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PADMA BRIDGE
Watch out
Malaysian central bank urges Dhaka to be cautious about KL's proposal

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The Malaysian central bank has advised Bangladesh to be cautious about the Malaysian proposal for constructing the Padma bridge, saying there are doubts about the proposal's financial viability.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has taken a strong stance against the Malaysian proposal after getting the letter from the bank, said officials at the finance ministry and the Bridges Division.

However, the communications ministry has been trying to persuade government high-ups to accept the Malaysian proposal.

A unit of the Malaysian central bank recently wrote to the Bangladesh Bank about the proposal made by Dato Seri S Samy Vellu, special envoy of the Malaysian prime minister.

In the letter, the Malaysian central bank suggested that Bangladesh should engage intelligence agencies to enquire about the proposal, if necessary, said sources.

The whole content of the letter could not be known.

The BB forwarded the letter to the finance minister last week. The contents of the letter were discussed in several meetings between the finance minister and government high-ups, said the sources.

Talking to reporters prior to his departure for Washington on February 24, the finance minister expressed his reservations about the Malaysian proposal.

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The charred remains after a fire at Notun Bazar slum at Kalyanpur in the capital yesterday. Inset, a resident of a shanty in the slum in tears after seeing all her belonging gutted. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

JS body for giving new gas lines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended that the power, energy and mineral resources ministry resume giving gas connection to households on a limited scale.

The government suspended giving new connection to domestic users on July 13, 2010.

The parliamentary

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Anti-Shahbagh smear campaign continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A vested interest group is continuing with its propaganda campaign against the spirit of the Shahbagh movement using social media like Facebook and blogs.

Taking advantage of the anonymous nature of the Internet, and the power of graphic and video manipulating software, they have been posting edited pictures of different events and claiming those to be of Shahbagh movement.

They have also been manipulating

photos and videos in websites. Most of such posts on Facebook are of women.

They are even trying to prove that Shahbagh demonstrators are receiving money from Indian secret service RAW and that police are committing heinous crimes against religious people.

The propaganda was not just aimed at people to create an anti-Shahbagh stance, but also at governments of other countries. The Daily Star received a lot of alerts from concerned people enquiring what

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Navy to get 2 submarines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government had moved to purchase two submarines and a coast guard cutter for Bangladesh Navy to modernise and strengthen the force.

"Activities are going on to purchase two submarines from a friendly country," she told parliament while replying to a lawmaker's scripted query on her government's efforts to modernise the navy, army and air force.

Hasina, however, did not mention

the name of the country friendly to Bangladesh and the timeframe for completing the purchase.

The coast guard cutter will be purchased from the USA, she said.

According to a report prepared by the navy in early 2009, the force has planned to introduce an aviation wing and a submarine to its fleet to obtain capability of a three-dimensional force.

The force has already taken steps to build infrastructure and train up its personnel, said the report sent to the armed forces division, a wing under the prime minister's office.

In her scripted answer, the premier said her government has already purchased missile, torpedo for destroying ship and submarine, depth charge, rocket launcher, canon, radar and other weapons for the navy.

Earlier on June 13 last year, Planning Minister AK Khandker, who is in charge of the defence ministry in the parliamentary affairs, told parliament that the government has moved to purchase two off-the-shelf [readymade] frigates, two large patrol crafts, two maritime patrol aircrafts and five patrol crafts for the navy.

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In convoy, Border Guard Bangladesh personnel get out of their Pilkhana headquarters in the capital last night as they have been deployed to help maintain law and order ahead of the verdict delivery in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Sayedee.

