

PULITZER WINNER

Jennifer Egan wins the prize for her novel "A Visit from the Goon Squad"
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MESSI IN BANGLADESH?

Argentina might play a friendly in Dhaka in September
PAGE 16

BINAYAK SEN RELEASED

India's leading rights activist accused of having links with Maoists is freed on bail
PAGE 7

Top ladies may talk constitution

Hasina, Khaleda, 5 ex-CJs to top invitee list of JS committee; Jamaat ignored

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Invitees to the parliamentary special committee's consultations on constitutional amendment, scheduled to start on Sunday, will include the chiefs of Awami League and BNP -- Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia -- and five former chief justices.

Heads of other political parties representing the current parliament -- Jatiya Party, Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Liberal Democratic Party, and Bangladesh Jatiya Party -- will also be invited.

But leaders of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami will not be invited as most of its senior leaders are in the process of being tried for their alleged involvement in war crimes, said Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the special committee, yesterday.

"Excepting Jamaat-e-Islami, we will consult all other
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Even though the sight of such an unfit vehicle horrifies most, vehicles in similar state do run in the capital under the very nose of law enforcers and people do use them to get to places. The photo was taken from Lalbagh in the capital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Trial for vitamin A-rich rice soon

Bangladeshi scientists ready for developing further the genetically-engineered variety

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladesh is all set for developing further the world's first-ever vitamin A-rich rice.

A genetically engineered variety, the Golden Rice will go through green-

house and field tests before advancing into production phase.

And if everything goes well, Bangladesh, within 5 years, will be able to fight vitamin A deficiency in expecting mothers and children

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Golden rice next to regular rice. The golden one has beta carotene, a source for vitamin-A.
PHOTO COURTESY: IRRI

Final phase of UP polls from May 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Polls to over 3,800 union parishads across the country will be held between May 31 and July 5, the Election Commission announced yesterday.

It, however, authorised the local administration to fix the polling date and dates for other stages of the polls for union parishads in their

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Hanoi offers rice line

Signs deal with Bangladesh to help ensure food security

UNB, Dhaka

Vietnam is willing to provide Bangladesh with long-term supply of rice to ensure food security in the country, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said in Hanoi on Monday.

The Vietnamese premier made the assurance when he received Bangladesh's Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque, who is on a visit to Vietnam.

He also said Vietnam's consistent pol-

icy is to promote ties with Bangladesh in various areas, particularly in economic relations, trade and investment, according to a Vietnam News Agency.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh and Vietnam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday in Hanoi to ensure food security of the two countries and rice trade.

Food Minister Abdur Razzaque and Vietnam's Industry and Trade Minister Dr Vu Huy Hoang signed the MoU on behalf

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LALON DEVOTEES Arrest all attackers

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take appropriate steps immediately to arrest the persons accused of assaulting and disgracing Lalon devotees at Char Ramnagar under Pangsha upazila in Rajbari.

In response to a writ petition, a vacation bench
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Dhaka, Colombo to boost trade

Agree to remove tariff, non-tariff barriers

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have agreed to remove the constraints of tariff and non-tariff regime, and go for simplification and harmonisation of mutually recognised standards to boost bilateral trade that now stands at only \$45 million a year.

Addressing a joint press conference with his Bangladesh counterpart Dipu

Moni in Dhaka yesterday, Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister Prof G L Peiris said the Joint Economic Commission meeting to be held here shortly will take up the issues including the Agreement on Investment Promotion and Protection.

He also said Sri Lanka is ready to initiate talks with Bangladesh regarding Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two

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STOCKMARKET CRASH Publish full probe report

HC gives govt 'reasonable' time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to publish the full investigation report on the stockmarket debacle within a reasonable time.

Earlier on April 7, the committee formed to probe the share market disaster submitted its report to the finance minister.

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