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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



SUBSIDY FALLS

Spending was 19.37pc less than revised allocation last fiscal year

PAGE B1

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, 27 others launch Breakthrough Energy Coalition fund

PAGE 8

Pakistan denies committing war crimes in 1971

State minister for foreign affairs, war trial campaigners react sharply

REZAUL KARIM and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In an apparent response to Bangladesh's move, Pakistan yesterday summoned acting high commissioner of Bangladesh Maushumi Rahman to its foreign ministry and denied committing any war crimes or atrocities during the 1971 Liberation War.

Pakistan also rejected Bangladesh's statement that trashed Islamabad's concern over the recent executions of war criminals Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

Bangladesh handed over the protest note to the Pakistan high commissioner in Dhaka after summoning him to the foreign ministry on November 23, a day after Pakistan issued a statement over the executions.

Pakistan's latest move triggered outrage in Bangladesh as war crimes trial campaigners accused the country of "resorting to falsehood" over its role in 1971. According to former top Bangladeshi diplomats, the step was "highly inappropriate and unfortunate and clear interference in Bangladesh's domestic affairs".

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said, "If Pakistan

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



US President Barack Obama applauds with fellow world leaders during the opening day of the World Climate Change Conference 2015 (COP21) at Le Bourget, near Paris, yesterday. More than 150 world leaders are meeting under heightened security for the conference.

PHOTO: AFP

COP21 BEGINS IN PARIS

Leaders pledge climate rescue

AFP, Le Bourget

World leaders vowed yesterday to save mankind from catastrophic climate change as a historic summit opened with the "hope of all humanity" laid on their shoulders, but fault lines quickly emerged.

The heads of more than 150 nations -- a record -- kicked off 12 days of talks in search of an elusive pact that would shift the world economy away from its heavy use of fossil fuels blamed for global warming.

They gathered at a conference centre in Le Bourget on the northern outskirts of Paris, swathed by heavy security following terror attacks in the city which appear to have spurred the push for a climate breakthrough.

"Never have the stakes of an international meeting been so high, because it concerns the future of the planet, the future of life," French President Francois Hollande said in an opening speech.

"The hope of all of humanity rests on all of your shoulders."

Scientists warn that without urgent action to curb greenhouse gases, mankind

MORE STORIES ON PAGE 8 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

CAMPAIGN BY LAWMAKERS

AL irked as EC won't lift bar

BNP's demand for deferring polls also rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The Election Commission yesterday rejected the demand of the Awami League and the Jatiya Party for changing a provision of the electoral code that bars MPs from electioneering, drawing sharp reactions from both the parties.

The commission has also said "no" to BNP's call for deferring the polls by 15 days.

On Sunday, two delegations of the ruling AL and the main opposition in parliament JP, which also holds cabinet posts, submitted proposals to the chief election commissioner (CEC), seeking the change so that lawmakers can

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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