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# The Daily Star

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## BANSALI'S NEXT FLICK

The noted director will tell the story of Indian boxer Mary Kom

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## TALES OF THE DEFEATED

A "shallow narrative" by Khadim Hussain Raja, a Pakistan army officer in 1971

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## GUJARAT RIOT

Ex-BJP minister gets 28 years in jail over the killing of 97 people

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## UPGRADING JATRABARI-KANCHPUR ROAD

# Fund crunch holds back 8-lane project

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Fund crisis has made uncertain the government project to upgrade the busy Jatrabari-Kanchpur stretch of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway to eight lanes.

Aimed at easing traffic congestion on the eight-kilometre stretch, the project is estimated to cost Tk 120 crore and scheduled for completion in June next year.

However, little work has been done since floating of tenders in three packages in January, nine months after approval of the project for the now four-lane road.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD), the executing agency, struck a Tk 37 crore contract with Rana Builders in March for widening the three-kilometre stretch from Rayerbagh to Shanarpar under the first package.

Tenders for the two other packages, however, were cancelled in April

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The deadline for widening the Jatrabari-Kanchpur stretch of Dhaka Chittagong highway is June next year but there is little sign that the work will be finished on time. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## HYDROPOWER PLANT PM for joint venture with Nepal

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated Bangladesh's proposal for setting up a hydropower project with Nepal in joint venture.

She made the proposal again during her meeting with Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai on the sidelines of the 16th Nam Summit in Tehran, reports BSS.

After the meeting, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters. During the meeting, he said, the two leaders discussed issues relating to bilateral interests.

Hasina laid emphasis

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## PADMA BRIDGE FUNDING

# Jica extends time by three weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) yesterday extended its loan effectuation deadline for three weeks for the Padma bridge project, a day after the Asian Development Bank extended its deadline by a month.

Jica has conveyed its decision to the Economic Relations Department (ERD) of the finance ministry, a well placed source in the ministry told The Daily Star.

Following the extension, Finance



Minister AMA Muhith said the government was very much optimistic about the revival of the project's loan deal with the World Bank.

"I'm hopeful about it and I've already said that," he told reporters in front of his residence at Minto Road in the capital.

The loan effectuation date of the two co-financiers -- ADB and Jica -- was due to expire yesterday.

On Thursday the ERD wrote to the ADB and Jica for extending the deadline so that

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## SMALL SAVERS' MONEY

# Indian SC asks Sahara group to return \$3b

AFP, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court yesterday ordered business conglomerate and leading sports sponsor Sahara to refund more than \$3 billion it collected from millions of small savers.

The court told Sahara India Real Estate Corp and Sahara Housing Investment Corp., units of the group owned by billionaire tycoon Subrata Roy, to deposit 174 billion rupees (\$3.12 billion) with 15 percent interest in a state-run bank.

The court said they had "no right to collect" the funds

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# Nam backs right to nuke energy for all

Summit ends with call for creation of Palestine state support for Iran on nuke issue amid UN pressure

AFP, Tehran

The Non-Aligned Movement (Nam) summit yesterday ended in Tehran backing the right of Iran and other states to peaceful nuclear energy as the UN upped its ante against Iran over its disputed nuclear programme.

Representatives from the 120 members of the Nam adopted a document that condemned unilateral sanctions, backed the right peaceful nuclear energy for all, and supported the creation of a Palestinian state, Iranian media reported.

The document also reportedly advocated nuclear disarmament, human rights free from political agendas and opposition to racism and "Islamophobia". The text was not available till late yesterday on the foreign ministry website dedicated to the summit.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad chaired the closing ceremony, reflecting his country's presidency of the Nam for the next three years, after which it will pass to Venezuela.

With around 30 heads of state or

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Faced with food shortage, these elephants come to Kurkuttipara in Rangamati by swimming across the Kaptai Lake. But the hills are already taken over by human settlement and the elephants fall victim to regular conflicts with humans over the right to food. Below, Laily Begum, a settler, along with kids stands in her thatched house destroyed by the elephants. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SANJIDA JUI

# Elephants vs people

INAM AHMED

Kurkuttipara offers a classic case of human-animal conflict.

In this remote place beyond Barkal of Rangamati, villagers cannot hate anything more than the herd of nine elephants.

Even the mind boggling beauty of the place, surrounded by rippling

crystal blue waters of Kaptai Lake, could not hide the deep-seated anger and enmity of the conflicting parties.

It highlights how a lack of initiative by the forest department can lead the beautiful animals to a certain death. It also makes a new case for a separate wildlife department that can think of

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## PM should quit over corruption

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday demanded immediate resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, for what he said, widespread corruption in the government.

"Not only the people of Bangladesh, but also the whole world are pointing finger at you (Hasina) for indulging in corruption ... your cabinet, advisers and relatives are recognised as corrupt. So, you should resign right away on moral grounds," Fakhrul told a discussion in the capital.

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# BNP ranks want Tarique's lead role in agitation

Some leaders urge Khaleda to bring him back from abroad

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Some BNP policymakers have urged party Chairperson Khaleda Zia to bring back its Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman from abroad to lead the party in its anti-government movement.

For the first time in the last four years, the issue was raised at a meeting of the BNP standing committee, the highest policy-making body of the main opposition party, on Sunday at the chairperson's Gulshan office in the capital.

Khaleda, who chaired the meeting, did not make any comment in this regard, meeting sources told this

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