SECOND EDITION

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NO MIDDLE GROUND

Why nobody else elicits public reaction like tech giant Apple

PAGE IT & TELECOM

'GLIMPSES'

Saban 18, 1434 Hijri

Gallery Kaya organises art show marking its 10th anniversary

PAGE 10

BANGLADESH WILL

HAVE TO FOLLOW A

5-POINT ROADMAP

TO REGAIN GSP

Enforcement of fire

and building safety code

End to harassment and

arrest of workers and

labour leaders and activists

Labour law reforms

Union registration

Upgrading law for EPZs

KEVIN RUDD SWORN IN

The new Australian PM urges a "gentler" approach to politics

US suspends GSP for Bangladesh

Revival of GSP hinges on labour standards improvement

GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

Bangladesh can export nearly 5,000 products dutyfree to US. Golf equipment, plastic bags, bone china, porcelain kitchenware, headgears, spectacles and tents are on the list.



and labour standards.

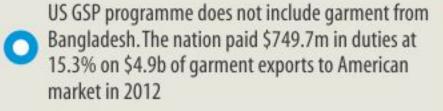
improving factory conditions.

export: garment.

Bangladesh."

GSP covers less than 1% of Bangladesh's total exports to the US a year

Bangladesh was spared \$2m in duties on \$35m of exports to US under GSP in 2012



Bangladesh enjoys trade benefits from US along with neighbouring countries: India, Bhutan, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand

ARUN DEVNATH and REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA



Economic costs of GSP withdrawal may not seem

significant, but it carries reputational costs and can also influence European Union's decision to cancel **GSP** privileges EU action, if any, could have a much bigger economic

impact as its duty-free privileges cover garment GSP loss may discourage American companies from investing in Bangladesh



PRODUCTS

OVERED BY GS

In a chilling warning, the US yesterday suspended trade privileges for

Bangladesh after a six-year review exposed "serious shortcomings" in safety

The decision will bring tariffs back on some of Bangladesh's exports to US

markets under the programme known as the Generalised System of

Preferences. However, the scheme does not apply to Bangladesh's main

The suspension underlines the lack of progress by the government in

"I have determined that it is appropriate to suspend Bangladesh's desig-

nation as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP programme

because it is not taking steps to afford internationally recognised worker

The US government "has not seen sufficient progress" toward basic safety

standards, despite its "close engagement and clear, repeated expressions of

concern" with the Bangladesh government over the past few years, US Trade

"The recent tragedies that needlessly took the lives of over 1,200

Bangladeshi garment factory workers have served to highlight some of the

serious shortcomings in worker rights and workplace safety standards in

rights," US President Barack Obama said in a message to the Congress.

Representative Michael Froman said in a statement.

The government of Bangladesh has been too neglectful for too long: Celeste Drake, a trade specialist at AFL-CIO

WHY IT HAPPENED

No visible upgrade to factory conditions since 2007 when AFL-CIO filed a petition for GSP review

Rana Plaza disaster intensified calls for trade benefits to be curtailed

Bangladesh is yet to pass new labour law in parlia-

Claims an HC judge, Salman Rahman to defend him

witness list

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

SQ Chy gives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Industrialist Salman F Rahman, who was an adviser to then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, and an incumbent High Court judge would be among the defence witnesses of war crimes accused BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

Counsel for Salauddin submitted a list of four defence witnesses before **International Crimes** Tribunal-1 yesterday. Salauddin's maternal cousin Qayum Reza Chowdhury and one Nizam Ahmed was also on the list.

Salauddin's witness list raised quite a few eyebrows yesterday as one of the witnesses is a High Court judge while the industrialist was an adviser to Sheikh Hasina, now the prime minister who has been facing difficulties with the war trials.

Defence counsel Fakhrul Islam told The Daily Star, "Justice Shamim Hasnain had studied with Salauddin SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Mandela still there Says daughter, raps media

REUTERS, Pretoria

Former South African President Nelson Mandela is still clinging to life, his eldest daughter Makaziwe said yesterday, but she criticized foreign media "vultures" for violating his privacy as he lay critically ill in hospital.

Makaziwe's outburst came as anxiety increased over the faltering health of the frail 94-year-old SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

MADIBA ON WIDE ANGLE (PAGE 12), MORE ON PAGE 8

Tangail river freed from sand traders

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

The New Dhaleshwari river, a branch of the Jamuna river in Tangail, is finally freed from the illegal occupation of sand traders.

