

JAIL KILLING CASE

Govt will challenge the acquittal of six military men

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LOW PRICE OF RAWHIDE

Govt may allow its export to prevent smuggling

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LIMON'S WOES CONTINUE

Concerns rise as the innocent now asked to seek clemency

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AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

Brain drain dims achievements

Scientists' successes appreciated, but special incentives not announced yet

REAZ AHMAD

The government is basking in the recent successes in agriculture science at a time when all the 11 agro-research institutions in the country are plagued by brain drain.

Administrators overseeing the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) are worried at agriculture scientists' quitting jobs and going abroad. They attributed this to the government's failure to announce a long-committed special incentive package for the scientists.

Unhappy at poor pay package and other facilities at home, and attracted by greater opportunities abroad, at least 300 scientists went into self-retirement from the public research institutions under NARS over the last one decade while 30 percent more out of a 1600-strong scientists' pool are now fast approaching retirement age, show official statistics.

Officials and scientists at Bangladesh

Agricultural Research Council (BARC) said such a massive brain drain has created a shortage of experienced and skilled agriculture scientists in the public sector institutions when there is a growing need for research to innovate and introduce new and improved seeds and farm technologies to combat climate-change fallout and help feed the ever growing population of the country.

BARC is the apex body of NARS under the Ministry of Agriculture and it coordinates activities of the 11 agro-research institutions. These include Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI), Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI),

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People return to the capital after their eid holidays, travelling on the roofs of trains yesterday. Holidaymakers were seen travelling in this manner ahead of eid to get to their homes and now they seem to be desperate to get back to work in the capital. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

ROAD WIDENING

Govt okays felling of 5,696 trees

STAR REPORT

The cabinet yesterday approved a proposal for removing 5,696 trees from the natural forests beside Joydebpur-Mymensingh highway to implement a road development project.

The approval was given by partially relaxing a 2010 cabinet decision that restricts tree felling from reserved and natural forests till 2015, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf

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STATE-OWNED BANKS

No to central bank's control may irk IMF

Proposal keeps govt authority intact

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has no intention to let the central bank have control over state-owned banks, which may lead to a major spat with the International Monetary Fund.

The banking division of the finance ministry has finalised a proposal to amend the Bank Companies Act as per the condition of the IMF to get the \$140 million second tranche of its \$1 billion Extended Credit Facility.

But the proposed amendment does not empower the central bank to remove the boards and top management of the state-run banks despite the IMF and Bangladesh Bank's recommendations for doing so.

It is unlikely that the IMF will accept such an amendment.

Worldwide, the central bank controls all affairs of all the commercial banks, both public and private.

Under the proposal, the power of

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Tax return deadline now Nov 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue for the second time yesterday extended the deadline for submission of tax returns until November 15 to help taxpayers submit their income information.

Syed A Momen, senior information officer of the NBR, said, "We have extended the deadline by 15 days for individual taxpayers as many people could not complete the

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BNP was never against transit

Khaleda's adviser tells BBC

STAR REPORT

The BNP was never against giving transit to India, Sabihuddin Ahmed, adviser to party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, told BBC Bangla service last night.

Asked about the shift in the party's policy on the transit issue during Khaleda's ongoing India visit, he said there might have been a misunderstanding regarding the party's stance on the matter.

"Transit to India will be a part of the total connectivity of the region," but Bangladesh does not have the infrastructure required for it, the former diplomat-turned-politician said.

At present, India has to cover a long distance to

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SEEKING CLEMENCY
TIB protests proposal to Limon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday protested over the Jhalakathi DC's proposal asking Limon Hossain to seek clemency in two cases filed by the Rab.

Hours after shooting and maiming college student Limon, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on March 23 last year charged him in a case for

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Long wait to recover from shocks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The worst of Superstorm Sandy may have eased, but New Yorkers and others living in the surrounding areas on the East Coast have a long way to go before they can recover from the shocks of the disaster.

Millions of people, including Bangladeshi expats, are still struggling with flooding and extensive power outage -- triggered by heavy rains and fierce winds -- even two days after the massive storm hit the coastal

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The glowing New York skyline goes dark as seen from Brooklyn Tuesday night following Hurricane Sandy. Life ground to a virtual halt in parts of southern Manhattan without power.

Millions struggle after Sandy strike

Death toll climbs to 50

AGENCIES

The US Northeast began crawling back to normal yesterday after monster storm Sandy crippled transportation, knocked out power for millions and killed at least 50 people in nine states with a massive storm surge and rain that caused epic flooding.

The storm carved a trail of devastation across New York City and New Jersey, killing dozens of people in several states, swamping miles of coastline, and throwing the tied-up White House race into disarray just days before the vote.

The death toll from the storm rose to 50

in North America, in addition to the 69 people killed as Sandy swept through the Caribbean as a hurricane last week, Reuters reported.

The storm killed 27 people in New York state, including 22 in New York City, and six in New Jersey. Seven other states reported fatalities. One disaster-modelling company said Sandy may have caused up to \$15 billion in insured losses.

Businesses and services in the north-eastern US are starting to reopen after two days of closure forced by the storm.

Flights have resumed to airports in

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5 indicted for killing Khalaf

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against five accused in the Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali murder case.

Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain of Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 also fixed today for starting the trial of the case.

The court summoned

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Cops in ammo trade

3 more held with 1,103 bullets

KAILASH SARKAR and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Three more policemen have been arrested with illegal arms and a huge amount of ammunition at the Rajarbagh Police Lines armoury.

The arrests of the trio, with a revolver, 1,103 bullets, 2,415 cartridges, and Tk 50,000, were made following information divulged by nayeks Jannal Chakma and Prem Chakma, who were arrested on October 24 with 500 bullets.

Jannal and Prem yesterday confessed

before a magistrate that they were involved in supplying illegal arms and ammunition to criminals who oppose the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord.

Police sources said some rogue policemen had been stealing arms and ammunition from police armories and supplying them to criminals.

The police department is now tallying its arms and ammunition at the armories.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Joint Commissioner Maruf Hasan of Dhaka

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MONEY LAUNDERING

Mamun indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed money laundering charges against businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun.

He was indicted for siphoning off 4,18,853 British pounds to the United Kingdom.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of Special Judge's Court-3

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Shocked again

Buddhists resent releasing of sky lanterns at Ramu 2 days after Prabarana Purnima

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Buddhist community yesterday expressed resentment over what they saw as a false display of religious harmony when Awami League leaders and officials of the local administration released sky lanterns in Ramu of Cox's Bazar.

It has been only a month since Buddhists in Ramu witnessed 12 of their age-old temples burnt to ashes and dozens of houses damaged by some Muslim zealots over

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER
Rab talks to Megh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators of Rapid Action Battalion yesterday talked to Mahir Sarowar Megh, son of slain journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun

Runi, at Rab headquarters for three and a half hours. Five-year-old Megh went to the office of the elite force at Uttara around

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