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England Test captain has announced retirement from all forms of cricket PAGE 16



Adviser's shadow in Hallmark scam

Modasser Ali denies allegation; anti-graft body quizzes 5 Sonali Bank officials

Modasser Ali

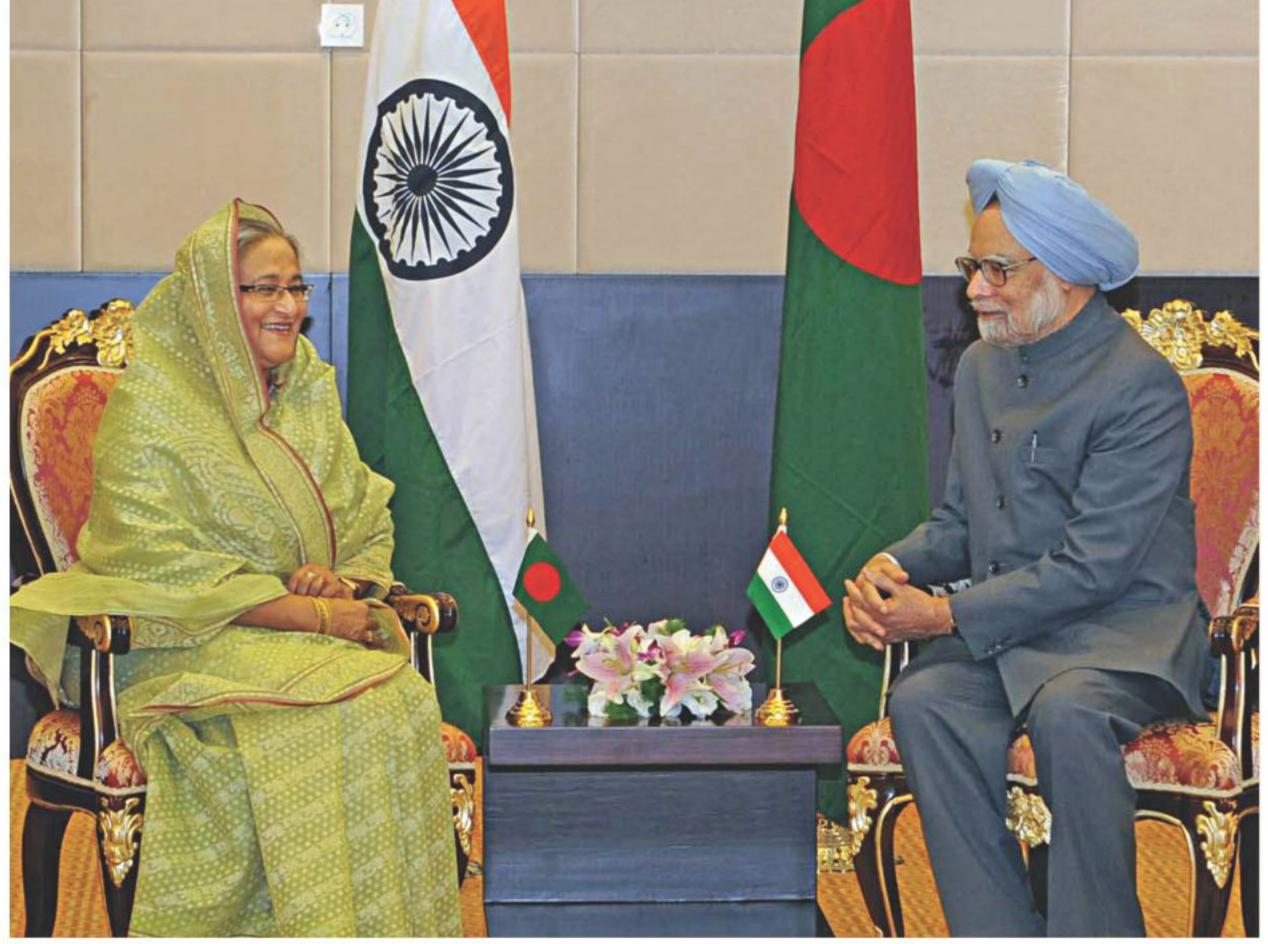
JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has information that Syed Modasser Ali, an adviser to the prime minister, allegedly influenced Sonali Bank authorities into granting a huge

amount of loan to the controversial Hallmark Group illegally, said ACC sources.

"The information came from different sources and we are examining it. However, we do not yet have any documentary evidence about the alleged role of the adviser in allocating

to Hallmark and five other SEE PAGE 19 COL 2 **RELATED STORIES IN STAR BUSINESS**



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in conversation with Indian Premier Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the 16th Nam Summit at Grand Azadi Hotel in Tehran yesterday.

PHOTO:

Deal 'as soon as feasible'

Manmohan assures Hasina of Teesta waters; Nam summit starts today

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday assured his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina of India's firm commitment to ink the proposed Teesta water-sharing deal "as soon as feasible".

During their meeting at Grand Azadi Hotel in Tehran ahead of the Non-Aligned Movement (Nam) Summit, Manmohan also said the land boundary agreement would happen at the same time.

