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Plaque, only to gather moss

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

One might get excited to see a foundation stone just outside the Cox's Bazar town, reading Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had inaugurated the construction works of a rail network on April 3, 2011. Around two and a half years are enough to complete the vital rail link to Chittagong from the beach city.

But then the same will get surprised to see that there is no rail track either coming to or from Cox's Bazar. In fact, laying the foundation stone is all that the government had done so far. And the project is lost in a labyrinth.

The gimmick of foundation laying has been glaringly evident as the government allocated very little money, almost absurdly inadequate, for the rail link supposed to be completed by December next.

As a result, the enthusiasm that was generated when Hasina inaugurated the Dohazari-Cox's Bazar-Ramu, and Ramu-



Gundum rail line project has fizzled out.

On its part, the government allocated a derisory Tk 8 crore in 2011 against the required Tk 321 crore to acquire 1,412 acres of land.

The allocation for the project was Tk 1 crore last year, and only Tk 50,000 this year.

"We expected adequate fund allocation after the prime minister's inauguration of the project. But we experienced something that we did not expect," said a senior railway official at Rail Bhaban in the capital.

However, Railway's East Zone General Manager Tafazzal Hossain, who now looks after the project, has different say: "It does not matter whether we get fund or not as we are yet to determine the revised cost of the project."

He said the cost would significantly go up now because of the soaring price of land.

Records show that the first survey on the

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Suruj Miah breaks down in tears holding some charred garment items of the factory he had set up taking out a loan at Kamrangirchar in Dhaka. A fire yesterday afternoon burned down his factory as well as at least 50 houses in the area. Story on page 3. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

RANA PLAZA VICTIMS DNA report next month

US software to quicken data matching

TAMANNA KHAN

The DNA report of the unidentified victims of Rana Plaza tragedy will be completed by the middle of next month.

Prof Sharif Akhteruzzaman, technical adviser of National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory (NFDPL), yesterday informed The Daily Star about the expected time of completion, as a team of the Federal Bureau

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US nearly detonated atomic bomb in 1961

Journalist uses Freedom of Information Act to disclose North Carolina accident in which one switch averted catastrophe

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A secret document, published in declassified form for the first time by the Guardian yesterday, reveals that the US Air Force came dramatically close to detonating an atom bomb over North Carolina that would have been 260 times more powerful than the device that devastated Hiroshima.

The document, obtained by the investigative journalist Eric Schlosser under the

Freedom of Information Act, gives the first conclusive evidence that the US was narrowly spared a disaster of monumental proportions when two Mark 39 hydrogen bombs were accidentally dropped over Goldsboro, North Carolina on 23 January 1961. The bombs fell to earth after a B-52 bomber broke up in mid-air, and one of the devices behaved precisely as a nuclear weapon was designed to behave in warfare:

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HSBC closes accounts of 40 missions in UK

Bangladesh High Commission on the list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Global banking giant HSBC has closed the bank accounts of more than 40 diplomatic missions, including Bangladesh High Commission in London, as part of its measure to tighten screening against money laundering and other risks.

Those affected include Papua New Guinea and the Vatican as well, media reports said.

"HSBC has been applying a rolling

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PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT Cabinet to decide army job today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The army is going to work as construction supervision consultant in three packages of the Padma bridge project with the assistance of experts from foreign countries and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

A proposal in this regard will be placed for approval at a meeting of the cabinet committee on purchase today.

A total of Tk 205.63 crore will be allocated for the supervision work, of which Tk 72.13 crore is to be set aside for engineering support and safety team. The army will hire experts from abroad to work as team leader, senior contract specialist and senior material engineer in the team that will carry out the supervision work and Tk 17.15 crore (equivalent of \$2.14million) will be spent on these experts.

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PM flies to NY today

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka today on an eight-day official visit to New York to attend the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

She will address the UNGA on September 27 and attend several high level side events and bilateral talks, said foreign ministry sources.

The prime minister will hold meetings with her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh and UN Secretary General

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Volunteers pick rubbish from Cox's Bazar sea beach yesterday during a programme marking the International Coastal Cleanup Day 2013. Story on page 13. PHOTO: COURTESY

CHEMICAL ARSENARY Syria hands over list

Diplomatic wrangle continues at UN; rebels reject Iran's mediator role

AFP, Damascus

Syria handed over the remaining details of its chemical arsenal yesterday, meeting a deadline under a deal that headed off military strikes, the world's chemical weapons watchdog said.

Damascus had already turned over details of part of its inventory to the Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, but the group yesterday said that the process was now complete.

The "OPCW has confirmed that it has received the expected disclosure from the Syrian government regarding its chemical weapons programme," the watchdog said.

"The Technical Secretariat is currently reviewing the information received," it added.

The disclosure comes as UN envoys struggle to agree on the wording of a resolution to enshrine the deal under which Syria is

handing over its chemical weapons for destruction.

The US-Russian agreement, worked out as Washington threatened military action in response to an August 21 chemical weapons attack outside Damascus, requires Syria to hand over the whole of its arsenal.

It has received widespread international support, including from China, whose Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Beijing would "support the early launch of the process to destroy Syria's chemical weapons."

Wang also called for the convening of a mooted peace conference in Geneva "as soon as possible."

But the international consensus on the plan has not carried over into negotiations on the wording of a UN Security Council resolution to back it up.

The Council's five permanent members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the

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PRAYER TIMING September 22

Azan Jamaat	4:40	5:15
Fajr	12:45	1:15
Zohr	4:30	4:45
Asr	6:05	6:10
Maghrib	7:30	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Modern-day Pharaoh

WWW.ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

They say you can't take your worldly possessions with you when you die, but a Brazilian businessman is going to try. Following the example of Egyptian pharaohs, Count Chiquinho Scarpa decided to bury his prizes Bentley Continental in his back yard, so he can enjoy driving it in the afterlife.

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that a vested quarter is hindering the country's progress through spreading religious fanaticism and propaganda?

Yes (28%)
No (72%)

TOTAL VOTES: 262

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu that the government will take action against persons found involved in the Padma bridge graft?

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