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Passport office back on track

Malaysian co returns to work on assurance of contract renewal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Malaysian company entrusted with issuing machine-readable passport (MRP) in Bangladesh got back to work yesterday, a day after pulling out of the project for the government's failure to renew its contract.

It has agreed to issue MRPs for two more weeks on condition that the contract, which expired on March 31, will be renewed by October 31.

The decision came after a successful negotiation at a meeting held at the Department of Immigration and Passport yesterday morning.

Meeting sources said top officials of the MRP project assured the Malaysian firm that the contract would be renewed shortly.

"We will pull out our staff anytime if the contract is not renewed without any change in it," said Noor A Alam Chowdhury of Dataedge Ltd, a local partner of Malaysia-based IRIS Corporation Berhad, which is issuing the MRPs under a Tk526-crore project.

A proposal to renew the contract was prepared following a series of meetings between the officials concerned and the company representatives in the past few months.

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People gather at Agargaon passport office in the capital yesterday as the issuing of machine-readable passport (MRP) continues.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Telecast news as per state protocol

Inu urges TV channels

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday suggested that private television channels broadcast news on the head of the government and the leader of the opposition according to the state protocol.

Inu made the suggestion at a meeting with the owners of the TV channels following restrictions on the media from covering two programmes of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

One of the programmes

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Mobile top-up vendors go on strike from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile phone top-up vendors has called a countrywide four-day strike from October 18 to press home their 11-point demand.

Aminul Islam, president of Bangladesh Mobile Phone Baboshaye Association, a platform of the vendors, announced the strike at a press briefing at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Their prime demand is a raise in commission

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Malala shows 'good recovery'

AFP, Birmingham, United Kingdom

A 14-year-old Pakistani girl who was shot in the head by the Taliban could make a "good recovery", doctors treating her in a British hospital said yesterday.

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KILLING OF INNOCENTS ON BORDER India again pledges punitive action

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Reiterating its promise to bring down border killing to zero, New Delhi yesterday agreed to ensure trial and punishment of those responsible for killing any innocent Bangladeshi.

"Number of deaths of Bangladeshis in the border has come down drastically but number of injuries of BSF members has increased alarmingly. BSF personnel have been ordered to use non-lethal weapon, but on the other hand, attacks on BSF by Bangladeshi cattle smugglers and crimi-

nals are on the rise," said Indian Home Secretary RK Singh.

Addressing a joint press briefing following the two-day home secretary-level talks, he said, "After any death, if both the sides are convinced that the person is innocent and not a criminal or a cattle smuggler, India will conduct inquiry and prosecute the BSF members if found responsible."

He added the inquiry into the death of Bangladeshi teenage girl, Felani, at the

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Chinese support to continue

China's FM tells Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi has assured BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia of his country's continued support for economic and infrastructural development of Bangladesh.

Yang gave the assurance during a meeting with Khaleda Zia, who is

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WB PANEL ENDS VISIT Report likely in a couple of weeks

SOHEL PARVEZ

During its Dhaka visit, the World Bank external panel sought from the Anti-Corruption Commission some documents on the commission's methods of inquiry and investigation into the alleged corruption in Padma bridge project.

The three-member team also wanted to know about the progress the ACC has made so far in the inquiry, said a top ACC official yesterday.

"We will soon send the documents as per its request," said the official, preferring to remain unnamed.

The official added the WB team would help the ACC to identify the persons involved in the "corruption

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PRAYER TIMING October 17

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:50	5:25
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:38	5:41
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation



People, wishing to spend their Eid-ul Azha holidays outside the capital, queue up for rail tickets in advance at Kamalapur Railway Station late Monday night, although counters open in the next morning.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

World's richest man of all time

DAILYMAIL ONLINE

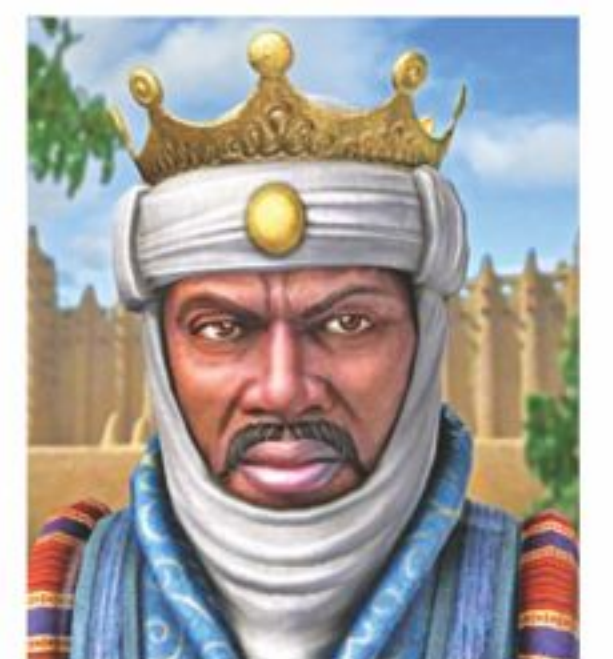
An obscure king who ruled West Africa in the 14th century has been named the richest person in history in a new inflation-adjusted list of the world's 25 wealthiest people of all time.

Spanning 1,000 years and with a combined fortune of \$4.317trillion, only three of the list's 25 are alive today; none of them are women and 14 of them are American.

Using the annual 2199.6per cent rate of inflation, where \$100million in 1913 is equal to \$2.299.63billion in 2012, Celebrity Net Worth's list includes familiar names like Bill Gates and Warren Buffett; but sitting at number one is Mansa Musa I of Mali.

The West Africa king, the richest person in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



King Mansa Musa

Unnecessary comments to harm trial

Says war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A judge of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked the prosecution and ministers not to say anything about the ongoing crimes against humanity trials just to make someone happy.

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OCT 9 INCIDENTS AT BAU BCL spared, Chhatra Front punished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) authorities yesterday temporarily expelled nine students belonging to Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) for, what the administration dubbed, misbehaving with teachers on October 9.

However, the authority did not take any such action against the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists who alleg-

edly attacked and injured at least 20 students belonging to SCF and other pro-left student bodies when the later was staging a demonstration protesting admission fee hike on that day.

BAU Proctor M A Salam said, primarily they were found guilty of misbehaving with the teachers during a programme of an organisation in front of the administrative building on October 9.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you support the recommendation of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) for making a law to stop MPs from engaging in local development activities?

Yes (73%)
No (25%)
No Comments! (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 329

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the prime minister that the TIB survey report on lawmakers is ill-motivated?

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