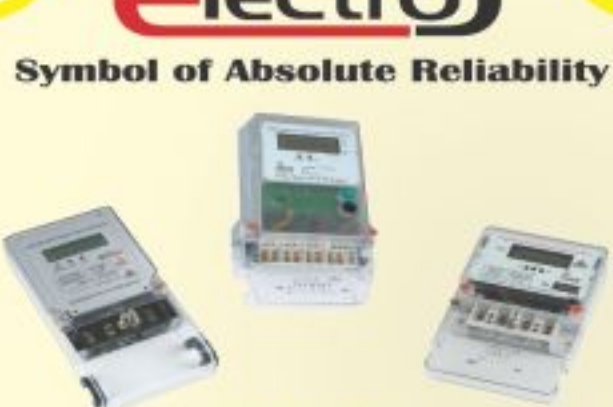


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CLUSTER BOMBS RETURN

Syrian jets hammer a rebel town as peace envoy arrives

PAGE 7

ACCOUNTS OF 1971

Tomorrow marks the 41st anniversary of historic publication "Testimony of 60"

PAGE 21

PLAYING A COP

Aamir Khan says he is not competing with anyone

PAGE 10-11

BANGLADESHI TERROR SUSPECT

Conflicting images emerge in US

Another man 'linked with Nafis' arrested

STAR REPORT

At the Missouri college where Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis enrolled, a classmate said he often remarked that true Muslims don't believe in violence.

That image seemed startlingly at odds with the Bangladesh native's arrest in an FBI sting this week on charges of trying to blow up the Federal Reserve Bank in New York with what he thought was a 1,000-pound car bomb.

"I can't imagine being more shocked about somebody doing something like this," said Jim Dow, a 54-year-old Army veteran who rode home from class with Nafis twice a week. "I didn't just meet this kid a couple of times. We talked quite a bit. ... And this doesn't seem to be in character."

Nafis, who at the time of his arrest Wednesday was working as a



Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis

The photo taken recently shows a large signboard of Nasim Group in the river Turag at Nawaberbagh on the outskirts of the capital. The Water Development Board last year knocked down a signboard of Nasim City housing project after The Daily Star had run a photo on the apparent attempt to grab a portion of the river.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



US urged to give access to Nafis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government sought a diplomat's access to Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis, detained in the US in connection with plotting an attack on the Federal Reserve Bank, said an official of the Bangladesh embassy there.

The request was made to the US government during a meeting between the Bangladesh embassy

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

PHULBARI COAL MINE

Open pit is reality

Observes govt committee; recommends open pit mine in northern Barapukuria; underground mines for the rest

SHARIER KHAN

An experts' committee formed by the government has found in its study open pit mining in the Phulbari coal deposit as a practical approach.

The 17-member committee observes British company Asia Energy's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report is standard but lacks explanations of environ-

mental mitigations in several areas.

To address this, the government should conduct its own study to confirm Asia Energy's techno-economic feasibility of open pit mining at Phulbari, the committee recommends.

The Phulbari project remains suspended for seven years following a bloody public outcry in August 2006 against the open pit mining

proposal of Asia Energy.

"Except Phulbari, other coal deposits must be worked with underground method," states a report of the committee headed by former Petrobangla chairman Mosharraf Hossain. Other members include officials of different ministries concerned including the environment ministry, Petrobangla and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

8m youths without primary education

Unesco report places Bangladesh among top 5 nations with worrisome dropout rate

WASIM BIN HABIB

A quarter of young Bangladeshis never completed primary school and are left without the required skills to land a job, revealed a Unesco report.

It said the country has over eight million such people aged between 15 and 24 years.