A mobile court yesterday demolished all the three roads that an influential sand trading syndicate had built across the river last winter, to carry illegally extracted sand from near the Jamuna Bridge.

The roads near the confluence of the Jamuna and Dhaleshwari had stopped the water flow into the downstream that flows into the four rivers surrounding

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8 PHOTO ON PAGE 20

Scam hits Basic Bank

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Taking out loans with forged documents is so easy in Bangladesh that fraudsters don't want to miss out on any opportunity.

The issue has come to the fore again with a recent scam at Basic Bank that approved loans of Tk 4,500 crore, mostly without proper documents and scrutiny. The bank's board and top management were found to have helped the culprits steal the money.

The Basic Bank scam rattled the financial sector that still feels the pinch of a Tk 3,500 crore scam by Hall-Mark and five other companies between 2010 and 2012.

A Bangladesh Bank inspection found many irregularities in four branches of stateowned Basic Bank -- Motijheel, Shantinagar, Dilkusha and Gulshan branches -- which involved loans of nearly Tk 4,424.93 crore between December 2009 and November 2012

Of the amount, Tk 1,594.73 crore was given by the Gulshan branch, and the majority of the loans were issued without SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

United States will dent the image of

They expressed these views as the US products duty-free to the US.

"It is very unfortunate for us and an

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

US decision to affect image more than export, say analysts

Unfortunate

SOHEL PARVEZ The suspension of duty-free access to the

Bangladesh more than its exports, business leaders and analysts said yesterday. It might intensify campaigns against Bangladesh over labour standards and influence the EU to take a tougher stance on the continuation of trade privileges

for the nation. decided to suspend the Generalised System Preferences (GSP), a scheme that allows Bangladesh to export nearly 5,000

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



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GB must be taken under regulatory framework Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Grameen Bank must be

brought under a regulatory framework, as neither the central bank nor the Microcredit Regulatory Authority controls the Nobel prize winning organisation, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"At this moment, there is no regulatory body for Grameen Bank. It must come under a regulatory framework, and be accountable either to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Use of religion in Gazipur too

BNP, Hefajat men use it as campaign tool

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, from Gazipun

The main opposition BNP and Hefajat-e Islam are again using the religious sentiments of the majority to secure votes in favour of BNP-backed mayoral candidate MA Mannan in the Gazipur City Corporation election scheduled for July 6. Similar tactics had been used against ruling Awami ·

League-backed mayoral candidates ahead of the Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet city corporation elections on June 15, and the AL favourites were defeated in all of them by their rivals supported by the BNP-led alliance.

Alleging that Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and its : tions also came up in the leaders and activists patronize atheists, BNP and Hefajat

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

PM, Ershad meet in JS Discuss JS,

Gazipur polls

· STAFF CORRESPONDENT

· Prime Minister Sheikh

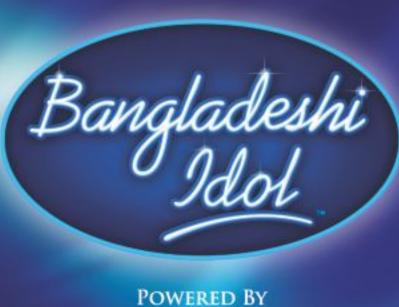
. Hasina and Jatiya Party · Chairman HM Ershad · yesterday at a meeting discussed different important issues, including the means to hold the Gazipur City Corporation and upcoming national elec-

"Mistrust" regarding Ershad over his recent comments against the government and whitewash · defeat in the recently held : polls to four city corporaclosed-door meeting at

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5







CLEAR

PRESENTS

নির্বাচিত করুন বাংলাদেশি আইডল। আজ ২৮ জুন থেকে প্রতি শুক্রবার এবং ১৩ আগস্ট থেকে

বিশ্বের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ রিয়েলিটি শো

চোখ রাখুন ১০০০ পর্দায়

প্রতি শুক্রবার ও মঙ্গলবার, রাত ৮:৩০ মিনিটে শুধুমাত্র 🗫 🗸 –তে

FREMANTLEMEDIA .

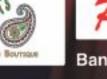
এখন বাংলাদেশে।

* বিস্তারিত জানতে কল করুন <mark>৩৬৯০</mark> নম্বরে।

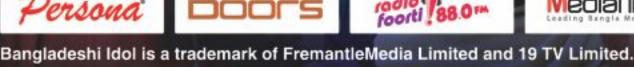
Ruposhi Bangla



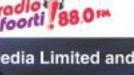












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