



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

28 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIII No. 3 | MAGH 3, 1419 BS | RABIUL AWAL 3, 1434 HIJRI



TASHKENT 1966

The declaration didn't turn a new leaf in Delhi-Islamabad tie

PAGE 14

NAT'L FILM AWARD 2011

Razzak wins lifetime achievement while "Guerrilla" best picture

PAGE 10

KASHMIR BORDER ROW

Indian PM says it "cannot be business as usual" with Pakistan

PAGE 7

\$1b defence deal sealed

Dhaka, Moscow also sign nuke plant, 7 other agreements; agree to fight terrorism together

AGENCIES

Dhaka and Moscow yesterday signed a \$1 billion deal under which Bangladesh would procure military equipment and arms from Russia.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Russian President Vladimir Putin witnessed the signing ceremony held at the Kremlin in Moscow.

This is the second trip by a Bangladesh prime minister to the Russian Federation. In March 1972, Hasina's father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman visited the country, then Soviet Union, at the invitation of Brezhnev.

"Our countries intend to expand military and technological cooperation," news agencies quoted Putin as telling Sheikh Hasina during the Kremlin ceremony.

"Russia will extend Bangladesh a credit of \$1 billion, which will be spent on the purchase on Russian weapons and military technology," said the leader of the world's second-largest weapons exporter.

The arms purchase agreement includes orders for armoured vehicles and infantry weapons, air defence systems and Mi-17 transport helicopters, a source close to Russia's state arms export agency told the Vedomosti business daily.

The source said the purchase did not include any tank orders because Bangladesh had earlier obtained those from China.

Bangladesh has recently been expanding its defence capabilities, building a new air base close to neighbouring Myanmar and adding frigates to its navy, AFP reports.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talks to Russian President Vladimir Putin during a joint press briefing at the Kremlin, Moscow, yesterday.

PHOTO: PTI

Beast lot better

Man pours acid on Eden girl, stabs her for refusing his marriage proposal

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Maybe it was one of the biggest "mistakes" Ankhi made in her life: She refused to accept a proposal of marriage yesterday. And it was a costly "mistake".

Refused, her proposer threw a bottle of acid on her face and then stabbed her indiscriminately with a knife before running away.

The incident happened inside a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Ankhi being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Hit them with shoes if they call Jamaat-Shibir Razakar'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the 18-party-alliance formed human walls yesterday demanding restoration of the caretaker government system, Jamaat-e-Islami used it to vigorously protest the ongoing trial at the international crimes tribunals.

Taking part in the programme, leaders and activists of Jamaat and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir chanted slogans against those who term Jamaat-Shibir "Razakar."

"Hit them with shoes in rhythm, who term Jamaat-Shibir Razakar," they chanted at the human

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

BCL CRIPPLES HIGHER EDUCATION

Unruly for graft

Unrest aims at silencing teachers' voice against corruption, irregularities by institution heads, BCL leaders

WASIM BIN HABIB

Unrest and instability have been disrupting academic activities at different higher education institutions as Bangladesh Chhatra League activists keep assaulting teachers apparently to muffle their voice against alleged corruption and irregularities by the authorities.

The government's piecemeal

approach has compounded the crises at the institutions, instead of resolving those.

General students, meanwhile, bear the brunt of the stalemate.

Campus unrest continued unabated in the last four years of the Awami League rule with clashes between student bodies of the ruling and the opposition parties and their infighting. Dozens of public univer-

sities, medical colleges, polytechnic institutes and government colleges were hit by unrest, prompting the authorities to shut the institutions.

In a statement yesterday, the University Grants Commission expressed deep concern over stalemate at different public universities.

The statement followed a meeting presided over by UGC Chairman Prof

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

ZIA TRUST GRAFT CASE

Court accepts charge against Khaleda

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took into cognisance the charges brought against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and three others in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission on August 8, 2011 filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station, accusing the four of abusing power to raise fund in the name of Zia Charitable Trust.

Judge Md Zahirul Haque of the Senior

Special Judge's Court, Dhaka also issued an arrest warrant against Khaleda's former political secretary Harris Chowdhury, who is an accused in the case.

The other two accused are Ziaul Islam Munna, former assistant private secretary of Harris Chowdhury, and Monirul Islam Khan, who was APS of former Dhaka city mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

The officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station was asked to submit by January 31

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

BNP threatens tougher agitation

18-party forms human walls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top BNP leaders yesterday threatened again to announce tougher programmes if the government fails to meet their demands, including restoration of the caretaker government.

Leaders of the BNP-led 18-party alliance made the threat during a human

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Abul bins panel's claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday trashed the World Bank external panel's claim that the ultimate award of the Padma bridge contract required his approval. In a statement, he alleged the WB with an ill motive was trying to implicate him in the corruption conspiracy based

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Concerned about fair probe scope

WB panel chief reiterates in press statement; says they wait on further info from ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Luis Moreno Ocampo, chairman of the World Bank's external panel assigned to review the probe into the alleged graft in the Padma bridge project, yesterday said they were concerned about the current scope of investigation.

"In reviewing the First Information Report based on the evidence available to

the ACC, we are concerned about the current scope of the investigation," he said in an e-mail statement sent through WB's Dhaka office.

"We have sought clarifications from the ACC on some issues which would be necessary to assess whether a complete and fair investigation is underway.

"We are awaiting a response from the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Pak SC orders arrest of PM for graft

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered the arrest of the prime minister in connection with a corruption case linked to power projects, television channels reported yesterday, plunging the country into fresh political turmoil.

The move came as a populist cleric, who is believed to be backed by the military, demanded the resignation of the



Raja Pervez Ashraf

government in protests attended by thousands of followers in the heart of the capital Islamabad.

The Supreme Court gave authorities 24 hours to arrest Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf and 16 others.

Pakistan's stock exchange fell by nearly three percent after news of the court order, highlighting anxiety over political uncertainty.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Bahrain Fire Building owner arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in Bahrain on Monday arrested the owner of a building where a blaze killed 13 Bangladeshi workers and injured several others on Friday.

The owner's elder brother, said to be

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia comes to a Dhaka court yesterday as a hearing was scheduled in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

PHOTO: STAR