#### Russia to join China-led development bank

AFP, Moscow

Russia is to sign up to the Chineseled development bank AIIB, first deputy prime minister Igor Shuvalov said Saturday at an international forum in China, cited by Russian news agencies.

"I'd like to inform you that Russian President Vladimir Putin has taken the decision that Russia will participate in the capital of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)," Shuvalov said at China's Boao Forum, quoted by RIA Novosti state news agency.

The Beijing-backed AIIB, unveiled in October, is a multinational lender that the United States perceives as a threat to the Washington-led World Bank.

#### Uproot

FROM PAGE 16

Hasina said her government would deal with extremism in Bangladesh with a strong hand although the activities of evil forces were increasing in many parts of the world.

Stressing the need for coordination among the forces, the prime minister said they would have to take all-out efforts together in containing militancy, terrorism and all kinds of anti-social acts like smuggling and human trafficking.

Extending her sincere thanks to the law-enforcement agencies, including Rab, for their role in maintaining law and order, Hasina said they have been working with the highest professionalism and endless patience to save the lives and properties of peo-

She mentioned that her government would do whatever necessary for further modernisation of Rab and making it a time-befitting one.

Praising the role of Rab in maintaining law and order with patriotism, sincerity, integrity and efficiency since its inception, Hasina said people were confident and comfortable following Rab's effective measures.

About the strong and courageous role of the elite force in containing subversive acts in the name of foiling the election, she said they dealt with the culprits with an iron hand and played a great role in restoring peace and order in the country, including south and southwestern regions.

They also rescued many kidnapped children and people and returned them to their families arresting many criminals, she said.

Hasina is the country's first head of the government who visited the Rab headquarters after its inception on March 26, 2006, during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

Director General of Rab Benazir Ahmed delivered the welcome address while Prime Minister's Adviser on Security Affairs Major General (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, IGP AKM Shahidul Haque and Senior Secretary of the Home

Ministry Mozammel Haque Khan were present.

Later, Hasina responded to a number questions raised by Rab members

and asked authorities concerned to take steps in solving the problems like increasing the tenure of deputation in Rab and providing arms license to retired Rab officials.

Hasina also inaugurated six development programmes implemented recently and laid foundation stones for three new projects of Rab.

The prime minister was given a guard of honour by a smart contingent of Rab when she arrived there.

#### Blockade

FROM PAGE 16

Upon getting the first press release, media people were surprised to see it didn't mention whether the BNP-led opposition would continue its nationwide blockade that entered 82nd day yesterday.

As reporters contacted a number of BNP leaders to know if the opposition withdrew the blockade along with hartal, the alliance issued the fresh press release at 4:24pm.

The combine said the blockade would continue, and it would bring out protest processions today in all divisional, district and upazila headquarters and municipalities to press home the demand for "safe return" of party's missing leaders, including Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed. The BNP leader went missing

on March 10. And for the first time since February 1, the alliance yesterday didn't call shutdown on the first

working day of a week. In a press release on March 24, it called off hartal after observing shut-

down for 38 days except for Friday and Saturday. Amid the non-stop blockade, the

combine enforced hartal on all work-

ing days -- from 6:00am Sunday to

6:00am Friday -- since February 1.

Bangladeshi students shine globally

Pearson Edexcel Asia director lauds the country's O- and A-level students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Simon Young, regional director of Pearson Edexcel Asia, has said Bangladeshi O- and A-level students are performing extraordinarily well in studies around the globe.

Year after year, Bangladesh leads the world in achieving the best academic results and tops the ranking of students who make their places in the world's leading universities, he said.

Young was speaking at the 16th Oand A-level Award Presentation Ceremony organised by The Daily Star yesterday. The annual award ceremony was

held at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in capital's Mirpur where 1,760 students were honoured for their outstanding academic results in the 2013-14 exam session. Pearson Education is the owner of

cate awarding body for English medium students in Bangladesh. More than 18,000 students take the

UK-based Edexcel, the largest certifi-

Edexcel examinations in Bangladesh development of the country.

every year, said Young.

