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Driverless train runs backwards for 27km

STAR REPORT

It was bizarre. A train ran 27km backwards yesterday, crossing three stations in Rajbari, without its driver.

The train -- Faridpur Express -- could finally be stopped near Pangsha station thanks to a ticket checker's presence of mind.

With the help of some passengers, the ticket checker undid the air-brake hoses between three carriages, which put the brakes on and stopped the train.

Some 150 passengers were on board the runaway train.

According to railway officials, minutes before the train was to leave Rajbari station for Faridpur around 8:00am, its

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3-month turmoil costs nation \$2.2b

WB projects lower growth as hartals, blockades badly hurt economy

STAR REPORT

Political unrest this year has caused greater damage to Bangladesh's economy than that in 2013 when the nation's two main political parties fought over general elections.

This time the country lost \$2.2 billion (approximately Tk 17,150 crore) or 1 percentage point of gross domestic product (GDP) due to prolonged political turmoil, said the World Bank in its "Bangladesh Development Update Report 2015" launched at its Dhaka office yesterday.

The amount is more than two-thirds of the estimated cost of constructing the 6.15 km-long Padma bridge, which the WB declined to finance over corruption allegations.

"Without political turmoil [GDP] growth could have been 6.6 percent," said the report.

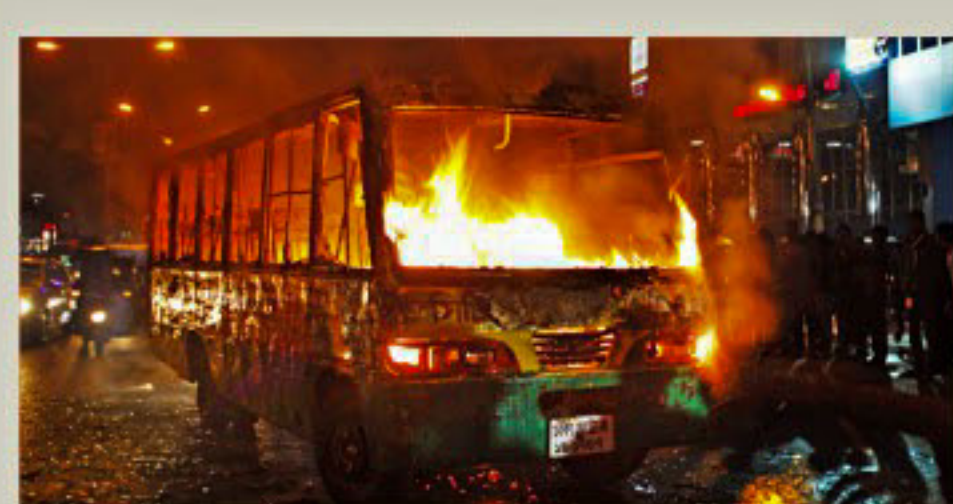
The WB now projects the GDP growth at 5.6 percent for the current fiscal year, down from 6.01 percent in the previous fiscal year.

In its 2014 update report, the Washington-based multilateral lender said Bangladesh economy suffered a loss of \$1.4 billion because of election-related political unrest, which had forced the WB to lower the GDP forecast to 5.4 percent for 2013-14.

In this year's report, the WB, however, predicts that Bangladesh's GDP would grow by 6.3 percent and 6.7 percent in the next two fiscal years.

Johannes Zutt, WB country director for

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This year's damage to economy greater than that of 2013

Without political unrest, growth could be 6.6%

Projected growth 5.6%, down from 6% a year ago



Dhaka North's mayoral hopefuls -- Zonayed Saki, Mahi B Chowdhury, Annisul Huq and Tabith Awal -- are caught in one frame as they attend a view exchange meet organised by the returning officer at Krishibid Institute in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Ensure fair voting

Candidates ask EC to check use of black money, muscle power



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Runners in the Dhaka North City Corporation polls yesterday demanded that the Election Commission take effective measures to prevent the use of muscle power and black money in the elections.

Some of them wanted the deployment of the army and a halt to "police harassment" ahead of the

polls to ensure a level playing field.

The aspirants came up with the demands at a views-exchange meeting between them and the EC, organised by the returning officer of the DNCC, at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

In response to their demands, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad directed

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Blaze of 'Boisabi' colour

Indigenous fest in hills welcomes Bangla New Year

TAMANNA KHAN and SANJOY BARUA

Noboborsho, Boisuk, Biju, Bisu, Sangrain, Klubong Plai, Hongorani, Baha, Faguya -- the names are different in different languages but they all stand for one occasion and one occasion only: the celebration of New Year in Bangladesh.

With the hope of a peaceful and prosperous year ahead, overcoming the failures and sorrows of the past,

different ethnic groups -- including Bangalee, Tripura, Chakma, Chak, Tanchangya, Marma, Rakhine, Mro, Hajong, Santal and Orao -- indulge in festivities.

While the Bangalees celebrate Pahela Baishakh (the first day of the Bangla calendar) on April 14, the indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts exalt in Boisabi around the same time.

On Boisabi -- a term formed by the

first syllables of Tripura festival Boisuk, Marma's Sangrain and Chakma festival Biju or Tanchangya's Bisu -- the merriments in the hills in fact begin two to three days before April 14 and continues for as long as the whole week in some communities.

"We start the celebrations on the second last day of the month of Chaitra [the 12th month of the Bangla calendar] and we call it the Ful Biju,"

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Indigenous people of Rangamati wait to float flowers in the Kaptai Lake yesterday morning -- a ritual to worship the god of water and pray for a life as beautiful as flowers -- beginning the local festival to welcome the New Year.

PHOTO: TRIBENI CHAKMA

TOP QUOTE
"I'm not interested in having battles that frankly started before I was born."
OBAMA
WHO WAS BORN IN 1961, THE YEAR WASHINGTON BROKE TIES WITH COMMUNIST CUBA

Kamaruzzaman buried in Sherpur

Jamaat hartal today

STAR REPORT

Executed war criminal Kamaruzzaman was buried at his village Kumri Mudipara in Sherpur early yesterday.

Amid tight security, the Al-Badr commander of 1971 was buried beside Kumri Bazitkhila Orphanage around 5:20am, as per his last wish. His body reached there around 4:15am yesterday.

Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman's elder brother Kafil Uddin

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সম্পর্কে নতুনত্ব এনে দেবে
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৯৬ জনশান এভিনিউ মলি ক্যাপিটা দেবীর ঢাকা ৯৮৮৮৮৮, ৮৮১৫৫৫৫, ০১১৯৮৮৫০০২৯
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অন্ধুর IS ON
Mojo
f /mojomasti