

**PAKISTAN TOUR**

BCB will intimate its position to PCB by Thursday

PAGE 16

RAY-RAVI CONNECTION

The two maestros teamed up in Pather Panchali and made history

PAGE 10

GOODBYE, JACINTHA

Husband and children of hoax call nurse attend funeral in India

PAGE 7

PADMA BRIDGE CORRUPTION

Abul spared, for now

ACC finally sues 7, says role of ex-communications boss to be examined during case investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a year-long inquiry into the allegation over Padma bridge project, the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued seven people for conspiring to commit bribery.

The accused include former secretary of the Bridges Division Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, but the anti-graft body did not include in the case former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain and former

state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

Alleged involvement of the two in the graft would be examined during investigation of the case, ACC officials said.

While Mosharraf Hossain has been accused of "deliberately disolving" four times the evaluation committee for selecting a supervision consultant, his boss Abul Hossain has been mysteriously exempted from the charge.

"Under the Public Procurement

Act, the secretary is responsible for constituting and dissolving such committees," ACC Deputy Director Abdullah Al Zahid told reporters at the commission office in the capital yesterday.

The Act that Abdullah cites indeed empowers the secretary to do so, but not without consulting the minister concerned, especially in case of a big project like that of the Padma bridge.

On the World Bank's information

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Smile, wryly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain, who claims himself as a clean person, has been the centre focus of the World Bank's graft allegation in the Padma bridge project.

The WB had supplied the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) with information about Abul's involvement in the corruption conspiracy to ensure that Canadian company SNC Lavalin got the \$50 million supervision job of the Padma bridge construction.

ACC sources earlier told The Daily Star that

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Feb 24, 2011

World Bank approves \$1.2 billion loan.

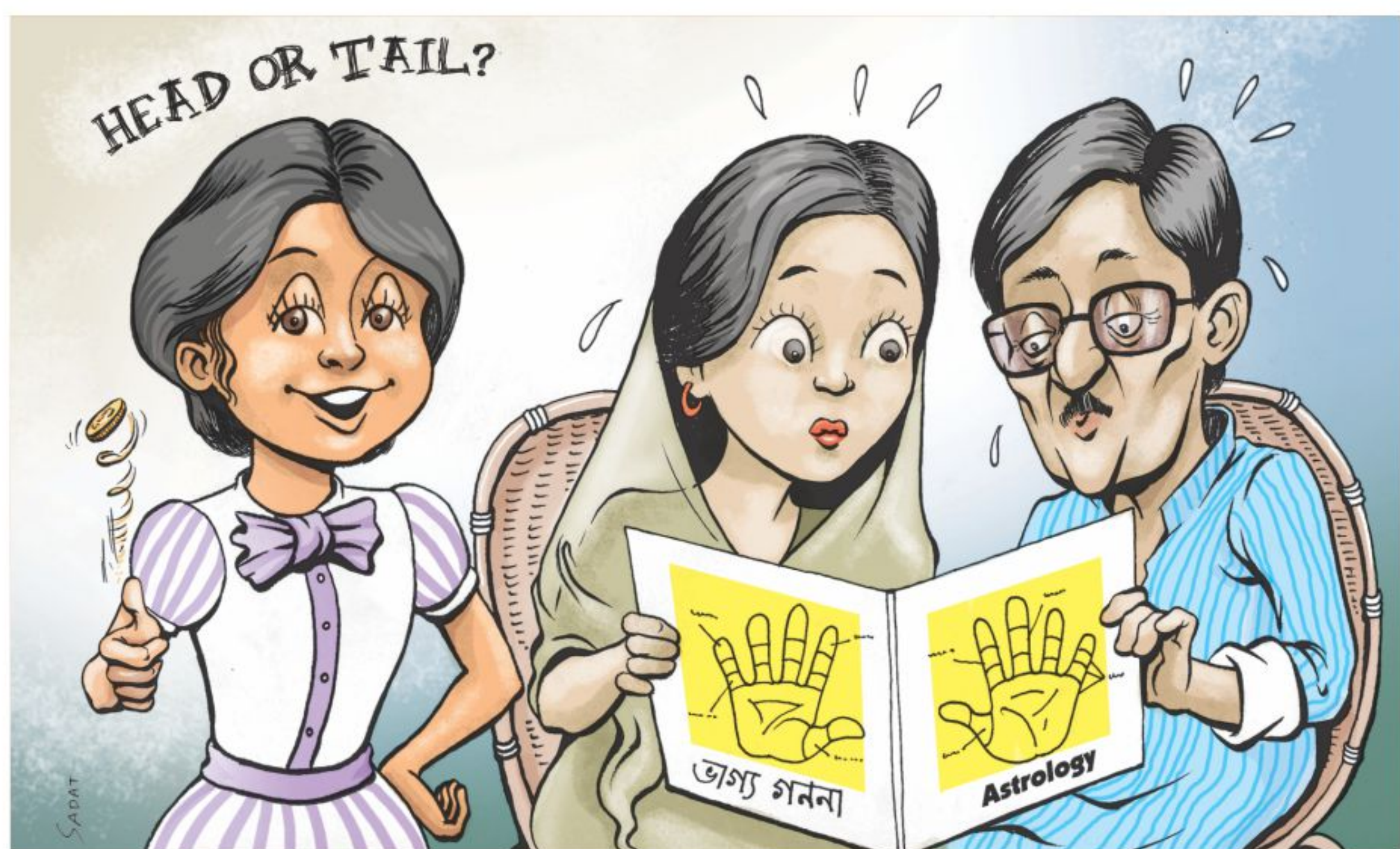
Apr 28, 2011

Government signs a loan deal with the WB.