He said he was proud that Bangladesh is one of the leading countries where such a large number of the Edexcel students go to the leading universities in the UK, the US, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and other countries.

Congratulating the award winners, Young said the outstanding national achievement was a testament to the dedication of all those involved in education in Bangladesh. "But most of all it shows the great-

ness of Bangladeshi students competing on the world stage. Education has never been more important than it is in today's world. It defines you, your future and your whole life." "Your success will inspire, moti-

future generations to come. Today is your day, you should be supremely proud of your achievements," he He hoped the students would

vate and help shape the future of

return to the country and use their knowledge and experience acquired from higher studies abroad for the

## US jury rejects Silicon Valley sex bias charge

AFP, San Francisco

A California jury rejected charges of gender discrimination against a prominent venture capital firm Friday in a case seen as a proxy trial of Silicon Valley sex bias. The state court jury found Kleiner

Perkins Caufield and Byers (KPCB) did not discriminate against Ellen Pao, who claimed she was fired after complaining about bias at the firm that notably backed Amazon, Facebook and Google. However the outcome was immedi-

ately called into question however after trial judge Harold Kahn found that the jury verdict did not have enough votes on one of the claims. The question surrounded whether

Pao's filing of her lawsuit or a memorandum regarding her complaint was a "substantial motivating reason" for her being fired. Kahn sent the jury back to delibera-

tions with the freedom to change any or all of the verdict. Pao's lawyers painted the 45-year-

old woman as an innocent victim of sexual discrimination common at the esteemed venture capital firm. But KPCB attorneys portrayed Pao

as a calculating schemer burning with resentment and with a thirst for a dard when it came to gender, and then quick buck. Pao asked the jury to order KPCB

to pay \$16 million in money she would have made if she wasn't fired from the firm in 2012. Pao is now the well-paid interim chief of social news site Reddit.

On each question regarding whether Pao's gender was a "substantial motivating reason" for her being passed over for promotion and eventually fired, a requisite two-thirds or more of the jury voted "No."

Those votes, if they stand, would mean that Pao is not in line to get any money in the form of missed compensation or eligible for punitive damages. Judge Kahn's decision to send jurors

back to deliberate means there is no official verdict. Each point at issue in the closely-watched civil case remains open for debate in the jury room. The gender discrimination trial pits

an iconic venture capital firm against an employee shown the door not long after her affair with a married partner. A six man, six-woman jury was

asked, essentially, to decide whether the suit filed by Pao is a stand against a boys club atmosphere at KPCB or a money grab by an employee who lacked the skills to join the rarified ranks of Silicon Valley venture capital-

The session in court on Friday indicated that the jury was favoring KPCB in what would be seen as a major victory for the firm, which has been criticized for not settling with Pao to avoid having embarrassing in-house scenarios publicly exposed.

Jurors began deliberations late Wednesday morning after rival attorneys finished closing arguments.

Pao's lawyer sought to convince the panel that KPCB had a double stanretaliated against her when she complained about it. "They ran Kleiner Perkins like a

boys club," Pao's attorney Alan Exelrod argued.

Pao contends that she and other women were passed over for advancement and endured harassment in a male-oriented culture.

Pao was hired in 2005 to be an office manager for Doerr and years later got a chance at an investment

## Fifth or maiden?

"We had him involved in the group, and not long ago he came and spent time with the team and it was great," the captain said.

Meanwhile International Cricket Council chief executive David Richardson proclaimed the 2015 World Cup to be the "most-followed and best-attended cricket event in history".

Among a plethora of statistics, the ICC cited a crowd of 86,000 at the MCG for the India-South Africa pool match on February 22 -- "a phenomenal result given that neither of the host teams were involved" -- and that the official website had attracted 227 million page views as evidence of the tournament's success.

New Zealand go into their first title clash in cricket's 50-overs-a-side showpiece as the only unbeaten team in the tournament, having won eight games in a row.

