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PADMA BRIDGE Govt to take army help

Communications ministry to sit with AFD on April 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The communications ministry officials will sit in a meeting with the army high-ups on April 16 to discuss how it could take assistance from the Armed Forces Division to construct the Padma bridge.

"The government will seek assistance from the army for the construction of Padma bridge," Communications Minister Obaidul Quader told a function yesterday.

The function was organised at a field of the proposed Hamdard University at Gazaria in Munshiganj, marking the conclusion of repair works at Meghna-Gumti Bridge.

Quader, however, did not make it clear what kind of assistance the ministry would seek from the army during the forthcoming meeting at Setu Bhaban in the capital.

Obaidul Quader, Army Chief General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, Bridges Division Secretary Khandaker Anwarul Islam and officials of Special Work Organisation of the Army Engineering Corps will attend the meeting, ministry sources said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the army would be involved in constructing the Padma bridge.

The construction of \$2.9 billion Padma bridge became uncertain as donors cancelled their funding on the grounds of allegation of corruption in the project.

The army, which received Tk 437 crore for repair works on Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges, has replaced 30 expansion joints and 96 hinge bearings of two bridges.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



A BNP activist pops his head out of the collapsible gate for a glimpse outside at the party head office in Nayapaltan in the capital yesterday. Moments later, he closed the gate and went inside. With almost no key leaders at the office, the gate of the main opposition party office remained largely closed yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Alim aided Pak army in killing 22 AL men

Witness tells tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Pakistani occupation army in a single assault in Joypurhat during the Liberation War killed at least 22 Awami League supporters, according to a list prepared by Abdul Alim.

Mozammel Hossain, a survivor of the assault, yesterday testified to this at the International Crimes Tribunal-2 in a case against former Muslim League leader Alim for committing crimes against humanity.

The 15th prosecution

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Plot to kill Alim?

Prosecution says sniper brought from Pakistan to kill the war crimes accused, seeks security for him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday went out of its way to seek security for war crimes accused Abdul Alim after getting "alarming information" that he could be attacked by snipers.

Alim, a former member of late president Ziaur Rahman's cabinet, was indicted on 17 charges of crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the Liberation War and he was the lone accused enjoying conditional bail due to his poor health.

Placing the petition before the International Crimes Tribunal-2, Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta said bdnews24.com and amadershomoy.com

recently posted a link in their websites, which claimed that Alim would come under attack so that the war crimes trials could be foiled.

Quoting bdnews24.com link, the prosecutor said a plot was hatched, tied to the conspiracy of the recent long march of Hefajat-e-Islam, and a sniper was brought from Pakistan with Alim as target of the assassin.

"If they make it, then Jamaat would be able to say that detainees [of war crimes cases] aren't protected and the whole trial was a farce," said Rana Dasgupta quoting the link which claimed, "It was part of a Tk 85 crore deal."

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

Refrain from destructive activities

PM urges Khaleda

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged opposition leader Khaleda Zia to refrain from carrying out destructive activities in the name of movement.

"Stop the destructive

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Hasina calls on Hamid

Discusses election of president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday met acting President Abdul Hamid, who is also the Speaker, at his residence on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, fuelling speculations that he is

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

No move for negotiations with Baira

Employment minister says recruitment agencies must follow directives

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

The government has taken a tough stance against manpower recruiters as the overseas employment ministry is not considering negotiations with Baira to resume its operations.

"The recruitment agencies are bound to follow the instructions of the ministry. They can't oppose any decision of the government," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday.

On Sunday, Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) suspended its activities blaming the government for losing foreign job markets.

Baira was confusing people about the government's initiatives, complained the minister. "They [Baira] don't have any legal rights to put pressure on the government as they are working as only the agents of the ministry."

The government is negotiating with different

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Ershad writes to Hasina, Khaleda

Calls for dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has written to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia urging them to sit for dialogues to resolve the ongoing political standoff in the country.

Personal staffs of Ershad had dropped the letter for Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office and the one for Khaleda at her Gulshan office

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PRAYER TIMING April 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Black hole snacks on giant planet

YAHOO News

In a cosmic first, astronomers have discovered a black hole chowing down on what may be a giant rogue planet.

The supermassive black hole didn't finish off its meal, which scientists say was either a huge Jupiter-like planet wandering freely through space or a brown dwarf.

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ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with Finance Minister AMA Muhiht that the ongoing political crisis will be over within one month?
Yes ☒ (10.3%)
No ☐ (89.7%)
TOTAL VOTES: 436

TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid that there is no scope for questioning the education policy introduced by the present government?
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YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

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