



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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**WB PANEL WRITES TO ACC**

## Unhappy with Abul exclusion

- Abul personally involved in a criminal conspiracy
- His inclusion as an accused in FIR would have been justified
- Exclusion shows ACC probe not fair and complete
- ACC's fear of political uproar, if Abul included, disturbing

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The World Bank's external panel is unhappy with the exclusion of ex-communications minister Abul Hossain from the list of accused in the Padma bridge corruption case.

In a letter to the ACC chairman, the panel said Abul's exclusion shows that the Anti-Corruption Commission is not conducting a complete and fair probe into the corruption conspiracy.

The sequence of events considered by the panel and established by the ACC suggests a criminal conspiracy that includes Abul as the most senior official personally involved, said the panel.

"In order to achieve a complete and fair investigation, the serious allegations against the former communications minister should be thoroughly investigated and he warranted inclusion among the accused."

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FULL TEXT OF WB PANEL'S LETTER TO ACC -- PAGE 19

**PADMA BRIDGE CORRUPTION CONSPIRACY**



**ACC CLAIMS**

## WB panel happy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday claimed that the World Bank's external panel had expressed satisfaction at the filing of a case in connection with the graft conspiracy in the Padma bridge project.

"They [World Bank's external panel] are happy with that. 'Now you [the ACC] are open as per your law and have got a wider scope to investigate the allegation'," said ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin quoting the panel's reaction.

Talking to reporters at the ACC's Segunbagicha head office in the capital,

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## 12 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Twelve people were killed and 13 others injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur and Tangail yesterday.

The Gazipur incident claimed eight lives and injured three people early yesterday.

The accident happened when a Rajshahi-bound truck overturned on Ulukhola bridge after hitting a road divider around 3:30am, said Officer-in-Charge Md Enayet Uddin of Kaliganj Police Station in Gazipur.

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## EC sits on reform proposals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is yet to complete review of the electoral reform proposals sent to it by the law ministry more than 10 months ago.

Drafted by the previous EC, the proposals were earlier submitted to the government to translate them into law.

The long delay in reviewing the

proposed reforms has raised questions whether it would be possible to implement those in the next parliamentary elections.

"I can't understand what they [EC] want to do with the electoral reform proposals," a senior EC official said when contacted.

He also referred to the EC's failure to publish a draft list of redrawn boundaries of the 300

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DEALS WITH RUSSIA

## Defence purchase loan at high rate

Finance's opposition turned mute

STAR REPORT

The government is going to take about \$1 billion in defence purchase loan from Russia at an unusually high interest rate.

The deal will be signed between the two countries during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's three-day visit to Moscow where

she flew to yesterday.

Officials in Dhaka having knowledge of the deal said the rate of interest on the \$1 billion credit under the State Export Credit is 5 percent, which is double the rates on the recent loans taken from China and India.

Another agreement for \$500 million

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## Red carpet rolled out for Hasina

PM reaches Moscow

UNB, Moscow

A red carpet reception was accorded to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after she arrived in Moscow yesterday afternoon at the invitation of the Russian government.

During her three-day official visit, the premier will sign a number of deals, including two

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PHOTO ON PAGE 5

## Rajuk boss resigns, retracts a day after

Reason learnt to be row with state minister over contract of Uttara apartment project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after tendering resignation over a row with a state minister, Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda yesterday said he was not leaving until his tenure expires.

It all began on Sunday at a meeting where Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for housing and public works, came down hard on the Rajuk boss, sources say.

The state minister had put pressure on Nurul Huda to give the

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Nurul Huda

## Rajbari rape, killing Accused admits crime

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Out on bail from jail in an attempted rape case last month, accused Rais Uddin Sheikh was looking for revenge on a minor schoolgirl in Rajbari.

He finally had revenge on Saturday when he violated and killed the six-year-old girl.

Yesterday, the accused of about 18 admitted the offence before a

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## Urbanisation too scary

Experts deplore rapid pace of unplanned development, fear whole country to become city state in 4 decades

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urban sprawl is so rapid in Bangladesh that the entire country is going to convert into a city state in three to four decades.

It is very important to introduce proper urban management to address the situation, said renowned experts at a discussion on urban issues at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The capital and other metropolises are growing very fast, but urban management issues still remain neglected as there is a severe knowledge gap, said the speakers, who are all members of Bangladesh Urban Institute (BURI).

"Urbanisation is an obvious reality which we cannot stop. So, we should address the issue properly. But the policymakers have been ignoring it which is very alarming for

the country," Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, coordinator of BURI, said explaining tasks of the institute.

"We are not getting outcome of urban financing. Economic activities are increasing, but the urban social indicators are not improving simultaneously due to lack of urban management system," he added.

In a joint venture with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the

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PHOTO ON PAGE 3



Land grabbers test soil on both sides of Kamrangirchar bridge over the river Buriganga yesterday to build structures there. They had occupied and fenced part of the river as seen in the photo, inset, taken on April 4, 2011. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



**Bangladesh Red Crescent Society**  
684-686, Red Crescent Sarak,  
Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka - 1217

**Appeal for 3,73,200 pieces of Blanket for the cold wave struck people**

Bangladesh is facing one of the worst cold waves in the history recording temperature as low as 3 degree Celsius. The suffering of distressed and vulnerable people, particularly elderly men, women and children, is heightened by this unpleasant cold due to a lack of warm clothes. Till this day a significant number of people have died taking the death toll to around 80 from cold stroke and related complications. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), auxiliary to Bangladesh Government in all humanitarian activities, has decided to distribute 4,76,000 pieces of Blanket where 1,02,800 pieces will be distributed from BDRCS' emergency stock leaving a gap of 3,73,200 pieces through its own resources as well as supported by other Movement partners.

The trend of drastic drop in temperature and speculations by the meteorological department (GoB) indicates towards a disaster in Bangladesh with another cold wave expected to hit by the mid of January unless appropriate measures are adopted. Below are a few related facts -

- All 64 dist. hit by the cold wave
- Lowest temperature recorded 3 degrees Celsius (Iswardi; 10 Jan, 2013)
- 3,73,200 pieces remain as gap (www.bdrcs.org)
- Cost per blanket 360 (approx.) including Tk. 10 for distribution
- 68 BDRCS Units throughout Bangladesh host a pool of 4,86,500 trained volunteers, ready to reduce sufferings
- For donation: (in favour of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society) Standard Chartered Bank A/C no. 01-1336274-01 (SWIFT Code: SCBLBDDX), or Sonali Bank Ltd. Moghbazar Branch, BDRCS Main Collection Account S/B No. 240000191

In view of the current and upcoming situation of the vulnerable people and their needs, BDRCS is appealing to all interested corporate houses, owner of the Banks and industries, financial bodies, embassies and consulates, business associations and individuals (residing in country and abroad) to step forward with their support. *Please remember, a single blanket (or the same amount) donated by you can save lives.* Your donation (in kind or in cash) can be organised for distribution in your preferred (if any) area. Please contact the following personnel -

Contact: **Prof. D. MS Akbar, MP,** Chairman, BDRCS  
01811-458525 (PS), 01811-458527 (PA)

**Capt. (Retd.) Abu Bakar,** Secretary General,  
01811458500