

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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WINNING INDIAN AUDIENCE

Bangladeshi organisation Shadhona transforms Haiku-inspired Tagore poems into dance and music

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WAR ON TERROR

A look at the difference between Western forces and al-Qaeda

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REWARD FOR REFORM

Hillary says sanctions against Myanmar will be relaxed

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Traffic thrown into a tailspin

Karail slum dwellers block roads in Dhaka over eviction, DU students over attack on minorities in Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of people suffered in huge tailbacks as Karail slum dwellers and Dhaka university students blocked roads in the capital's Mohakhali and Shahbagh areas from morning till afternoon yesterday.

Airport Road traffic came to a halt around 9:00am, the peak business hour, as over a thousand people put up barricades at Chairmanbari, Amtoli intersection and Mohakhali Wireless Gate, protesting their eviction from Karail slum on Wednesday.

DU Jagannath Hall students demonstrated in Shahbagh area, obstructing vehicular movement from around 11:00am.

They demanded justice for assaults on minorities by a group of religious bigots irate over a drama at Fatehpur High School in Kaliganj

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Agitating residents of Karail slum swoop on a vehicle on Airport Road in Dhaka yesterday. Left, slum dwellers block the Gulshan-Mohakhali link road, triggering citywide traffic disruption. They were protesting a government drive that left many people homeless on Wednesday.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

Hasina seeks US assistance from MCA

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the US government to enrol Bangladesh in the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) so that the country could receive assistance from the fund.

She made the request when visiting US Under Secretary of State for

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LOOTING OF CTG SHRINE MONEY

Air Force investigator found dead in hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A squadron leader of Bangladesh Air Force, who was investigating alleged looting of a Chittagong shrine by Rab personnel, was found dead in a hotel room in the port city yesterday.

Police recovered the body of Squadron Leader Mamun Ur Rashid, 45, from a room of Silver Inn on Station Road around 2:00pm.

Mamun, son of Mujibur Rahman of Rangpur, was stationed in Kurmitola Air Force base in Dhaka. He went to Chittagong on Tuesday to conduct a departmental probe into the activities of Flight Lieutenant Mahmudul Hasan, who was among 10 Rapid Action Battalion personnel accused of looting the money of a shrine in Talshara of Anwara upazila in November last year, said Rab-7

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Concern over cooperative money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Bank board member yesterday said he would raise the issue of mobilisation of public money by companies like Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society in their next meeting to see whether the act abides by the law.

Shafiq Ahmed said

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DESTINY MAGIC

Big buys done with cooperative money

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Destiny Group has been selling shares of its sister concerns to its cooperative arm, putting several lakh members' money at risk as some of these concerns exist on paper only.

In the last 10 months alone, Destiny

Multipurpose Cooperative Society

Limited (DMCSL), Destiny's cooperative wing, bought all or most of the shares of 29 companies at over Tk 356.64 crore.

Of the total purchase, more than Tk 80 crore was spent to buy some 15 of its sister concerns, including Destiny-2000 Ltd at more than Tk 16.78 crore, according to a document of the Department of

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Disclose motive

Saudi team asks DMP on embassy official murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The visiting Saudi Arabian delegation yesterday called on Dhaka Metropolitan Police authorities to immediately reveal the motive behind the murder of its embassy official Khalaf Al Ali and arrest the killers.

The team made the call at a meeting with DMP officials at its

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Why Rab actions result in deaths?

Rights chief sees flaw in its training

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Training of Rapid Action Battalion personnel is faulty since when they go to catch someone, it ends in deaths, said National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman yesterday.

"Why does it end with death when you go out to nab someone? Why would your training be like

SUFFERINGS OF WORKERS ABROAD

Recruiting system to be blamed

Escap report calls for effective policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The overseas recruitment system in Bangladesh pushes low-skilled migrants into debt because of the high expenditure they have borne even before their departure, said the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Responsible are the middlemen who charge exorbitantly for some illegal facil-

ties they provide job seekers or recruiting agencies with. They often "buy" job offers from foreign employers and sell those to aspirant migrants or authorised recruiting agencies, said Anisur Rahman Khan, executive director of migrants rights body International Migrants Alliance Research Foundation, explaining why the migration cost is so high.

There are also those who fleece aspirants

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BIKE-RIDING MUGGERS

Realtor staff robbed of Tk 20 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed muggers on motorcycles looted Tk 20 lakh from a real estate official at gunpoint in the capital's Dhanmondi area yesterday afternoon.

Alamgir Hossain, assistant manager (accounts) of Ena Properties, who was carrying the money in a private car, said a gang of criminals on motorcycles swooped on him around 3:30pm and

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