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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00



BANKS GLUM

Private banks' operating profit falls in the first half this year

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GOLDEN NEYMAR

The Golden Ball winner says Brazil's on the right track

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Limon indicted

Jhalakathi court frames charges against him in arms case filed by Rab; his family's case against Rab hardly makes progress

STAR REPORT

A Jhalakathi court framed charges against Limon Hossain in an arms case yesterday, a week after the country's human rights chief requested, in odd fashion, the teenager to withdraw his case against Rab personnel who shot and maimed him two years ago.

The indictment comes amid a huge outcry from rights bodies over the government's failure to protect the college boy, whose left leg had to be amputated after the shooting.

"The government has turned repressive and the National Human Rights Commission could not maintain its independence," said Adilur Rahman Khan, secretary of the rights organisation Odhikar.

Eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik described the indictment as a "sad day for our criminal justice system."

He noted: "Cases like these erode people's confidence both in the law enforcement agencies and the judiciary."

On March 23, 2011, a Rab team shot



Limon, then 16, in the left leg, taking him for a top criminal named Morshed near his Jhalakathi home at Jamaddarhat in Rajapur upazila.

The elite force then picked him up and filed two cases against him -- one for possessing arms and the other for obstructing law enforcers -- on the same day.

On April 10 that year, Limon's mother filed a case against six Rab officials for shooting and maiming her son.

While the case against the Rab men is moving at a snail's pace, Additional District Judge Kiron Chandra Halder yesterday pressed charges against Limon.

The court also rejected Limon's prayer seeking acquittal in the arms case against him and members of Morshed gang.

The court will start taking witnesses' depositions on August 26.

Limon, who now uses an artificial leg, in his reaction said: "I have been denied justice."

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With three days remaining before electioneering ends, campaigning for Gazipur City Corporation polls goes on in full swing near the city centre yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Govt moves for quick passage of labour law

REAZ AHMAD

The government yesterday decided to quickly review the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2013 and pass it in the current parliament session.

The move comes as a last-ditch effort to regain the GSP (Generalised System of Preferences), a trade privilege that the US suspended for Bangladesh last week citing "serious shortcomings" in safety and labour standards.

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RECLAIMING GSP

US suggests action plan

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The US government has recommended a set of action plans to Bangladesh to reclaim the GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) privileges that the Obama Administration suspended on Thursday over poor labour rights and safety issues.

One suggestion is to implement the commitments Bangladesh made under the National Tripartite Plan of Action on Fire and Structural Integrity.

The recommendations were made in a letter to Bangladesh's Ambassador to the US, Akramul Qader, who on June 26 forwarded it to the foreign affairs ministry.

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GAZIPUR CITY ELECTION 2013

AL desperate to retain stronghold

Faces tough campaign from opposition on national, local issues

SHAKHAWAT LITON and WASIM BIN HABIB, back from Gazipur

The opposition's use of national issues like stock market crash, Hall-Mark scam, railway-gate scandal, and the alleged Padma bridge scam, has turned ruling Awami League-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan's campaign into an increasingly difficult proposition.

ingly difficult proposition.

The opposition-backed camp in the Gazipur City Corporation elections is using the same strategy it had used in the polls to four city corporations on June 15, which includes appealing to the religious sentiments of voters.

It is clear the victories of BNP-backed

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Move on to persuade JP

Ajmat meets Ershad

RASHIDUL HASAN and PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Awami League-backed mayoral aspirant Ajmat Ullah Khan is yet to get full support from Jatiya Party, a key component of the AL-led 14-party grand alliance, said JP sources.

However, JP Chairman HM Ershad yesterday told Ajmat that his party was not supporting any of the two contenders backed by the ruling and opposition alliances in the Gazipur City Corporation polls.

Abdul Mannan is the mayoral favourite of the BNP-led

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The South Islambagh Panchayet Committee has erected its office through encroachment of a part of the river Buriganga. Although it claims to be a non-political organisation, local leaders of the ruling alliance are reported to be involved with it. The photo was taken yesterday at Islam Alir Ghat, Lalbagh.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Amar Desh admits it was Gilaf photo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six months after publishing a report with a misleading photo, the Bangla daily Amar Desh has finally admitted it was an image of changing the Gilaf (cover) of Holy Kaaba, not of a human chain to protest the war crimes trial in Bangladesh.

The report published in

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No major changes required for GB

Atiur differs with commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman yesterday expressed disagreement with a number of recommendations of Grameen Bank Inquiry Commission, and said the microlender's existing operational structure requires no major change.

"Bangladesh Bank is obliged to carry out annual inspections of Grameen Bank. In

these inspections, Bangladesh Bank has not found anything that requires a major change in how Grameen Bank should operate," he said at a seminar on microcredit.

Institute of Microfinance (InM) organised the seminar titled "Are microcredit participants in Bangladesh trapped in poverty and debt?" at the PKSF auditorium at

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Shibir calls hartal for tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Chhatra Shibir has called a countrywide daylong hartal for tomorrow, demanding the release of its leaders and activists including central president Delwar Hossain.

Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, had earlier threatened to enforce a shutdown on

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Unified food safety authority on cards

Cabinet okays draft law with provision for food courts, 14-yr jail for food adulteration

REAZ AHMAD

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle the draft of the Food Safety Act, 2013 with a provision of up to 14 years' imprisonment for food adulterators.

The draft law also sought to form a unified authority -- Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) -- to fight food adulteration and take care of other food-related concerns of consumers. It proposed forming as many food courts as deemed required to try the adulterators.

Once passed by parliament, the law will

replace the ages-old Pure Food Ordinance, 1959 and the current multi-pronged, multi-ministry controlled mechanisms of food safety issues, Food Minister Muhammad Abdur Razaque told The Daily Star.

The BFSA, noted the minister, would be moulded in the shape of the US Food and Drug Administration and this should give the people of Bangladesh some relief from the menace of rampant food adulteration.

The five-decade old law, which is still in effect, has provisions for a paltry fine of Tk5,000 or jail terms for two to three

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Nilofar Hafiz
1938 - 2013

In Loving Memory

Mrs. Nilofar Hafiz passed away peacefully on 26th June, 2013 in Chicago, USA (Innallilahi Wainna Ilahi Rajjun). She leaves behind her husband, Brig. (ret'd) Dr. Shahjahan Hafiz and three children, Bakhtiar Shahjahan, Rudaba Akhter and Iftesham Shahjahan.

Her Janaza will be held baad Zohar at the Central Azad Mosque, Gulshan on 4th July and she will be laid to rest at the Army Graveyard, Banani.

Her Dua Mehfil will be on Friday, 5th July, baad Asr, at New DOHS Mosque, Mohakhali.

All relatives, friends and wellwishers are requested to attend and offer Dua.

May Allah grant her Jannatul Ferdous. She will be fondly remembered for her lifelong love, devotion and dedication as a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.