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'OBJECTS OF MEN'S DESIRE'

Why women are not safe in South Asia or elsewhere in the world

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DIVERSIFY EXPORTS

PM asks businesses at the launch of Dhaka International Trade Fair

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NEW NORTH IN NEW YEAR

North Korean leader calls for an end to confrontation with South Korea

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Swindlers gobble up Tk 350cr

ACC files 26 cases against 35 officials of Sonali Bank, Hall-Mark and five other companies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed 26 cases against 17 top officials of state-run Sonali Bank, 16 others of five business entities and two bosses of Hall-Mark Group over misappropriation of around Tk 350 crore depositors' money.

The five firms and Hall-Mark swindled a total of Tk 3,547 crore from Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch between October 2011 and May last year.

Of the amount, Hall-Mark alone got Tk 2,686 crore.

T & Brothers embezzled Tk 317.52 crore, Paragon Knit Composite Ltd Tk 13.58 crore, DN Sports Tk 2.81 crore, Nakshi Knit and Composite Ltd Tk 10.81 crore and Khanjahan Ali Sweater Ltd Tk 1.14 crore.

In the cases, Hall-Mark Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud and General Manager Tushar Ahmed face charges of abetting Paragon and

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The scent of freshly printed textbooks, free and distributed on time, gives school kids at Dhaka Residential Model School and College something to cheer about on the first day of New Year yesterday. More photos on page 8.

Smiles, all around

Children get free textbooks on first day of New Year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children began this year in a festive mood with new textbooks in hand yesterday.

Gifts awaited them at schools across the country as they woke up to the first morning of 2013 to celebrate "Textbook Festival Day". Students of primary and secondary grades were beaming with joy as they were handed over those textbooks for the new academic session.

The government has planned to distribute about 26.17 crore copies of textbooks among some 3.68 crore students of

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ALCWC formed minus Abul, Raju

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC), the highest decision-making body of the ruling party, has been finalised by dropping some controversial figures.

Among those excluded are former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain, who was the international affairs secretary of the AL, and Labour Minister Rajuddin

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Poor show in projects

Communications sector saw a few noticeable successes

M ABUL KALAM AZAD



The government is stepping into its final year in office with a lacklustre performance in the communications sector as it could not launch some important projects that could have greatly improved the country's communications network and eased Dhaka's perennial traffic congestion.

The Padma Multipurpose Bridge is on top of the failure chart followed by metro

rail, Dhaka Elevated Expressway and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

There are some success stories like importing buses, kicking off construction of a number of flyovers and making progress in upgrading the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. But those have been dimmed in the Padma bridge corruption allegations.

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No informal talks going on

Khaleda trashes Ashraf's claim, says it's a conspiracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday refuted Awami League general secretary's statement that the ruling party is having

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SQ Chy's counsel threatens state lawyer in court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday witnessed an unprecedented exchange of words between the prosecution and the defence where a counsel for war crimes accused Salauddin Quader Chowdhury threatened to slit the throat of a state law officer.

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