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Moudud counts on Ershad

Sees him in opposition alliance; Ershad plays diplomatic

Senior BNP leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said components of the Awami League-led ruling coalition including former president HM Ershad's Jatiya Party who "believe in democracy will join the opposition alliance".

In his reaction to Moudud's claim, Ershad said he doesn't believe in democracy of those who had kept him in the jail so that he could not participate in the election.

A former military dictator, Ershad was first sent to jail after his fall in 1990. During the BNP rule from 1991 to 1996, he did not get bail in any of the cases filed against him. He was granted bail after AL came to power in 1996.

Speaking at a discussion in the capital yesterday afternoon, Moudud said the parties who want to see democracy in the country are joining in the ongoing protests led by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Swadhinata Forum, a pro-opposition organisation,

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A minibus crossed over the road divider and hit a car yesterday after the driver lost control of the bus in front of Physical Training College on Satmasjid Road in the capital.

PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN



AL top brass should be hanged

Says Amini

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Those who talked against Allah and His laws should be hanged, Fazlul Haq Amini, chief of Islami Ain Bastobayon Committee (IABC), said yesterday.

"It is very urgent to pass and implement a law on hanging persons who want to change the Holy Quran, the constitution of Allah, in a Muslim-majority country," he noted in a release.

Under the leadership of the present government, a deep conspiracy is going on to change and

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15TH AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION 'Despicable offence' committed

Eminent citizens call for people's commission to save country from instability

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens on Sunday at a discussion meeting suggested that a "people's commission" be formed comprising jurists and civil society leaders to resolve, what they said, a crisis that arose following the 15th amendment to the constitution.

Sharply criticising the 15th

amendment, Dr Kamal Hossain and Shahdeen Malik said the government committed a "despicable offence" by going against the fundamental rights of the people.

The discussants comprising constitutional experts, jurists, politicians, and leaders of the civil society also observed that the latest

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Dr Kamal Hossain Shahdeen Malik

It's tantamount to sedition

Says PM about Khaleda's constitution remark

BSS, Dhaka

Describing the recent "insolent" remarks of Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia on the constitution, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July 17 urged the countrymen to raise their voice against such remarks on the sacred document.

"The audacious remarks of throwing away the present amended constitution is very much tantamount to sedition. How could she make the remarks taking all the

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Arun not with Anandadhara anymore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arun Chowdhury, acting editor of Anandadhara, is no more in the services of the magazine in any capacity, said a press release yesterday.

Moinul Ahsan Saber, editor of Shaptahik 2000, will also be the acting editor of Anandadhara with immediate effect in addition to his existing duties till further notice,

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Somali pirates hijack UAE oil tanker

