

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

SECOND EDITION

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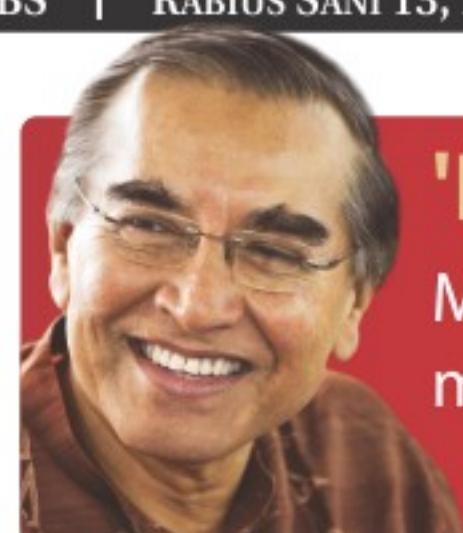
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24 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE : Tk 12.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIV NO. 31 | FALGUN 2, 1420 BS | RABIAS SANI 13, 1435 HIJRI

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star  
theSTAR  
stories behind the news



## 'PARTISAN' BUREAUCRACY

Mahfuz Anam wonders why public servants must compete to show "loyalty"

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## BLOOD FOR BANGLA

Today's Wide Angle features language movement in Barak valley and Manbhumi

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# Beijing, help build

Govt seeks China deal for mega infrastructure projects

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Going strong with China economically and politically, Bangladesh is seeking a deal of \$8.6 billion Chinese soft loan for 14 infrastructure projects that include the massive Ganges barrage.

The other important projects include a rail bridge over the Jamuna river and a high-speed "chord" train line between Dhaka and Comilla, officials of the Economic Relations Division have told The Daily Star.

Side by side, the government has given green signal for a Chinese proposal to fund and build a multi-lane tunnel under the Karnaphuli river at a cost of \$700m. This was decided by the Prime Minister's Office following an inter-ministerial meeting organised by the finance ministry last month.

Also, the government in principle has decided to respond to a proposal to build an exclusive economic zone for China on a thousand acres of land by the Karnaphuli. China is very interested in this

zone as its labour cost has gone up significantly and it wants to shift some industries here.

Dhaka, however, is indecisive on China's \$5 billion proposal to build a deep-sea port near Sonadia island because it has also got proposals from several other countries including India, Germany, Denmark and the UAE.

According to finance ministry officials, Beijing has recently called upon Dhaka to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd for the deep-sea port.

China had remained a low-key development partner till 2011. But in the last three years, its financial support surged significantly, with low interest rates.

In addition, it asked Bangladesh to prepare a set of projects that China can invest over the next five years. The set of 14 projects was identified accordingly with a proposed interest rate of 1.5 percent and repayment period of 20 years.

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## CHINESE CREDIT IN NUMBERS

### PROPOSED PROJECTS

Ganges barrage: \$3.93b  
Dhaka-Comilla chord line: \$1.5b  
Jamuna rail bridge: \$1b  
Rajshahi surface water treatment plant: \$500m  
Dasherkandi sewage treatment plant in Dhaka: \$260m  
Four power-related projects: \$722m  
Container depot in Gazipur: \$200m  
Water & sewage projects at municipalities: \$150m  
Info-government (IT scheme): \$150m  
Karnaphuli rail & road bridge: \$106m  
National Data Centre: \$133m

### HISTORY

**1975-2011:**  
Committed \$656m, mostly high-interest supplier's credit  
**2011-2013:**  
Committed \$913m new loans. Another \$881m in pipeline

## RIVER ENCROACHMENT

# Eviction, so funny

TAWFIQUE ALI

At least Tk18 lakh has so far been wasted from public exchequer to carry out six eviction drives against the encroachers of the river Shitalakkhya at a single site, but encroachment continues unabated under the very nose of three government authorities.

During the eviction drives in last three years, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) along with the Narayanganj district administration and police had evicted illegal sand traders in Shimrail mouza of Siddhirganj near the Kanchpur Bridge, said officials.

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## CORRECTION CENTRE TORTURE

# HC weighs in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday formed a committee to probe the allegations of abuse and mismanagement at a juvenile correction centre in Gazipur, where 20 teenage boys inflicted severe wounds on themselves in protest.

Aged between 14 and 18, the boys gashed their foreheads, arms and wrists on Tuesday night to protest the torture on them by supervisor-in-charge Anwarul Kabir at the Gazipur Juvenile Development Centre, Additional Deputy

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PepsiCo and Transcom Beverages Ltd. are proud to announce the launch of 'Aquafina' the first globally recognized bottled drinking water brand in Bangladesh. Aquafina joins in PepsiCo's powerful legacy of strong and dynamic brands in the beverage industry.

Aquafina has become the widely accepted drinking water brand that is available across the world, and has been one of the leading drinking water brands in the USA.

Universally renowned Aquafina drinking water is purified through a rigorous, seven-step

process that includes Reverse Osmosis, before it is packaged and catered to diverse consumer needs. At first the water goes through Pre-Filtration, then activated carbon purifier makes the water odorless and chlorine free, after which the first polishing filter removes finer particles and gives clarity to the water, followed by a burst of high-intensity UV light that removes microbes. Next Reverse Osmosis uses pressure and a hyper filter to bring to acceptable Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)

levels. Ozonation helps disinfection of water making it safe to consume, and last but not least the water is finely filtered again to make it even safer and crystal clear.

Aquafina's worldwide popularity can be attributed to its unique purification system and great taste. Due to its 7 step purification process, international brand image and

strong distribution network, Aquafina is soon expected to become the leading and most

trustworthy drinking water brand in Bangladesh.

The following state-of-the-art 7 step process ensures Aquafina's guaranteed purity:

**Step 1:** This is the initial filtration step where water passes through media filtration to improve

turbidity before the next step. Here all the naturally occurring iron and manganese are also removed.

**Step 2:** The water makes its way to the Activated Carbon Purifier, which isolates trace elements [of colour, odour and disinfection]

**Step 3:** The water then moves to the Polishing Filter, where smaller particles up to

5 micron are removed.

**Step 4:** The water is then passed through high intensity UV lights which eliminate organic matter.

**Step 5:** At this stage the water undergoes the reverse osmosis process, where the total dissolved solids are removed with pressure.

These 7 purification steps make Aquafina deliver 'Purity Guaranteed' with the most perfect taste that sets Aquafina apart from competitors. Aquafina has proven its worth in international markets, and is expected to do the same in Bangladesh.

Transcom Beverages Limited (TBL) the franchisee of PepsiCo International, has been successfully bottling, distributing & marketing PepsiCo brands such as Pepsi, 7up, Mirinda, Mountain Dew, Slice, Pepsi Diet, 7up Light and Sting. It is worth mentioning that 7UP happens to be the most loved carbonated beverage brand from the PepsiCo portfolio and has won the Best Beverage Brand award in Bangladesh for 4 consecutive years.

PepsiCo and Transcom Beverages Limited (TBL) strongly believe that Aquafina will be loved, admired and trusted all across Bangladesh as much as all the other brands in their portfolio.

