**EMBEZZLEMENT** 

Blitz editor

sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on Thursday

sent to jail Salauddin Shoeb

Chowdhury, editor of local

connection with an embez-

Dakkhinkhan police had

arrested Shoeb at his house

in Uttara on Wednesday

zling Tk 79 lakh, said

tion across the sub-

relationship scandal

Pakistan, and Bilawal

of Hina Rabbani.

Man killed

by thief in

Chittagong

A man was killed and his

wife injured as an alleged

drug-addict burglar stabbed

The deceased is Nurul

Islam, 45, from Feni and the

burglar Kamrul Islam, 22,

"Kamrul may have

entered Nurul's house [in

Shantibagh] sometime on

valuables but lay hidden

under Nurul's bed," said

Dulal Chandra Banik, sub-

Thursday afternoon to steal

from Munshiganj.

them in the port city early

vesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

between Hina Rabbani

Khar, foreign minister of

Bhutto, son of Pakistan's

President Asif Ali Zardari.

Shoeb's arrest was made

a day before the Dhaka visit

night for allegedly embez-

In September, Blitz cre-

ated a sensational commo-

continent by publishing a

English weekly Blitz, in

zlement case filed by his

business partner Sajjad

Hossain.

sources.

# Amartya refutes Muhith FROM PAGE 1

Thursday.

Quoting Sen Muhith told reporters in Dhaka, "Professor Sen told me that so many good things are happening in this country but they are not highlighted anywhere in the world only because of Professor Yunus.

am particularly surprised -- indeed astonished -- to see his attributing to me a view that is not mine. Indeed, the alleged utterance is not close to anything I told Muhith when we met briefly at the VIP lounge in the Bangkok Airport last month."

The India-born Bangalee economist added that he was not at all accusing Yunus of preventing the recognition and praise that Bangladesh deserves.

"Rather, I was pointing to the fact that the treatment of Yunus -- and its interpretation in the outside world -- have been strongly inhibiting factors working against the justified acclaim that Bangladesh's stellar achievements could otherwise be expected to get in the world," Sen said in his emailed statement.

ProfYunus, who is now in Austria for a global social business summit, when approached by The Daily Star, said he would not

VIP lounge in the Bangkok Airport last month. What I told him included

the following:

1) Bangladesh has made

economic and social matters at a very rapid pace in recent years -- a subject on which I have written in American and Indian newspapers and periodicals (I have also commented on the fact that Bangladesh has overtaken India in most of the standard indicators of

2) Prime Minister ery." Hasina, whom I much admire, can certainly claim great credit for her leadership in the transformation of Bangladesh into a powerfully progressive modern society, and this does deserve hugely more global recognition;

3) The constructive roles of Bangladeshi NGOs, including the positive parts played by BRAC and Grameen Bank in the progress of Bangladesh, deserve emphatic recognition;

4) I am saddened by the fact that Bangladesh's achievements get far less acknowledgement and praise in the world media than they should get;

5) Among the principal factors behind this widespread global reluctance to say good things about Bangladesh's progress is a shared resentment by a large section of influential intellectuals across the world of the harsh official treatment of Dr Yunus in Bangladesh.

I was not at all accusing Yunus of preventing the recognition and praise that Bangladesh deserves (as Mr Muhith seems to be saying). Rather, I was pointing to the fact that the treatment of Yunus -- and its interpretation in the outside world -- have been strongly inhibiting factors working against the justified acclaim that Bangladesh's stellar achievements could otherwise be expected to get in the world.

I hope Mr Muhith will withdraw his wrong attribution to me, in the light of my reminding him of exactly what I told him. WHAT MUHITH SAID ON THURSDAY

the past, said Quayes quoting

minister said Islamabad

valued its relations with

Dhaka and wanted to

advance existing coopera-

tion in the economic, politi-

cal and cultural arena and

through people-to-people

She also spoke about her

"personal commitment" to

promoting bilateral ties and

cooperation with

Dipu Moni expressed

Dipu presented Khar with

similar views on expanding

bilateral relations by settling

a copy of "The Unfinished

Nation, Bangabandhu

Dipu Moni to attend the

meeting of council of minis-

ters to be held prior to the D-

ceded by senior-official-level

and foreign-minister-level

meetings from November 19

Secretary Mijarul Quayes

told reporters that the

Pakistan foreign minister

had appeared "sensitive" to

the Bangladesh's legitimate

the Pakistan foreign minister

important but not one too

concerned with bilateral

issues as she had come to

hand over the invitation letter.

prehensive but Bangladesh

raised all pending issues,

including the matter of an

apology on the part of

Pakistan for genocide in

1971, and other matters

related to bilateral, regional

and international issues of

Bangladesh had stressed the

need for settling the issues

through regular holding of

joint economic commission

meetings and the establish-

ment of a joint commission

for foreign minister-level

The foreign secretary said

common concern, he said.

