



BLOCKADE BACK AGAIN

1) More than two hundred goods-laden trucks got stuck on the Dhaka-Mawa highway due to start of the opposition's fresh 72-hour blockade at 6:00am yesterday. 2) Blockaders light fires on a level-crossing near Natore Railway Station to snap road and rail links. 3) Locals suffer due to a trench dug by opposition activists across the Sundarganj-Gaibandha road at Doherhaat. 4) Bangladesh Chhatra League's Sylhet city unit leader Shaikat Chandra Rimi being treated at MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital after Islami Chhatra Shibir men hacked him severely in broad daylight yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR, FOCUS BANGLA



PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT Deal inked to build approach road at Mawa end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bridges Division of communications ministry yesterday inked a Tk 193.39 crore deal with a local construction firm, Abdul Monem Ltd, for construction of an approach road for the Padma bridge project at Mawa end. Abid Habib, director (construction) of Abdul Monem Ltd, and Shafiqul Islam, director of the Padma bridge project, signed the agreement at Setu Bhaban in the capital's Mohakhali. Under the two and a half years long deal, the company will construct a toll plaza and service area besides construction of a 1.62km four-lane approach road. The government in the last three years nearly

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IT in health sector improves services, helps beneficiaries

Finds pilot project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Use of computer apps and digital resources had an impact in developing skills of field-level government health workers and increasing knowledge of its beneficiaries on health, family planning and nutrition issues, found a pilot project. A three and a half month project titled eHealth Pilot programme found that more people followed advice of the field-level health assistants on health and family planning issues after they were taught the information using netbooks equipped with a "eToolkit" and video materials. Bangladesh Knowledge Management Initiative (BKMI), an NGO, presented the piloting results at a programme at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Vanessa Mitchell, programme manager of BKMI, made the presentation on the results. BKMI with the assistance of USAID provided 300 government health and family welfare assistants with netbooks and apps to create awareness on maternal health and birth control under the project implemented in Sylhet and Chittagong, where fertility rate and lack of knowledge on maternal health is higher than the rest of the country. She said the technology-based health education has created enthusiasm among the women under the project. After giving the technology-based health education for three and a half months, the project found in September that mothers had "significantly" higher levels of knowledge

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SINGAPORE RIOT Bangladeshi man to be deported for involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Hannan, a resident of Narayanganj, will have to return home from Singapore as the Singaporean government has decided to deport him and 52 Indian workers for their involvement in the city-state's first riot on December 8. Zahid Hossain, labour secretary of Bangladesh high commission in Singapore, confirmed the decision but said Hannan, who worked there as a construction worker, claimed he was innocent. "The police told us that they have evidence of Hannan's involvement in the incident. So, we do not have any scope to negotiate with the Singapore authorities" Zahid told The Daily

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PAK RESOLUTION ON MOLLAH'S EXECUTION It's interference in Bangladesh's affairs Say eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday sharply reacted to Pakistan's condemnation over the execution of war criminal and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah. Such a stance by Pakistan is an act of interference in Bangladesh's internal affairs, they told a discussion in the capital's Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (Bilia). The Pakistan National Assembly on Monday adopted a resolution expressing concern over the execution of Mollah who, it said, was "hanged for supporting Pakistan in 1971". Earlier, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan told the Assembly that Mollah was hanged "through a judicial murder". The citizens once again demanded a ban on Jamaat, which opposed Bangladesh's independence and committed atrocities on civilians in 1971, as a political party. Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the discussion marking Victory Day. It also screened Shahriar Kabir's new documentary "Bangladesh Kon Pothey". Kabir, executive president of the nirmul committee, said, "The judiciary is independent all around the world. No other nation can comment on our internal judicial system." Criticising the Pakistan interior minister's comments over the execution, he said such a view made it only apparent that Mollah was a keen follower of that country. About Jamaat's recent countrywide violence and ways to prevent them, Kabir recommended deployment of army if the regular law enforcement agencies fail to resist them. With such a stand, Pakistan has literary declared Mollah as its "own child", said historian Muntasir Mamoon. Veteran journalist and cultural personality Kamal Lohani said, "Vultures are out to claw at the national flag once again." "We have to stand united to protect it, not only to stand to form the largest national flag," he said.

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Govt should have protested earlier

Remarks Nazrul Islam Khan; says there is still time for AL-BNP compromise, urges postponement of January 5 elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday said the government should have protested much earlier the Pakistan National Assembly's resolution adopted on Monday expressing deep concern over execution of war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah. "The government has weakened our country by dividing the people. So, another country is taking the opportunity to adopt such a resolution," he told a press conference at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office in the capital last night. About the ongoing political crisis, Khan said there was still time to announce a fresh schedule through talks and compromise and urged a postponement of the "January 5 farcical election". "The crisis is getting more complicated due to the way activities for a stage-managed election is going on. It's still possible

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Change of Chamber

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FRIDAY CLOSED



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

An orange wholesaler inside a covered van at a wholesale market in Old Dhaka's Badamtoli yesterday, waiting for customers who are very few, thanks to the ongoing 72-hour blockade enforced by the opposition alliance.

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