



## SUBSIDY TO FALL

The amount may go down 24pc next fiscal year due to reforms

PAGE B1

## 'BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOUR'

An intimate love story about two French women wins the top honour at the Cannes Film Festival

PAGE 9

## LAST LIFE REQUEST

Woman gets to read love-journal from WW2 marine after 70 years

PAGE 8

Like city polls,  
opposition  
to contest JS  
elections

PM expresses  
hope to Sherman

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh  
Hasina yesterday hoped the  
opposition political parties  
would join the next general  
election as they are now  
participating in the city  
corporation polls.

Hasina expressed her  
hope when visiting US  
Under Secretary of State for  
Political Affairs Wendy R

Sherman met her at her  
Gono Bhaban residence.

PM's Deputy Press  
Secretary Bijan Lal Dev  
briefed reporters after the  
meeting.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 8  
PHOTO ON PAGE 3

## US roots against hartal

Visiting top official cancels Khaleda meet, deplores cycle of shutdown;  
Powell too did not meet Hasina on similar grounds in 2003

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dismayed at the BNP-led alliance's  
hartal during her visit to Dhaka,  
US Under Secretary of State for  
Political Affairs Wendy R Sherman  
yesterday criticised such shutdowns  
and cancelled her meeting with the  
BNP chairperson scheduled for  
yesterday afternoon.

"My schedule required me to  
make some changes... I met the  
opposition leader the last time I was  
in Dhaka," Sherman said at a joint  
press conference at state guesthouse  
Meghnia in the afternoon.

Nearly an hour later, she again  
talked to reporters after delivering  
a speech on US-Bangladesh relations  
organised by the Bangladesh  
Institute of International and  
Strategic Studies (BISS) at Ruposhi

Bangla Hotel in the capital.  
"I was rather surprised when I  
arrived yesterday... a hartal was  
underway," said the US under-  
secretary of state.

On the cancellation of the  
meeting with Khaleda Zia, US  
Press and Information Officer  
Kelly S McCarthy told The Daily  
Star that the under secretary  
regretted that a hartal marked the  
first day of the US-Bangladesh  
partnership dialogue, and subse-  
quent schedule changes precluded  
her meeting with the BNP chief.

US embassy officials said the US  
was always against programmes  
like hartal as a means of voicing  
demands. Former US secretary of  
state Colin Powell cancelled a  
meeting with the then opposition

leader Sheikh Hasina on June 19,  
2003, as the Chhatra League, stu-  
dent wing of the Awami League,  
did not call off its hartal on the day  
of the meeting.

Sherman's cancellation of her  
meeting with the BNP chief is  
clearly a diplomatic setback for the  
BNP, as the party had decided to  
call a hartal on the first day of the  
US-Bangladesh dialogue on  
Khaleda's instructions.

US embassy officials had  
approached Khaleda  
through BNP leaders  
and requested her  
to postpone the  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

JOINT STATEMENT AT  
thedadailystar.net

RELATED STORY ON B1

Stick with  
Bangladesh

Sherman says US encouraging  
investors amid setbacks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Wendy R Sherman, US under secretary of state for political  
affairs, yesterday urged international investors not to turn  
their back on Bangladesh, because the solution is reform,  
not withdrawal.

"Ultimately," she said, "success will depend on the will  
and commitment of industry, government, civil society, and  
everyday Bangladeshis to come together to change the cul-  
ture of workplace safety and worker rights in Bangladesh."

Sherman, in her remarks at a discussion on "A  
Partnership without Boundaries: US-Bangladesh Relations"  
at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Dhaka, said the responsibility of  
enforcing robust labour standards was that of the  
Bangladesh government.

Offering US assistance in facing the challenges, she said,  
"We are working with American companies that source  
SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

\$1.2b WB loan  
likely for 3  
projects

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank is likely to  
come up with assistance of  
\$1.2 billion for the coun-  
try's three projects on social  
safety net, coastal embank-  
ment and construction of  
modern silos, Finance  
Minister AMA Muhith said  
yesterday.

"The proposed assis-  
tance of the World Bank in  
the three projects is likely  
to be approved by the  
World Bank Board this  
June," he said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Padma to eat up ADP

Proposal for Tk 6,852cr allocation goes for approval today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The Padma bridge as a single project will get  
the highest allocation of Tk 6,852 crore in  
the next Annual Development Programme  
(ADP) as the government has decided to  
implement it with its own funds.

The new ADP will be placed today at a  
meeting of the National Economic Council  
(NEC) for approval. The country's transport  
sector is going to get the highest 89 percent  
increase over the current fiscal's because of  
the Padma bridge project.

In contrast, allocation for the health and  
education sectors is going to increase by 2  
and 4 percent respectively.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## ALLOCATION

FY-14:	Tk	6,852
FY-15:	Tk	7,882
FY-16:	Tk	5,095
FY-17:	Tk	2,663

crore

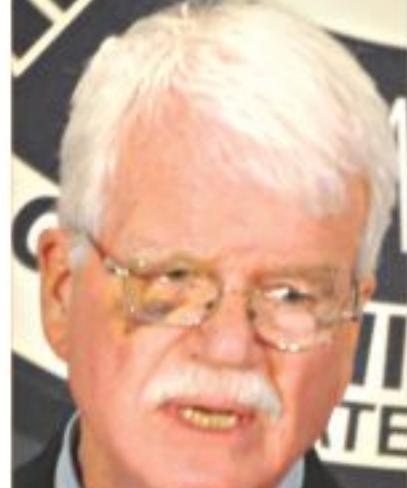
## Make workplace safer

US congressman visits injured from Rana Plaza collapse

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The world must learn lessons  
from the deadly Rana Plaza col-  
lapse in Savar and ensure the  
safety of garment workers in  
Bangladesh and around the  
globe, said a visiting US  
Congressman yesterday.

