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## Tk 550cr Destiny properties seized

ACC to keep under its control 1,028 acres of land, 50 flats of the group and its high-ups until disposal of 2 money laundering cases

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

The Anti-Corruption Commission has confiscated Tk 550 crore properties of the controversial Destiny Group in connection with two money laundering cases.

The properties include over 1,028 acres of land and about 50 flats owned by the company and its top brass, and their value has been assessed on the basis of the purchase deeds.

Rafiqul Amin, chairman and managing director of the group, owns 22 of the 50 flats. His wife Farah Diba owns one flat while the group's subsidiaries own the rest, ACC officials said.

More than 50 percent of the seized land is in Dhaka and the remaining in 19 other districts, including Khulna, Barisal, Rangpur and Chittagong.

These properties have not been acquired, said an ACC official, adding, "We'll just preserve the assets as per the court order until disposal of the cases."

"We'll communicate the matter to the administration of the 19 districts by next week [this week] so they can prevent those properties from being sold, transferred or grabbed," the ACC official told The Daily Star

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West Indies skipper Darren Sammy lifts one on the on-side during his unbeaten knock of 60 in the fourth one-day international against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

**Batting woes return to haunt Tigers**  
Series 'final' today  
BISHWAJIT ROY

It was a doomed night although initially Lady Luck smiled in favour of Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim, who won the crucial toss for the first time in the series. However, there were no celebrations for the capacity crowd at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on a chilly night; instead the fans returned home frustrated as the batting ghosts returned to haunt the Tigers once again.

The Tigers allowed the fans to dream of a rare series win, but it was the Tigers themselves who shattered that dream

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**AL slams BNP's road blockade**  
More agitation if obstructed, threatens BNP  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP has been trying to create anarchy in the country through different programmes and activities, leaders of ruling Awami League alleged yesterday.

Referring to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's call on the people to keep their vehicles off the roads tomorrow, during the opposition alliance's eight-hour countrywide

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## Govt, opposition ready to face off

Both parties vow to show strength throughout December

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER

Political turmoil may continue throughout December as the ruling Awami League-led 14-party combine and opposition BNP-led 18-party coalition are firm on occupying the streets with programmes counter to each other's.

BNP ally Jamaat-e-Islami and its associated student body Islami Chhatra Shibir are not sitting around either.

They would be on the streets demanding release of their top leaders who are now being tried on crimes against humanity charges.

The 14-party combine has planned to be on the streets with programmes until March, 2013, as it believes verdicts in some of the crimes against humanity cases would be delivered by then.

It will be on the streets with answers to the programmes announced by Jamaat-Shibir, which recently resorted to violent protests across the country.

A meeting of the 14-party coalition on December 4, with Prime

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**RMG WORKERS' SAFETY Taskforce inactive for 2 years**  
Work plan only on paper  
SOHEL PARVEZ

The taskforce on garment workers' safety has not met for almost two years while its members, especially the overseeing government agencies, do not even know about the taskforce's work plan.

The government formed the 15-member Taskforce on Occupational Safety in RMG (readymade garments factories) in 2005 under high-powered Social Compliance Forum (SCF) to prevent accidents in clothing factories.

The initiative was taken after 64 workers had died in the Spectrum Sweater factory collapse in April that year. The joint secretary (development) of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works was made the chairman of the taskforce.

Soon the committee had prepared

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## Fire revealed a gap in safety for global brands

NEW YORK TIMES

The fire alarm shattered the monotony of the Tazreen Fashions factory. Hundreds of seamstresses looked up from their machines, startled. On the third floor, Shima Akhter Pakhi had been stitching hoods onto fleece jackets. Now she ran to a staircase.

But two managers were blocking the way. Ignore the alarm, they ordered. It was just a test. Back to work. A few women laughed nervously. Pakhi and other workers returned to their sewing tables. She could stitch a hood to a jacket in about 90 seconds. She arranged the fabric under her machine. Ninety seconds. Again. Ninety more seconds. She sewed six pieces, maybe seven.

