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PADMA GRAFT  
No family members involved  
PM tells Canadian TV  
STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has rejected suggestions that members of her family as well as her party, the Awami League, were involved in corruption in the Padma bridge project.

In an interview with the Canadian television channel CBC, which was aired on Thursday, she said that graft allegations regarding the Padma bridge project were not true.

"Personally I or cabinet ministers or my government are not involved in corruption. We are not here to make our fortunes. We are here to help our people," she told CBC correspondent Terence McKenna.

The \$2.9 billion Padma bridge project was put on hold after the World Bank

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## PM reaches Chiang Mai

### Water summit starts today

BSS, Chiang Mai

A red carpet reception was accorded to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after she arrived in Thailand yesterday to attend the Second Asia Pacific Water Summit.

A special flight of Biman carrying the premier and members of her entourage landed at Chiang Mai International Airport at 1:50 pm (local time).

Ms Sam Sane, a minister attached to the Thai Prime Minister's Office, and Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, Bangladesh ambassador to Thailand, received Hasina at the airport.

After a warm reception, the premier was taken to Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, where she will stay during her two-day official visit.

The two-day high-level segment of the summit will be held at Chiang Mai today and tomorrow.

Hasina will address the opening session of the summit today at Chiang Mai International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Prior to her address, she will attend a working breakfast of the summit.

She will also hold bilateral talks with her Thai counterpart Yingluck Shinawatra today.

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Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra welcomes her Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina at the Wiang Kum Kum in Chiang Mai of Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: PID



## John Lennon's guitar sells for \$408,000

BBC ONLINE

A guitar played by John Lennon and George Harrison of the Beatles has sold for \$408,000 at auction.

The custom-made instrument, built in 1966 by the VOX company, was bought by an unidentified

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## Tk 151cr wasted in nine years

Govts paid salaries to 3,605 officers, gave no work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Successive governments have turned many civil servants into officers on special duty (OSDs) on political considerations or due to personal enmity or excessive promotion in the civil administration ministry said.

Two reports submitted to the High Court yesterday revealed how much money had been spent from the public exchequer on OSDs in the nine years from 2004.

An OSD does not attend office but gets salary and all other benefits, except for the transport allowance. At present, there are 350 OSDs, including a couple of secretaries.

Among them are also many joint and deputy secretaries who were made OSDs after the Awami League-led grand alliance assumed power. They are yet to get postings, the sources said.

The policy of making OSDs has an

adverse impact on the civil bureaucracy and causes waste of public money, they said.

Many officials are made OSDs due to political vindictiveness, former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder told The Daily Star.

The officials' talent, competence, experience and training are not utilised and they become frustrated when they have to spend time as OSDs, he said, adding that the trend has been on the increase.

Political goodwill is required for the practice to recede, Ali Imam noted.

The HC fixed May 29 for hearing the matter after the ministry's Deputy Attorney General Al-Amin Sarker submitted the reports.

In response to a writ petition, the court in June last year sought a report from the government on how many officials had been

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## Skype talker Ziauddin off the hook

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday decided not to go ahead with contempt proceedings against legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin in connection with his alleged Skype conversation with a former tribunal chairman.

The tribunal, led by Justice Obaidul Hassan, in its observation said the "conversation" was recorded illegally and "the alleged part of the conversation before us is not free from doubt".

On January 3, the court on its own asked Ziauddin,

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## Army killed in SQ Chy's presence

Testifies prosecution witness in war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eyewitness Chapala Rani yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that during the Liberation War the Pakistani army in the presence of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury had killed 60-70 people, including her father and two brothers-in-law.

The 37th prosecution witness Chapala, 78, had identified the accused in the courtroom yesterday. "He [SQ Chowdhury] was young then," Chapala said, pointing out BNP leader Salahuddin in the dock.

Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta yesterday told the three-member Tribunal-1 that he had examined the witness and that she was neither good in formal Bangla nor did she understand it well. She spoke in the Chittagong dialect and needed an interpreter.


He then asked the tribunal if he could interpret for her. The tribunal allowed it.

Chapala said she and her husband lived at Unsatturpara of Rauzan in Chittagong.

"The [Pakistani] army cordoned off our village a day

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OBITUARY



**Captain Pradip Anwar**  
Captain Pradip Anwar passed away on Friday, May 17th, in Melbourne, Australia after a valiant battle with cancer. He had a very distinguished professional career as a merchant mariner. Born in 1948, he was the son of Late Captain Mustafa Anwar, one of the most eminent aviators of the country and Susmita Islam. He is the grandson of Poet Golam Mostafa.  
He leaves behind his wife Nasreen Anwar (Swapna), his three daughters Farheen (Dipti), Farzeen (Smita), Noureen and his sister Monisha Huq (Babli). His Namaz-e-Janaza was held on Saturday and he was buried at the Springvale Cemetery in Melbourne, Australia.

Man behind first Everest conquest

MAIL ONLINE

Today, he is barely known. Yet without his tireless devotion and extraordinary eye for detail, the conquest of Mount Everest in May 1953 could never have taken place.


It was Dr Griffith Pugh – himself a member of the expedition – who designed the oxygen and fluid-intake regimes, the acclimatisation programme, the diet, the high-altitude boots, the tents, the down clothing,

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PHOTO: MAIL ONLINE

**Pugh at Camp 3, testing the air in the bottom of John Hunt's lungs with his new methods.**

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**অতীব জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
বিজিএমইএ'র সম্মানিত সদস্যগণকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সকল পোশাক শিল্প কারখানার Structural Design এবং Soil Test Report আগামী ৩০ মে, ২০১৩ তারিখের মধ্যে বিজিএমইএ'তে জমা দিতে হবে। যদি উপরোক্ত ডিজাইন ড্রয়িং না থাকে তবে নির্মাণের প্রকৃত অবস্থা অর্থাৎ স্লাব, কলাম, বীম ও ফাউন্ডেশনের সাইজ, রড এর পরিমাণ এবং Soil Test Report কোন স্বীকৃত ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ফার্ম দ্বারা প্রস্তুত করে উপরোক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে বিজিএমইএ বরাবর জমা দেয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে বর্ণিত তথ্যাদি জমা দিতে ব্যর্থ হলে জরুরী সাধারণ সভার সর্বসম্মতিক্রমে গৃহীত সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী বিজিএমইএ'র সকল প্রকার সেবা বন্ধ রাখা হবে।  
মহাসচিব

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