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PADMA GRAFT CONSPIRACY Lift ban on use of info

ACC writes to WB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has urged the World Bank to lift the embargo on the use of information the global lender had provided regarding the corruption conspiracy in Padma bridge project.

If it is done, the ACC would be able to implicate some influential figures in the graft conspiracy case, said a high official of the anti-corruption watchdog.

The WB had shared some information with the ACC about former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain and some public and private officials, who were allegedly involved in the conspiracy, on condition that none of the piece of information can be used in the court of law or even cited as reference.

Early this month, the WB external panel in a letter wanted to know how the ACC would move forward with the investigation and sought a written reply to their eight queries.

ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman yesterday said, "I have signed the letter today [Monday] and it has already been sent to the World Bank's local office. We want to carry out a transparent, complete, fair, comprehensive and adequate probe into the allegation."

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

The resurfacing of the lone runway of Shahjalal International Airport in the capital begins on Sunday night.

MINISTERS' SALARY PM rejects proposal for a hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday dismissed a proposal to increase the daily allowance of the prime minister, ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not agree to the proposal when it was tabled before the cabinet, Cabinet Secretary Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told journalists after the meeting.

The premier, who chaired the meeting at the Secretariat, said there is

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\$1B ARMS DEAL WITH RUSSIA All rules followed Military tells press, insists highest level of transparency ensured

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Top military officials yesterday claimed that the just concluded defence purchase deal with Russia on state credit of \$1 billion was done by following all existing rules and procedures of the country as well as maintaining the highest level of transparency.

The equipment to be purchased are highly essential for enhancing capability of the armed forces. The interest rate of the loan is 4.5 percent and will be paid in 20 instalments in next 15 years," said Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Abu Belal Md Shafiqul Haq.

Addressing a rare press conference at the Air Force's Falcon Auditorium, he said

military equipment like tank destroyer missile, armoured personnel carrier, mechanised pontoon bridge for the army and combat trainer aircraft and military helicopter will be purchased under the loan agreement signed on January 15 during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Russia.

Abu Belal, however, declined to mention the volume and size of the equipment, saying, "We need to maintain some secrecy and confidentiality because these are part of every defence purchase agreement."

The PSO said conditions of the agreement are highly flexible and Bangladesh side negotiated the deal for over a couple of years and succeeded in bringing down

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KAPASIA VICTIM Domestic help finally admitted to hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday sent a domestic help, who was allegedly raped and tortured by her employer earlier this month, to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment as per a High Court order.

Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman told The Daily Star that he has already informed the court about her hospitalisation to the One-stop Crisis Centre (OCC).

According to reports of

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LONG HAUL BUS SERVICE Fares charged at higher rate

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Although the new transport fare comes into effect today after the recent petroleum price hike, many intercity bus operators have been charging passengers higher fares for more than a week.

The government has hiked the fare by 10 paisa to Tk 1.45 a kilometre, but the operators are not following it. In many cases, they are charging double the amount of the hiked fare.

A staff at the capital's Kalyanpur counter of Hanif Paribahan said, "Before the fuel price hike, the one-way fare on Dhaka-Bogra route was Tk 350. On January 9, we have increased the fare to Tk 380."

Asked why they had raised the fare before the government's decision came into force, he said, "We are just following the directives of our top management. It is not only us, but all the other bus operators have hiked the fares."

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Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Tarique Islam's allegation that the government is "engaged in a conspiracy to hoodwink one-sided election" in the next general polls?

Yes (87%)

No (11%)

No Comments (2%)

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government's decision on long-distance bus fare hike, 17 days after increasing fuel prices, is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING January 22

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 5:30 6:05

Zohr 12:45 1:15

Asr 4:15 4:30

Maghrib 5:43 5:47

Esha 7:15 7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Three-year-old Charlie Parker shows no sign of fear as he holds a feisty baby alligator called Gump.

PHOTO: DAILYMAIL

Boy Fearless

DAILYMAIL ONLINE

The three-year-old Charlie Parker confidently swims with a North American alligator called Gump, lifting him up, and then wrestling with his squirming body before cradling him to the bank.

The plucky youngster, who claims to be Australia's youngest wildlife ranger, is already an expert reptile wrangler who is at ease handling 2.5 metre boa

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Fakhrul gets bail in one of 22 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim bail for six months to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in a case filed for blasting cocktails in the capital's Motijheel on December 9 last year.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why Alamgir should not be granted regular bail in that case.

The HC bench of

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Quality rivals showing up

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

As the Daily Star Spelling Bee starts gathering momentum, so does the quality of competition in schools visited in search of Divisional Round qualifiers.

Three schools in Dhaka - Dhaka Residential Model School, Agrani School and Bishreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Public School - were visited by champs21.com yesterday with nine qualifiers emerging.

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রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

মানবীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী গত ০২ জানুয়ারি রাজউক এর আওতাধীন হাতিরবিল সমর্থিত উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পটির আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন করেন। উদ্বোধনের পর পরই নির্মিত অবকাঠামোসমূহ জনগণের ব্যবহারের জন্য উন্মুক্ত করা হয়েছে।

হাতিরবিল প্রকল্পের অধীনে নির্মিত ও নির্মাণাধীন সকল অবকাঠামোর রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও লেকের পানির মান সংরক্ষণ এবং বিনোদনের বিভিন্ন উপকরণ সংযোজন ও চালু রাখার বিষয়ে রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ এবং গ্রহণ ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয় প্রয়োজনীয় কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করছে।

লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, কেউ কেউ অসাধারণভাবে প্রকল্প এলাকা অম্বণকালীন সময়ে রোপিত বৃক্ষসমূহ সহ প্রকল্পের ক্ষতিসাধন করছেন। বর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহ বিবেচনায় হাতিরবিল প্রকল্পের সৌন্দর্য রক্ষায় ঢাকা নগরবাসীর প্রতি নিরোক্ত বিষয়সমূহ অনুসরণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

- হাতিরবিল জনগণের সম্পদ, এর রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ আমাদের সকলের দায়িত্ব।
- প্রকল্পটি জনগণের অর্থে সম্পদ করা হয়েছে। এ সম্পদ রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ সকলের দায়িত্ব।
- প্রকল্পটি একটি লেক ও পার্ক এলাকা বিধায় নির্দিষ্ট পার্কিং ব্যতিক্রম প্রকল্প অভ্যন্তরে ও সড়কে গাড়ি পার্কিং নিষেধ।
- প্রকল্পে ব্যবহৃত নির্ধারিত বাস ব্যতিক্রম অপরাপর বাস, ট্রাক, কার্ভার্ড ভ্যানসহ যে কোন ধরনের তারী যানবাহন প্রবেশ রক্ষায় সচেতন হউন এবং অপরকে প্রবেশ রক্ষায় উন্মুক্ত করুন।
- গতি সীমা, সড়ক সংকেত এবং ট্রান্সিফিক পুলিশের নির্দেশ মেনে নির্দিষ্ট পথে গাড়ি চালান।
- প্রকল্প এলাকায় হকার, অঙ্গীয় দোকানপাট তথ্য ব্যবসা কার্যক্রম সম্পর্ক নিষেধ।
- প্রকল্প অভ্যন্তরে খাবার/চিপস/পানি/কোমল পানি জাতীয় বোতল ইত্যাদি নিয়ে প্রবেশ না করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
- প্রকল্প এলাকায় যত্নত ময়লা ফেলা নিষেধ, নির্দিষ্ট ডাস্টবিন ব্যবহার করুন।

জিডি-২৯৪

রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (রাজউক)