3 Bangladeshis among 16 crews

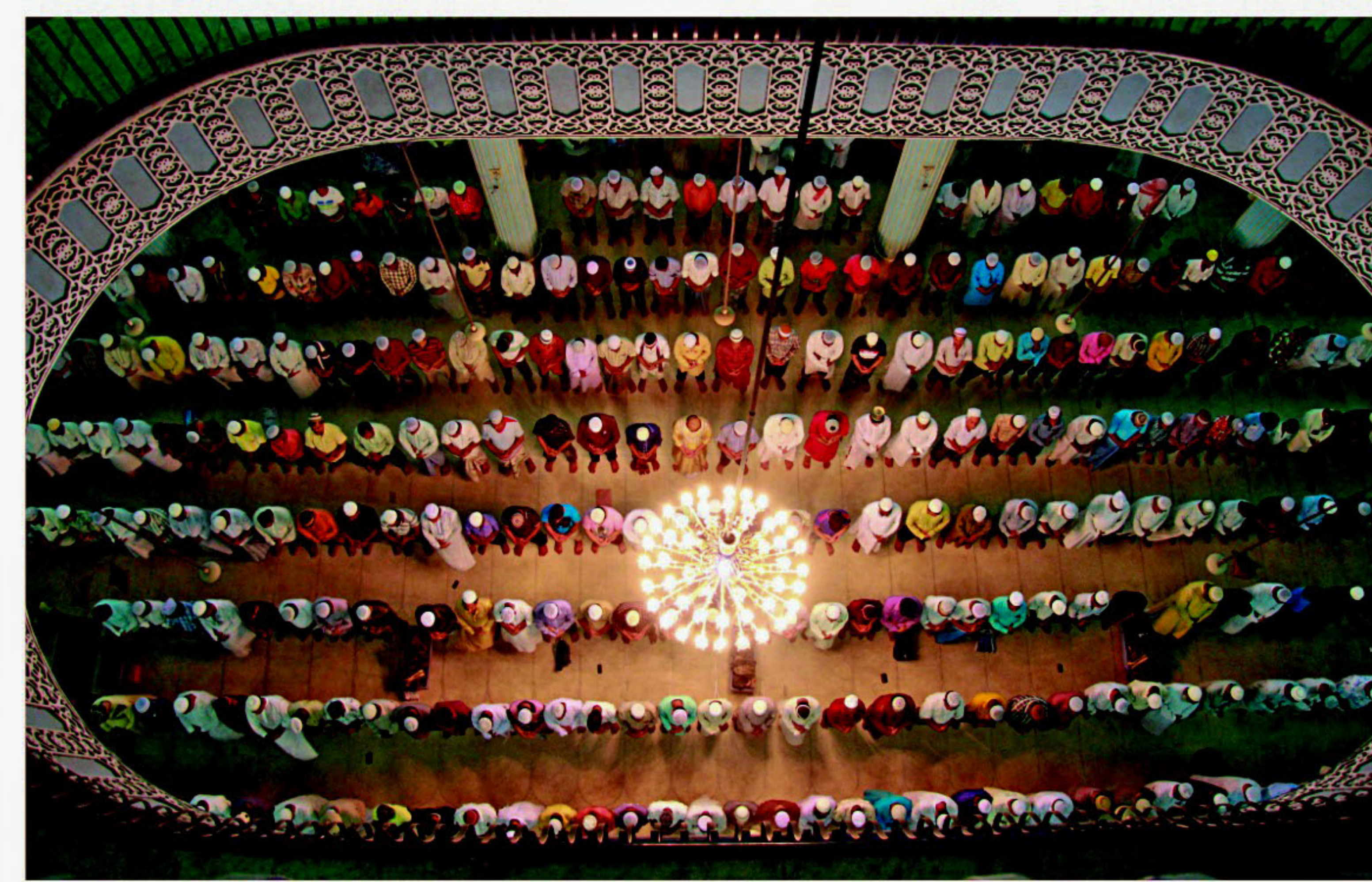
STAR REPORT

Somali pirates have seized a UAE oil tanker in the northern Indian Ocean, with 16 including three Bangladeshi crews on board, the European Union's naval force for Somalia said yesterday.

The other crew members are a Sri Lankan, five Indians, four Somalis, a Kenyan, a Sudanese and a Myanmar, reports Reuters from Mogadishu.

Identities of the Bangladeshis could not be

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Devoted Muslims at the Esha prayers in Baitul Mukarram Mosque of the capital before Shab-e-Barat's special prayers on Sunday night.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ST MARTIN'S LAND GRAB 7 outfits fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) has fined seven organisations a total of Tk 1.09 crore for illegally occupying the seashore of St Martin's Island.

With the help of police, coast guard and Navy personnel, a DoE team from Chittagong led by its Director Zafar Alam conducted a drive at St Martin's Island on July 14 and 15.

The team found out that the offenders were building high-rises on the seashore. They were filling up the seashore with sand and installing pillars.

During the drive, Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, owner of Chowdhury Labiba Bilash, was fined Tk 19.16 lakh, Molla Bashir Ahmed Panna, owner of Panama Resort, Tk 5.22

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ENVOY IN NEPAL Probe body to check allegations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has constituted an inquiry committee to look into the allegations against Bangladesh Ambassador in Nepal Dr Neem Chandra Bhowmik, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni disclosed this at her ministry yesterday.

She said in a press

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UK PHONE HACK SCANDAL Cameron under fire

Police chief quits, former Murdoch exec released on bail; whistle-blower found dead

REUTERS, London

British Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday defended his handling of a corruption scandal around Rupert Murdoch's media empire which has swept away the Metropolitan police commissioner and raised questions about the British prime minister's own future.

Also early yesterday, Rebekah Brooks, former chief executive of News Corp's British newspaper arm News International, was released on bail after being questioned over the phone-hacking scandal, the Metropolitan police said in a statement.

BBC adds, Sean Hoare, a former News of the World journalist who made phone-hacking allegations against the paper, has been found dead.

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UNREST IN LIBYA 19 workers return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When most Bangladeshi migrants returned home in March fleeing the war in Libya, Shahidul Islam stayed back hanging on the hope to work and earn.

He risked his life as he was yet to earn Tk 3 lakh he spent to go to the North African country one and a half years ago.

"As my employer [a Chinese company] left Libya early March, I stayed and managed to find electrical jobs on contract. In three months, I earned a considerable amount, no less than Tk 4 lakh," said Shahidul, one of 19 Bangladeshis who returned home on Sunday.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with Bangladesh government arranged their repatriation from the temporary camps at the Tunisian border where they stayed over a week.

A month ago, Shahidul continued, five Libyan men stormed his rented house in Tripoli and looted the money at gunpoint.

"I was totally undone. Then I worked for another three weeks, earned 300 dinars to go to Tunisian border," he told The Daily Star as he walked out of the terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

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PRAYER TIMING July 19

| | | |
|---------|-------|------|
| Fajr | 4-15 | 4-50 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-54 | 6-58 |
| Esha | 8-15 | 8-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think BNP's mission to form a platform for political parties to resist the next parliamentary elections under the Awami League-led coalition government will be successful?

Yes (69.9%)
No (28.2%)
No Comments (1.9%)

TOTAL VOTES: 1124

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP that the government is hatching a conspiracy to get Tarique Rahman convicted and keep away from next general elections?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net