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## 6 Bangladeshis killed in Saudi camp fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six Bangladeshi workers died in a massive fire accident at a labour camp in Saudi Arabia Sunday.

The deceased are Anwar Hossain, Masum Shikdar and Rashedul of Narsingdi, Arshad of Ashuganj, Arif Shikdar of Gazipur and Alaaddin of Pabna, sources in the Kingdom told The Daily Star.

A team from Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh was working to recover the bodies and their belongings from the ruin, they said. However, officials of the embassy there could not be reached over phone.

The Arab News, a Saudi daily, yesterday said around 40 workers were reported missing after the fire broke out in the camp, approximately 140 km northwest of Dhahran. There were other nationalities

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## JMB planned to kill, foil polls

Hasina, Khaleda were prime targets; about dozen operatives from India hired to execute bloodshed plot

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) had planned to assassinate either Sheikh Hasina or Khaleda Zia in its failed bid to foil the ninth parliamentary polls.

This chilling information was revealed by Zahidul Islam Sumon alias "Boma" Mizan during interrogation, say sources in the elite Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), which arrested him in Mirpur in the capital on May 14.

Mizan also told the interrogators they had even hired about a dozen JMB members from India to execute the blueprint, says an investigator on the understanding of anonymity.

The investigator who interrogated Mizan on several occasions says the militant leader admitted that JMB has a network in West Bengal in India which is weakening gradually.

The outlawed outfit had earlier formed a small but effective group in India. But most of its Indian members defected following continuous crackdown on JMB in Bangladesh which saw arrests of many top to field level leaders here.

Six leaders of JMB top brass including its ex-chief Abdur Rahman were executed following their arrests.

Rahman had first initiated the move to form a small group in India when he went to the country to receive training on arms and explosives. He had also received

training in Afghanistan and Pakistan by Tehrik-e-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Mizan told the investigators he used to communicate with Saif, a significant contact person in West Bengal, over phone.

Saif who still works for JMB in India is responsible to conduct "Dawati" [invitation to embrace same ideology] activities to recruit workers for the Indian chapter.

The investigator citing Mizan's statement told The Daily Star: "Before the national elections 10 Indian JMB members visited Bangladesh in two equally divided groups."

The Indian JMB members were

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## ZIA ORPHANAGE FUND GRAFT Khaleda, son charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against Opposition Leader and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her son



Tarique Rahman and four others of embezzlement of Tk 2.10 crore by forming fraudulent Zia Orphanage Trust.

This is the first move by the anti-graft body against high profile graft suspects since the Awami League-led grand alliance assumed power. The charge sheet was submitted at a time when the ACC was not running smoothly and many of the accused are getting away with ACC cases due to technical flaws of the commission.

Though the ACC has been talking of initiating legal moves and challenging releases of suspects, no such development has been apparent since the present ACC Chief Ghulam Rahman took over.

ACC suffered a halt in its activities since Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury resigned on April 2, 85 days after the Awami League-led grand alliance assumed power.

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## Shab-e-Barat tonight

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat or the night of fortunes will be observed across the country tonight with devotees seeking divine blessings for the wellbeing of mankind and the Muslim Ummah.

The Muslim devotees will pass the night offering special prayers, recitation from the Holy Quran, holding milad mahfil, zikr, and other religious rituals to mark the occasion with due solemnity.

They will also visit the graveyards of their relatives and Muslim saints overnight and distribute sweets and

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## Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Friday).

## Rid's fatal syrup still on shelves

Another child suffers renal failure after paracetamol intake

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Days after the Rid Pharmaceutical plant was sealed off and its deadly paracetamol syrup ordered to be withdrawn, another infant became a victim of the toxic syrup in Rangpur.

A Rangpur pharmacy sold a paracetamol syrup of Rid to Rani's parents and she fell ill after taking the medicine.

The government sealed off the Brahmanbaria plant of Rid that was proved guilty of using poisonous diethylene glycol in its paracetamol syrup. The move came after 25 children at two Dhaka hospitals died in July of renal failure after having the syrup.

Four days after the plant was sealed off, on July 21, parents of 10-month-old Rani of Syedpur under Pirgachha in Rangpur gave her the syrup. A local pharmacy sold the syrup to them on July 26.

Rani is now fighting for life. She has renal failure. Her parents had to take her home yesterday from Rangpur Medical College Hospital since they cannot afford to take her to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital in Dhaka, which the doctors had recommended.

Even though the product was supposed to be withdrawn from all pharmacies across the country as per the government

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An excavator of Dhaka Wasa re-excavates the 60-foot-wide canal at the Hatirjheel project site yesterday. The photo was taken near the BGMEA Bhaban.

PHOTO STAR

## Sugar, edible oil prices go up

Traders blame hike in int'l market, panic buying

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Prices of edible oil and sugar, two widely consumed basic commodities, have shot up in the local market ahead of Ramadan.

Traders blamed international price hike, panic buying, stockpiling and hoarding of goods by a section of unscrupulous traders for sudden price hike of the two items.

On Wednesday at Moulvi Bazar, the city's largest wholesale market, palm oil was selling between Tk 2,280 and Tk 2,290 per maund. A week ago it was between Tk 2,190 and Tk 2,200.

Super palm oil was selling at Tk 2,400 per maund. The price was Tk 2,320 per maund a week ago. Soya bean oil was selling at Tk 2,680 per maund, a rise of Tk 80 from Tk 2,600 per maund a week ago, traders said.

In retail, non-canned palm oil was selling at Tk 64-66 per kilogram (kg), super palm at Tk 67-70 per kg and soya bean oil at Tk 73-78 per kg. The prices of edible oil in retail increased by Tk 2-5 per kg over the last week, traders said.

Five-litre containers of soya bean oil of different brands were selling at Tk 385-400 in retail. They were selling between Tk 375 and Tk 390 a week ago.

Talking to The Daily Star Sher Mohammad, president of Bangladesh Wholesale Edible Oil Merchants Association, said

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