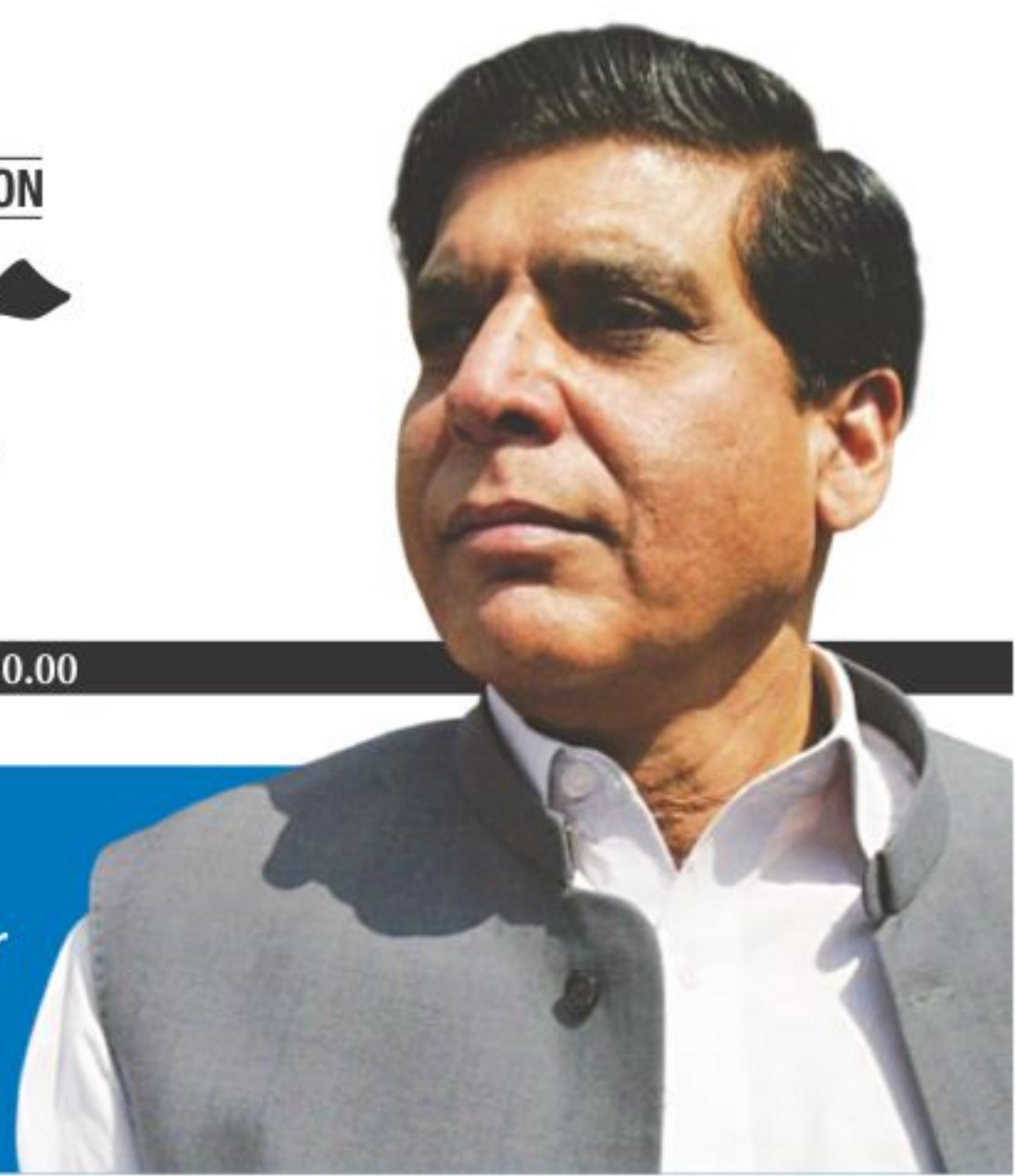


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NEW RICE GENE FOUND

The gene enables plants to produce 20pc more grain

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2016 OBAMA'S AMERICA

A docudrama by a Mumbai-based director attracts a large audience

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PAK LEGAL WRANGLE

PM wins time to end deadlock over reopening of cases against Zardari

PAGE 7

WETLAND FILLING HC 'no' ignored

TAWFIQUE ALI

Rajuk has apparently failed to stop developers of illegal private housing schemes from destroying wetlands and floodplains around the capital despite a High Court order issued to this effect around two years ago.

