



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

20 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE : TK 10.00



## LEGACY OF BRUCE LEE

How the Kung Fu star changed the face of films



PAGE 9

## FARIDPUR AL FEUD

Supporters of Sajeda Chowdhury attack motorcade of rivals

PAGE 13

## US NOT 'POST-RACIAL'

Obama says Trayvon Martin could have been him 35 years ago

PAGE 8

### GSP BENEFITS

# US shows ways to get it back

### KEY POINTS

- 1. Fast-track registration of unions
- 2. Increase the number of gov't labour inspectors
- 3. More fines for failure to comply with factory standards
- 4. Assess buildings and fire safety of all apparel units
- 5. Close or relocate "inadequate" factories
- 6. Drop or resolve criminal charges against labour activists
- 7. A hotline for workers to anonymously report fire, building safety, and rights violations
- 8. Report on a database on anti union discrimination
- 9. Repeal EPZ law or bring it to international standards
- 10. Develop a mechanism to prevent harassment and violence against labour activists

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The Obama administration has cranked up the pressure on Bangladesh to improve its worker safety standards, a condition to win back trade benefits from the United States.

The US on Friday made public a series of steps the country must take, and foremost among them is the need to increase the number of labour, fire and building inspectors and establish clear procedures for effective factory inspections. The steps are not time-bound.

"The administration is making this action plan public as a means to reinforce and support the efforts of all international

stakeholders to promote, improve worker rights and worker safety in Bangladesh," the labour and state departments and United States Trade Representative said in a joint statement.

On June 27, the US suspended the country's trade benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) due to Bangladesh's "insufficient" progress in affording internationally recognised labour rights to the workers.

The roadmap, if implemented properly, would provide a basis for the US government to consider reinstatement of GSP benefits, according to the statement. The



Dhanmondi Road-1 congested with rickshaws yesterday. With the start of Ramadan, the city sees a surge in the number of rickshaws. Many from the north and Mymensingh pour into the city in this month to earn some money for Eid, for which they find rickshaw pulling a suitable job. They return home after Ramadan.

## Under caretaker, test popularity

Says Khaleda at Jamaat iftar

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the ruling Awami League to test its popularity by contesting the next general elections under a non-party administration.

"We know people will reject this killer, oppressor and corrupt government with hatred," she said in a brief speech at a pre-iftar programme organised by Jamaat-e-Islami at a city hotel.

Presided over by Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Nazir Ahmed, top leaders of the BNP and components of the 18-party led by it attended the iftar party.

Besides, leaders of Dhaka city unit of Hefajat-e-Islam, a Qawmi madrasa-based

## Ashraf faces AL advisers' flak

Party chief urged to replace 'inactive' leaders, talkers

Criticising the role of Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam in party affairs, AL advisers yesterday suggested that party chief Sheikh Hasina replace him with a senior leader who has close contact with the grassroots.

They also recommended taking necessary steps to strengthen the organisation by replacing other "inactive" leaders and resolving internal feuds at all levels of the party ahead of the next general election.

The suggestions came at a meeting of the Awami League Advisory Council at Gono Bhavan, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Speaking at the meeting, some advisers condemned several ministers for their "excessive" talking, said meeting sources.

## Telenor's rebuttal

Says it never donated money to Clinton Foundation

Telenor Group has contradicted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in what she was quoted to have said that the Norwegian telecom company had lobbied for Prof Muhammad Yunus and even donated a huge sum to the Clinton Foundation to help him win the Nobel Peace Prize.

She made the remarks on July 11 at a meeting with party leaders, lawmakers and ministers at her official residence Gono Bhavan.

"While we believe the honourable prime minister must have been misquoted on this occasion, we still wish to clarify any misunderstandings related to the issue," said Sigve Brekke, executive vice-president of the group, in a letter to

## GB COMMISSION WINDS UP

# No word about final report

The Grameen Bank Commission closed its office yesterday following the expiry of its tenure amid confusion over the submission of its final report on the micro-lender and 48 other independent associated organisations.

Officials of the government-sponsored committee spent a busy day yesterday packing up equipment, documents and furniture at a residential apartment that had been their temporary office for the last 14 months in the capital's Eskaton area.

The officials, mostly on deputation from the finance ministry and Bangladesh Bank that provided the commission with staff, and secretarial and IT support, remained tight-lipped about the report.

On condition of anonymity, a finance ministry official said though the deadline for submitting the report ended yesterday, it was not sent to the



Producers bring in boatloads of guava at Atghor Kuriana on a tributary of the river Sandhya in Swarupkathi of Pirojpur at the peak of the season. The guava hub and wholesale market, which resembles the floating markets of Thailand, caters for a large portion of guava demand of the country.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ARIFUR RAHMAN

## MP Rony beats up 2 jourmos

Independent TV sues AL MP; counter suit against Salman F Rahman

Independent TV yesterday sued ruling Awami League legislator Golam Maula Rony for assaulting its two journalists, which prompted the lawmaker to file a counter suit against Salman F Rahman, owner of the private television channel.

Rony beat up the two journalists at

his Topkhana Road office in the capital, leaving them seriously injured.

Reporter Imtiaz Momin and cameraperson Mohsin Mukul belong to a team that produces the crime-investigative show "Talash" for the TV channel.

Talking to The Daily Star, Imtiaz said they had information that "a bribe

The image taken from lawmaker Rony's, right, Facebook account shows cameraperson Mukul, in pain, being taken away after the assault. The post claimed that Mukul received mass beating trying to extort money from Rony.



**বাংলালায়ন**  
ওয়াইম্যাক্স 4G

নিরাপত্তা ছাড়া ইন্টারনেট ব্যবহার? অসম্ভব!!

তাই এখন বাংলালায়ন নতুন বা পুরাতন সংযোগের সাথে পাচ্ছেন ক্যাস্পারস্কি ইন্টারনেট সিকিউরিটি মাত্র ৩৫০/- টাকায়।

ইন্টারনেট ব্যবহারে নিরাপদ থাকুন।

পাওয়া যাচ্ছে বাংলালায়ন ডিলারদের কাছে।

**Banglalion**

**KASPERSKY**