



# The Daily Star

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## GOVT LAND ACQUISITION

PDB in Ctg takes possession of land leased to two private companies

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## SUBSIDY TO SOAR

Allocation will rise by 69pc in the next fiscal year

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## SPACEX LAUNCHES ROCKET

Becomes the first private company to re-supply the orbiting space station

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# Brutal hijack on highway

Criminals kill one, injure two to take away rod-laden truck; mills, transport owners concerned at rise in such crimes

KAILASH SARKAR

A truck helper was killed and his two colleagues were injured as carjackers threw them from a running truck in the capital's Agargaon area, after hijacking the rod-laden truck from Savar yesterday.

A gang waylaid the Kushtia-bound truck at Hemayetpur on the outskirts of the capital around 5:30am, said Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station.

As soon as driver Abu Sayeed pulled up the truck, the criminals got on it and tied Sayeed and his two assistants with ropes, he said.

The robbers then drove off with the truck, which was carrying about 20 tonnes

of iron rods worth about Tk 14 lakh, towards the capital.

The three were thrown into the compound of the Old Airport in the capital from where the police recovered them.

The dead is Nazrul Islam, 35, of Islamnagar under Meherpur Sadar upazila. The other injured are Sayeed, 45, and his other helper Rajab Ali, 25.

Sayeed and Rajab said the criminals tied their hands and legs, blindfolded them with napkins and wrapped them with the thick cover of the truck.

"They snatched our cell phones [three] and Tk 13,000 from us. They also strangled us with rope to kill us," said Sayeed,

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With no sign of rain and hardly any breeze blowing, a few people rest under the shade of a tree on Jatiya Eidgah Maidan in the capital yesterday before noon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Muzaffer Ahmad no more



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted economist and leading civil society member Prof Muzaffer Ahmad breathed his last at around 10:30pm yesterday at the age of 76.

The former chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Trustee Board and outspoken environmentalist suffered a heart attack shortly after dinner at his Shankar residence at around 10:20pm.

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# Plan long term for challenged people

Real care never relies on relief, stresses Star-ADD International roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should take up long-term planning to solve problems of the country's millions of physically challenged people instead of relying on relief-based approaches, development activists said yesterday.

They said the charity-based approaches and projects don't yield the desired results as they leave out a large part of the

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## CHALLENGED PEOPLE'S DEMANDS

Law to protect their rights

Introduction of ID cards

Ramps in all govt buildings

# GDP now 6.32pc

Growth falls on farm output

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

GDP growth fell by 0.39 percentage point to 6.32 percent in the current fiscal year, compared with the figures for last fiscal year, mainly due to sluggish growth in the agriculture sector, according to the provisional data of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

In the current fiscal year, the agriculture sector grew by 2.53 percent, which was 5.13 percent in the last fiscal year, says the statistical agency.

The growth in the crop and horticulture sub-sector slumped to 0.94 percent in the current fiscal year, compared to last year's

5.65 percent.

The government had projected a 7 percent GDP growth this fiscal year against last year's 6.71. However, donor agencies, including the IMF, projected the growth at between 5.5 percent and 6 percent.

Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, told The Daily Star that the expected growth of 4.5 percent in the agriculture sector this fiscal year could not be achieved, as rice production this year was almost similar to the previous year's.

Rahman said the agriculture sector's

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## STEALING STATE OIL Arrestees sued for smuggling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A smuggling case was lodged with a Chittagong police station early yesterday against the 23 people who had been arrested Sunday night in connection with hauling of state-owned furnace oil for black market at Anu Majhir Ghat by the river Karnaphuli.

The accused in the case filed with Double-Mooring Police Station are mostly the staff of the tank-lorries that transported the fuel.

The case statement also includes a host of suspects, including the high-ups of 11 of the 15

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Firefighters trying to douse the huge flames at Hasnabad grid sub-station in Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital last night.

## I ducked death several times

Everest conqueror Nishat tells Star from base camp; Wasfia waits for final push for the summit

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

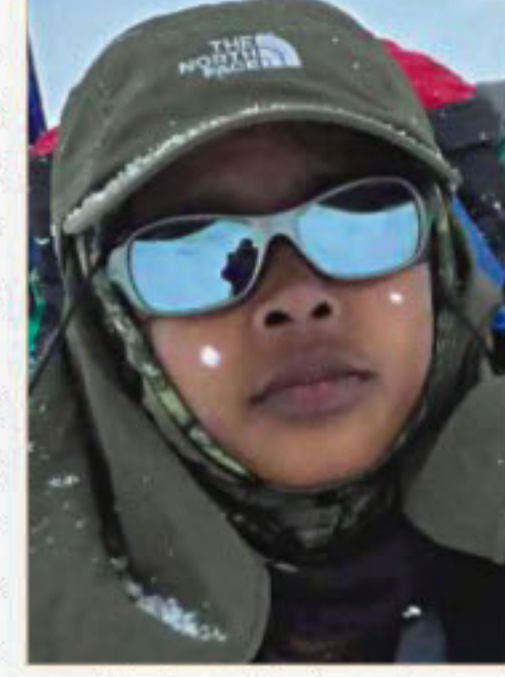
"I was close to losing my life several times. One time I was swept around 30 metres away from my tracks and almost into a crevasse."

Nishat Majumder--the first Bangladeshi woman to scale Mount Everest--described her brush with death during her fantastic adventure when she spoke to The Daily Star over the telephone yesterday after returning safely to the base camp with her fellow mountaineer MA Muhit.

"It was a treacherous trek with the possibility of losing one's life at any moment. It was more dangerous than what I had imagined it would be," she said.

Nishat and Muhit reached the south base camp, 5,350

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Nishat Majumder

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## Limit kids' 'screen time'

BBC ONLINE

Parents need to do more to stop children spending too much time watching television or playing computer games, according to a psychologist.

Dr Aric Sigman said "screen time" needed to have a daily limit in a similar vein to salt or alcohol intake.

He called for parents to "regain control" or they were risking a "form of

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## RECRUITMENT SCAM Probe finds Mridha responsible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A probe body investigating recruitment irregularities in the railway's east zone yesterday submitted its report to the railway DG accusing more than 20 people for their involvement in manipulating the recruitment process.

The accused persons include suspended general manager of the

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## Railway whistleblower missing for 43 days

Anti-graft probe goes on at snail's pace, sees no light without the driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-three days into the Tk 70 lakh railwaygate scandal, neither the Anti-Corruption Commission nor the rail's probe body tried to trace the whistleblower, who has been "missing" since the day after the incident.

Around midnight of April 9, Ali Azam Khan, driver of the then railway minister Suranjit Sengupta's APS Omar Faruk Talukder, drove Faruk's microbus into the Border Guard Bangladesh Pilkhana headquarters in the capital and shouted that the vehicle was carrying illegal money.

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## Youth joblessness nearly at its worst

ILO fears crisis not to ease until at least 2016

AFP, Geneva

Youth joblessness is almost back at its peak following the outbreak of the global economic crisis and is unlikely to ease until at least 2016, the International Labour Organisation warned yesterday.

The ILO said nearly 75 million youths or 12.7 percent of people aged 15 to 24 will be out of work this year, up from 12.6 percent in 2011.

The jobless total is creeping towards the 75.4 million unemployed in 2009 when the financial crisis caused the

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