Australia in a low-scoring pool stage thriller in Auckland on February 28 when a Kane Williamson six off Pat Cummins helped them surpass a modest target of 152 with one wicket stand-

It was at the same Eden Park in Auckland that the Black Caps downed South Africa in a nerve-tingling semifinal on Tuesday with a penultimateball six by Grant Elliott.

New Zealand's first semifinal win in seven attempts left an enthralled rugby-mad nation backing their cricketers to take home a trophy that has so far eluded them in the World Cup's 40-

Australia, the top-ranked side in ODI cricket, are bidding for a fifth World Cup title and will be favourites on home turf at the MCG, where New Zealand last played an ODI in 2009.

Clarke said the Black Caps may struggle to adjust to conditions at the 90,000 capacity ground after playing all their eight previous matches this tournament on their own grounds across the Tasman Sea.

"Conditions are a lot different to what New Zealand have been playing in New Zealand," Clarke said after his team's emphatic 95-run semifinal victory over defending champions India on Thursday.

However, New Zealand have defeated Australia in three of their last five ODIs at the MCG and their most recent appearance saw semifinal star Elliott's unbeaten 61 fashion a sixwicket win with seven balls to spare after Australia had been restricted to | would also take action against One of those wins was against 225 for five from 50 overs. Opener Martin Guptill, who hit a

> World Cup record score of 237 not out against the West Indies, is just 10 runs away from surpassing Sri Lanka star Kumar Sangakkara's tally of 541 to become the tournament's leading rungetter.

torture the students. I just hit them Left-armer Trent Boult is the leading bowler in this edition with 21 wickets, one more than Aussie paceman Mitchell Starc, while seamer Tim Southee and veteran spinner Daniel Vettori have 15 wickets each.

The 36-year-old Vettori is likely to end his international career after today's final.

Unravel 'mystery'

FROM PAGE 16

the public or a court and thus prove that others picked him up," said Mizanur Rahman.

The NHRC chief made the comments at a discussion at Dhaka University 18 days after the BNP Joint Secretary General went "missing". Salahuddin's family alleged plain

clothes law enforcers flashing identity cards of detectives picked him up from a house in Uttara on March Following a petition by his wife

Hasina Ahmed with the High Court, five law enforcement agencies submitted five reports to the attorney general's office on March 15, saying they had not arrested the BNP leader. On March 19, Hasina Ahmed submitted a memorandum to Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina, seeking the premier's intervention to trace her husband. Meanwhile, Barrister Rafiqul

Haque yesterday met Salahuddin's wife at her Gulshan residence. There he told the press, "If a

political leader like Salahuddin could go missing this way, anything terrible might happen to any citizen of the country." The eminent lawyer said he believed that the BNP leader was

indicated that police somehow knew about what really had happened. Talking about her plea to the PM, Hasina Ahmed told journalists that

still alive, and "some symptoms"

she was yet get a reply from the Prime Minister's Office in that regard.

#### Transformers

FROM PAGE 16

They now make one million yuan a year (nearly \$170,000), selling their army of robots. The father, who has had some

training in fine arts, created designs by downloading images from the internet. With his son's assistance, he was able to use old car parts to make some pretty phenomenal mod-

The first model took them three years to complete, but they are now one of the top amateur Transformer-builders in China. They have a small self-funded fac-

### Biman makes

FROM PAGE 16

tory.

the emergency after a fire alarm for engine number-2 went off around 8:45pm, an official of Biman told The Daily Star. The plane landed safely. Contacted Biman's Director

Engineering MM Asaduzzaman said it was a "false" fire warning ... This might have happened due to an electric short- circuit.

"We are assessing whether there is any damage to the engine," he added

All emergency services at the airport including fire engines were kept on alert following the emergency call by the pilots, sources said.

In the first week of February, a Biman Boeing 777-200ER aircraft made an emergency landing at Shahjalal International Airport following an engine surge around eight minutes after it took off from Chittagong for Dubai.

