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FOREIGN INVESTORS

Low prices of stocks lure them in

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GARCIA WRITES NO MORE

The Colombian Nobel Prize winner is suffering from dementia

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WIMBLEDON SERENA'S

The 30-year-old American claims her fifth crown at the All England Club

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Sohel Taj tenders resignation in person

This time Speaker accepts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finally, Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj's resignation from parliament was "accepted" by the Speaker as he in person tendered it yesterday.

"He [Sohel Taj] in person submitted the resignation letter to the Speaker at the latter's office around 6:30pm today [yesterday]. And the Speaker accepted the resignation," Joynal



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DISBANDING RAB NHRC chief slates HRW statement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A foreign organisation like Human Rights Watch cannot recommend disbanding the Rapid Action Battalion, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Mizanur Rahman said yesterday.

"It solely depends on Bangladesh. The government will decide which force will be in action and which will not," he told a

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A camp of Rohingya refugees at Kutupalang of Ukhiya upazila in Cox's Bazar district.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Refugees' long stay to stretch even further

Repatriation becomes more complicated after Myanmar unrest

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK, back from Cox's Bazar

The recent sectarian violence in Myanmar has jeopardised the repatriation of Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh for the last 21 years.

Already the process has remained stalled for the last seven years because of issues such as the unwillingness of the refugees to go back and complications in getting clearance from the Myanmar government.

Last month's clashes between Buddhist Rakhines and Muslim Rohingyas in the neighbouring country have created further apprehensions about the future of the repatriation.

The situation worsened at a time when people involved with the refugee issue were expecting the repatriation to resume with Myanmar's return to democracy.

Officials say some initiatives were taken in the last few years to send

back the Rohingyas, but things went back to square one as sectarian clashes broke out in the bordering Myanmar towns of Maungdaw and Akyab.

Some 2,50,877 Rohingyas took shelter as registered refugees in dozens of camps across Cox's Bazar district from November 1991 to June 1992. After this influx, Bangladesh could send back 2,36,599 refugees till 2005, officials statistics show.

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VGF scheme for flood-hit people soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon undertake vulnerable group feeding (VGF) and other rehabilitation programmes for the poor people affected by recent floods, said Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque.

"For this, the local administration has been instructed to assess the damage caused by the floods. No one will have to

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Onion, gram get costlier

Traders hike prices despite adequate stocks ahead of Ramadan

SOHEL PARVEZ and SUMAN SAHA

Traders have increased the prices of gram and onions, cashing in on a rising demand ahead of Ramadan. A government estimate shows, though, that stocks of the two items are adequate.

In the last one month, the prices of onions rose by 23 percent to Tk 24-35 from Tk 20-28 a kg.

Onion prices increased, on average, by Tk 3.5 a kg over the past one week, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

The prices of gram shot up by 22 percent to Tk 80-85 from Tk 65-70 a kg a month ago.

In the last one week, gram prices rose, on average, by Tk 2.5 a kg.

Reduced supplies by stockists and importers and the damage done to onions by the recent downpours are blamed for the price spiral of onions and gram. Demand

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DISAPPEARANCE OF ILIAS BNP to launch fresh agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The BNP will wage a stronger movement to get back missing party leader M Ilias Ali, said Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque, who led a five-member parliamentary team yesterday to Ilias's village home.

Former lawmaker and BNP Organising Secretary (Sylhet division) Ilias went missing on April 17 along with his driver Ansar Ali.

People from the ruling party had picked up Ilias as he had been vocal in protesting the government's misdeeds and the much-talked about Tipaimukh dam project,

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Delay in repair makes 2 bridges vulnerable

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The long delay in repairing the Meghna and Gumti bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong highway has rendered the structures even riskier for vehicles, say experts and communications ministry officials.

Failing to find an eligible contractor, the government in May awarded the repair job to Bangladesh Army. However, that helped little, as the army has opted to award the job to a sub-contractor.

It would take at least two months to complete the process of awarding the work to a subcontractor, sources in the communications ministry said.

Most of the expansion joints and the hinge bearings of the Meghna and Gumti bridges are damaged. They are very bumpy



and there is the bang every time a vehicle goes over them. However, it is the riverbed scouring that put the bridges under serious threat. Several piers of the bridges are in a danger due to extensive scouring.

Prof Khan Mahmud Amanat of Buet's civil engineering department said, "The repair work will hopefully begin in October, but before that a number of tasks have to be completed. Of them, preparing an alternative road for traffic movement and selecting an eligible firm for repairing the bridge decks are crucial."

Amanat, who is a member of an expert panel of the repair task, said the authorities would also have to draw up an effective strategy to handle the huge number of daily traffic, as the bridges would remain

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Bomb hoax in Dinajpur Train links with 2 districts snapped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Train communication from Dinajpur to Panchagarh and from Dinajpur to Thakurgaon remained suspended for a long time yesterday after locals found a bomb-like box tied to a railway track.

However, on opening the box, bomb experts

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LAND DEMARCATION FOR UTTARA PLOTS Affected people set Rajuk office on fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aggrieved locals set a Rajuk site office afire at Diabari in the capital's Uttara yesterday demanding plots under the affected category in the 3rd phase of Uttara Model Town project.

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) along with Dhaka district administration in the morning went there to

demarcate the Uttara Sector-10.

Abdul Majid, one of the affected in Uludaha village, said hundreds of villagers went to the site office of Rajuk in Sholohati village demanding allocation of plots in their favour.

At one stage they were locked in a clash with the on-duty Ansar personnel. The

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Bangladeshi shot dead in S Africa

UNB, Noakhali

A Bangladeshi was shot dead and his brother critically injured in an attack by miscreants at a market near Albertan city of Johannesburg in South Africa early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Jamshed Alam, 25, of Barainagar village under Sonaimuri upazila

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শিল্প - সংস্কৃতি ও বাণিজ্যের ঐশ্বর্য

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