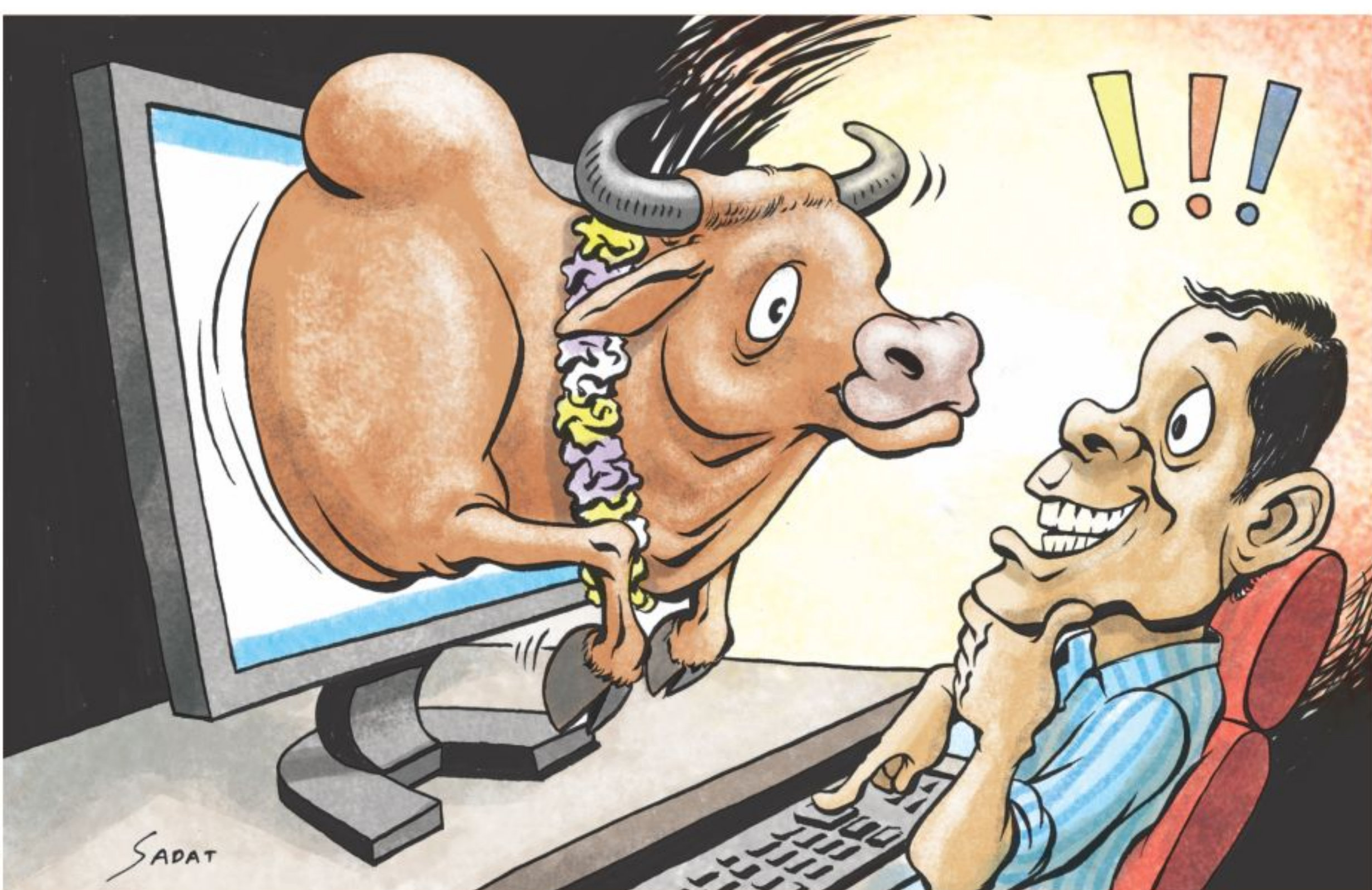
The figure has put the country among

the top five nations in the world who have most young people not completing primary school.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) launched the EFA Global Monitoring Report-2012 on Tuesday.

Siddiqur Rahman of Institute of Education and Research in Dhaka

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



First time, fantastic

Online eid cattle sale intrigues buyers

SUMAN SAHA

A single parent, Taslima never dares to go to cattle market to buy sacrificial animal. Given the hassle, it is a task too painful for her or any woman

for that matter. Then there is the risk of carrying huge cash during eid time when muggers are out on the streets for their catch.

So Taslima, a computer software and hardware businessperson, has

always relied on her father to buy eid cattle until last year. Maybe, it's time she relieves her "old man".

This year, she has bought her eid cattle herself, sitting in her

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Stop meddling in politics

Pakistan top court tells army

AGENCIES

In a rare challenge to Pakistan's powerful generals, the country's Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the military should stop interfering in politics.

It was a landmark ruling from the Supreme Court 16 years after retired air marshal Asghar Khan filed a case, accusing the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency of doling out money to a group of politicians.

Chief Supreme Court Judge Iftikhar Chaudhry said military intelligence agencies must stay away from politics.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

HALL-MARK SCAM

Chairperson on 5-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hall-Mark Group Chairperson Jesmine Islam was placed on a five-day remand yesterday in one of the 11 cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in connection with the Sonali Bank loan scam.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mostafa Shahriar Khan passed



Jesmine Islam

the order after ACC

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BSF kills Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader at Rudrani border in Dinajpur early yesterday. The deceased was

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8