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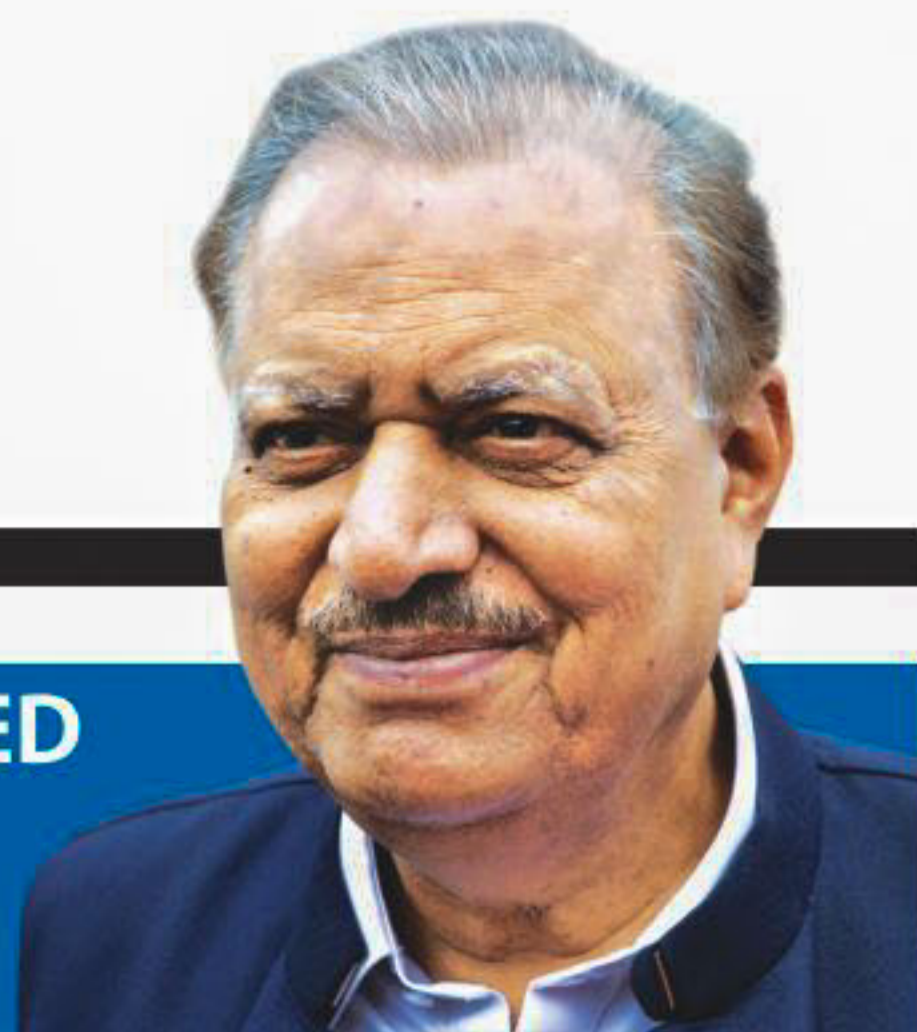
# The Daily Star

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**'ONE SMALL STEP'**  
Forty four years ago this month, Armstrong stepped on the Moon  
PAGE 6

**A COLLAGE OF CLASSICS**  
Dhaka Theatre looks back with pride to mark 40 years of its journey  
PAGE 9

**12TH PAK PRESIDENT ELECTED**  
Pakistan chooses Mamnoon Hussain to replace Asif Ali Zardari  
PAGE 8

SUNDARBANS ONLY 200M AWAY

## Industrial plots up for grabs

Realtors catch govt napping

PINAKI ROY

Plots are up for sale to establish hazardous industries and other installations just 200 metres away from the Sundarbans where the mangrove forest is already ecologically endangered.

If one takes a stroll round Bagerhat's Jaymani village, the last human settlement before the forest, they can easily spot hundreds of signboards along the banks of the Pashur and the Shela rivers.

According to the local administration, investors have already bought "almost the entire stretch of land" from Mongla up to Jaymani ignoring the potential threats to the rich biodiversity of the forest that is home to some 400 Royal Bengal Tigers.

"Plots are suitable for setting up any kind of large industries. Size of a plot is up to 1,000 acres. It can be even larger if you are interested," reads an advertisement aimed at selling land along the forest.

The adverts offer industrial plots for hazardous industries like ship-breaking yards and oil refinery plants or for resorts in

a location as close as 200 metres from the radius of the world's largest mangrove forest.

"They have already purchased almost all the pieces of land on the banks of those two rivers," said Dr Mizanur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer of Mongla.

"The Sundarbans is merely 200 metres away from Jaymani village. Any adverse activities there would put huge pressure on the forest," said Mizan who has recently done his PhD on environmental issues.

Locals say the trend of buying plots was first seen when the government started construction of a 50,000-tonne food grain silo and a dockyard at Jaymani.

The proposed Padma bridge was another reason that encouraged the investors to rush to the area, Dr Mizan added.

A number of the industrial plot-owners have already said in their websites that they have got "government approval" to launch their respective industries.

