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## FOR CHILD RIGHTS

An exclusive department is needed badly: experts

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## MERGING TO LEAD

Ocean Containers, Summit Alliance Port plan merger

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## A COSTLY AFFAIR

General Petraeus quits as CIA director over an extra-marital relationship

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## PUBLIC COMMERCIAL BANKS

# Race on to get into boards

No appointment of directors in 2 months due to lobbying by political aspirants

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Powerful vested interests are lobbying for the posts of board directors of state-owned banks that have been plagued by irregularities due to interference from some outgoing directors with political affiliation.

The tenure of the boards of state-owned commercial banks (SOCB) expired in the first week of September but the government could not appoint board directors due to intense lobbying from vested quarters, said a finance ministry official.

There are allegations that some of the directors take commissions from business firms as well as individuals for helping them get loans from state-owned banks, said the official. Officials in the finance ministry's

banking division said they are clueless about who might get appointed as SOCB board directors. They will move to make the appointments once the finance minister gives them a list of selected persons for the posts.

Some former SOCB directors have been lobbying government high-ups to get appointed once again. Besides, people with political affiliation are pursuing the same purpose, said sources at the finance ministry and the Prime Minister's Office.

The present government appointed some former leaders of Jubo League and Chhatra League as SOCB board directors after coming to power in 2009.

Khandker Ibrahim Khaled, former deputy governor of Bangladesh

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Vegetables usually seen in abundance during the winter are brought ashore on boats at Dohazari of Chandaish in Chittagong on the Shankha river. Vegetables grown on the chars of the Shankha are brought in here and shipped to kitchen markets across the port city.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## It's my remark, not Amartya's

Muhith now claims; audio record tells otherwise; Yunus terms the diatribe unfortunate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday denied that he had quoted Nobel laureate Amartya Sen as saying that Bangladesh's achievements were not highlighted on the world stage because of Prof Muhammad Yunus.

However, The Daily Star has the



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MUHITH'S FULL STATEMENT ON B3

## ATTACKS ON BUDDHISTS Govt involved

Alleges Khaleda again at Ramu; says BNP's local MP innocent

RASHIDUL HASAN, from Ramu

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday again blamed the government and the ruling Awami League men for what she called their involvement in the brutal attacks on Buddhist homes and temples at Ramu and Ukhia on September 29 and 30.

Claiming that her party's local MP Lutfar Rahman from Cox's Bazar was innocent, the leader of the opposition said that the present government had blamed the BNP men every time an incident took place in the country.

"He [Lutfar] rushed to the spot [Ramu] to help the local people, but he was blamed for the incident. The



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## Jamaat men clash with cops again

57 including 29 policemen hurt

STAR REPORT

At least 57 people, including 29 police personnel, were injured in clashes between Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists and law enforcers in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chandpur and Noakhali yesterday.

Yesterday was the third day in less than a week that the Islamist party men fought with cops across the country over the release of their top

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## War crimes trial must go on

Says PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her determination to complete the trial of war criminals, saying that none could save the culprits who committed crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

"The trial of the war criminals is going on; it will continue and its verdict will be executed, Insha'Allah," Hasina said at a views exchange meeting with the party's grassroots leaders from Chandpur district at Gono Bhaban.

At the outset of the function, the prime minister paid tribute to Shaheed Nur Hossain, who was killed in police firing near Zero Point in Dhaka while participating in a



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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Middle path is China's choice

REAZ AHMAD, from Beijing

China has opted for a middle path between an orthodox closed-door policy and abandoning socialism.

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Hu Jintao's report, placed before the ongoing 18th National Congress, is anything to go by, China has unswervingly chosen to pursue socialism even as it further opens up its robust economy to the world at large.

"Over the past 30-plus years of continuous reforms and opening-up, we have held high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics and rejected the old and closed-door policy and any attempt to abandon

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## CABLES STILL THERE



The government in December 2010 launched a crackdown on overhead cables ruining the beauty of the capital. It had asked cable and internet service providers to develop underground means of putting in the cable. Cable and internet service providers say that most of the cables have been taken underground with Motijheel being an exception. This photo recently taken at Malibagh intersection in the capital shows that the efforts to keep the city clutter free did not go well.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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