The meeting was not com-

Quayes termed the visit of

After the meeting, Foreign

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Memoirs" of the Father of the

Hina Khar also invited

The summit will be pre-

contact.

Bangladesh.

8 summit.

to November 21.

unresolved issues.

The Pakistani foreign

Hina Khar after the meeting.

claimed Amartya Sen viewed Prof Yunus as the single major reason behind Bangladesh's failure to

project its positive image on

the world stage. Asked how an individual like Yunus could do so, Muhith told reporters in the capital: "He has wonderful publicity machin-

The minister also questioned the honesty of Prof Yunus, whose microcredit model won him and Grameen Bank Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

# Muggers

**FROM PAGE 20** 

Monir Chairman Lane in Kamrangirchar around 2:30am while they were returning home on a bicycle.

The muggers stabbed them indiscriminately with knives leaving Ajoy dead on the spot.

Family of the deceased said the duo worked as video cameramen in the area and they were returning home after working at a programme in Lalbagh Shahid Nagar area.

The muggers took away their two mobile phones and the bicycle, they added.

The family also said that the deceased had no enmity with anyone. He got married only one month and four days back. Kutubur Rahman, sub-

inspector of Kamrangirchar Police Station, said they detained five persons in this connection. The bicycle, a cleaver and a knife was recovered from their posses-Meanwhile in another incident at Bangshal

Moinuddin while he and his wife were riding on a rickshaw to Siddique Bazar around 6:30am. The muggers took away money and two mobile phones from their posses-

snatchers stabbed

sion. Moinuddin was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. No one was arrested in

this connection, said Officer-in-Charge Abdul Quddus Fakir of Bangshal Police Station.

Both sides pledged to

Quayes said all issues of

bilateral concerns could be

addressed at the joint secre-

tary-level meeting. Before

the secretary-level meeting,

a director-general level meet

Quayes said Bangladesh

would again seek an official

apology from Pakistan at one

stage of such bilateral dis-

Pakistan's former presi-

dent, Gen Pervez Musharraf

who came to Bangladesh on

July 29, 2002, visited the

national memorial in Savar

to pay homage. Earlier, in

June 1974, Pakistan's prime

minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

visited the memorial, though

inappropriate behaviour

there. In 1985, President

Ziaul Haq visited the

national memorial and told

Bangladesh's media per-

sons, "Your heroes are our

wrote in the visitors' book at

pain of the events of 1971

The excesses during that

unfortunate period are

regrettable. Let us bury the

past in a spirit of magnanim-

ity. Let not the light of the

Quayes, on the D-8 sum-

mit, said it was important

since the summit planned to

adopt the charter of the

group 16 years after its

and Hina Khar called on

Sheikh Hasina at Gono

Bhaban, Later, the Pakistani

minister met opposition

leader Khaleda Zia at her

Gulshan home before leav-

Pakistan, Egypt, Iran,

Bangladesh, Nigeria

Indonesia and Malaysia. The

second summit of the group

was held in Bangladesh in

The D-8 consists of Turkey,

ing Dhaka around 3:30pm.

After meeting Dipu Moni

inception.

March, 1999.

move forward together."

Gen Pervez Musharraf

ing could take place.

inject fresh impetus to bilat-

eral relations.

cussions.

heroes.

## Democrats

**FROM PAGE 20** 

"On behalf of Florida Democrats, I wish President Barack Obama congratulations on his re-election and on winning Florida's 29 electoral college votes," Florida Democrats chair Rod Smith said in a statement Thursday.

In the 2000 presidential election, the close Florida race led to a weeks-long standoff that was eventually decided by the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of George W Bush despite his losing the nationwide popular vote. Mitt Romney's senior

campaign adviser in Florida hinted earlier that the Republican presidential challenger lost the state, where the result has yet to be announced more than two days after the election. Electoral officials have

said all vote returns must be completed no later than today, but the statement from Romney's campaign published in the Miami Herald suggested his team had already accepted defeat. Obama campaign man-

ager Jim Messina said he was confident the president would be declared the victor.

The campaign's voter model continues to show that Obama "will hold that lead and end with 332 electoral votes," Messina said. In the state-by-state elec-

toral college system, 270 votes are needed for victory, and Obama already has 303, with Florida's 29 still outstanding. Votes are still being

counted in three of Florida's 67 counties, said Chris Cate, a spokesman for the state government. "Counties are required to report their results to us by Saturday at noon," he told AFP. In 2000 Democratic Vice

President Al Gore, who won the US popular vote, lost the election to Bush, who triumphed under the electoral college system when a divided US Supreme Court stopped a ballot recount in Florida.

