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## ALARMING EROSION AT MAWA Padma bridge site at stake

Project officials fear bridge's guide bund might have to be extended; ferry terminal also threatened

PINAKI ROY

Continued erosion by the Padma river near the Mawa old ferry terminal is threatening the Padma bridge site and also the Mawa-Keorakanda new ferry terminal.

If the erosion, now taking place along South Medini Mandal village, goes on, the design of the bridge would have to be partially altered. This will mean changing the location of several pillars and extending the guide bund beyond the area acquired for the bridge, officials and experts have said.

All this will increase the bridge's construction cost, said Sharful Islam Sarkar, executive engineer of the Padma bridge project.

At the moment, the erosion is taking place less than one kilometer from the site of the main bridge, but it is moving towards the site.

In case the erosion continues next year, the bridge authorities would have no other options but to bring some changes in the bridge's design, said Maminul Haque Sarkar, deputy executive director of the Centre for Information and Geographical Information System.

Explaining the erosion, Maminul, a top morpho-hydrologist in the country, says it is not a change of course of

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The mighty Padma devours land at Mawa ferry terminal very close to a pontoon seen in the top right corner of the photo while people dismantle their homes, inset, and move elsewhere. The photos were taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Dr Kamal for constitution amendment

Calls for acceptable polls-time govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged the president to take an immediate step to amend the constitution and form an acceptable polls-time government for holding the next parliamentary polls in a free and fair manner.

He suggested that the president also form an election commission to hold the polls by avoiding violence, adding that he can solicit people's consent to do that.

He made the remarks while exchanging views with the leaders and workers of Oikyaobodhho Chhatra Samaj, a newly formed student body, at his Baily Road residence in the afternoon.

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## BRUTAL MURDER OF FELANI AT BORDER

# Indian court acquits accused BSF soldier

Victim's father rejects verdict, wants govt to take the matter to int'l court; no official word yet from BSF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court in the Indian state of West Bengal has acquitted a Border Security Force (BSF) constable of murdering Felani Khatun on the border in January 2011.

The court said Amiya Ghosh was not guilty of shooting the Bangladeshi girl when she crossed the barbed-wire fence into Bangladesh from India, sources told our New Delhi correspondent yesterday.

Felani's father Nurul Islam rejected the verdict and said that he would appeal to the government to take the matter to the international court.

He, however, said he learnt about the acquittal from the media and was yet to know it officially.

Details as to why the border guard was absolved were not available in the absence of an official word



from the BSF of India.

On returning from Delhi and on her way home, Felani, 15, was crossing the border illegally and was shot as her clothes got stuck in the barbed-wire fence on January 7, 2011.

The photo of her body hanging at the top of the fence triggered a huge outcry around the globe.

However, this was the first time a BSF jawan had been put on trial for such a killing.

A five-man BSF General Security Forces court headed by its Assam-Meghalaya frontier DIG (Communication) SP Trivedi conducted the hearings at Sonari BSF camp near Cooch Behar from August 13.

BSF sources said the proceedings of the court have been forwarded for final approval of the director general because the case has been seen as "extra sensitive".

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## ILLEGAL WORKERS

# Malaysia mulls amnesty again

So far 5,000 including 444 Bangladeshis detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Illegal foreign nationals detained in the ongoing crackdown in Malaysia will be given another chance to be legalised, the Malaysian home minister has said.

This move was in view of the country's need for foreign manpower in certain sectors, Malaysian English daily The Star reported yesterday.

Some 5,000 illegal immigrants have so far been detained since the start of the drive on last Sunday.

Of them, 444 are Bangladeshi nationals, said Shameem Ahsan, director general (external publicity) of the foreign ministry, quoting Bangladesh high commission in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysian Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has said that not all of those detained will be deported.

"We will provide the facility for employers to register these workers to be legalised under the 6P amnesty programme because we are considering the shortage of manpower in certain sectors, which we reckon foreign workers are needed," he said at a press conference.

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## Agitation after Eid if talks on polls not held

Threatens 18-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance yesterday warned that it will have no alternative but to launch a tougher movement against the government after the Eid-ul-Azha if it does not hold dialogue to resolve the ongoing political impasse.

BNP Vice-Chairman Abdullah Al Noman made the remark at a press briefing about its ongoing movement after a meeting of the alliance's secretaries general at the party's Nayapalton headquarters.

The alliance held the meeting to drum up public support for BNP chief Khaleda Zia's rally at Narsingdi on September 8. She will address seven more rallies in divisional districts demanding restoration of the caretaker government system.

Noman alleged that the government has been hatching a plot to hold a partisan election to stay in power for a long time. But people will foil the all its plots, he added.

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Aman Ullah Aman, Satkhira general secretary of BNP's fishermen's wing, lay on the floor motionless in a pool of blood after a BNP factional feud erupted during a programme at Satkhira Shilpakala Academy Auditorium yesterday. An armed BNP man, top right, in action. Aman, bottom right, being taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



## INTRA-PARTY CLASH Satkhira BNP leader killed

Convention of party's district unit marred

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An on-stage clash between two factions of Satkhira BNP during a programme left a BNP leader dead and 12 others injured at Satkhira Shilpakala Academy Auditorium yesterday.

Amanullah Aman, 35, general secretary of Satkhira Matsyajibi Dal, fishermen's wing of the BNP, and also former vice-president of Satkhira Government College Chhatra Dal unit, died from injuries suffered during the clash.

Police said the supporters of the district BNP unit president Habibur Rahman and general secretary Sayed Iftekhar Ali got involved in the clash during a party meeting around 11:30am.

The supporters of Habibur attacked the followers of Iftekhar with sharp weapons as activists of Iftekhar's faction refused to get off the stage as requested by Habibur, sources said. The clash then spilled across the auditorium and even outside the building.

Of the injured, Aman, Habibur, Iftekhar, Abdus Samad, president of district Sramik Dal, and BNP activists Abdul, Md Selim, Sheikh Masum Billah, and Ariful Islam were rushed to Satkhira Sadar hospital.

Aman's condition deteriorated and he was sent to Khulna Medical College Hospital for better treatment but he died on the way around 4:00pm.

Iftekhar alleged that the supporters of Habibur led by Swetchhasebak Dal convenor Tarikul Hasan and Jubo Dal

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