



## The Azzurri have fallen

STAR SPORT DESK

Danielle de Rossi, Italy's long-serving midfielder and a 2006 World Cup winner, had a very animated and revealing moment at the dugout during the latter stages of Italy's 0-0 draw against Sweden in Milan on Monday night.

The 34-year-old midfielder was seen arguing with one of the coaching staff when asked to start warming up. He reportedly told the person: "Why the hell should I go on? We don't need to draw here, we need to win!"

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## CHINA-FUNDED PROJECTS Dhaka seeks to speed up deals

Targets 12 priority projects involving \$9b Chinese loan for next year

### SOME OF THE KEY PROJECTS



24-km Dhaka airport-Ashulia elevated expressway  
**\$1,394m**

Joydebpur to Ishwardi dual gauge rail track  
**\$753m**



Marine drive expressway, coastal protection work from Shitakundu to Cox's Bazar  
**\$2,856m**

Expansion, modernisation of Mongla Port facilities  
**\$249m**

Conversion of metre gauge rail track into dual gauge on Akhaura-Sylhet route  
**\$1,756m**

Joydebpur-Mymensingh dual gauge rail track  
**\$258m**

REAZ AHMAD AND REJAUL KARIM BYRON

More than a year after the Chinese president's historic Dhaka visit, some of Bangladesh's key development projects have finally gained momentum.

Dhaka and Beijing have reached the final stage of signing loan agreements on eight projects, including the crucial Padma Bridge Rail Link. Last week, Bangladesh forwarded to China a new list of 12 projects earmarking those as priorities in 2018, say finance ministry sources.

China would provide Bangladesh with over \$9.45 billion in credit for the 12 projects.

Completion of these projects would mean better rail communication, revival of the state-run jute mills, cut in system loss in the power sector and development of road infrastructure, they added.

These are part of the 27 projects that the two countries agreed to implement with Chinese assistance under an umbrella deal struck during President Xi Jinping's Dhaka visit in October last year. Xi had promised to give soft loans of \$21.5 billion for these projects.

Three of the next 12 projects involve upgrading railway infrastructure with Chinese financing of \$2.76 billion. They include laying out dual-gauge rail track in parallel to the existing metre-gauge one from Joydebpur to Mymensingh, construction of dual-gauge track on Joydebpur-Ishwardi railway section, and conversion of metre-gauge rail tracks into dual-gauge ones on Akhaura-Sylhet route.

Once implemented, these would help cut travel time and let passengers experience better train journeys, say railway officials.

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## 9 directors of SIBL resign

Cite personal reasons; latest twist came at Monday's board meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Social Islami Bank Limited has seen another dramatic turn in a space of two weeks, with nine directors resigning at once.

All of them stepped down for personal reasons at a board meeting at the SIBL headquarters in the capital on Monday, according to Anwarul Azim Arif, the newly-appointed chairman of the Shariah-based bank.

Of the nine, five are shareholder directors and the rest independent.

The five sponsor directors are Hakim Md Yousuf Harun Bhuiyan, Lily Amin, Afia Begum, Md Abdur Razzaque and Md Aminuddin. The independent directors are Md Abdur Rahman, Abdul Mohit,

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## No decision yet on army deployment

Says CEC, but his colleague contradicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chief election commissioner and one of his colleagues have contradicted each other over the issue of army deployment during the next general election.

Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar on multiple occasions in the last two days said army will be deployed.

But CEC KM Nurul Huda yesterday said the commission was yet to decide on the matter.

"The commission has not taken any decision in this regard [though] discussions are underway whether the army would be called out during the polls," state-run news agency BSS quoted him as saying yesterday.

About Talukdar's statement, Huda said, "It is his personal remark."



KM Nurul Huda

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## B'baria-style plot behind Rangpur arson

Says home boss; Titu Roy held

STAR REPORT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said there might be a conspiracy behind the Thakurpara arson attack on the Hindu community.

"The Rangpur incident is the recurrence of Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar attack. There might a plot behind it," UNB quoted him as saying.

He made the comments hours after the arrest of Titu Chandra Roy over his alleged Facebook post that triggered Friday's mayhem in the village in Rangpur.

At least 30 Hindu houses were looted, vandalised and torched by zealots following the post that "hurt religious sentiments of the Muslims". A man was killed and 20

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## Congratulations MR TANVEER AHMED, CIP



On recognition of his contribution to the export sector in Bangladesh the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has conferred the prestigious status of CIP (Commercially Important Person) on **Mr Tanveer Ahmed**, Managing Director of Elegant Group. We express our heartiest gratitude to the Government.

**- ELEGANT GROUP**



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**Mr. Abdullah Mohammad Zubair,**

Managing Director of Talha Fabrics Ltd. (Sister Concern of Noman Group),

for being rewarded CIP (Export)-2014 status by People's Republic of Bangladesh on Nov, 12, 2017. Since such success signifies the distinguished evidence of his continuous dedication and restless effort, we convey him heartiest Congratulations in this proud event.

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