Aug 2011

WB raises corruption

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Fingers crossed

Parents live on their nerves as schools go to lottery for admission

WASIM BIN HABIB

December is the cruellest month for many a parent. It takes away their peace and serenity, as they shuttle between schools to get their children admitted.

They wait for hours at school gates in shivering cold, spend their

savings and do whatever is possible just to see their kids through to a school of repute.

But no matter how hard they try, none can be certain of success. It all depends on luck. Their anxiety deepens, as admission process in schools begins in this month.

And a lot of hurdles await the parents, who want their preschoolers to get admitted to grade-I. They have to assess schools first, collect admission forms, get their children prepared for interview, and then leave it all to luck.

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MORE ON PAGE 3**ACC facing pressure from foreign agency**
Alleges PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said a foreign agency was exerting pressure on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Without mentioning any names, she said various quarters were devising strategies to malign the Awami League-led government by labelling it as corrupt.

As an example, she said, when the anti-graft body was working independently, a foreign agency was putting pressure on it. "If so, how can

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Tazreen fire an act of sabotage

Finds Home probe; recommends legal action against factory owner, 9 mid-level managers for deaths due to their gross negligence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Tazreen Fashions fire was an act of sabotage, a government probe has found.

"It was an act of sabotage," Main Uddin Khandaker, the head of the committee formed to investigate the worst garment factory blaze in the country's history, told The Daily Star over the telephone yesterday.

He said his team has recommended legal action against the

owner of the factory and nine mid-level managers for deaths due to their negligence.

"We have analysed developments of the fire incident chronologically. We have spoken to the witnesses, examined the place and also taken assistance from experts."

To explain why the probe body thinks it was an act of sabotage, he said, "There was no possibility of fire originating from an

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Moody's upbeat on Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

Global rating agency Moody's found a number of positive aspects of Bangladesh's economic condition -- steady growth trends, a positive external sector, stable exchange and interest rates, and the momentum in reforms.

Bangladesh is the only South Asian country that has consistently posted current account surpluses in the past decade, it said in a recent comment.

Higher capital flows

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

READ MORE ON STAR BUSINESS

Jamaat leader Tasneem held

Hartal called in Rajshahi, Sylhet; Mollah's wife, 20 other female activists held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers detained Tasneem Alam, central publicity secretary of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, at his Uttara residence in the capital yesterday for possession of anti-government leaflets and booklets.

Police also rounded up 21 female members of Jamaat and its women students' wing Islami Chhatra Sangstha from the latter's office in Moghbazar for their suspected link to "subversive activities."

The detainees include Sanowar Jahan, wife of Jamaat's Assistant Secretary General Abdul Quader Mollah, who is now facing trial on charge of committing crimes against humanity.

Protesting the detention of Tasneem, Rajshahi city unit Jamaat yesterday announced an eight-hour hartal in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Pakistan may split again

Fears scientist Quadeer Khan

STAR REPORT

Pakistan is at present in a worse situation than it was in 1971, and it would begin to disintegrate again if the current social problems are not solved, Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Quadeer Khan said.

"The present situation in the country is not very different from that of 1971. Then, as now, the rulers and the establishment were under the illusion that they could and would crush their opponents," he said.

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Abdul Quadeer Khan



Twenty-seven angel wood cut-outs are set up on hillside in memory to the victims of an elementary school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, on Sunday. Story on page 7.

PHOTO: AFP

BISHWAJIT MURDER
Six admit their role*Investigators keep mum on 4 others*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six students of Jagannath University (JnU) had admitted to their involvement in the killing of Bishwajit Das, said investigators yesterday.

"They said they did not realise that Bishwajit would die. They regretted their deeds," investigation officer Tajul Islam told The Daily Star last night.

The Detective Branch of Police however refrained from making any comment about the four people shown arrested in the murder case, as the investigation is still on.

On December 9, during an opposition-sponsored road blockade, a group of JnU students involved in Bangladesh Chhatra League politics hacked

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Remittance inflow to reach new high

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The remittance inflow into the country is likely to reach a record \$14 billion this year despite the Middle East crisis, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday.

Last year, Bangladeshi expatriates sent home \$12.17 billion. "We are trying to increase remittance that contributes to the national economy," Mosharraf said at a press briefing at his ministry ahead of the International Migrants Day today.

The remittance inflow from January to November this year is \$12.885 billion while it was \$11.01 billion in the same period in 2010 and \$10.71 billion in 2009, according to the Bangladesh Bank website.

Despite the worldwide economic recession, the remittance flow into Bangladesh remained almost unchanged as the government could arrange to send abroad a huge number of workers, the minister noted.

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