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WB to raise capacity to probe graft

Prompted by lessons from Padma case

STAR REPORT

The anti-graft chief at the World Bank has said he has drawn four major lessons for strengthening its investigations after probing allegations of high-level corruption in the Padma bridge project in Bangladesh.

Asked what lessons his office had learned from the project, Leonard McCarthy, vice president in charge of Integrity at the World Bank, told the Trust Law, an international news service of Thomson Reuters Foundation, in an email:

"To sharpen our lens to the risk associated with mobilisation payments: This refers to the potential for financial wrongdoing when the World Bank makes loan disbursements at the early stages of a major development project.

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PHOTO: STAR

Azhar Mahmood led Barisal Burners to a comprehensive 7-wicket victory over Khulna Royal Bengals, first with the ball (3 for 23) and then with the bat (52 not out), in their BPL match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium last night. Story on Page 16.

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Rejoinder, our reply

UK-based private company De La Rue issued a rejoinder on a report headlined "MRP booklet supply; Company with fraud record gets nod" published in The Daily Star on January 24.

Below we publish the full text of the rejoinder:

De La Rue was very concerned to read your article dated 24 January 2013, and we have prepared the following statement in order to set the record straight.

De La Rue always respects client confidentiality and due process relating to commercial negotiations; therefore, it was surprised to read speculation of results from the tender concerning the supply of machine

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DEC 9 VIOLENCE Fakhru gets interim bail in 6th case

The High Court yesterday granted ad interim bail for six months to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir in another case concerning violence during the road blockade by the BNP-led opposition alliance on

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WAR TRIAL OF SQ CHY Tortured man's son testifies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday said he had heard that his father and uncle were taken to the home of BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's father during the Liberation War and they have been missing since.

The 18th prosecution witness Debabrata Sarkar, who was 10 years old in 1971, told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that his father, Arabinda Sarkar, and uncle, Motilal Chowdhury, were tortured in that house.

The Tribunal-1 was recording witness testimony in the war crimes case against SQ Chowdhury yesterday.

The witness said the Sarkar family moved to Andharmanik from Chittagong City between April 4 and 5 of 1971.

On April 6, 1971, Arabinda, his brother Arun Bikash Chowdhury, Jugesh Chandra Chowdhury, Shanti Kushum Chowdhury and Arabinda's friend Poritosh Das went to Khatunganj of Chittagong City to bring Motilal to their home, Debabrata told the tribunal quoting Motilal's cook.

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Ahmadinejad ready to go into space

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is ready to be the first human sent into orbit by his nation's fledgling space programme, according to reports.

Iran declared last week that it had successfully

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Preserve boat heritage

Expert urges at Star seminar in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The rich heritage of the country's boats is disappearing due to lack of efficient technology to preserve it, Yves Marre, a French expert on the boat technology of Bengal, said yesterday.

He was addressing a conference on "Boats of Bengal yesterday and

today" on the second day of the week-long festival Tora Kon Kon Zabi Aar Sampanat (Who want to board my boat?) at Alliance Française de Chittagong.

The Daily Star and Alliance Française de Chittagong jointly organised the festival to highlight the



boat technology and culture in Chittagong and Bengal.

About the making of Sampan, he said people of Bangladesh used different types and shapes of traditional boats

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PHOTO ON PAGE 2

RESCUED IN SL 121 sent to cop custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sri Lankan Navy authorities yesterday sent the 121 rescued Bangladeshi and Myanmar nationals to police custody in Batticaloa district and admitted 16 others to a hospital at Oluvil Harbour area on the island.

Earlier on Saturday, 138 Bangladeshi and Myanmar nationals were

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Ten Dinajpur spellers move to next round

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

The Daily Star Spelling Bee yesterday continued its zonal activations with an event in the field of Dinajpur Zilla School, where students from a number of schools came to participate. Although the attendance was lower than usual because of a hartal, as many as 82 participants went in for the competition.

The 82 contestants were divided into three groups. After stiff competition, 10 of them got through to the divisional round.

From Scholars International School, four spellers qualified. They are class 8 students Ashrafi Anjuman Sneha, Sonjida Sajnin and Heaven Tripland and class 6 student Refayet Huda.

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Today's SSC exams shifted to Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has postponed today's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations due to a country-wide hartal called by Jamaat.

The postponed examinations under 10 education boards have been rescheduled for Friday, said a handout of the education ministry. The exams will be held from 9:00am to 12:00pm, it added.

Jamaat-e-Islami has called the dawn-to-dusk hartal protesting at the upcoming verdict on party leader Abdul Quader

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PRAYER TIMING February 5. Azan Jamaat. Fajr 5:30 6:05, Zohr 12:45 1:15, Asr 4:15 4:30, Maghrib 5:52 5:56, Esha 7:15 7:45.

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The Daily Star Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL. Do you think that the government would be able to manage alternative funding for Padma bridge project within its tenure? Yes 54%, No 44%, No Comments 1%.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট ঢাকা উত্তর কমিশনারেট. বাড়ি নং-৬, সোনারগাঁ জনপথ. সেক্টর-১১, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০. উৎসে মূল্য সংযোজন কর (মুসক) কর্তন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি.