1,340 tolas of

gold seized,

5 arrested

in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion

including an Indian, with

1,340 tolas worth around

Tk 5.14 crore in the capital

leader of a gold smuggling

ring; Hossain Askar alias

Labu, 36; Ahmed Jamil

alias Tuki, the Indian;

Kamrul Hasan, junior

security officer at Hazrat

Airport, 44; and Abu Jafar,

The gold bars had been

Shahjalal International

Bangladesh through a

from Hong Kong that

Bangladesh airlines flight

landed Tuesday midnight,

Tuki used to smuggle

gold into Bangladesh from

Rahman, media wing direc-

briefing at its headquarters.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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abroad, said Habibur

tor of Rab, at a press

smuggled into

Rab said.

134 gold bars weighing

The arrestees are

Mohammad Ali, 48, a

arrested five people,

yesterday.

## Man kills fellow trader in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leather trader was beaten to death allegedly by a fellow businessman over a trifling matter at Hazaribagh in the

capital early yesterday. Hazaribagh police Officer-in-Charge Kazi Mainul Islam said local people handed over the

culprit Shahin to police. The deceased, Saidul Islam Nayan, 38, lived on nearby Maneswar Road.

The victim's brother linnat Ali told The Daily Star that Nayan had gone out of house to celebrate the 31st

night with his friends. Later, he had an altercation with a shopkeeper over price while buying a packet of Benson cigarette, said

In the meantime, Shahin came to the scene and alleged that Nayan misbehaved with the shopkeeper as he was drunk, they said.

Then Shahin started kicking and punching Nayan in different parts of the body, leaving him unconscious, they added.

Locals rushed Nayan to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

### Indian statement unwanted: BNP STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Vice-Chairman Selima Rahman yesterday said the statement by Indian external affairs ministry on Tuesday regarding Bangladesh was unexpected, undesired and

unfortunate. "This country broke the chain of subservience through the Liberation War. The country did not take birth to become subservient to any other country," she said reading a statement at a press briefing at her

Gulshan residence. On Tuesday, a spokesperson for the Indian external affairs ministry said India has no intention of "interfering" in Bangladesh's internal affairs. The ministry also said it wanted that the people of Bangladesh, which is witnessing violence in the run-up to the January 5 polls, overcome their differences through

peaceful means.



Movement of pedestrians and vehicles is severely hindered on the narrow Old Dhaka road due to this footpath, a long stretch of which has recently been dismantled for renovation and development work in front of the CMM's court. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

JAN 5 ELECTION

Leaders of 4

parties give

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of four political

parties last night gave elec-

toral speeches broadcast on

Television (BTV), all pledg-

ing to work for building a

better Bangladesh if they

Rashed Khan Menon said

they try to implement their

24-point manifesto, which

included formulation of

the national democratic

development policy and

He also said the imme-

diate past government, of

many achievements though

those were marred due to

share market scandal, and

General Secretary of

Sharif Nurul Ambia said as

a part of the 14-party alli-

governance and failure in

preventing corruption

past government.

during the tenure of the

Ambia said JSD was par-

ticipating in the election to

establish good governance

and the rule of law. He then

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

ance, they admitted that there was a lack of good

Jatiya Samjtantrik Dal

the Padma bridge scam,

extortion.

which it was a part, had

ending communalism.

Workers' Party of

Bangladesh President

are voted to power.

the state-run Bangladesh

speeches

on BTV

## HALL-MARK LOAN SCAM

# HC yet to decide if bail to Jasmine legal or not

Continuous shutdowns, blockades blamed for delay

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court is yet to decide on the legality of the conditional bail granted to Hall-Mark Group Chairman Jasmine Islam in the loan scam cases, as it could not function regularly due to persistent political shutdowns and blockades.

