



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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A GOOD SIGN

State banks make progress in recovering their default loans

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US TO SEIZE IRANIAN SKYSCRAPER

Ruling says seizure and sale of the building in Manhattan would be the largest-ever terrorism-related forfeiture

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Home gives in to pressure

Reckless drivers won't face death penalty; restriction on trucks in city may go during weekends

SHAMIM ASHRAF and M RAHMAN

Reckless drivers will not have to face charges of intentional killing from now on, as the government yesterday decided on initiating a move to term such deaths as "accidental" killing.

While intentional killing can call for the highest punishment for a single death, accidental deaths -- culpable homicide in legal terms -- amount to life sentences.

Surprised by the move, road safety campaigners have expressed concern that the government move will further encourage irresponsible driving while almost all drivers responsible for accidents escape punishment through legal loopholes and continue to commit such offences.

"The move will offer a sense of impunity to reckless drivers in the country where the habit of following road safety rules is scarce," said Tanweer Hasan, director of Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

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This photo taken on January 15, 2010, in Manik Mia Avenue, is an ideal instance of reckless driving on the streets of the capital. On average, 3,300 people have died every year in the country over the last decade due to irresponsible driving. PHOTO: FILE

COP EXTORTION ON HIGHWAY Home boss gives truckers hope

M RAHMAN

In a meeting with the home minister and the police chief, aggrieved transport leaders yesterday criticised the police for rampant extortion from trucks carrying goods to the capital.

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir advised them to file complaints with his office instead of the police, who have been lax in taking action to stop such extortion.

"We will take punitive action. Make specific allegations against such policemen," said Alamgir after an inter-ministerial meeting with transport leaders at the home ministry in the capital.

The meeting was called to pacify the transport leaders, who had threatened to go on a 72-hour countrywide strike from September 23 to press their eight-point demand, including putting a stop to extortion by police.

They postponed the strike on assurance from the home minister.

Alamgir told them that police

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HARTAL ENDS AT 6:00AM TOMORROW

Driver killed, cop shot by Jamaat men

STAR REPORT

An auto-rickshaw driver was killed and a police constable received bullet injuries when Jamaat-Shibir men attacked them on the first day of their 48-hour countrywide hartal yesterday.

The Jamaat-e-Islami enforced the shutdown to protest a Supreme Court verdict that awarded its assistant secretary general Abdul Quader Mollah the death sentence on Tuesday.

The hartal will end at 6:00am tomorrow. In Dhaka, pro-hartal activists could not wage any strong agitation due to the law enforcers' strong vigilance.

They, however, torched three motor-

bikes at Dainik Bangla intersection in the evening, said senior station officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters in Dhaka.

He said two units of fire service doused the fire and none was injured.

The unruly activists also vandalised several vehicles and hurled brick chips at police. Police opened blank shots to disperse the vandals. A man on a motorbike was injured during the chase and counter chase.

Meanwhile, auto-rickshaw driver Abu Naser, 45, met a tragic death when supporters of Jamaat-Shibir pelted the running three-wheeler with stones around 9:30am

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PADMA BRIDGE 'BRIBERY'

Abul Hasan Chy among 3 charged by Canada cops

CBC NEWS

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has charged a former senior executive of SNC-Lavalin and two influential Bangladeshi businessmen and lobbyists with bribery related to the Montreal-based engineering giant's failed bid to oversee the building of the \$3-billion Padma Bridge in Bangladesh.

The RCMP announced Wednesday they had laid bribery charges under Canada's Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act against Canadian Kevin Wallace, former senior vice president of SNC-Lavalin International Inc (SLII), a division based in Oakville, Ont, that has recently been disbanded.

Also charged are Zulfikar Ali Bhuiyan, a Canadian citizen with business ties in Bangladesh,

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ONION Tk 85 A Kg

Price rockets due to trading racket

Finds study

REAZ AHMAD

The steep rise in onion prices is not just the fallout of supply cut from India, but also an artificial supply shortage created by a nexus of traders, said a study by a food policy research think-tank.

