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Go tough on Jamaat
MPs ask govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of ruling Awami League-led alliance MPs yesterday in parliament urged the government to go tough on Jamaat-Shibir men and others involved in creating anarchy to destabilise the country. They denounced Friday's violence and vandalism of Shaheed Minars and torching of the national flag by some activists of Islamist parties. A demand was also raised that the Jamaat-e-Islami be banned immediately.

AL lawmaker Tofail Ahmed said Jamaat-Shibir men damaged Shaheed Minars on Friday like they did in 1971. The party, which vandalised Shaheed Minars, torched national flags and chanted "Pakistan Zindabad" slogan, does not have the right to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Padma bridge with own fund

Reiterates Muhith; says govt to create \$1.8b forex account for the project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the government will construct the Padma bridge with its own resources and form a steering committee for the project's implementation.

Hours before leaving for Washington to meet the World Bank president, Muhith told journalists at his residence that a foreign currency account with \$1.8 billion will be opened to pay the international bidders.

Muhith also hinted that the government may not accept Malaysia's fresh proposal for financing the bridge due to a big difference between the estimated cost in the proposal and the government estimate.

"We will construct the bridge with our own resources," said the finance minister.

The government said several times that the project would be implemented with its own resources, but initiatives were also taken to get funds from other sources, said the minister.

He said Bangladesh has not yet received any proposal from China. However, a private Chinese firm gave the government a proposal for constructing the bridge.

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Physically challenged Al Amin now has an electric rickshaw to earn a living. Without having the use of any of his legs, he used to beg. But, a kind soul of Jatrabari in the capital bought him the rickshaw. He told the photographer, "I'm very happy." The photo was taken from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BARAPUKURIA POWER PLANT
Harbin deal gets govt nod again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet purchase committee yesterday reapproved a power plant contract with controversial Chinese company Harbin, a month after suspending its approval of the deal.

The contract for setting up a coal-fired 250 megawatt power plant in Barapukuria Finance was reapproved at a meeting of the committee chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

Later, cabinet division additional sec-

retary Nurul Karim told journalists that the purchase committee had approved the Harbin deal early last month but suspended it following allegations of foul play in the tender.

"We have scrutinised the tender process at the level of the Power Development Board and the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) but found nothing wrong in the selection," he said, explaining yesterday's reapproval.

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WAR TRIAL VERDICTS
MKA apologises for comments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that he was "misquoted" in a speech delivered on January 31 and that he did not predict the date of verdict delivery by the tribunals.

He apologised if any part of his speech harmed administration of justice and the court decided not to proceed against him regarding the matter.

On February 3, defence counsel Tajul Islam drew the court's attention to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Ghulam Azam provoked attacks

War crimes prosecution says in closing arguments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Ghulam Azam provoked his followers to attack the Hindus during the Liberation War, the prosecution yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 while placing its closing arguments.

Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon said Ghulam Azam used to say that Hindus have always been the enemy of Muslims.

"There is no evidence that Hindus are friends of Muslims. Those, who do not have any strength, wish to get independence with the help of Hindustan," Simon said quoting Ghulam Azam.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Alim ordered killing of 10 in Joypurhat

Says witness at war tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten people of Khetlal upazila in Joypurhat were killed at the order of former Muslim League leader Abdul Alim during the Liberation War, testified a victim's relative before the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday.

Dilip Kumar Chakrabarty, 11th

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Fire at Ekushey book fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at the Ekushey book fair in the capital early today, destroying at least 24 bookstalls.

There was no report of any casualty.

Witnesses said the fire started at around 1:10am and gutted the stalls near the new building of Bangla Academy, the venue for the book fair.

Five fire-fighting units rushed to the spot and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



Parents and guardians escort children to their school during hartal near Jatrabari in the capital yesterday. Despite it being a hartal day, most schools remained open.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BDR CARNAGE CASE
Completion of trial still a challenge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is apparently under pressure to meet the challenge of completing the trial of the BDR carnage case within the last year of its tenure when all the mutiny cases have been disposed of.

Family members of a number of slain army officers yesterday expressed disappointment at the slow progress of the trial that started on January 5, 2011 and is still going on.

"It has been four years since the brutal killings, but still the trial is going on. I am very disappointed at the pace of the trial," said Nehreen Ferdousi, wife of slain Col Mujibul Haque.

Nehreen apprehends evidence might get damaged due to the long delay in disposal of the case.

Relatives of at least two other slain officers who wished not to be identified also voiced the same frustration.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Bahrain to recruit more Bangladeshis

Up to 20,000 to get jobs every year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Malaysia, Bahrain is now interested to recruit people from Bangladesh under state arrangements, said Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

If the discussion with the Bahrain government is successful, he added, it will be possible to "reduce the cost of migration" to the country and ensure transparency in recruitment.

Around 15,000 to 20,000 Bangladeshi workers will be able to go to Bahrain legally every year, Mosharraf said while speaking to reporters at his office in the capital.

The minister will sit with a three-member delegation from the island country to discuss the process in detail today.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Bees sense flower's electric field

DAILYMAIL ONLINE

Seeing a large bumblebee inside a bright flower is a common sight over the warm summer months.

It has long been known that bees are attracted to the flowers by their bright colours and enticing fragrances.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the main opposition BNP would be able to mount pressure on the government to restore the caretaker government system by setting up Gonotran Mancha across the country?

Yes (62%)
No (36%)
No Comments (2%)
TOTAL VOTES: 623

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think the government will be able to start the work of metro rail project in time?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
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YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING February 25

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 5-20	5-55
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 4-30	4-45
Maghrib 6-03	6-07
Esha 7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation