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China-India energy rivalry in spotlight

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## REVISITING THE HORROR

French and German leaders meet at "man-eater" battleground to mark 100 yrs of WWI outbreak

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## BOLT STRIKES AGAIN

The superstar anchors Jamaica to 4x100m relay gold in Commonwealth Games

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# 367 killed in China quake

More than 2,000 hurt; hundreds of buildings destroyed

AGENCIES

More than 367 people died and almost 2,000 were injured when a strong earthquake hit southwest China's mountainous Yunnan province yesterday, bringing homes crashing to the ground and sparking a massive relief operation.

The quake in Zhaotong prefecture, in the province's northeast, toppled buildings and left rescue teams and residents to pull survivors from beneath the rubble, images on social media showed.

"At least 367 people have been killed and 1,881 people were injured," the official news agency Xinhua reported early today, citing rescuers and raising a previous toll given minutes earlier of 357.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) reported the quake at a magnitude of 6.1 and at a depth of about 10km. It struck about 11km (7 miles) northwest of Wenping at 16:30 local time (08:30 GMT).

"Too many buildings were damaged and we are collecting data on deaths and injuries," Xinhua quoted local official Chen Guoyong as saying in the township of Longtoushan, which sits at the epicentre.

State television broadcast footage of people running from their homes and gathering in the streets, as witnesses described the devastation on social networks.

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PHOTO: REUTERS/AFP

A general view shows collapsed houses after an earthquake hit a remote mountainous area of Yunnan province in southwest China yesterday. Inset, rescuers carry an injured resident at Ludian county in Zhaotong.

# Chinese firm hid info in Padma bid

Admits to govt it's under temporary WB suspension over allegation of fraud

SHARIER KHAN and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Chinese company Sinohydro, which might bag the contract for \$780 million Padma river training, has admitted to the government that it is under temporary suspension by the World Bank over an accusation of fraud.

The company held back this information while placing its financial bid for the river training work of the Padma Bridge Project on June 19.

Backed by an influential political lobby, Sinohydro offered a price of around Tk 8,778 crore,

about Tk 4,000 crore less than the sums quoted by the other two bidders -- Korean Hyundai and Belgian Jan De Nul.

The two companies later informed the government that the Chinese firm had concealed information about the WB suspension and was ineligible to contest.

Though the bridge project is not being funded by the WB, the entire project will be implemented under the Bank's guidelines.

According to the tender documents, "A firm or

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# Sinohydro's poor show in road job

Dhaka-Ctg project director warns govt

SHARIER KHAN and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Disappointed with Sinohydro's performance in the Dhaka-Chittagong highway expansion job, its project director expressed concerns about the Chinese company getting the river-training work for the Padma Bridge.

In a letter to the communications secretary on June 22, Project Director (PD) Ebne

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# Nat'l broadcast policy goes to cabinet today

Media professionals hope it won't curb broadcasters' independence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Media professionals and experts are in favour of a national broadcast policy that would not curb broadcasters' independence, but rather help ensure professionalism in both reporting and programmes.

The draft national broadcast policy is expected to be placed at today's cabinet meeting for approval with proposals for banning broadcast of anything that demeans the armed forces or law enforcement agencies.

ment agencies.

The draft also seeks a ban on broadcast of any statement or footage of a government official who can sentence people for criminal offences.

Asked about the proposed bans, Prof AJM Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan, chairperson of Film and Television Studies Department at Dhaka University, said those provisions were nothing new, and they were already mentioned in existing censorship code.

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## Israel 'spied on Kerry'

AFP, Berlin

Israel eavesdropped on US Secretary of State John Kerry during doomed peace talks with the Palestinians last year, German news weekly Der Spiegel reported yesterday.

The article said the Israelis and at least one other secret service listened in on Kerry's conversations as he tried to mediate, in a development that Der Spiegel said was likely to

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# Madness must stop

UN chief deplores as another UN shelter hit in Gaza; 10 killed; death toll nears 1,800

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon strongly condemned the shelling of another UN school in Gaza yesterday, calling it "a moral outrage and a criminal act."

"This madness must stop," Ban said through his spokesman after at least 10 people were killed when a shell hit outside a UN school in Rafah crowded with Palestinian refugees.

It was the third time in 10 days that a UN school has been hit in Gaza, including the Israeli shelling four days ago of a school in Jabaliyah that killed 16 people.

The strike came shortly after Israel confirmed it had begun withdrawing some troops from the war-torn enclave.

An AFP correspondent said there were scenes of chaos at the site, with

rescuers trying to evacuate the wounded any way they could, while adults were seen sprinting frantically away through pools of blood, young children clutched in their arms.

Chris Gunness, spokesman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), said the school had been housing thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) who had been

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An elderly Palestinian woman carries a bucket as she walks past destroyed buildings in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday, with the Israeli-Hamas conflict entering its 27th day in the besieged territory.

PHOTO: AFP

# 2 MONTHS' SALARIES BGMEA to pay Tuba workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment makers platform BGMEA yesterday agreed to pay two months' salaries to the 1,600 workers of Tuba Group, an offer rejected by the workers.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association in a statement asked the workers to receive the salaries from the office of the association on Wednesday.

Tuba Group will pay Eid bonuses and the salary of the rest one month later, said SM Mannan Kochi, acting BGMEA president.

The BGMEA will arrange the fund from big garment exporters in loan and Tuba will repay it, Kochi said.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting with Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chundru and labour union leaders.

The BGMEA on Saturday sought emergency funds from some garment companies to clear the dues. On July 31, the association promised to pay three months' arrears, overtime and festival bonuses of the workers in seven workdays.

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# Delwar's HC bail to be challenged

Attorney gen's office to seek stay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to challenge a High Court order that granted bail to Tuba Group Managing Director Delwar Hossain in a case filed in connection with the Tazreen

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# 27 more fake war heroes identified

All govt officials; ministry to cancel certificates

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and WASIM BIN HABIB

Incredulity is stretched to the limits. Government offices, so it seems, have no shortage of fake freedom fighters.

Two weeks ago, the government revoked the freedom fighters' certificates of 35 public servants who had obtained those through forgery. It is now going to strip 27

more government employees of the honour that they obtained through cheating.

National Security Intelligence (NSI) has prepared the latest list, which it sent to the Liberation War Affairs Ministry late last month. The ministry is likely to publish the list in a couple of days.

Those on the list include a joint secretary, an executive director of Bangladesh Bank,

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