

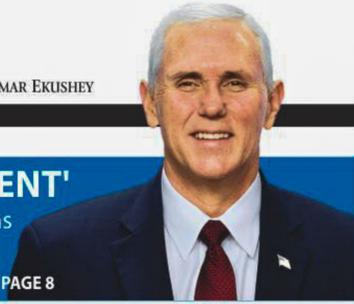


The Daily Star

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PAGE 8

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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Is the importance of Bangla eroding in the age of globalisation?

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'STRONG COMMITMENT'

Pence tries to reassure Europeans of US support

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Homage to language heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life paid homage to the Language Movement martyrs, who laid down their lives for the recognition of Bangla as a state language on this day 65 years ago.

Humming "Amar Bhaiyer Rokte Rangano Ekushey February...", thousands of people thronged the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital and elsewhere in the early hours today to pay homage to the language heroes.

As the clock struck midnight, President Abdul Hamid led the nation in paying tributes by placing wreaths. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed a wreath at the altar just after

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People from all walks of life gather at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital in the early hours today to pay homage to the Language Movement martyrs.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Padma Bridge controversy is alive again ever since an Ontario court has literally trashed the investigation by Canadian police and evidence of World Bank last week. No Bangladeshi politicians or officials were accused in Canada. Existence of related corruption in Bangladesh was not even mentioned. Yet it kicked up an uproar in Bangladesh, which is building the crucial bridge with its own resources upon WB's refusal to fund the project over graft evidence. Many now ask what evidence the global lender actually had. Based on the Jan 6 ruling, The Daily Star report will answer some of the questions.

PADMA BRIDGE 'GRAFT CONSPIRACY' Flimsy evidence, flawed probe

MARTIN SWAPAN PANDEY

The Canadian police investigation in the Padma bridge corruption conspiracy case was essentially flawed and the allegations were based on nothing more than "gossip, speculation and rumour".

In their court filings to obtain permission to intercept the private communications of the accused, the Canadian police had submitted some documents, such as emails, supplied by the World Bank as "evidence" of a possible corruption conspiracy scam. The WB had got those from four "tipsters" although the court suspected the number of whistleblower could even be one or maximum two.

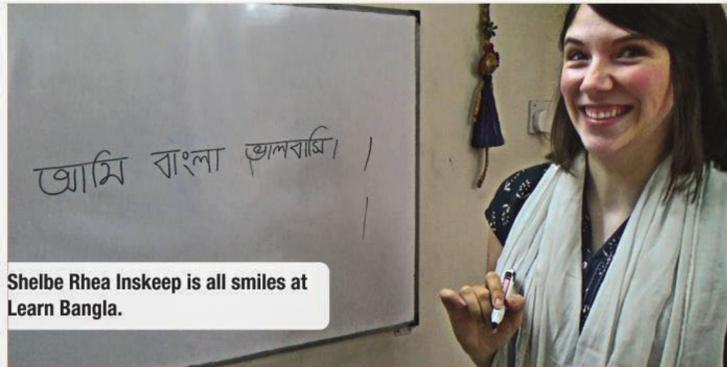
At least two tipsters admitted in their emails to the WB that they only heard "rumours" of corruption involving the project. Yet neither the WB nor the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) independently verified those allegations or looked into the reliability of these sources, said the Superior Court of Justice in Ontario, Toronto, in its January 6 ruling.

The 26-page order came in response to petitions by the three accused, who challenged the legality of the wiretap evidence. The ruling is now

FULL TEXT OF THE COURT RULING: [HTTP://BIT.LY/2M4HZUK](http://bit.ly/2M4HZUK) SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

From far and wide for love of Bangla

Foreigners learning the language from Learn Bangla, a private organisation



Shelbe Rhea Inskeep is all smiles at Learn Bangla.

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY and WASIM BIN HABIB

Many foreigners come to Bangladesh to see the lush green country, historic places and to learn about the rich folklore and traditions. Some come just for work.

But for Romanian youth Octavian Retegan, the reason was completely

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



BLOGGER RAJIB MURDER Convicted planner, deported from Malaysia, arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Redwanul Azad Rana, a fugitive sentenced to death over the murder of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider, was arrested yesterday soon after he had landed in Dhaka being deported by Malaysian authorities.



Rana

A key organiser of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) in its initial years and the main planner of Rajib murder, Rana was held along with an associate named Ashraf in Uttara around 2:00pm.

On February 15, 2013, blogger and Shabbagh movement activist Rajib was hacked to death near his house in Mirpur.

For the killing, a Dhaka court on December 31, 2015 handed down death penalty to Rana, also a former North South University student, and another NSU student Faisal Bin Nayem alias Dweep.

Six others -- five NSU students and ABT chief and spiritual leader Jashim Uddin Rahmani -- were awarded different jail terms.

To execute the plan to kill Rajib, ABT members had worked being divided into two -- "intel group" and "execution group".

As law enforcers detected Rana after the murder, he fled to Malaysia in 2014 managing a passport where he faked his present and permanent addresses, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Monirul Islam said yesterday.

"We had been maintaining regular contacts with Malaysian authorities and providing them with intelligence about the possible whereabouts of Rana. Malaysian detectives tracked and arrested him recently and deported him with an associate yesterday," the CTTC chief said.

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WB hands in 2 duty-free vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank yesterday handed over two vehicles to Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID), five days after it sought information about 16 vehicles brought into the country duty-free.

A protocol officer of the WB's Dhaka office turned over the vehicles to officials at CIID Kakrail office around 11:00am yesterday, Moinul Khan, director general of CIID, told The Daily Star.

Two WB officials, who brought in the vehicles free of duty under privileged persons' facility, have either left the country or the organisation without transferring the vehicles to CIID which is a punishable offence, he said.

By doing so, the two officials misused their privilege, said Moinul, adding: "We are considering the vehicles as evidence and will frame charges against them after an investigation."

On Sunday, a three-member WB team met CIID officials at its office to discuss the issue.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning February 23, The Daily Star's five-part 232-page special supplement series titled **BUILDING BLOCKS OF TOMORROW** will be published.

The segments are:

- DRIVERS OF ECONOMY
- LIVING AND LIFESTYLE
- FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT
- ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION
- TOWARDS A JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Renowned experts from various fields have enriched these publications with their insightful contributions. Make sure you get a copy of this collector's item free of charge, from your hawk.

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Take measures to end Rohingya crisis

Dhaka urges international community as UN special envoy meets foreign minister



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka yesterday reiterated its call to the international community for taking measures to address the root causes of the Rohingya crisis.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali made the call at a meeting with the visiting UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, at state guesthouse Padma.

Mahmood stressed the need for a peaceful resolution of the

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



TOP!
QUOTE

"Sweden? Terror attack? What has he been smoking? Questions abound."

FORMER SWEDISH PM
CARL BILDT
TWEETED AFTER TRUMP REFERS TO NON-EXISTENT SWEDEN TERROR INCIDENT



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