Republicans control both houses in Florida's state legislature and the governor's mansion, but a growing Hispanic and more liberal population are pushing the electorate toward Obama's Democrats.

## Myanmar

**FROM PAGE 20** 

hurt in the accident, which happened at about 10:00 am in Kanbalu in Sagaing Region, bordering India, it

"While some people from nearby villages were collecting the oil, the fire spread and 25 of them were killed and 62 injured, according to initial information," the website said.

The authorities were investigating the accident and the casualties had been rushed to hospitals in the

area, it added. Safety standards are generally poor in Myanmar, which is emerging from decades of military rule under a new quasi-civilian government, and the decrepit rail system has suffered from years of under-investment.

#### Malala

**FROM PAGE 20** 

The teenager was transferred he caused quite a stir by his on October 15 to the central England hospital, which specialises in the treating British soldiers wounded in Afghanistan.

Gunmen shot Malala on October 9 for standing up against the Taliban and openly advocating education forwomen.

Savar: "Your brothers and sisters in Pakistan share the The attack has drawn widespread international condemnation and Malala has become a powerful symbol of resistance to the Taliban's attempts to suppress women's rights. future be dimmed. Let us

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Britons, led by a Pakistani-British woman, yesterday called on Prime Minister David Cameron and other senior government officials to nominate Malala for the Nobel Peace Prize.

More than 30,000 people have signed the petition in Britain as part of a global push by women's rights advocates to nominate her for the prize. Similar campaigns have sprung up in Canada, France and Spain.

Under the Nobel Committee's rules, only prominent figures such as members of national assemblies and governments are able to make nominations.

FROM PAGE 1 Muhith comes as a great shock to millions of Bangladeshis, especially the young who feel proud of Prof Yunus and consider him to be a role model.

Those of us who support

his cause, like this writer;

Prove it, please!

those who think that he has brought tremendous honour and prestige for the country by his activities; those who think that his pioneering idea of micro credit-- that has been emulated in more than a hundred countries spanning all the continents, all economies (capitalist and socialist), all political systems (democratic, communist, monarchy, one-party, multiparty) and among both rich and poor nations; those who think that with all its weaknesses micro credit has so far been the most effective and self-sustainable system of fighting poverty; those who think that Yunus is an excellent institution builder who set up the first ever bank solely for the poor women serving 8 million borrowers and built nearly fifty other separate companies aimed at solving specific problems faced by the poor --- like housing, energy, health, education --- and those who consider him to be one of the greatest and most successful image builders of Bangladesh MUST know the TRUTH about this man.

It is the DUTY of the finance minister to tell the people how Yunus is damaging the image and harming the interest of the very country he spent his whole life working to improve. So the least Mr. Muhith

can do is to PROVE what he said. We would like to know when, where and how Prof Yunus hurt Bangladesh's interest. We would like to know which foreign invest-

ments were deterred by Yunus and when. As the finance minister he has all the resources and the staff to gather facts. So he must give the nation FACTS, not claims, surmises and innuendos and implied meanings. We want the plain truth so that we stop

Minister Muhith also said

that because of Yunus

Bangladesh's good work is

not being publicised and

admiring Yunus as we do.

appreciated. When journalists asked why, Muhith said because of his "wonderful publicity machinery". Are we to understand that all these leaders -- from the USA, France, Germany, China, Saudi Arabia, India, Indonesia, Japan -- to name just a few, known the world over for their leadership and wisdom and who respect Yunus and grant him audience whenever occasions call for, are basically fools who have been duped by Yunus' "publicity machinery"?

Are we to understand that hardnosed investors who search the world for a place to invest and brave the harshest of circumstances to make a profit forego Bangladesh as a profit making destination because Yunus said so? Who are we fooling? On the contrary, can the

fact be refuted that possible FDI from French and German companies like Adidas for cheap but durable shoes for villagers, malaria preventing mosquito repellent nets by BASF, vital nutrition providing voghurt by Danone and cheap pure rural water supply by Viola were either not allowed in or made to suffer various obstacles just because they were linked with Yunus' projects dealing with the And what about KEPZ?

The deal was signed 17 years ago. And yet, land ownership

completed. Samsung wanted to locate one of their smartphone factories there employing about 50,000 people, it is learnt. But they decided against it because of the ambiguity of the situation. If the government feels that the original contract does not serve Bangladesh's interest well, then it should renegotiate and implement the project so that foreign companies can seriously think of investing there. Keeping it uncertain is a sheer way of driving away FDI.

documents have not been

As for Yunus' good press, are we to understand that the world famous media institutions, who are otherwise quite capable of being discerning, objective and brutally honest, suddenly lose all their critical faculties when they are faced with that disarming Yunus smile? If we think foreign leaders,

investors and global media are so naive as to be guided by one man's briefing, then we are obviously not expect ing to be taken seriously by any one of the above groups. It is with a heavy heart that

we write this piece, for we respect the finance minister. His integrity is beyond question, his patriotism is well known, his capacity for hard work can put to shame most of his younger colleagues, his honesty of purpose is exemplary. Yet, shunning decency he has chosen to question the honesty, integrity and patriotism of a man like Prof Yunus who is a source of pride for the nation. That is why we reiterate our demand that the finance minister must PROVE what he has said for the good of the nation. In this regard, we are ready to publish his interview or a written text by him providing the necessary proof that decency demands.

#### Beijing mulls FROM PAGE 1 replace Hu and his col-

their wealth and that in the future public disclosure of assets will be required of all officials. "I believe Chinese offi-

cials, in accordance with central rules, will gradually make public their assets,' Wang said after a meeting with congress delegates from Guangdong. He did not give a time frame.

Wang's comments highlight the handwringing at many levels of the party over its inability to tamp down on the corruption by officials and their family members that has deepened public disgust.

At the congress' opening Thursday, President Hu Jintao warned that unrestrained graft threatened to topple the party's continued

He called on the party's 82 million members to be ethical and to stop their family members from trading on their connections to amass fortunes.

The congress itself had no public agenda yesterday. Delegations met separately to discuss the lengthy report Hu delivered.

But in fact, most of the delegates have little say over the main agenda. The selection of younger leaders to

leagues is done behind the scenes by the departing leadership, retired party elders and other power brokers. Wang's views matter. An

ally of Hu's from their days 30 years ago in the Communist Youth League, Wang has gone on to forge credentials as a reformer. He has been considered a candidate for the new lead-

ership, the Politburo Standing Committee, though party-connected scholars say his policies and popularity have brought a pushback from conservatives, diminishing his "All party members are

reformers," Wang told reporters yesterday, brushing off a question about his prospects. "The report clearly states the goal of the party congress is to liberate thoughts, reform and open up, rally efforts and overcome obstacles. This will not change."

On corruption, however, the party has been in need of new thinking. The party, which controls courts, police and prosecutors, has proved feeble in policing itself yet does not want to undermine its control by empowering an independent body to do so. Some officials have been

required to report income, real estate holdings and other wealth to their superiors since 2010, but the measure has done little to staunch the graft. A Politburo member, Bo

Xilai, was cashiered after his wife murdered a British businessman, and he is accused of corruption and other misdeeds over two decades. An aide to President Hu

was demoted this summer after his son crashed a Ferrari he should not have been able to afford. Foreign media have also reported that family members of Hu's successor, Xi Jinping, and his prime minister, Wen Jiabao have assembled vast for-

Even so, a senior person nel officer for the party said yesterday that improving its internal controls and punishing transgressors remained at the top of the party's agenda.

The party is "confronted with growing dangers of lacking in drive and in competence and with detachment from the people and corruption," said Wang Jingqing, a vice minister of the Organisation Department.

inspector of Halishahar Police Station. It was around 3:00am when Nurul saw the burglar trying to leave the house. Kamrul stabbed Nurul in the stomach when he prevented

Kamrul from making a

getaway, the SI quoted

Nurul's neighbours as say-Nurul's wife Tahmina Arzu was hit in the arm when she was trying to help

her husband. The neighbours, hearing screams, came out of their homes and nabbed Kamrul

and handed him over to police. Neighbours rushed Nurul, who was bleeding profusely, and his wife to Chittagong Medical College Hospital around 4:15am when the on-duty doctor

declared him dead, said Jahirul Islam, SI of the police outpost at the hospital. Arzu is undergoing treatment at the hospital and the

body has been sent to the hospital morgue for an autopsy, Jahirul added. A case has been filed with

Halishahar Police Station.

#### Cox's Bazar

**FROM PAGE 20** 

from project aid. But the authorities initially failed to obtain any aid. Later, the Asian

Development Bank (ADB) agreed to fund the scheme. The donor would release any fund only after it completes the new feasibility study initiated last month.

The first feasibility study, though, for the project was completed in 2001. Using it as a guideline, the ADB is now

carrying out the new study. Contacted, project director Khairul Alam declined to com-

ment on the delay in the pro-The BR would prepare the

detailed design of the project after completion of the feasibility study by the ADB, he mentioned. Tafazzal Hossain, general

manager of the BR (east zone), said the cost of the project would increase significantly as the prices of land and construction materials have gone up.

