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Despite setbacks, garment to rule

Forecasts McKinsey report

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh will continue to be among the top three apparel sourcing destinations over the next five years, despite the recent industrial accidents, a new survey by American consulting firm McKinsey & Co found.

The country's \$20 billion garment sector came ahead of smaller rivals Vietnam and Cambodia in the ranking of countries with the highest potential for future sourcing.

But the twin disasters of Rana Plaza collapse and Tazreen fire did have an impact on the international buyers' minds: some 52 percent of the respondents

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TOP RMG SOURCING COUNTRIES

Survey of 29 leading retailers



In % of respondents; forecast for next 5 years
SOURCE: McKinsey&Company



Businessmen block the capital's Mitford Road and keep their shops shut yesterday, demanding release of the medicine traders detained the day before in a drive against fake and unauthorised drugs. *Inset*, patients coming out of nearby Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital had to walk since vehicles were not available there because of the protest.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



MUGGING IN SYLHET Tk 1cr looted from bank staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Armed robbers snatched in broad daylight Tk 1 crore from a private car that was carrying the money from Brac Bank's Sylhet city branch at Zindabazar to Bishwanath branch yesterday.

At about 3:15pm, the robbers waylaid the car near Lalabazar at Dakkhin Surma upazila on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway and took away the money at gunpoint, said Mohammad Ayub, additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP).

Apart from the driver, only Gaohar

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8 new power plants given green light

Projects include 5 coal-fired plants, total capacity 2,706 MW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved eight power plants -- to be built, owned and operated (BOO) by local private companies -- in a bid to tackle the country's growing energy crisis

The committee at a meeting chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhith also okayed the second phase of techno-feasibility study of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

The eight plants -- five coal-based, one gas-fired and two furnace oil-fuelled -- will generate 2,706 megawatts of power. The government will purchase it at a price of Tk 6.6 to Tk 6.79 per kilowatt (kW).

Talking to journalist after the meeting, Muhith said the companies who got the job will decide from where they will procure coal. They will have to specifically mention the source of coal during the signing of agreements.

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LAND BOUNDARY DEAL Trinamool 'softens' its position

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and New Delhi are expecting a positive development towards ratification of the land boundary agreement (LBA), as Trinamool Congress has indicated its willingness to allow the introduction of a constitution amendment bill in Indian parliament.

Both the sides were encouraged by recent signals from Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool, which had opposed the

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PROTEST AGAINST DRIVE

Mitford medicine shops kept shut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traders of the country's largest wholesale medicine market in the capital's Mitford yesterday kept their shops shut, protesting Saturday's drive against the sale of illegal and unauthorised medicine.

A mobile court jointly raided the market with the help of Rapid Action Battalion-10, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), and seized medicine worth Tk 5 crore.

A total of 94 people were arrested in this connection, and more than Tk 1.28 crore was realised in fines.

The traders alleged that the Rab personnel had harassed them, arrested their fellow traders, and seized their goods

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POSITIVE BANGLADESH



Youths who work for Plan International Bangladesh speak at the September 10 launch of a national survey report on child marriage in the country. PHOTO: FILE PHOTO

Of change-makers

ANIKA HOSSAIN

Keshab Roy, a Nilphamari boy. He is just 18 but he has already made himself internationally known by winning a UN award. For what he has been doing can change things for the better, and, who knows, for good perhaps.

For in a country known for its rich and vibrant culture, there are certain deep-rooted social ills that hold it back from achieving the progress its people work so hard to achieve. One of those ills comes in the form of child marriage, a grave violation of human rights. And Keshab knows it and wants to stop it.

Last year, he received the Youth Courage Award from the UN for his relentless efforts to put an end to child marriage as well as preventing children from discontinuing their education.

In Bangladesh, 64 percent of women aged between 20 and 24 who were surveyed were married before 18, which is the minimum legal age for such a life-changing event. This finding of a national survey, commissioned by Plan International Bangladesh and carried out by ICDDR, B, came on 10 September.

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নির্বাচন কমিশন বাংলাদেশ

জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র বিতরণ কার্যক্রম ২০১৩

২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৩ থেকে ঢাকা মহানগরী ও ঢাকা জেলার হালনাগাদ ২০১২ ও তৎপূর্ববর্তী অবিভরণকৃত জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র বাড়ি বাড়ি বিতরণ পদ্ধতিতে বিতরণ শুরু হয়েছে।

- পর্যায়ক্রমে দেশব্যাপী এই বিতরণ কার্যক্রম শুরু হবে যা ৩১ অক্টোবর ২০১৩ পর্যন্ত চলবে;
- প্রতিটি এলাকায় বিতরণ কার্যক্রম শুরুর পরবর্তী দুই সপ্তাহ পর্যন্ত এই কার্যক্রম চলবে এবং ভোটার তালিকা হালনাগাদের তথ্য সংগ্রহকারীগণ বাড়ি বাড়ি গিয়ে নাগরিকদের জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র বিতরণ করবেন;
- সংশ্লিষ্ট সবাইকে ভোটার হিসেবে নিবন্ধনের সময় প্রদত্ত মূল স্লিপ ও বিতরণকারীর নিকট রক্ষিত বিতরণ তালিকায় স্বাক্ষর করে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র গ্রহণ করতে হবে;
- বিতরণ কার্যক্রম শুরুর দুই সপ্তাহের মধ্যে উপযুক্ত জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র গ্রহণ করা সম্ভব না হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা/থানা নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগ করে বিতরণকারীর নাম, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর সংগ্রহ করে পরবর্তী দুই সপ্তাহের মধ্যে তাঁর নিকট থেকে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে;

উপযুক্ত চার সপ্তাহের মধ্যে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র সংগ্রহ করা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তীতে সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা/থানা নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগ করে পরিচয়পত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with green activists that the government is deceiving people with assurances that the Rampal power plant project will do no harm to the Sundarbans?

Yes (82%)
No (18%)

TOTAL VOTES: 212

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think a favourable minimum wage will help end labour unrest in the garment sector?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING September 30

Azan	4:35	5:10
Fajr	12:45	1:15
Zohr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	6:00	6:05
Esha	7:30	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Chy Mueen wanted undivided Pakistan

His counsel tells tribunal, refutes war crimes allegations against him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A state-appointed defence counsel yesterday claimed that Chowdhury Mueen Uddin was a supporter of undivided Pakistan but had not committed any crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

Salma Hai Tuny, who was representing alleged Al-Badr leader Mueen at the International Crimes Tribunal-2, said her client was also a supporter of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, but was neither its leader nor a member.

On the first day of the defence arguments in the case against Mueen and Ashrafuzzaman Khan, Salma, however, said the intellectuals' killings during the war were "true as daylight".

But her client was not involved, she added. Mueen and Ashraf, who are now on the run abroad, are facing 18 charges for their alleged involvement in the abduction and killings of 18 intellectuals and are being tried in absentia.

At the beginning of her more-than-four-hour arguments, Salma said she had tried to contact the family members and relatives of the accused, but

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Marriage the secret to good health



THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

For centuries couples have pledged to stay together in sickness and in health but now an academic study has found that a happy marriage could itself be the secret to good health.

Researchers in the US charted the ups and downs of more than 2,000 married people over a 20-year period and found a strong correlation between being happily married and in good health.

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