The Tipaimukh hydroelectricity project in India's Manipur also came up during the meeting between the two leaders when notes were exchanged. Manmohan reiterated that India would not do anything which would harm the interests of Bangladesh, official sources

The 15-minute one-on-one meeting between Manmohan and Hasina was followed by a 40-minute delegation-level discussion between the two sides.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

SC's no to Hallmark industrial park

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

PADMA GRAFT

quiz Abul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ACC to

The Anti-

Corrupti

Commiss

ion (ACC)

will quiz

commu-

nications

minister Syed Abul

Hossain on September 3

on the alleged corruption

and irregularities regard-

consultant for the Padma

ing appointment of a

bridge project.

former

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that had directed Hallmark Group not to set up an industrial park in

Savar for the next four months.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the firm seeking SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

PADMA BRIDGE LOAN REVIVAL

Mashiur must go

WB may tell govt today if it can give time until primary probe into graft allegation completes; US envoy upbeat; Muhith tight-lipped

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mashiur Rahman, adviser to the prime iminister, has to resign to meet the condiitions the World Bank has laid down to revive its credit for Padma bridge, a highly placed government source said vesterday.

Today, the bank may convey to the government its decision on whether he · can stay in office until the preliminary investigation into a graft allegation is complete, the source added.

The WB cancelled its credit for the Padma bridge project on June 29 for what

it had said was a corruption conspiracy involving Bangladeshi officials, execu- · mine exactly how much tives of a Canadian firm and individuals.

It held a management-level meeting at : will seek, sources in the the Washington headquarters Tuesday: Bridges Division told The night on the Padma bridge issue but is yet : Daily Star. to declare any decision officially.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the proposal like the declined to say anything about the possi- : previous ones. We need bility of Mashiur's resignation.

Bangladesh has been trying to con-; before spelling out a figvince the WB to agree to the proposal that : ure," said a source, refer-Mashiur will resign if his name comes up ; ring to past Malaysian in the preliminary investigation by the · proposals which were all SEE PAGE 7 COL 1 .

KL proposal has several loopholes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest Malaysian pro-· posal to finance the Padma bridge project has "several gaps" for which : the communications ministry has yet to deter-· investment Bangladesh

"There are many gaps · clarification from them

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

CONTROVERSIAL ELECTRICITY BILLING

No decision yet to restore old system

PM unhappy with new one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite widespread public discontent over the introduction of a geometrical billing system, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Berc) remains undecided about restoring the traditional billing method.

Instead, the commission is now set to replace the existing three-tier tariff slab system with a seven-tier one, claiming it will keep the bill at a "tolerable level".

The decision came at a meeting with the prime minister in the chair yesterday. Sheikh Hasina expressed her resentment about the three-tier tariff system intro-

duced in March, sources said. Since then, customers using up to 100

units are paying Tk 3.05 a unit. In the second slab (101 - 399 units), the rate is Tk 4.29. Those who consume 400 units and above pay Tk 7.89 per unit.

Under the changed system, if a subscriber uses 400 units, his entire bill will be calculated under the third slab in a geometric method. As a result, customers who used to spend Tk 1,500 a month till March are now paying around Tk 4,000 or even Tk 5,000 for using the same electricity.

But before March, consumers had to pay progressively for different slabs -- that SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

The ACC issued a notice on Sunday asking him to appear before its SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

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Day's roundup in your pocket

এতদ্বারা বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর্তৃক জারিকৃত নতুন সার্কুলার অনুসারে জুলাই ০১, ২০১২ ইং তারিখ থেকে যে সকল ব্যাক্তি/ প্রতিষ্ঠানের আয়কর সনাক্তকরণ নম্বর (TIN) রয়েছে, তাদের জমাকৃত অর্থের অর্জিত সুদের উপর ১০% হারে উৎসে আয়কর প্রযোজ্য হবে। তবে যে সকল ব্যাক্তির/ প্রতিষ্ঠানের আয়কর সনাক্তকরণ নম্বর (TIN) নেই তাদের জমাকৃত অর্থের অর্জিত সুদের উপর ১৫% হারে উৎসে আয়কর কর্তন প্রযোজ্য হবে। প্রসংগত উল্লেখ্য যে, যে সকল ব্যাক্তির/প্রতিষ্ঠানের আয়কর সনাক্তকরণ নম্বর (TIN) নেই তাদের সঞ্চয়ী ব্যাংক হিসাবে অর্থ বছরের যে কোন সময়ের মোট স্থিতির পরিমাণ ১ লক্ষ টাকার বেশি না হলে উক্ত ব্যাংকের হিসাবের সুদ/মুনাফার উপর ১০% হারেই আয়কর কর্তন প্রযোজ্য হবে।

এমতাবস্থায় আমাদের সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণকে অতিরিক্ত ৫% হারে উৎসে আয়কর থেকে অব্যহতি পাওয়ার জন্য হালনাগাদ টি.আই.এন সনদের কপি বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর যে শাখায় আপনার হিসাব খোলা হয়েছে সে শাখায় জমা দেয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।



GRAMEEN BANK

Directors demand Yunus-picked MD

Vow to continue opposing change in the ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight elected female borrower-directors of Grameen Bank yesterday said they wanted Prof Muhammad Yunus as the head of the selection committee that would choose the new managing director of the microcredit organisation.

"We just want that the selection committee be led by him [Yunus] and pick the most qualified and competent candidate for the bank," said Tahsina Akhter, elected

1ST INSTALMENT OF YUNUS CENTRE'S ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -- PAGE 15, MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

GUJARAT RIOT CASE

Ex-minister, 31 others convicted

AFP, Ahmedabad

An Indian court yesterday convicted a former state minister and 31 others of murder during one of the worst massacres in religious riots in Gujarat in 2002.

Maya Kodnani, who served as a minister in Gujarat's Hindu nationalist state government from 2007-2009, was found guilty over the killing of 97 Muslims in the

Naroda Patiya suburb of the city of Ahmedabad. Out of 61 people facing charges, 32 were found guilty of murder and 29 were acquitted, prosecution lawyer Shamshad Pathan said. The quantum of sentence is likely SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

Maya Kodnani



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