

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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Your Right to Know

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THE ROMNEY POLICIES

What if the Massachusetts governor is really elected US president

PAGE 14

SKYFALL GOES SKY-HIGH

New Bond film takes £20.1m following its release on Friday

PAGE 10

RAJIV GANDHI MURDER

New book claims Intelligence Bureau suppressed a vital piece of evidence

PAGE 7

DEEP-SEA PORT AT SONADIA

Khaleda backs India-China consortium

Says Bangladesh-India connectivity inevitable, BNP not to look back on ties with India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi



Bangladesh and India was "inevitable" and the same must be expanded to include China and South East Asia.

In the past, the BNP had opposed granting transit facility to India to connect with its landlocked northeastern states with the mainland.

After Khaleda's meeting with Khurshid and earlier with Indian National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon who called on her at her hotel in New Delhi, BNP

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1 PHOTO ON PAGE 3

In a shift in her party's stand, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday warmed up to connectivity with India and New Delhi's participation in a consortium with China to build a deep-sea port at Sonadia in Mongla.

During a 45-minute meeting with India's new Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid at the Hyderabad House here yesterday afternoon, Khaleda told him that connectivity between



Posters and banners of ruling and opposition party leaders wrap the walls and surroundings of Lalbagh Fort in the capital hiding the beauty of this Mughal architecture.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Saran meets PM, talks gas, power import

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran yesterday discussed the possibility of importing gas to Bangladesh from India through Shiliguri-Rangpur route.

The discussion took place when Saran met the premier at her office in the capital.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT IN BAGERHAT Jt venture deal with India next month

SHARIEF KHAN

India and Bangladesh are now ready to sign a joint venture agreement in November to set up a massive 1,320 megawatt coal power plant in Bagerhat near the Sundarbans, almost two years behind schedule.

Power division secretary AK Azad told The Daily Star that before signing the agreement, his ministry needed approval of the cabinet committee on economic affairs for a power purchase agreement under which the government would buy

power from the plant.

The approval is expected in early November.

The \$1.5 billion private power plant was initially intended to be set up by 2015. But due to nearly two years' delay over the terms and conditions of the agreement the project may go into operation in 2016-2017.

The Power Development Board of Bangladesh and the National Thermal Power Company of India would form the joint venture company, Bangladesh India

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

BNP govt sheltered separatists

Alleges Dipu Moni

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday lashed out at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, saying Khaleda had always sheltered terrorists and separatists whenever in power.

Dipu Moni's comment came a day after Khaleda assured Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that she and her party would not allow

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Eid brings life to grassroots politics

Ruling alliance MPs meet voters to campaign for next polls, opposition MPs prepare followers for anti-govt agitation

STAR REPORT

The country's politics took a turn on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha as leaders of both ruling and opposition parties have made the best use of the vacation in favour of their respective agendas.

The MPs and leaders of the ruling alliance have launched campaigns for the next parliamentary polls, while the oppo-

sition leaders have tried to get their activists prepared for anti-government movement.

Both the sides have stepped up public contact through different programmes including exchange of greetings in their respective constituencies.

In many areas, local MPs and politicians arranged feasts for people and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

RAMU ATTACKS MKA sees foreign link

Another suspect arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign instigation was to blame for the September 29 attacks on Buddhists in Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar, said Home Minister MK Alamgir yesterday.

People doing communal politics in the country were involved in the attacks, the minister told journalists at his office in the afternoon after a meeting with United Nations Resident Coordinator Neal Walker.

The additional divisional commissioner of Chittagong submitted a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

One killed, two injured by gang in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants killed a teenage boy and injured two others by stabbing in the capital's Mugda last night.

The dead is Md Sagar, an 18-year-old printing press worker of Manda Khalpar.

Injured Shahin and Roman, both 17, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A gang of six stabbed the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

