



BANGLADESH GAMES

Country's biggest sports event starts today with a gala ceremony at BNS

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ASSAULT ON POLICE

Targeting lawmen cannot be a mode of political protest

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ON HER BIRTHDAY

Malala will give first public speech at the UN on July 12

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BANGABANDHU BRIDGE

Toll money gobbled up

Overloaded trucks cross Jamuna in exchange for bribes

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Bangabandhu Bridge

The Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge, which plays a vital role in the country's economy, commerce and communications, has become a hub of corruption and making quick bucks.

The toll plazas and weighing machines of the 4.8-kilometre-long bridge are the two main sources of illegal income for some officials and employees concerned.

Built over the Jamuna river in 1998, the bridge established rail road, gas and power connections between the country's northwestern region and the capital.

Investigation says siphoning off toll money has become an open secret, while taking bribes from overloaded truckers to let them cross the bridge takes place at night. Weight machines installed on either side of the bridge also remain inoperative many times to facilitate passage of overloaded vehicles.

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Overloaded trucks crossing the Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge allegedly after giving bribes to a section of toll plaza staff [not seen in the photo]. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Yusuf faces war crimes probe

Investigators claim to have evidence against the Jamaat leader; report this week

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The investigation agency's probe into war crimes committed allegedly by Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf, historically known as the founder of the Razakar force, is almost done and it is planning to submit a report this week.

Agency officials said they found evidence of Yusuf's "involvement" in genocide, murders, arson, looting, forced religious conversion of people and deportation during the Liberation War in 1971.

Sanaul Huq, a senior member of the



agency, told The Daily Star on Thursday, "We will hand over the probe report [to the prosecution] within next week [this week]."

The agency, through the prosecution, would also seek an arrest warrant from the tribunal for the 84-year-old Jamaat-e-ameer, he added.

Helal Uddin, investigation officer of the case, said Yusuf established the Razakar force, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, on May 5, 1971, at an Ansar camp on Khan Jahan Ali Road in

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Don't hamper HSC exams, BD Games

PM asks Khaleda not to call hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday requested opposition leader Khaleda Zia not to call any hartal during the Bangladesh Games and the rest of the HSC examinations.

The opposition leader has been enforcing hartals to protect war criminals, she complained at the 41st founding anniversary programme of Bangladesh Krishak League at Gono Bhaban.

She asked BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia why the opposition leader was destroying the student life of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinees by calling hartals.

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Migrants' plight in Greece

AP, Athens, Greece

After months of pressing the strawberry plantation over pay, the Bangladeshi migrant labourers gathered in the field hoping that a deal was near. Instead, foremen peppered them with gunfire, wounding 28.

The bloodletting this week in Greece's southern strawberry fields shocked the nation and put the spotlight on the plight of the financial crisis' overlooked victims: hundreds of thousands of migrant workers, many undocumented, whose lot is becoming even tougher amid rising racist violence and dropping living standards.

After a two-day manhunt, Greek authorities on Friday arrested three suspects in the shootings, which drew strong condemnation from the government, political parties and labour unions. The men, aged 21, 27 and 39, face multiple charges of attempted murder.

"As long as the crisis worsens, barbaric acts will find an outlet," said Nikitas Kanakis, head of the Greek branch of the Doctors of the World medical aid group.

Police said the shootings near the village of Manolada

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GREECE SHOOTING

2 more farm staff held

Injured Bangladeshis out of danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Greek police yesterday arrested two more employees of a strawberry farm for their alleged involvement in Wednesday's shooting that left 32 Bangladeshi workers wounded there.

Golam Mohammad, Bangladesh ambassador in Athens, confirmed the arrest to The Daily Star by phone. Earlier, farm owner Nicolas Vagelatos was arrested along with an employee.

The envoy said the wounded seven workers, who had been hospitalised after the shooting, were out of danger.

The seven are Sheikh Moin of Bagerhat, Md Harun of Tangail,

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Harmful chemicals, talcum powder, wax and substandard colours were used to make candy in the Hazaribagh factory. The photo was taken yesterday during a mobile court drive.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Danger in candies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday awarded one year's imprisonment to each of two officials of a candy factory for using toxic chemicals and fake BSTI seals.

The convicted persons are Manager Mohammad Swapan and Supervisor Mohammad Shahjalal of Sonia Lozenge Factory in the capital's Hazaribagh.

Accompanied by Dhaka Metropolitan Police and BSTI Inspector Mohammad Zahid Rahman, the court conducted a drive at the factory and its showroom in the same area around 11:00am yesterday.

Magistrate Asaduzzaman told The Daily Star that one year back the factory was sealed off and fined Tk 50,000 on charge of using fake BSTI [Bangladesh

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The age-old Kali temple in Rajoir upazila of Madaripur in ruins after it was burned down by fanatics on Thursday.

PHOTO: STAR



HINDU TEMPLES

March saw 94 attacks

Govt yet to respond to HC rule

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Despite High Court directives on the government to protect religious minorities and their places of worship, criminals continue their attacks on minorities across the country.

In the latest such crimes, a group of criminals torched a 200-year-old Hindu temple in Rajoir upazila of Madaripur yesterday.

After the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced a Jamaat leader to death for crimes against

200-yr-old Hindu temple set on fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Unidentified criminals set a 200-year-old Hindu temple ablaze at Rajoir upazila in Madaripur in the wee hours yesterday.

Police and locals said miscreants torched the Kali Mandir at Mahendradhi village sometime after midnight.

Dadon Kanta, chairman of Haridashdi-Mahendradhi upazila, suspects that Jamaat or

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