Then she looked up. Smoke was filtering up through the three staircases.

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**Tazreen's fire certification expired on June 30**  
AP, Dhaka

The factory where 112 garment workers died in a fire should have been shut down months ago. The fire department refused to renew the certification it needed to operate, a top fire official told The Associated Press. And its owner told AP that just three of the factory's eight floors were legal. He was building a ninth.

Government officials knew of the problems, but the factory just kept running.

The Capital

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**Govt wants to speed up public-pvt partnership**  
PPP law soon, says PM  
BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured the private sector of providing all kinds of support, saying that her government wants to work more closely with the sector to speed up the country's development.

She also said a process is underway to enact the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Law with provisions for transparent process in selecting private partners for the implementation of PPP projects.

The premier made the remarks while inaugurating the two-day PPP Global Investors' Forum: Bangladesh 2012 at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the morning.

Hasina said the country is fortunate to have a very dynamic and vibrant private sector that is globally recognised for its innovativeness, adaptability, and resilience.

"For its [private sector] further flourishing, we are ready to provide all necessary materials and human

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Hawkers occupy the pavement and a large section of the streets in Gulistan area. This part of the capital is notorious for its congestion and a large number of buses begin their journeys from here.

## Jamaat attacks cops again

8 injured in 2 districts

STAR REPORT

Eight more policemen, including an assistant commissioner and an OC, were injured during attacks on them by Jamaat-Shibir activists at Pirojpur and Rajshahi towns yesterday.

The law enforcers arrested 25 activists from both towns in connection with their alleged involvement in the attacks.

Six policemen including the officer-in-charge (OC) of Pirojpur Sadar Police Station were injured during a clash between Jamaat-Shibir activists and law

enforcers in front of a mosque of Sayedee Foundation on bypass road.

Police and witnesses said around 200 activists of Jamaat-Shibir gathered in front of the mosque after performing their Juma prayers to hold a rally demanding release of Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee and other party leaders.

On information, police rushed to the spot and tried to disperse the activists. Jamaat-Shibir men, divided into several groups, swooped on the police with sticks and other sharp weapons.

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## Egypt plunges in deeper crisis

Opposition rejects dialogue over referendum as Morsi stays defiant

AFP, Cairo

Thousands of protesters yesterday converged on the presidential palace in Cairo in a fresh bid to convince President Mohamed Morsi to give up what they see as dictatorial powers, and to postpone a referendum on a controversial new constitution.

While the marchers gathered peacefully, with the crowds shouting "We want to see the fall of the regime," there were fears the scene could turn violent if Morsi supporters turned out in strength for a counter-demonstration, as they did ear-

lier this week.

On Wednesday, seven people died and more than 600 people were hurt in bloody clashes between the dueling camps.

The army on Thursday ordered the square in front of the presidential palace cleared. Troops deployed tanks and set up barbed-wire barricades blocking access.

Both Morsi's Islamist backers and the largely secular opposition have dug in their positions in the confrontation, raising the prospect of further escalation of the crisis rocking the Arab world's most populous state.

In a speech on Thursday, Morsi sought to portray elements of the opposition as "thugs" allied to remnants of the regime of veteran strongman Hosni Mubarak, toppled in a February 2011 uprising.

He defended a decree issued two weeks ago giving him sweeping powers immune from judicial challenge, and vowed to push on with a December 15 referendum on a new constitution drafted by a panel dominated by his Islamist allies.

A grudging offer to sit down with the opposition for talks on Saturday

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**Private trip to moon by 2020**

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A Colorado start-up run by former Nasa managers plans to conduct missions to the moon for about \$1.5bn (£0.9bn) per expedition, a fraction of what a similar government-run operation would cost.

The expeditions would use existing rockets and spacecraft under development to fly Nasa astronauts to the international space station.

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