#### Teacher canes

FROM PAGE 16

Ruma Yasmin, fell sick. Ali rebuked Hafijur Rahman, a guardian, when he went there to protest.

guardians and locals surrounded the school and started shouting slogans, demanding removal of Ali. At one point, the headmaster

Around 12:00pm, over 300

went out of the school and tried to talk to the demonstrators but got assaulted instead, said witnesses. Later, the protestors also beat up

Ali along with two other teachers and confined them in a small house in front of the school. However, their injuries were not that serious.

A police team, led by the UNO, rushed to the scene and rescued the teachers around 1:00pm. Ali was under police custody and

he would face action after filing of a case for torturing the students, said Aminur Rahman, officer-incharge of Bagha Police Station. The police official said they

those who beat up the teachers on receiving complaints. At the hospital, the headmaster

told reporters that he was against any sort of torturing or beating up students. "It was unwanted." Meanwhile, Ali told The Daily Star, "I was angry. But I did not

softly on their palms with a stick". A guardian has alleged Ali beat up students twice over trivial issues before. Even though the guardians demanded his exemplary punishment, the school authorities did

said.

not take any action against him, he

## Nobel's will goes on

AFP, Stockholm

Alfred Nobel's last will and testament, which played a pivotal role in Swedish history by creating the now-illustrious Nobel prizes, has gone on display for the first time in Stockholm. Until now, only a handful of people

had laid eyes on the original 1895 document that has been stashed away in a safe at the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm. The Nobel Museum has changed all

that, putting it on public display as part of its new exhibition "Legacy". "The exhibition draws attention to

how important it is to pass things on. The will is the centrepiece. It is a simple document, but it still today provides the basis of our work with the (Nobel) prizes," exhibition curator Karin Ionsson tells AFP. "The aim is to show Alfred Nobel's

legacy to the public. It makes him more understandable," her colleague Gustav Kaellstrand adds. The Nobel prizes are "one of

Sweden's biggest brands," notes a spokesman for the Swedish Institute,

Sergio Guimaraes.

The will itself is written on four yellowed pages, with curlicued oldfashioned handwriting in black ink. It's smudged in places, and there are notes and additions running up and down the sides, tops and bottoms of the pages. Nobel, the inventor of dynamite,

details the creation of the Nobel prizes on 26 lines, or almost three-quarters of He stipulates that part of his fortune -- some 31.5 million kronor

at the time, or the equivalent of more than 200 million euros (\$220 million) today -- was to be placed in a fund, the interest on which was to be used to honour "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind" in the fields of medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace.

He appoints four prize committees to hand out the awards: three in Stockholm and one in Oslo for the peace prize, since Norway was joined with Sweden in a union at the time.

#### It's no level playing field FROM PAGE 1 campaigns and activities.

field," alleged Abdullah Al Kafee, backed by Communist Party of Bangladesh (CBP). Kafee was talking to reporters after

submission of his nomination papers to the returning officer (RO) for Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) polls at the capital's Agargaon yesterday afternoon. The elections to the DNCC, Dhaka

South City Corporation (DSCC) and Chittagong City Corporation will be held on April 28. Hasina, also the AL chief, formally

introduced Annisul Huq and Sayeed Khokon as mayoral candidates for the DNCC and DSCC polls at a meeting with AL leaders of Dhaka city at the Gono Bhaban on Friday. According to the electoral code of conduct, parliament speaker, deputy

speaker, chief whip, whips, ministers,

state ministers, deputy ministers and

individuals of equivalent ranks or

those enjoying the same government

facilities cannot take part in polls

Kafee also criticised the Election

Commission for "turning a blind eye to the violations of the electoral code of conduct by the ruling party-blessed candidates" He also urged the EC to take steps ensuring a level playing field for all in

the run-up to the elections. In response to Kafee's allegation, EC Secretary Sirazul Islam told reporters, "The prime minister usually doesn't do such things. We will have to check. If

anything like this really had happened, the commission will surely take steps." Visiting the office of the RO at Agargaon, he added, "I have directed the returning officer to ensure equal treatment to all."

tor of Gano Samhati Andolan, a left political group, yesterday bought nomination paper to run for DNCC mayor.