A powerful political clique has been lobbying hard for the real estate developers to ensure the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha does not act against the housing projects declared illegal by the HC, according to sources.

Instead of taking actions against the schemes in question, the government has recently approved four such projects and is set to approve two more, added the sources.

These projects were developed over the past decade without permission and by

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Left, a photo shot yesterday shows a number of structures built on this filled-up stretch of Haikkar Khal, just behind the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital. Land grabbers continue to fill up the canal that once flowed through here before emptying into the Buriganga. Right, in another picture shot on December 6, 2010, numerous signboards claim ownership of the stretch of land.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Rab source' is the attacker, not Limon

Finds police probe; HR commission to go to HC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A police report has found "Rab source" Ibrahim Hawlader and his associates guilty of attacking Jhalakathi college student Limon Hossain on Eid day.

Limon, his mother Henoara Begum and brother Sumon Akand came under an assault led by Ibrahim on August 20.

Henoara on the very night filed a general diary to this end.

Sub-Inspector Halim, acting officer-in-charge of Rajapur Police Station, yesterday said SI Badal Fakir had submitted the



report in the morning following enquiry.

Majid Ali, Jhalakathi superintendent of police, said ASP Anwar Hossain will forward the report to the judicial magistrate court today for further action.

Limon, a college student, then 16, was maimed in shooting by a Rab team in March last year.

Later, his leg had to be amputated from the thigh.

The Rapid Action Battalion even filed two cases against him -- one under the Arms Act and another for obstructing them from discharging their duties and attempt-

POLITICAL CONFRONTATION The Economist sees a repeat before JS polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) of the Economist magazine sees a repetition of political confrontation over the caretaker government system before the next parliamentary election.

The EIU made the prediction in light of the repeal of the caretaker administration system, which allows a non-partisan cabinet to oversee preparations for an election, by the government last year following a judgement by the Supreme Court.

Elimination of the caretaker system "appears to be setting the scene for another major confrontation between the two main political parties, potentially

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RELATED STORY ON B4

PADMA BRIDGE LOAN REVIVAL

Resignation ball in Mashiur's court

PM not going to ask him to go; tells key ministers to convince WB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With time running out, the prime minister yesterday asked the finance minister to convince the World Bank to renew its loan commitment for the Padma bridge without requiring her Economic Affairs Adviser Mashiur Rahman to resign.

After the cabinet meeting, Sheikh Hasina discussed the issue with some



Mashiur Rahman

senior ministers, including Finance Minister AMA Muhith, a highly placed government source told this paper.

A cabinet member has said Muhith has been explaining to the premier the need for Mashiur's resignation as a last resort to get the \$1.2 billion loan, which the WB cancelled

on June 29 over a "corruption conspiracy."

But the PM directed Muhith to take

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

NAM SUMMIT PM flies to Tehran tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave for Tehran tomorrow to attend the 16th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit on August 30-31 where Iran will seek support from world leaders to take a stand against Western sanctions.

As Iran takes over the three-year NAM presidency from Egypt, it intends to prove that the West, especially Washington has failed to

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Rejoinder

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad protested a report, published in The Daily Star on Monday, headlined "Padma Bridge Project: Shady Two Rally for Deal with KL".

In the report, some imaginary and unfounded information were raised suggesting that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was being misled, he said in a rejoinder yesterday.

He said the report is based on hearsay. Even, it did not mention the identity of the businessman and the state minister. Moreover, there is no

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Police were taking four detainees to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday when these pictures were taken in the capital's Tikatuli. The detainees told the photographer that the cops made them walk after their arrival in the city's Jatrabari from a Comilla jail, although all of them were fettered. The policemen right away stopped the conversation and also declined to make comments. Later, The Daily Star talked to National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman Khan over fettering an accused or a convict. He said the use of fetters is not only a human rights violation but also internationally unacceptable. The NHRC chief added there is no instance of using fetters except in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

FAILURE TO STOP LOAN SCAM

BB for reconstituting Sonali Bank board

STAR REPORT

The central bank yesterday requested the finance ministry to reconstitute the board of directors of Sonali Bank Ltd for its failure to stop Tk 3,832-crore loan scam.

In a letter to the finance minister, Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman

said the nature of the irregularities at the state-run commercial bank was very serious.

"It is not credible at all that nobody had noticed it although there are a number of stages at the governing and management

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