



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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24 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE: Tk 12.00



TIME PERSON OF THE YEAR

Angela Merkel named the title-holder for "moral leadership"

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Mustafa Manwar recalls the Liberation War through his puppet plays

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Illegal capital flight hits decade high

GFI report finds capital outflow from Bangladesh rose by 33.78pc in 2013; analysts point at political unrest that year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Illegal capital flight from Bangladesh surged 33.78 percent year-on-year to \$9.66 billion in 2013 through trade misinvoicing and other channels, according to a report of Global Financial Integrity.

The highest in a decade, the amount was more than six percent of the country's GDP and one-third of the export receipts in 2013. It is three times the size of average foreign direct investment Bangladesh received in recent times.

Analysts attribute the surge of illegal capital outflow to political violence and uncertainty that the country saw throughout 2013, particularly in the run-up to the parliamentary elections on January 5 last year.

Of the amount, \$8.35 billion or over 86 percent was siphoned off through trade misinvoicing while

the rest \$1.31 billion could not be traced in the balance of payments data.

The illegal outflow stood at \$7.23 billion in 2012, according to a revised estimate of the GFI report.

The Washington-based research and advisory organisation published the report titled "Illegal Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2004-2013" yesterday.

On average, \$5.59 billion was siphoned out of Bangladesh a year between 2004 and 2013.

This high amount of illegal capital outflow puts Bangladesh at 26th position among 149 countries in the latest GFI ranking of economies exporting illegal capital. Bangladesh was ranked 51st on the previous list.

In the decade covered by the study, Bangladesh lost \$55.88 billion in total because of trade

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Newly built houses at Mawa in Munshiganj for those displaced by the construction work of the Padma bridge. The government is planning to provide skills development training to the affected people so that they can pursue alternative livelihoods.

PADMA BRIDGE

Cushion against grievances

Move on to ensure livelihood for the displaced people

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, back from Mawa

To address the grievances of people affected by land acquisition for the Padma bridge, the government has taken up a plan to train them for new jobs and enable them to find alternative ways of livelihood.

Many were out of work after their land was taken for building the country's largest bridge.

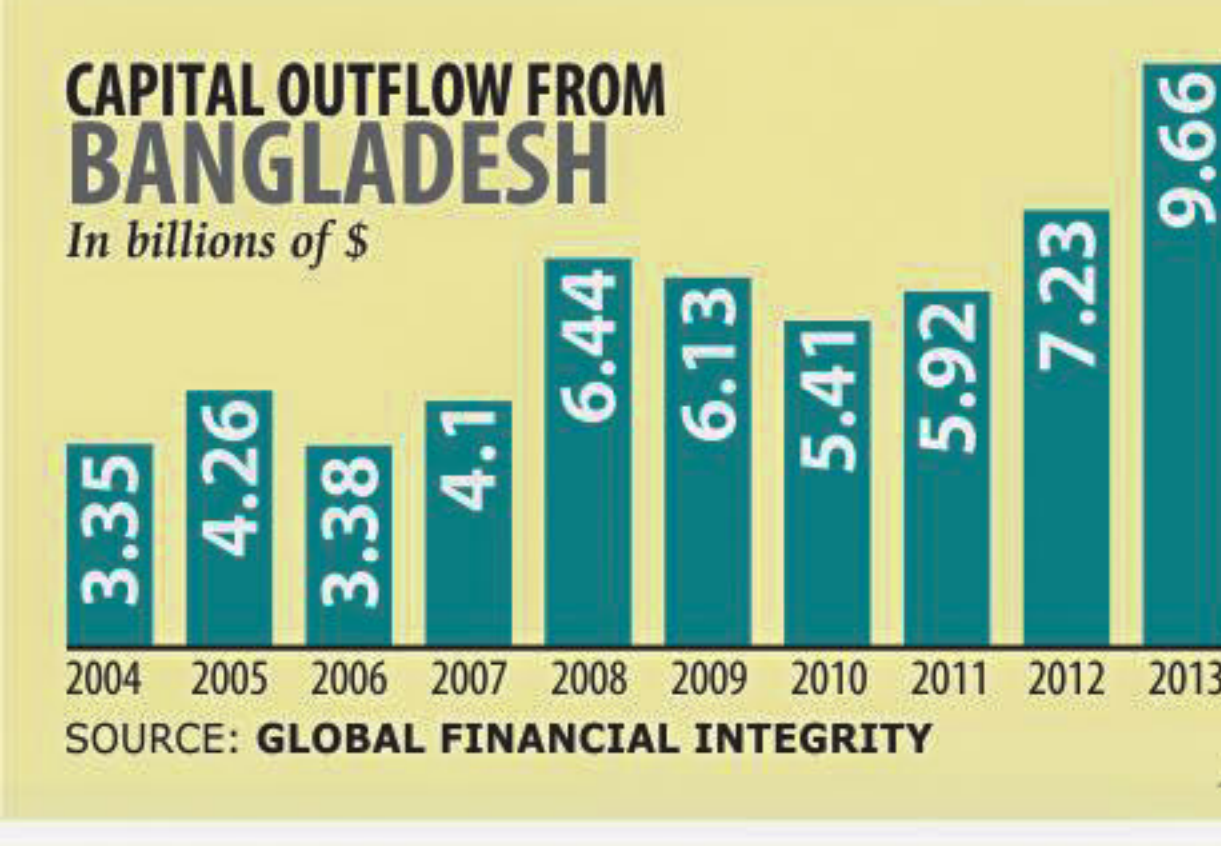
Officials involved in the project said such a plan was unprecedented.

Considering the future of the rehabilitated people, local and international

consultants and experts would be engaged to assess the need for training the people so that they were prepared for new jobs after the completion of the bridge and no one remained unemployed.

"It's part of the project. We will do this to

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Worries remain over rights

UN Human Rights Day today

JAMIL MAHMUD and AKRAM HOSEN

Bangladesh presents a dismal picture of human rights as the world observes the United Nations Human Rights Day today, say rights defenders.

The shrinking space of freedom of speech and attempts by the government to control the mass media are evident, according to them.

Families of the victims of "enforced disappearance" and "crossfire" have been deprived of justice.

"As we observe the day, parents are desperately searching for their offspring. Many families alleged their loved ones had been shot in the legs after being detained by law enforcers," Rights activist Nur Khan told The Daily Star by phone.

He said the state should form a judicial probe commission to find out whereabouts of the victims of "enforced disappearance" and to bring the perpetrators to book.

As these cases have remained unsolved, militants attacked and killed people to curb the rights to free speech, he said, adding the freedom of mass media had been restricted too, in a different way.

In addition to writing to the home ministry, aggrieved families of 19 victims of "enforced disappearance" held human chains and press conferences, seeking government help to trace them.

The victims, most of whom were students, were allegedly picked up between November 28 and December 11 in 2013.

Top criminal Joseph's death penalty commuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday commuted the death sentence of Tofayel Ahmed Joseph, one of the "top-listed terrorists of the 1990s", to life term imprisonment for killing Freedom Party Leader Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa in 1996.

The Appellate Division of the SC also acquitted another accused Kabil Sarkar, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in the same murder case.

Mostafa was shot dead at Mohammadpur area in the capital on May 7, 1996. The following day, Mostafa's wife Rashida Parvin filed a murder case with Mohammadpur police in this connection.

Yesterday, a three-member apex court bench

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PAKISTAN LYING, STILL

The villainy of ZA Bhutto and his rogue country put Bangladesh at a serious disadvantage when it started preparing for the trial of the 195 War Criminals. As a new country without much international diplomatic clout and its attempts for UN membership vetoed by Pakistan's ally China, Bangladesh had to consider the fate of the Bangladeshis held hostage by Pakistan.

WAR CRIMES OF PAK MILITARY OFFICIALS

They did everything to block trial

INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON

Not only did Pakistan commit genocide during the war of 1971, it acted like a rogue nation and held 203 Bangladeshis hostage as bargaining chips to stop trial of its 195 military officers for war crimes who were held as prisoners of war (POWs).

Besides it launched intensive diplomatic efforts including convincing China to veto Bangladesh's bid for UN membership and appealing to the International Court of Justice to stop trial of the 195 war criminals.

These POWs included one lieutenant general, five major generals, 20 brigadiers, four colonels, 40 lieutenant colonels, 81 majors, 41 captains and two lieutenants.

They included Lt-General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi and Maj-Generals Nazar Hossain Shah, Mohammad

The New York Times

Bhutto Threatens to Try Bengalis Held in Pakistan; 'These Gladiator Bouts' Army's Response Feared Status of Non-Bengalis 'Pride, Vanity, Revenge'

By BERNARD WEINRAUB (Special to The New York Times) May 29, 1973, Section 3, Column 1, words

PERMISSIONS

[DISPLAYING ABSTRACT] President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has warned that if Pakistani prisoners of war go on trial in Bangladesh, similar tribunals will be held against Bengalis.

Hossain Ansari, Mohammad Zamshed, Quazi Abdul Mazid Khan and Rao Farman Ali.

Pakistan also would not commit itself to the repatriation of about four lakh Bangladeshis held there in concentration camps in return for the release of its army officers. The

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TOP QUOTE

"The attitude of the Election Commission is actually a reflection of the society where discrimination against minorities is deep-seated."

NHRC CHAIRMAN DR. MIZANUR RAHMAN ABOUT ALLOCATION OF STEREOTYPICAL ELECTORAL SYMBOLS TO WOMEN COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2015

Quit race or face action

AL gives rebel candidates 24-hr ultimatum; prospect of BNP-Jamaat pact little: sources

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has given its rebel candidates a 24-hour ultimatum to withdraw their candidacies.

The party has threatened them with tough organisational action in case of their failure to comply with the ultimatum.

The decision came at a meeting chaired by party president Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban last night.

Party leaders Obaidul Quader, Mahbul Alam Hanif, Dipu Moni, Ahmed Hossain, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Abdus Sobhan Golap and Asim Kumar Ukil, among others, were present at the meeting.

ANOTHER STORY ON PAGE 16 SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



AL candidate Haji Alauddin, left, who is set to become the mayor of Feni municipality unopposed, is seen presenting his party nomination letter to Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at Feni Circuit House on Tuesday in the presence of Nizam Hazari, right.

PHOTO COURTESY: NIZAM HAZARI

Almost all 'elected' unopposed in Feni

Credit goes to Nizam Hazari

RASHIDUL HASAN

Even though Abul Kayes Ripon holds a top post in Feni district Awami League, he could not run for mayor in Feni municipality as an independent since his local MP's men did not let him.

"It seems Feni is different from the rest of Bangladesh as the local police and administration are managed by him [AL MP Nizam Hazari]. Everyone knows who he is. I don't want to mention his name ... I have to live here," said Ripon, senior vice-president of Feni AL.

Ripon said he along with four to five of his aides was on the way to the upazila nirbahi officer's office around noon on December 3, the last date for filing nomination papers.

"But they threatened me of dire consequences if I submitted my nomination. I had to return."

This is just one example how elections at the Feni municipality was being manipulated by Nizam Hazari and his men, Kamal Uddin Mahmud, councillor of Ward-8 of Feni municipality, told The Daily Star yesterday morning.

He was forced to withdraw nomination on December 7.

Of 18 councillor posts in the municipality, 16 are set to get elected unopposed, reports a correspondent from Feni, quoting the local election officials.

In Ward-18 and -14, an opponent each remains in the race against AL.