Meanwhile, Zonayed Saki, coordina-

A total of 58 mayoral and 2,320 councillor aspirants bought nomination papers till yesterday.

## People will know

worked under: too little money, fear of losing the contract, too much pres-

German prosecutors say there are indications Lubitz concealed an illness from his employers and has been signed off work on the day of the air disaster. Police searching his home discovered torn-up medical notes and Germanwings later confirmed it did not receive sick notes from Lubitz.

On Saturday, a member of his local flying club told French media that Lubitz was familiar with the French Alps and was even "obsessed" with the area.

Maria said news of the crash triggered a memory of previous conversations with the 27-year-old, with one sentence in particular weighing heavily in her mind. "There was just a tape playing in my head of what he said.

"'One day I'll do something that will change the system, and then everyone will know my name and rememberit'.

"I didn't know what he meant by that at the time, but now it's obvious, she continued.

She claimed that if Lubitz did deliberately down the plane, it would be "because he realised that, due to his health problems, his big dream of working at Lufthansa, of a having job as a pilot, and as a pilot on long-distance flights, was nearly impossible".

Lubitz locked himself into the cockpit when the captain went out to use the toilet, then refused his colleague's increasingly desperate pleas to reopen the door, French prosecutor Brice Robin said.

was clear because he operated a button sending the plane into a plunge. For the next eight minutes, Lubitz

posts, including reserved posts for

women," he said over the phone from

"The rest of the party men would be

Abul Sayeed Khan Khokon, a joint

convener of BNP Dhaka City, said they

have already started working on select-

ing single councillor aspirants for the

93 wards and the women runners for

backed by Jamaat-e-Islami, a key com-

ponent in the BNP-led 20-party alli-

ance, would be running in a number of

yesterday extended its support for

mayor aspirant M Manjur Alam in

Ahmed, convener of pro-BNP citizen's

platform "Shoto Nagorik", yesterday

said the Election Commission was yet

to take any step in response to their

suggestion for holding the city corpo-

"Creating a congenial atmosphere

is essential ... so that all participants

can carry out their electioneering with-

ration elections in a free and fair man-

Meanwhile, Prof Emajuddin

Chittagong City Corporation.

Party insiders said candidates

The Chittagong 20-party alliance

an undisclosed location.

the 31 reserved posts.

asked to withdraw ...," he said.

## A few hours left

day for withdrawal of candidature," AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star yester-

He said the candidates would be selected based on their popularity and acceptability.

City Corporation ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury. Party chief Sheikh Hasina convinced the two to quit the race, they They also said the party would take initiatives to convince leaders of the components of the AL-led 14-party

gets to run with AL backing after being recommended by an AL committee.

of BNP Dhaka City, told The Daily Star that as part of their strategy, the party has instructed its prospective mayoral and councillor candidates to submit their nomination papers properly.

will pick the most suitable and compe-

up of airline safety rules and several airlines to adopt the "rule of two" rule in the cockpit. Investigators say Lubitz's intention

The tragedy has prompted a shake-

was apparently calm and breathing

normally.

day.

Sources in the party said AL's main problem was mayoral aspirants for Dhaka South City Corporation Haji Mohammad Salim and Chittagong

alliance to quit the race and back ALblessed candidates. In return, the AL would back some leaders of the alliance partners in the race for some councillor posts.

The issue would be discussed at the 14-party's meeting on March 31. AL chief Hasina would make the

final decision on which AL candidates Meanwhile, Mirza Abbas, convenor

"After consultation with the party high-ups and the city unit leaders, we

out fear of arrest or police harassment," said the former Dhaka University vice-chancellor while speaking at a discussion in the Jatiya Press Club.

mayoral posts and 124 councillor home and abroad," he said.

"If the city elections become questionable, like that of January-5, 2014, people won't tolerate it. The elections will have to be acceptable to all at

tent candidates for contesting two

# display for first time