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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



## SOLAR PANEL MAKERS' WOES

Stiff competition, slow demand put them in a tight corner

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## "GOODBYE" TO US TIES

It's "time to say goodbye" to the US, says Philippines president during China visit

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## \$2.76B CHINESE FUND

# Quick move to execute 3 projects

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is acting fast to implement the projects China agreed to fund during President Xi Jinping's Dhaka visit last week.

Only four days into the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two sides, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs yesterday selected three Chinese firms to implement three mega projects with an estimated \$2.76 billion of Chinese soft loan, officials said.

Two of the projects are under the railway ministry and one is under the shipping ministry.

These are among the 28 projects for whose financing a primary agreement was signed during the Chinese president's October 14-15 state visit.

Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division estimates that Dhaka would get \$21.5 billion in soft loan from Beijing in the next five years.

Akhaura-Sylhet dual gauge rail line

\$1.76b

Joydevpur-Ishwardi dual gauge double rail line

\$753m

Expansion & modernisation of Mongla Port

\$249m

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Materials for installing oxygen pipeline are left inside the lone Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Bangladesh National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. The installation work was hampered due to alleged extortion by some hospital staff. Medical equipment is taken outside the unit and newborns are moved to general beds, bottom. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Insensitive

Hospital shifts ICU patients to general wards for renovation

RASHIDUL HASAN

With flagrant disregard for newborns who require constant intensive care, some staff of a city hospital have delayed an installation work at the NICU for hours allegedly to extort a hospital contractor.

The authorities of the Bangladesh National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in the city wanted to have oxygen pipelines installed at the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit so that babies with critical conditions could be provided oxygen through incubators instead of cylinders.

The installation work, which was awarded to Spectra International Ltd, was supposed to begin on Tuesday. Six children, who were admitted to the NICU, were moved to the general ward unit so that the work could be done properly.

But when the supervisor and workers of the firm reached the hospital with necessary equipment and

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# Unhealthy, uneven urbanisation

Eastern part of country including Dhaka under serious pressure of migration from other parts, says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is experiencing an unbalanced regional urbanisation with its western cities and towns witnessing low or minus growth in contrast to those in the eastern part, including Dhaka city, says a study by the United Nations Population Fund.

The population of Khulna city declined by 11 percent and Pabna town by 10 percent

between 2001 and 2011, according to the study "Urbanisation and Migration in Bangladesh" released yesterday.

"Overall, in the eastern part of the country, 34 percent of the population lives in urban areas, compared with 17 percent in the western areas," mentions the study based on the 2011 Census.

The eastern and western regions are

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### ALARMING

34% urban population (16.2m) lives in Dhaka city

Dhaka's land area is just 1pc (1,371 sqkm) of the country's total landmass, but its contribution to GDP is 40%

34% people of eastern part live in urban areas, against 17pc in western part

Population in Khulna and Rajshahi cities decreased between 2001 and 2011

### WHAT TO DO?

Develop secondary towns in different parts of the country

Create employment opportunities and quality health and education facilities outside Dhaka

Develop commuter trains or other transport systems connecting Dhaka city with rural areas

Empower local governments

# Sundarbans risks being World Heritage in Danger

Warns Unesco as it stands firm against Rampal, asks govt to relocate the plant to somewhere else

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the government's assurance that the Rampal power plant would not harm the Sundarbans, the Unesco stays firm in its stance against the project and has again requested the government to cancel and relocate it to a more suitable place.

Otherwise, the UN's culture and science agency may place the forest on the list of "World Heritage in Danger" next year, says a

report posted on its website on Tuesday.

The report, titled "Report On The Mission To The Sundarbans World Heritage Site, Bangladesh", came after the government responded to Unesco's concerns over the Rampal project, saying it would go ahead with the power plant as it would not "harm" the Sundarbans.

On October 9, Nurul Karim, acting secretary of the environment and forest ministry,

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The two Test captains, Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim, left, and England's Alastair Cook, pose with the series trophy at the Radisson Blu in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

# Batting, rookies the key

Tigers' first Test against England starts today

SAKEB SUBHAN from Chittagong

There is one statistic that is hard to ignore when looking at the two teams that will take the field for the first Test match at 10:00am today at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong. From August 3 last year, when Bangladesh's second Test against South Africa met a rainy conclusion, the home team have not played a single Test. England mean-

while have played 16 Tests in that period.

Then of course there is the fact that England are the oldest cricketing nation with an enduring emphasis on Test cricket while Bangladesh, as the newest nation, are still finding their feet in a format they play sporadically. Seven victories in 93 matches attest to that, and their longest gap between Tests in their 16-year history should not induce much confidence in their

chances. But there is some hope to be gleaned from the form of the top order and some bright prospects who may get their first Test cap today.

However, much like head coach Chandika Hathurusingha who on Saturday said that winning the match would be a bonus, skipper Mushfiqur Rahim was apparently also not very optimistic about the chances of an eighth win, instead focusing on being

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# Clinton, Trump set for final debate

AFP, Las Vegas

Democrat Hillary Clinton and rival Donald Trump waded into their last presidential debate this morning (Bangladesh time) with the Republican candidate spiralling downward in the polls amid allegations of sexual misconduct and wild charges of a "rigged" US election.

With less than three weeks to go before Americans cast ballots November 8, polls showed Clinton widening her lead over the Republican nominee.

The 90-minute debate at the University of Las Vegas, Nevada offers Trump what may be his last chance to turn around a campaign that has been battered by a stream of allegations he groped and forced himself on women.

"We've only just begun to fight, believe me," Trump said while campaigning in Grand Junction, Colorado Tuesday. "This is



our final shot, folks."

Clinton has kept a low profile in recent days, shutting herself in with aides at a hotel near her home in Chappaqua, New York to prepare for the third televised debate of the campaign.

Both candidates on Tuesday jettied separately into this gambling and entertainment capital in the Nevada desert ahead of the high stakes encounter.

Moderated by Fox News journalist Chris

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**TOP QUOTE**

"In last fifty years, Dhaka has been growing without any planning. How can we expect it to be a liveable city?"

PROFESSOR  
**NURUL ISLAM NAZEM**  
DU DEPT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT, SAID AT A DISCUSSION YESTERDAY

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