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TO THE BRAIN

Scientists develop a new way of delivering drugs to the brain

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MCCULLUM CONFIDENT

The New Zealand cricketer says knowing Dhaka condition will give them an edge

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CAREER PATH

An array of choices exists for young talents

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A date with destiny

INAM AHMED and SHAMIM ASHRAF

The crew knew they were entering a dangerous territory infested with pirates; and they were on the watch.

They were near Minicoy Island, 300 nautical miles off the Sri Lankan coast.

For the last two days and nights, they put out a watch. They regularly scanned the horizon. But it was a calm and quiet sea, hardly giving away the dangers that lurk in this difficult terrain.

The crew members wanted to cross the area as fast as possible. It might take another two days.

But hearts sank on the third day, December 5, when a fast approaching skiff 15 nautical miles away was spotted on the radar. It was travelling fast, directly towards MV Jahan Moni.

And through the binoculars they could see the most dreadful sight they would never want to see

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Emotion-choked family members of Abu Naser, a freed sailor of MV Jahan Moni, receive him at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Sailors received in tears

Ctg airport witnesses a highly emotion-charged reunion on arrival of 26 crews freed by Somali pirates

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Torrents of tears and smiles, joy and relief engulfed Shah Amanat International Airport as the 26 crew of hijacked ship MV Jahan Moni landed yesterday afternoon.

A flight of Oman airways boeing 737-800 brought the crew home after their agonising

100-day captivity at the Gulf of Aden on Somali coast.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan received the returnees with bouquets at the airport's VIP Lounge. The crew were also welcomed through a reception at a brief ceremony at the airport.

Most of the crewmembers failed to hold

tears when reunited with their families.

"I thought that I would not be able to get back home ever. I passed my time in great panic and anxiety and always kept praying," said one of the returnees Rukhsana Gulzar, wife of the ship's Chief Engineer Matiu Mawla.

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A DEN OF PIRATES PAGE 9
ARRIVAL OF SAILORS IN PICTURES PAGE 3



A snap of MV Jahan Moni.

\$4.62m ransom came in 2 bags

INAM AHMED and SHAMIM ASHRAF

When the two suitcases wrapped specially for waterproofing were opened on the bridge of MV Jahan Moni, the pirates gave out a cry of joy. Bundles of greenbacks, all in hundred dollar denomination, were stacked inside.

The crew members looked on in awe. Never in their life have they seen so much of money.

The pirates started counting. They sat in groups and checked each bundle. They quickly scanned the notes, just to be sure there was no hoax here. To be sure they were green, new notes. And that they got the exact amount they negotiated for, \$4.72 million -- \$4.62 million as ransom and \$100,000 for fuel to bring the ship home.

Satisfied, they were all smiles. They quickly gave the green signal to the negotiators that the ransom was perfectly in order.

However, Mohammed Shahjahan, Managing Director of SR Shipping and also owner of MV Jahan Moni, said they did not pay any ransom.

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Don't trust army, Mujib told Bhutto

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

On the morning of March 22, 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman resumed his dialogue with President Yahya Khan. At the same time, the Awami League team was busy negotiating the wording of the proposed proclamation with the President's advisers. On arriving at the President's House, Mujib found Bhutto there. As the Bangalee leader would later say, he pulled the PPP chairman aside and on to the verandah in order not to have their conversation overheard or

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Biman begins repatriation from Tunisia

MORSHED ALI KHAN, from Djerba, Tunisia

For the first time since the Libyan crisis started a Biman flight yesterday picked up 250 stranded Bangladeshis from Djerba Airport for home.

With another chartered flight leaving Djerba with probably the same number of Bangladeshi workers, the total number of Bangladeshi nationals now to be repatriated stands at 1,731, according to IOM officials at Choucha camp.

The officials said the next flights for repatriation of Bangladeshis are on March 23 and 24.

Meanwhile, bombing on Libya by the international coalition forces has forced many migrant African nationals leave the country. According to Tunisian press, about 2,000 Bangladeshi migrants from different African countries entered Tunisia over the last 24 hours while 20,000

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ME WORKERS Govt to seek assistance for rehabilitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will appeal to the United Nations and other international organisations seeking compensation for Bangladeshi migrant workers who were compelled to return home due to recent turmoil in the Middle East.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engineer Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday told this in parliament.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, the minister said the government will urge different countries and donor agencies to come forward with monetary

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MORSHED ALI KHAN writes from the spot where thousands of Bangladeshi workers have taken shelter after fleeing the Libyan upheaval



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Emotion grips Foreign Minister Dipu Moni as she listens to touching tales of crew members of MV Jahan Moni at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday.

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WHERE OTHERS FIND RISKS WE SEE OPPORTUNITIES

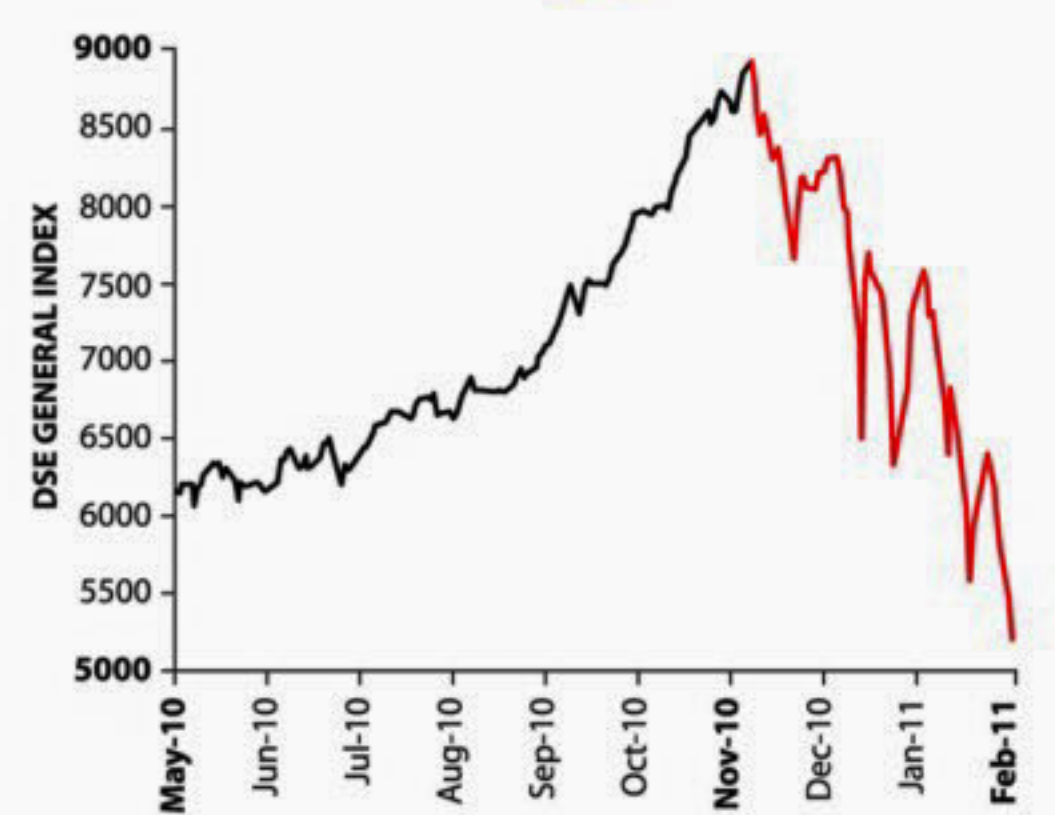
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