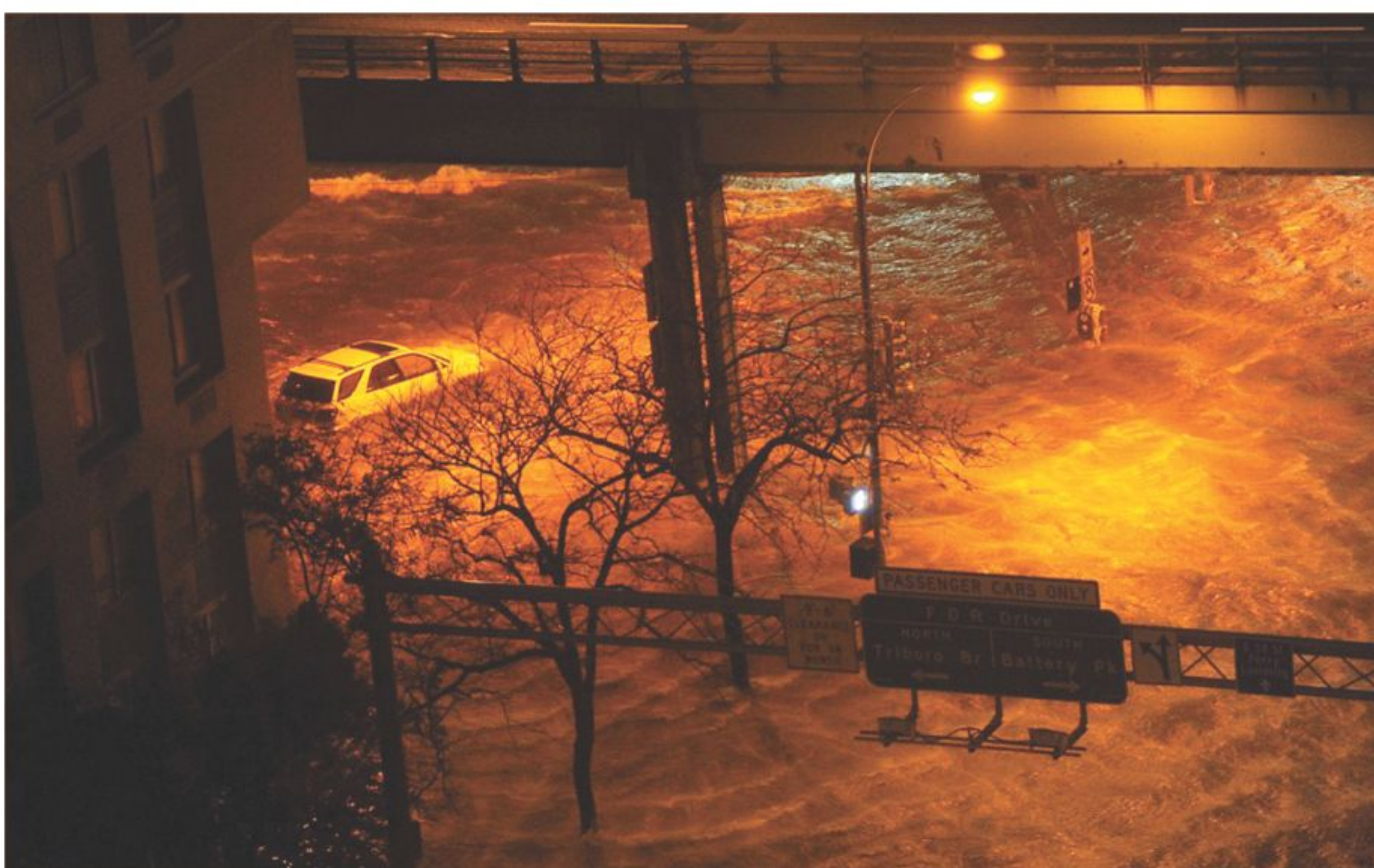


PHOTO: DAILYMAIL/XINHUA/PHOTOSHOT

DANGEROUS WAVES...This photo taken on Monday night shows a flooded street in Manhattan as Superstorm Sandy made its approach in New York.

Sandy batters US coast

32 dead; 8 million left without power

AGENCIES

Millions of people were left reeling in the aftermath of monster storm Sandy yesterday as New York City and a wide swathe of the eastern United States struggled with epic flooding and massive power outages.

The death toll from Sandy has risen to 32 in the United States and Canada, and was feared to climb further as several people remained missing, officials said.

At least eight million homes and

businesses are without power because of the storm, said the US Department of Energy.

Officials in the states of Connecticut, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia all reported deaths from the massive storm system, while Toronto police said a Canadian woman was killed by flying debris.

Sandy had already killed at least 67 people as it swept through the Caribbean over the past few days, meaning the overall toll from the

storm is now 99.

In New York City, 10 people have been killed. More than 15,000 flights were cancelled, the flight-tracking website FlightAware estimates.

Sandy, which crashed ashore with hurricane-force winds in New Jersey overnight as the biggest storm to hit the country in generations, swamped parts of New York's subway system and Manhattan's Wall Street district, closing financial markets for a second day.

Neighbourhoods along the East

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

PADMA BRIDGE GRAFT ACC finds it difficult to launch probe

Waiting for response from Canada; Mashiur asked to appear at ACC on Nov 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will not be able to file a first information report (FIR) over graft allegations in Padma bridge project unless Canada provides it with relevant information, a high official of the ACC said yesterday.

Without an FIR, the ACC cannot upgrade its "enquiry" into "investigation" as expected by the World Bank.

The official requesting anonymity also said the anti-graft body had repeatedly requested Canadian authorities to allow an ACC team to visit that country. The ACC is yet to get any response.

Two officials of SNC Lavalin are facing trial in a Canadian court on charges of bribing Bangladeshi public officials to get the bridge consultancy job worth \$50 million. The hearing starts in April next.

Contacted yesterday, ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman said, "We cannot talk about this in the media. We sent a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Limon now advised to apply for clemency

STAR REPORT

The deputy commissioner (DC) of Jhalakathi has advised Limon Hossain to apply for clemency in the two cases Rab filed against him hours after he had been shot and maimed by some of the elite force members.

The Rapid Action Battalion on March 23 last year charged the college

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

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