"We can just no longer accept  
the status quo that continues to  
put workers' lives in jeopardy. This is the  
message I will take back to the US Congress  
and the Obama administration," George  
Miller told reporters while visiting Savar's  
Enam Medical College and Hospital, where  
many injured victims have been taking  
treatment since their rescue from the wreck-



age of the nine-storey building.

Rana Plaza, which housed five  
garment factories, caved in on  
April 24, drawing global attention  
once again to workers' safety  
issues at industrial units in  
Bangladesh five months after the  
Tazreen fire killed 112 people.

Miller said he was now in  
Bangladesh to conduct an investi-  
gation to make sure that the latest  
tragedy that killed at least 1,130 people and  
injured over 2,500 did not repeat itself.

He called for changes in the laws  
and practices to make factories safer for workers.

"We know these workers are paid little  
money and work for long hours to produce  
SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A bus in flames at the capital's Kamalapur yesterday after pro-BNP activists set it ablaze protesting an arrest  
warrant against the party's senior vice-chairman, Tarique Rahman.

PHOTO:  
COURTESYARREST WARRANT AGAINST TARIQUE  
BNP burns vehicles,  
calls more hartals

Nationwide shutdown tomorrow, in 8 districts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party oppo-  
sition alliance yesterday  
called a countrywide daylong  
hartal for tomorrow,  
Wednesday, demanding the  
withdrawal of cases against  
BNP Senior Vice-President  
Tarique Rahman.



"Apart from 'siege' and  
non-cooperation programmes, we have also  
discussed enforcing a 72- or  
96-hour hartal next month to  
force the government to meet  
our prime demand, a non-party election-time caretaker  
government," said Mustafizur  
Rahman Iran, chief of  
Bangladesh Labour Party, a  
component of the opposition alliance.

Another leader of the alliance after the  
meeting said they had set mid-July as the  
target for ousting the government.

On the election-time government issue,  
the BNP chief at the meeting said they  
would not accept the Speaker [Shirin  
Sharmin Chowdhury] or the President  
[Abdul Hamid] as chief of the caretaker  
government, let alone Prime Minister  
Sheikh Hasina.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



## No trace of body

Searchers climb down from death spot; Sajal's  
body might have been buried under snow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Having failed to locate Sajal Khaled's body,  
Sherpas climbed down to Camp 4 from  
Camp 2 on Mount Everest yesterday morn-  
ing. The exact cause of his death could not be  
known.

A group of 12 Sherpas searched for Sajal's  
body on Sunday night and Monday morning,  
after they climbed to the South summit, said  
Shamima Chowdhury, first secretary (con-  
sular) of Bangladesh embassy in Nepal.

"Sherpas found a bag of Sajal in the death  
zone, which is 700 feet down the peak of the  
Everest," Shamima told The Daily Star over  
the phone yesterday.

Mountaineer Mohammed Khaled

Hussain, 35 -- better known as Sajal Khaled --  
conquered Everest between 10:00am and  
11:00am on May 20. He died in his tent dur-  
ing his descent from the summit the same  
day. The exact cause of his death could not be  
known.

The embassy arranged for the group of  
Sherpas to bring Sajal's body back to the base  
camp from around 28,000 feet above sea  
level on the South summit.

The embassy had expected the team to  
bring the body back to Kathmandu by May  
30 or 31.

Shamima said that even though the climb-  
ing season officially ends on May 31,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

COMMENTS ON BURNING QURAN  
MK Anwar lands in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail prayer of BNP leader  
MK Anwar and sent him to jail after he surrendered in a case  
filed in connection with derogatory comments on  
Swechasebok League leader Debasish Biswas.



The Swechasebok League leader on May 7 filed the case  
against Anwar, also standing committee member of the  
BNP, saying that Anwar made a statement against him,  
which hurt communal harmony.

In his complaint, Debasish mentioned that Anwar at a  
press conference on May 6 said he [Debasish] burnt the  
Holy Quran near Baitul Mukarram Mosque during Hefajat's  
violence on May 5.

Terming Anwar's statement "false, fabricated and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

## URGENT NOTICE

It has come to our notice that some news-  
paper hawkers are supplying some other  
newspaper instead of The Daily Star to our  
valued subscribers especially in Baridhara,  
Gulshan and Dhamondi areas, by giving  
false information that paper has not been  
published or has not reached that area in  
time. This is absolutely false as The Daily  
Star is being published every day regularly  
without any disruption and on time.

Anyone receiving some other news-  
paper instead of The Daily Star is requested  
to contact our Circulation Manager, Mr.  
Masud Bulbul over Mobile Phone No:  
01711837719 immediately to lodge your  
complaint so that we can take urgent  
action in this regard.

Editor  
The Daily Star