"Any kind of industries near the forest would further ruin the forest," said Amir  
SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PHOTO: COURTESY

Fam Kam Delta Ltd, a company mainly doing garment business, has put up a signboard claiming ownership of the land right on the bank of the river Shela at Jaymani in Bagerhat. Jaymani (also called Jaymanirgol) is the last human settlement in the southern region as seen on Google map. To set up factories, many industrialists are purchasing plots in this area, close to the Sundarbans just across the river.



## JOURNO ASSAULT Cops find MP Rony's claim baseless

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police have not found any evidence substantiating ruling party lawmaker Golam Maula Rony's allegations that the TV journalists, whom he had beaten up in his office on July 20, attacked and threatened to kill him.

On the day of the incident, Rony had filed a case with Shabbagh Police Station accusing Independent TV journalists -- reporter Imtiaz Momin and cameraperson Mohsin Mukul -- and its owner Salman F Rahman of the charges, which also included attempt of extortion.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Sub-Inspector Abu Zafar yesterday submitted the final report of the case to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Dhaka stating that the charges brought against the three were found to be false.

He appealed to the court to clear the accused of the charges and take legal action against Rony for filing a "false" case.  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Footage of CC camera at the entrance of Shoppers World in the capital's Gulshan shows a man in punjabi, pyjama and cap shooting Jubo League leader Milky from a close range early yesterday.  
PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## Caught on camera

Jubo League leader murdered; Rab identifies another leader as one of the killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo League leader was shot dead allegedly by a party man and another youth in front of a shopping mall in the capital's Gulshan area early yesterday.

The deceased, Riazul Haque Khan Milky, 43, was the organising secretary of the Dhaka city (south) unit Jubo League, the youth wing of the ruling Awami League.

It is evident from CC camera footage that a man wearing a white punjabi and a topi started shooting at Milky from a close range at the entrance of Shoppers World in Gulshan.  
SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Riazul Haque Khan Milky  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## 2 'carjackers' killed in Rab fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two suspected carjackers were killed in a "shootout" with the Rapid Action Battalion in South Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

Rab suspects that the dead are Sabuj Mia and Mohammad Sagar Ahmed, both aged between 35 and 40.

Rab-10 Commanding Officer Lt Col Md Imran Ibne Abdur Rouf said concerned by the recent incidents of shooting by miscreants in the capital, Rab had set up a check post on the Dhaka-Mawa link road five days ago.

Around 1:00am yesterday, Rab officials signaled at a white private car to stop. But it tried to speed away and one of the passengers even fired at the Rab men, he said.

The Rab members shot back, killing the driver and the person sitting next to him, he added.

Rab found some visiting cards in the car and by calling one of those numbers discovered that the car belongs to one SM  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## EC authority 'meaningless'

Rakib tells of powers to cancel candidature

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday termed meaningless and inapplicable the Election Commission's sweeping powers to cancel one's candidacy in parliamentary polls for violation of electoral laws.

Defending the proposal for abolishing this authority, the CEC also said exercising such powers would go against the philosophy of level playing field.  
SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## REPORT TO EC Big parties still silent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 15 of 38 registered political parties have submitted their annual reports on income and expenditure of 2012 to the Election Commission till yesterday, a day before the deadline.

The Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party are yet to submit their reports, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

As per the Representation of the People Order, all the  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## EU-LED RMG SAFETY ACCORD

## Retailers, owners talk on implementation

Inspect risky garment factories in 9 months Fund factory repairs Hire factory inspectors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top global retailers and brands yesterday launched talks with garment factory owners in Dhaka to work out a roadmap for implementing the building and fire safety accord signed earlier this month for the garment sector.

A total of 84 clothing retailers and  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

brands, mostly European, signed the legally-binding accord, initiated by IndustriALL Global Union after the Rana Plaza collapse killed 1,132 workers in April.

Separately, North American buyers signed a similar but non-binding accord for the country's garment sector.  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 8



"If the intellectuals had been intelligent enough to understand the country would be free in December [1971], they would have fled Dhaka by the end of November .... It is our misfortune that we have given so much honour to those who devoted all their intellect to protect Pakistan till December 13-14!"



KADER SIDDIQUE, president of Krishak Samik Janata League.  
STORY ON PAGE 3



A vested quarter has been filling up the Turag near Sinnirtek in Dhaka's Mirpur area, day by day narrowing down the vital river at this point. The photo was taken from Mirpur embankment.  
PHOTO: FILE

## River pillars to be revisited

Faulty demarcation shrinks Turag to 30ft at one point

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The task force on river protection yesterday decided to re-demarcate different parts of the rivers around Dhaka city, as the current demarcation pillars have narrowed their widths greatly in some places.

Shamsuddoha Khandaker, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), one of the main players in restoring the rivers, told the task force that the current demarcation was wrong.

"The demarcation pillars [installed over the last two years] have shrunk the width of the Turag river in Ashulia area to a mere 30 feet from its original 300 feet," he added.

Buriganga, Sitalakhya, Balu and Dhaleshwari -- the other rivers around the capital -- are suffering a similar fate due to the wrongly installed pillars, which have ignored their foreshores.

Members of the task force were not even sure whether to  
SEE PAGE 10 COL 4