



## 1962 CHINA WAR

Praful Bidwai thinks India must seek honourable reconciliation

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## 'ACCIDENTALLY' SHOT

Mauritanian president flies to Paris for medical treatment

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## CELEBRATING LIFE 2012

Maestro Ajoy Chakrabarty will perform in Dhaka on November 2

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## PADMA BRIDGE GRAFT PROBE

# WB panel starts assessment

*Corruption conspiracy is an offence in Bangladesh, ACC tells them in first meeting; discussion 'very productive', says WB country director*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank's external panel yesterday inquired of the Anti-Corruption Commission whether corruption conspiracy was considered an offence under Bangladesh laws, said a senior lawyer representing the ACC.

"They [the panel] wanted to know whether corruption conspiracy is

considered an offence in our country. We have told them that it is an offence," said advocate Anisul Huq.

He was talking to the media after the first meeting between the ACC and the WB's external panel assessing the conduct of the ACC probe into the alleged corruption in the Padma bridge project.

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The WB country director along with a three-member external panel of the global lender leaves the ACC office yesterday afternoon.

# MPs engaged in 'negative activities'

*53pc of 149 MPs directly involved in 'criminal acts', reveals TIB study*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ninety-seven percent of the 149 sitting MPs surveyed were involved in "negative activities" while 70 percent of them were engaged in "criminal activities," a TIB survey has found.

The negative activities include involvement in or being supportive of criminal activities, misuse of government funds and influencing government decisions. The criminal activities include killing, land and river grabbing, extortion, tender manipulation and cheating, says the survey report published yesterday.

Contacted by The Daily Star, two MPs of



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the Awami League-led ruling alliance blasted the TIB survey, describing it as a national and international conspiracy against the country's democracy.

But two opposition MPs termed the report an "appropriate reflection" of what the ruling alliance had been doing.

According to the study, 53.5 percent of the 149 MPs carried out criminal activities in person. Of them, 24 percent were sued by the victims and in the rest of the cases either the victims dared not file any case

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## Bridge work may start next month

*Hopes Muhith*

REJAUL KARIM BYRON, from Tokyo

Bangladesh might start implementation of the Padma bridge project by next month if the World Bank external panel submits its report paving the way for release of the WB

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# Mojaheed was the key man

*Son of martyred journo testifies about killing of intellectuals*



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With directives from their commander, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, and with the plan prepared with the Pakistani army, Al-Badr men launched their mission to annihilate intellectuals just before Victory Day in 1971, a witness said.

Journalist Shaheen Reza Noor, son of martyred journalist Serajuddin Hossain, said this while testifying before

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday against Jamaat leader Mojaheed in connection with crimes against humanity committed allegedly by the latter in 1971.

Shaheen, now executive editor of the daily Ittefaq, the post his father once held, said Mojaheed ordered the killing of intellectuals in order to maim the nation at birth.

Shaheen, the fourth prosecution witness in the case, said after the Liberation War,

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## HALL-MARK SCAM

# Suspended Sonali Bank DGM held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AKM Azizur Rahman, deputy general manager of Sonali Bank Ruposhi Bangla branch who was suspended over the Hall-Mark loan scam, was arrested last night in the capital's Rampura.

Lt Col MM Anisur Rahman, commanding officer of Rab-3, told The Daily Star that the force picked up Azizur

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## Khaleda flies to China

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday left the capital for a seven-day visit to China at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party.



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