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PENDING ISSUES

# Dhaka, Delhi eye tangible progress

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh and India have agreed over stepping up efforts to make "tangible progress" in fast-tracking a resolution on pending bilateral issues.

Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Mijarul Quayes yesterday said it was necessary for both countries to "fast track implementation of the decisions" taken during the visits of the two prime ministers to New Delhi in January, 2010, and to Dhaka in September, 2011.

Quayes was speaking to the media in Gurgaon, a satellite town of Delhi, after he met Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on the sidelines of Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) conference.

Mathai is likely to visit Dhaka either by November-end or in the first week of December, Quayes said.

He said Mathai was "keen on making some tangible progress during his visit" and that there was no lack of commitment from either side to resolve the pending issues.

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Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty and his daughter Kaushiki Desikan perform classical music at the fifth award giving ceremony of Celebrating Life, a Standard Chartered Bank-The Daily Star initiative, held last night. More on page 1,3.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## PADMA BRIDGE 'GRAFT' Mashiur's return won't hurt probe

Says ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Ghulam Rahman yesterday claimed that Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashiur Rahman's return to work would not harm the ACC's ongoing enquiry into the Padma bridge project corruption allegation.

Mashiur on Thursday went to work at the Prime Minister's Office after his month-long leave.

For reviving the cancelled loan agreement for the bridge, the World Bank had placed a condition that Mashiur must be on leave during the probe.

Ghulam Rahman, in an interview with private television channel ATN

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## Police foil Jamaat programme

35 picked up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami activists could not hold a scheduled programme at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday as police intercepted them.

Shahbagh police also picked up 35 activists of the party from the spot.

Activists of Jamaat, a key ally of the BNP-led alliance, gathered there after Juma prayers to attend a programme at the hall room of press club

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## US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# Job report gives Obama some relief

New York mayor endorses incumbent

AGENCIES

US employers stepped up hiring in October and the jobless rate ticked higher as more workers restarted job hunts, a hopeful sign for a lackluster economy that has been a drag on President Barack Obama's re-election chances.

On the political front, the incumbent received endorsement from New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg boosting his chances ahead of Tuesday's general election.

Employers added 171,000 people to

their payrolls last month, the Labor Department said yesterday. The government also said 84,000 more jobs were created in August and September than previously estimated.

However, the unemployment rate rose to 7.9 percent, after a surprising three-point drop to 7.8 percent in September, the same level when Obama took office in January 2009.

The employment data was the last major report card on the economy before Tuesday's presidential election. Polls

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## 3 members of fake note gang held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested three suspected members of a money counterfeiting gang and recovered fake Indian rupees worth 1.65 crore from their possession in the capital's Uttara.

The arrestees Mahatab, 37, Alauddin, 34, and Saju, 24, were on their way to Chapainawabganj border by a car to smuggle the currencies into India.

Acting on intelligence information, a team of Rab-1 halted the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

## PENTAGON BOMB PLOT

# US man gets 17-year jail

BBC ONLINE

A US court yesterday sentenced a man to 17 years in prison for plotting to attack the Pentagon and the US Capitol with model aircraft laden with explosives.

US citizen Rezwana Ferdous, 27, was arrested after a sting operation in which agents posed as al-Qaeda members.

Ferdous, born in Massachusetts to parents of Bangladeshi descent, is a physics graduate of Northeastern University in Boston.

He pleaded guilty in July to attempting to supply

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Rezwana Ferdous

## UPDF activist murdered in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Criminals slit the throat of an activist of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) in Laxmichhari upazila of Khagrachhari district early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rupayan Chakma, 20, son of Krishna Chakma, of Bardona village under the same upazila.

Organiser Proddip Chakma of UPDF Khagrachhari unit in a press release alleged that a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Christians light candles at the graves on All Souls Day yesterday offering prayers for the departed at Patharghata Catholic Church Graveyard in the port city.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

## TK 250CR GRAFT

# ACC set to sue BTCL officials

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The Anti-Corruption Commission is set to lodge five cases against about 20 officials of the BTCL and owners of international gateway (IGW) exchanges for embezzling around Tk 250 crore.

An ACC official said the cases would be filed following approval by the commission.

The BTCL officials in league with the IGW exchange owners swindled the amount, he added.

An IGW exchange works as a gateway between a national telephone network and other international gateway exchanges, thus providing cross-border connectivity.

According to their licence terms, the IGW operators would share almost 52 percent of their revenue with the state-owned Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Ltd (BTCL).

ACC Chairman Golam Rahman said as the IGW operators did not pay the BTCL's share of the revenue, the commission has decided to sue the companies.

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## Talking elephant!

A giant mammal in Korea can imitate human speech

AFP, Yongin

An elephant at a zoo in South Korea has learned to imitate human speech and has a vocabulary of several words, researchers said yesterday.

Koshik, a 22-year-old male Asian

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# Scope of Sandy's devastation widens

Tempers flare over gas, power crises

AGENCIES

Four days after superstorm Sandy smashed into the US Northeast, rescuers yesterday were still discovering the extent of the death and devastation in New York and the New Jersey shore, and anger mounted over gasoline shortages, power outages and waits for relief supplies.

About 4.5 million homes and businesses in 15 US states remain without power.

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## Kids, 'denied refuge', swept to death

CNN

As Superstorm Sandy ravaged New York, Glenda Moore drove frantically across Staten Island in an attempt to get her sons to safety.

Instead, Moore found herself and her boys -- Connor, four and Brandon, two -- caught in the full fury of the storm.

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**ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir that Khaleda Zia government had tried to destroy all the evidence of the jail killing case?

Yes (21%)

No (77%)

No Comments (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 392

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think running zila parishes by administrators and without any elected representatives is harming country's democratic local government system?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

**PRAYER TIMING** November 3

	Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-34
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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