Under the scheme, there will be two meter gauge lines -one 100km line will link Dohazari with Ramu and the other 28km track will run from Ramu to Gundum in Myanmar. At present, there is a railway link up to Dohazari from Chittagong.

The route will also include four bridges on the rivers of Sangu, Matamuhuri, Shankha and Bakkhali and new stations at Satkania, Dulahazra, Chakoria, Eidgaon, Ramu, Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Gundum.

# Ministry pushes

FROM PAGE 1

sought \$70 million for the job. As the prices seemed too high and offers flawed, the authorities in April last year cancelled the tender. The PDB

sought the prime minister's approval for direct purchase from the cancelled tender's bidder lowest Technoprompexport. This will save time, the PDB argued.

a decision to award the repair work through a direct purchase method. But instead of carrying out that decision, the power ministry directed the PDB for a

including a trading company named IED Holding of Russia. After a year, the IED Holding was awarded the job in July this year at a price of Tk

187 crore or around \$21 mil-But as the contractor is just a trading company, it could not furnish an authorisation

letter from the original equip-

ment manufacturer as per its agreement with the government. As a result, the PDB had to cancel the deal in late September. Soon afterwards, instead of

going for a direct deal with the plant's original manufacturer, the power ministry has started negotiating with Indian company Swati that made a fresh unsolicited offer of \$68 mil-On June 8 last year, Prime lion. Following negotiations, Minister Sheikh Hasina signed Swati said mid-October that it would arrange the plant's equipment from Power Machines of Russia. Swati said it would reduce

its price offer by \$1 million only if the PDB gives it 10 second restricted tender by percent of the contract price as advance. This kind of advance was

banned many years ago to prevent corruption. On the contrary, the contractor usually provides a performance guarantee of 10 percent of its offered price.

An official tried to justify the overpriced deal saying that Swati would provide some

ise the plant's vital parts instead of just repairing it. Meanwhile

new equipment and modern-

Technopromexport sent a letter to the power ministry on October 24 giving it a reminder about its techno-economic proposals submitted twice in 2011 and 2012. It reiterated its interest in doing the repair work of the plant. As per different proposals,

the repair work would take around two years to complete.

Since the Ghorashal unit six went out of operation, the PDE was left with the natural gas being supplied to that plant for power generation. It took a separate initiative late last year and amended an existing contract with British rental power company Aggreko to convert its diesel-fired 145 MW plant into a gas-fired one. This is saving the PDB a huge cost for diesel import, while utilising the available gas. The deal with Aggreko will expire in late next year.

#### In a written reply to a query from The Daily Star, Sen hoped that Muhith would withdraw his wrong attribution to him about Yunus.

living standards); But Sen yesterday said: "I

comment on the issue. SEN'S FULL STATEMENT I have known Mr Muhith for a long time and like him a lot (and I also think he is an excellent finance minister), and in view of all this, I am particularly surprised -indeed astonished -- to see his attributing to me a view that is not mine. Indeed, the alleged utterance is not close to anything I told Muhith when we met briefly at the

extraordinary progress on The finance minister

PM to visit Pakistan Abul Kalam Azad last night confirmed to The Daily Star that Hasina was going to Islamabad at the invitation of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari. The invitation was

Rabbani Khar yesterday. Azad said the Pakistani foreign minister handed over the formal invitation letter to Hasina at her Gono Bhaban residence vesterday after-

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka consider Hasina's decision to visit Pakistan very significant as Dhaka and Islamabad have had strained relations for the last four

Official sources said her visit to Pakistan became uncertain after Khar postponed her scheduled visit to Bangladesh on October 25. Following hectic diplo-

matic efforts, Khar arrived in

Dhaka yesterday to hand over the invitation letter. A special flight carrying the Pakistani minister landed at Shahjalal International Airport at 10:15am. Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes

received her at the airport. Before meeting Hasina, Hina Rabbani Khar met Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the foreign ministry for 20

During the meeting, Dipu asked Islamabad to settle pending post-independence issues, emphasising especially an unconditional apology from Pakistan for the genocide it had carried out during the Liberation War.

come forward in this regard. Bangladesh sees an apportionment of preindependence assets and liabilities and repatriation of

She said Pakistan should

stranded Pakistanis as pending issues with Pakistan. During the meeting, Hina Khar reiterated that Pakistan had regretted its actions of 1971 on different occasions since 1974 and called for the

two countries to move ahead

together by turning back to

delivered to her by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina