

**PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE**



**MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER**



# Cargo stalemate at Ctg port

*No offloading for 10 days as owners continue suspension of lighter vessels' operation; a decision likely today*

**DWAIPAYAN BARIUA, Ctg**

The outer anchorage of Chittagong port is seeing long queues of ships as offloading of imported goods from these ships has been mostly suspended for the last 10 days due to non-operation of lighter vessels.

The vessels remained off the water first because of a six-day workers' strike till April 26. The strike ended after the shipping ministry at a tripartite meeting on April 26 decided that the water transport workers' pay would be hiked 135 percent.

The owners, however, objected to the decision and suspended operation of their vessels. The suspension continued as of filing this report last night.

A total of 65 ocean-going vessels carrying around 18 lakh tonnes of 12 types of imported goods including food grains were moored at the outer anchorage till yesterday for lightening the goods there.

Goods were partially offloaded from only 18 out of the 65 ships till yesterday as a few industry owners arranged offloading with their own lighter vessels over the last four days.

Goods carried by these 65 mother vessels include cement clinker, wheat, coal, scrap, ball clay, steel billets, peas, stone, raw sugar, urea, salt and crude oil.

Only four types of goods -- cement clinker, peas, raw sugar and crude oil -- could be lightened on a small scale in last four days by the industry owners' vessels.

A total of 36 vessels are now waiting with 9.94 lakh tonnes of cement clinkers while only 40 thousand tonnes could be lightened in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

CPA Deputy Conservator Captain Najmul Alam said despite long queues, there is still no vessel congestion at the outer anchorage since the vast area with around 80 square miles can accommodate more ships without any problem.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

# TOWARDS LIGHT, DESPITE ODDS



Children of the Khasi community studying in a room lit by just a small lantern in a tea estate of Maroichhara in Karmadha of Moulvibazar. Electricity supply has not reached the remote hilly area and there are no government schools either. Despite the shortcomings and a lack of facilities, the children do not make a fuss and just get on with their studies.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

# Shafik's arrest to 'cover up Joy's wealth'

**Alleges Khaleda**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday claimed Sajeed Wazed Joy had \$300 million in a bank account and that this was mentioned in a case in the United States.

Asking why the government is silent about this, Khaleda also alleged the government has arrested journalist Shafik Rehman to cover it up.

"A young non-resident Bangladeshi collected some information after bribing an FBI agent. A case filed in this connection mentioned that \$300 million, which is equivalent to Tk 2,500 crore, remains in a bank account of the prime minister's son [Joy]," Khaleda

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# SIM RE-REGISTRATION New deadline May 31

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government has extended the deadline for biometric SIM re-registration by a month after a third of the mobile phone subscribers could not complete the process within the given time that ended yesterday.

The re-registration process would continue until May 31 midnight, Tarana Halim, state minister for posts and telecommunications, announced at a press conference at the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) office in the capital yesterday evening.

The deadline has been extended considering public sufferings following high traffic on the national identity database (NID) server, which had slowed down the process.

The SIMs which were not re-registered until yesterday would remain deactivated for three hours anytime in the next one month, she said and termed the move a 'warning' to their owners.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



# TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT COLLEGES Surplus in capital, shortage outside

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Colleges in the capital have more teachers than there are posts but government colleges across the country have had teacher shortages for years, said speakers at a conference.

Swarupkathi College in Pirojpur has 56 posts for teachers, of which 26 are vacant, but Sarkari Bigyan College in Dhaka has 48 teachers but it only has 23 posts.

One of the reasons behind this uneven distribution of teachers was their unwillingness to work outside Dhaka, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid while addressing the inaugural session of "Government College Principals' Conference 2016" yesterday.

In presence of the minister and high officials of the ministry and department of higher education, college principals talked about how the shortage of teachers and classrooms were affecting education at government colleges.

Mozzlem Hossain, principal of Swarupkathi College said his college had no

mathematics and zoology teachers for over three years while the only sociology teacher had been transferred from his college over six months ago.

Abdus Sattar Majumdar said his Boalmari Govt College in Faridpur had no teachers for basic subjects like Bangla, English and botany for months.

However, 14 colleges in Dhaka have more teachers than there are posts, said Prof SM Wahiduzzaman, director (college and administration) of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE).

Citing examples, he said Dhaka College has 224 teachers against 200 posts, Govt Titumir College has 198 against 174 and Bangla College has 140 against 117.

Principals of the colleges in remote areas suggested that taking measures, like introducing special allowances or making it mandatory for all teachers to work outside metropolitan cities for about three years, could help solve the problem.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# Computer into the eyeball!

Google patents the device



**INDEPENDENT.CO.UK**

Google is working on a computer that can be injected into people's eyeballs.

A new patent filing shows plans for a device that would stick into people's eyes and correct their sight, but also provide extra powers. Though the technology in the patent may never actually be released, it is another example of Google's apparent interest in getting computers onto and into people's eyes.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Locals of Suruj in Tangail catch fish from the Dhaleshwari river on Friday. Every year after the end of the rainy season, the locals, most of whom who had lost all their land to river erosion, dump tree branches near the bank of the river to make them good homes for fishes. Come the first Bangla month of the year, they catch fish with nets. The photos were taken on Friday.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL



# BASIC SCAM Two business persons held

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday arrested two businessmen in a case filed over a Tk 76 crore loan scam at BASIC Bank.

Sarwar Jahan and Tamim Suja, directors of MRL Auto Bricks, were arrested from Jamalpur around 10:30am, said ACC Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

The ACC filed the case with Paltan Police Station on September 23 last year.

It is one of the 56 cases

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1




**PRAYER TIMING MAY 1**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	4-20	12-45	4-45	6-29	8-00
JAMAAT	4-55	1-15	5-00	6-34	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION