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FOR BETTER REGULATIONS
Four regulatory bodies sign a deal to bring efficiency to financial operations
PAGE B1

BEWARE OF BRINKMANSHIP
Iftekharuzzaman writes the govt must learn from Padma affairs
PAGE 14

ISLANDS ROW
China cancels a ceremony to mark 40 years of Japan ties
PAGE 7

PADMA LOAN DEAL REVIVAL

Govt hails WB

2 missions arrive shortly to assist probe, prepare project implementation schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday welcomed the World Bank decision to re-engage in the Padma bridge financing along with ADB, Jica and IDB.

Economic Relations Division Secretary Iqbal Mahmud, at a press briefing, conveyed Dhaka's official reaction to the global lender's return to the project.

He added that two missions of WB, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency

(Jica) were due to arrive here shortly.

One will finalise the modalities and schedule of the new arrangement for the project implementation while another will cooperate with the Anti-Corruption Commission probe into the allegations of project graft.

"The decision of the World Bank to come back as one of the co-financiers will bring promising results and a favourable outcome for the citizens of Bangladesh," the ERD secretary said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



Bits and pieces of pavement and sewerage pipes are left scattered at Farmgate in the capital after authorities dug trenches to carry out repair work. Pedestrians now have to share the street with buses. The photo was shot yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

CABINET PURCHASE BODY

Abul, Mashur dropped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashur Rahman and former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain were removed from the cabinet

committee on purchase yesterday.

Newly appointed Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Railway Minister Mujibul Hoque replaced Abul and Mashur, who had come under criticism

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

PM reaches New York to attend UNGA

BSS, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in New York yesterday morning on a nine-day official visit to the USA to attend the 67th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

An Emirates flight carrying the prime minister and members of her entourage landed at John

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Wait is over for Snow White fibre

Fungus genome map paves way for release of commercially important jute variety

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladeshi jute researchers are now upbeat at the prospect of commercial release of a new variety of jute -- Snow White Fibre -- following decoding of the genome of deadly fungus *Macrophomina phaseolina* by a team of local scientists.

Globally famed geneticist Dr Maqsood Alam led the team.

More than a decade ago, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) developed the jute variety with high commercial potentials but withheld its release to farmers considering its too much suscepti-

b i l i t y

Unelected people still part of govt

Say the judges who favour caretaker system in 13th amendment verdict

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The constitution still has provisions that allow a large number of unelected people to govern the country, even though the caretaker government system has been scrapped over its composition of unelected persons.

In the full verdict on the 13th amendment to the constitution, three Appellate Division judges, who opposed declaring illegal the provision for the caretaker system, discuss how technocrat ministers and women MPs without being elected by the people are governing

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

SC against technocrat ministers

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The present constitutional provision for technocrat ministers is undemocratic and contrary to the fundamental principles of the original constitution of 1972, observed the Supreme Court in its full verdict on the 13th amendment.

The provision regarding appointment of technocrat ministers in the original constitution needs to be restored for the sake of democracy, said the verdict.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, inset, addresses a huge rally at Gora Shaheed Maidan in Dinajpur yesterday where she again said the next elections must be held under a non-party caretaker government. PHOTO: STAR

India destroy England

AFP, Colombo

Harbhajan Singh grabbed 4-12 on his return after a year in the wilderness as India demolished defending champions England by 90 runs in the World Twenty20 on Sunday.

Rohit Sharma hit an unbeaten 55 off 33 balls as the new-look Indians

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

No polls without caretaker govt

Election won't be credible under AL admin, Khaleda tells Dinajpur rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the next general election must be held under a non-party government and no other formula would work.

"With the people with us, we will create such a situation that the government will have nowhere to escape. No election will be allowed under the present government and incumbent prime minister," she said.

She was addressing a rally at the Gora Shaheed Maidan in Dinajpur. Thousands of leaders, workers and supporters of BNP and its allies attended the rally.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has recently proposed a small cabinet, including opposition representatives, to oversee the next election.

The BNP-led opposition alliance rejected the proposal.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Relaxed hartal

Bus set on fire in Ctg; 53 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced by 12-Islamist parties yesterday passed almost peacefully amid arrest of at least 53 people, including 45 in Dhaka, and torching of a BRTC bus in Chittagong.

Pickets also damaged at least 10 vehicles in the capital and elsewhere in the country during the hartal called to protest police obstruction in their Saturday's programme against an anti-Islam film at the Jatiya Press Club.

They also brought out a few processions at the very beginning of the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

PHOTO ON PAGE 20

Polls as per law, not on govt's order

Says CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday said the parliamentary election would be held according to law, not on the government's instructions.

About the preparation of the Election Commission for the next election, the CEC said, "These are hypothetical

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

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Congratulations

Mrs. Nur-E-Yasmin Fatima, Managing Director of Yasmin Spinning Mills Ltd. is seen receiving the CIP Card from the Chief Guest Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Quader, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at a function held on September 12, 2012.

Heart-felt felicitations and sincere appreciation to

Mrs. Nur-E-Yasmin Fatima
Managing Director of Yasmin Spinning Mills Ltd.

Who has been declared as the Commercially Important Person (CIP)- Export, for the year 2011 by the Government of Bangladesh in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the national economy.

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