"The market supply of onion in Bangladesh declined not only because of the reduction in imports from India, but also due to local traders taking advantage of the situation by cutting the supplies of their

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ONION PRICE

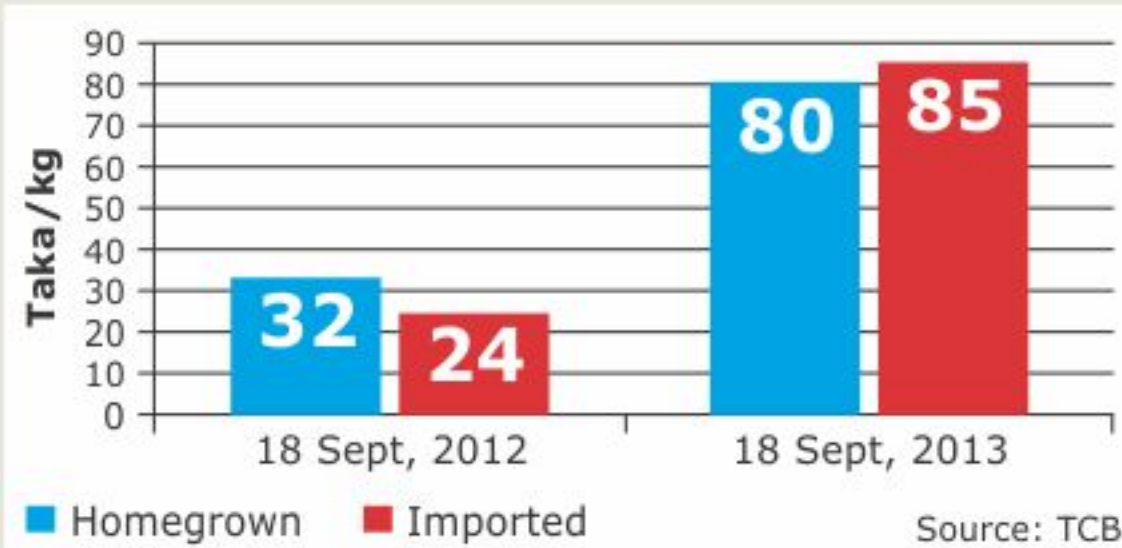


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Bullet-hit police constable Iqbal Hossain is being taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital after a clash between law enforcers and hartal supporters at Football Bazar in Satkania upazila yesterday, on the first day of the Jamaat-enforced 48-hour hartal.

COAL POWER PROJECT NEAR SUNDARBANS

Justification contradicted

SHARIER KHAN

While environmentalists are focused on the negative environmental impact of the proposed coal-based power plant in Rampal close to the Sundarbans, the government is looking at the massive project as an economic opportunity that could change the face of the region and eventually help conserve the forest.

As part of this 1320 megawatt power project, the government earlier this year had approved a financial package for the Rampal area under which for every kilowatt power sales from this plant, the locality will get Tk 0.03.

"This roughly totals Tk 27 crore or more a year," said an official of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Power Project. "This

fund will be used for building roads, hospitals and other infrastructure in Rampal."

An expert of the Centre for Environment and Geographic Information Services (Cegis) that prepared the Environment Impact Assessment said, "People in that region are very poor as they live in disasters. The soil is saline and at best, they can grow just one crop. These are the people who do not have jobs most of the time. They rely on the forest and that way the size of the Sundarbans has been shrinking over the years. But having the power plant there could create a lot of economic opportunity, which would stop them from encroaching upon the forest further."

He mentioned that using electricity worth Tk 1 brings a benefit between Tk 39

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Junior Climate Champions

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National Finale

Date: Friday, 20 September 2013

Time: 4:00 pm

Venue: Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Seminar Hall
Bangla Academy, Ramna, Dhaka.

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