PHOTO: STAR

19 killed in Kolkata market fire

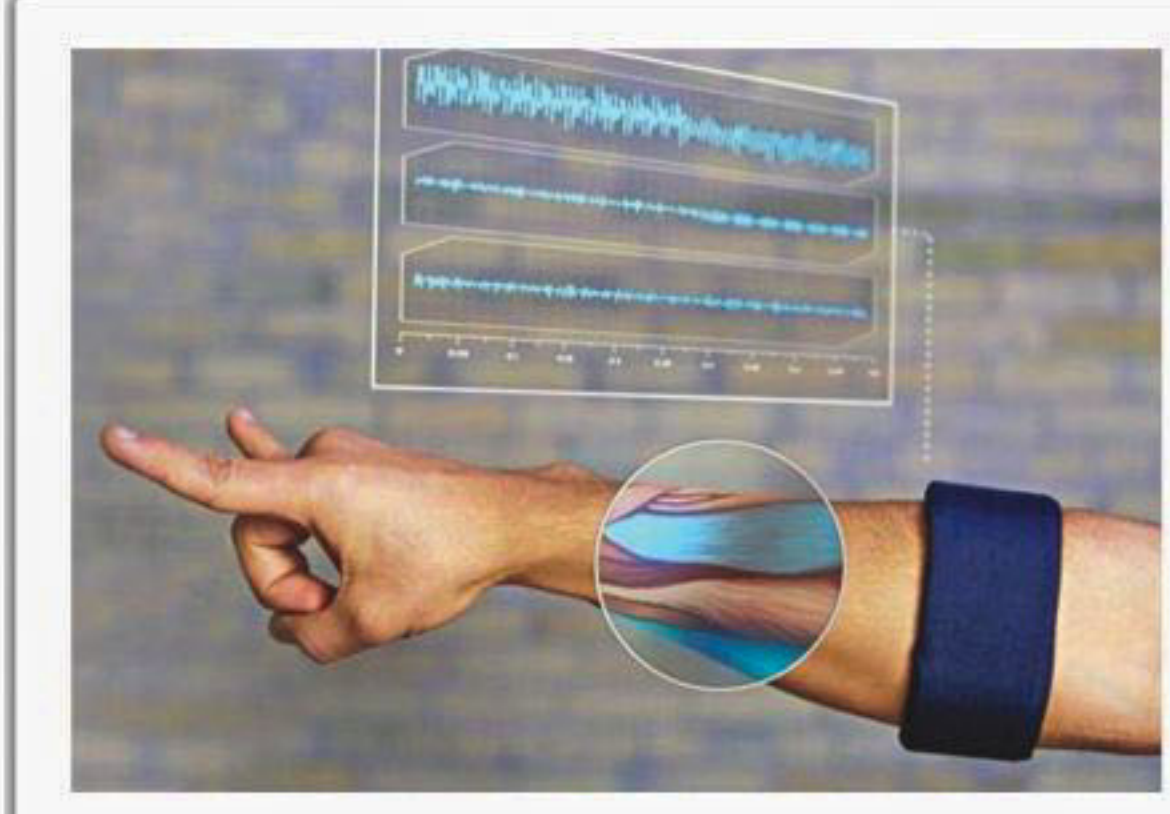
OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

At least 19 people were killed and several others injured when a fire swept through a five-storey market housing a godown-office complex in Kolkata early yesterday.

The fire was noticed at 3:50am in Surya Sen Market complex in Sealdah when the victims -- mostly labourers working in the market -- were fast asleep, said the market's vice-chairman Sushanta Ghose.

Locals alleged that the entire complex was illegally stuffed with

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Wireless armband
It lets users control tech gadgets

DAILYMAIL ONLINE

A 'Jedi wristband' which can control anything from computers and video games to military drones and even your lights with a flick of the wrist is set to go on sale.

The Myo device, worn around the forearm, detects the electrical activity produced by the

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WAR TRIBUNAL
Counsels for Alim fined for absence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fined the defence of BNP leader Abdul Alim for their repeated failure to appear before the court and repeatedly seeking adjournment without "valid grounds".

The three-member tribunal led by Justice

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Today's SSC exam on Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has rescheduled today's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations due to a countrywide hartal enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami.

The postponed exams under the 10 education boards have been

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KILLING OF BLOGGER RAJIB
MKA claims 7 detained
Law enforcers in the dark



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday claimed detaining seven persons in connection with the murder of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haidar, neither the police nor Rab could confirm such detentions.

At a meeting with the leaders of Peshajibi Shamannay Parishad at his secretariat office, the minister said all the detainees have links with Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, according to meeting sources.

Peshajibi Shamannay Parishad is a platform of professionals including university teachers, lawyers, journalists, doctors

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the home minister that journalists and public have destroyed important evidence which could help journalist couple Sagari-Runi murder probe?

Yes (9%) (99%)
No (89%) (89%)
No Comments! (2%) (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 453

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think The Parliament Petition Committee should be activated immediately so that people can have their voices heard in parliament through this body?

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