In August last year, a Dhaka court granted bail to Jasmine in all the 11 cases in connection with the Sonali Bank loan scam. The condition was she would refund to the bank

Tk 100 crore every month in loan payment. Not only did she not pay the money, she also filed several petitions with the High

Court, challenging the very condition she was granted the bail on.

For flouting the court order, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed 11 separate petitions with the High Court in late August seeking cancellation of the bail to Jasmine, whose business group swindled around Tk 2,600 crore out of Sonali Bank.

Jasmine has violated the bail condition, said ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan. "She is taking the advantage of some legal interpretations to remain out of jail," he told The

Daily Star. A High Court bench on September 1

# Living cost in capital rose by 11pc in 2013

Says CAB report

UNB, Dhaka

The living cost in the capital witnessed a 11 percent rise in 2013 hitting hard the poorer section of the city's over one crore population, according to the annual report of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

The cost of living has been calculated on the basis of the "weight" of products and services available in consumers' basket, said the report released yesterday.

In line with the price hikes of essentials, electricity, drinking water and fuels, the house rent in the city also witnessed a significant rise--10.91 percent--in 2013.

"Many families are forced to move to sub-towns from the city due to this sharp rise in house rent," read the report.

prices of 114 products, 26 essential commodities and 10 services. The percentage of the price hikes of prod-

The CAB made the report assessing the

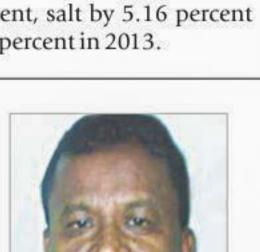
ucts and services has been calculated considering the product and services prices of some 15 wholesale and retail markets in the capital.

Assessing the prices of products round the year, the CAB found that the prices of ginger, onion, garlic and green chili marked the highest 38.64 percent. "The price of onion has been on the rise since June (2013)."

According to the report, the prices of fish increased by 20.36 percent, spices by 15.25 percent, rice by 10.04 percent and fine rise (Sugandhi rice) by 16.32 in 2013 compared to 2012.

Meanwhile, electricity price increased by 7.30 percent while that of fuel price by 5.65 percent in 2013. The same way, the price of water (Wasa) was increased by 5.01 percent.

However, the price of soybean oil came down by 5.63 percent, salt by 5.16 percent and sugar by 12.84 percent in 2013.

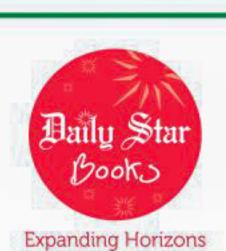




Above, five members of a gold smuggling ring who were arrested by **Rapid Action** Battalion in the capital yesterday. Left, 134 gold bars weighing around 1,340 tolas which were seized from them.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association forms a human chain in front of Aparajeya Bangla on the campus yesterday demanding exemplary punishment for those who attacked opposition-leaning teachers at Kadam Foara near the High Court on Sunday afternoon leaving at least eight of them injured.

PHOTO: **BANGLAR CHOKH** 



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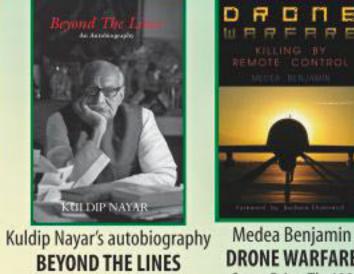
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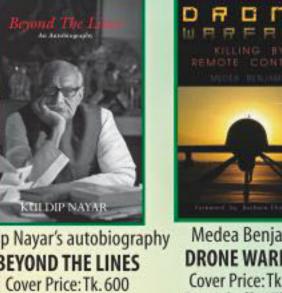
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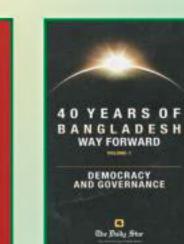
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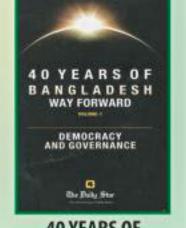
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