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CONMEN AT WORK



A man sets up, *top left*, a stall on a street in Gulistan in the capital that sells “herbal libido-enhancing drugs” and another smartly dressed man, *right*, tries to convince people to buy and have the drugs. As part of their strategy to convince customers, a member of the gang “buys” a glass of the drug and has it in public, *bottom left*. Many fall for this and end up buying a placebo for as much as Tk 300. However, sometimes things do not go according to plan and a brawl breaks out. Police have to step in and calm things down. In the extreme right photo, the apparent owner of the stall, who runs at least three such stalls, is seen walking away with the money conned from people. Hundreds of stalls in Gulistan cheat people like this and with other innovative methods.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

AL-QAEDA MESSAGE
Investigators
focus on first
upload point
*Rasel to be brought
to capital today*
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rasel Bin Sattar Khan, arrested for spreading online the audiovisual message purportedly of al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri, will be brought to the capital from Tangail today for interrogation at the TFI cell.

He would face the grilling at the Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) cell by experts of different law enforcement agencies, said Hasibul Alam, additional superintendent of police in Tangail.

Rasel, 21-year-old student, was picked up in a raid on a private mess in

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NO CHAIRMAN SINCE DEC 31 5 war crimes cases stalled in tribunal-1

TUHIIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government has failed to appoint the chairman to a war crimes tribunal for over one and a half months since the post fell vacant, drawing huge criticism from all quarters involved with the long-drawn out trial.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 has seen no progress in the trial of five cases, including the one against Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, since the retirement of Justice ATM Fazle Kabir on December 31 last year.

The prosecution described this as an unfortunate event while the defence said the delay was a deliberate decision by the government for “political reasons”.

Shahriar Kabir, a prominent campaigner of the war crimes trial, cited “reluctance” of the Awami League-led government, which always touted the issue as its priority one agenda, as the reason behind the delay.

The trial losing momentum at the ICT-1 also slowed down the investigations linked to some

other cases, a top investigator said.

The government, however, on several occasions said it would appoint a judge in that position soon and gave a timeframe recently, which is over.

On November 13 last year, the tribunal kept Nizami’s case waiting for the verdict but even after three months, it is not clear whether the court will hear the closing arguments again.

As per the war crimes law, a tribunal can resume a case’s trial from where it stopped even after any change in the judges’ panel.

But there is a precedent of different practice.

The tribunal-1 had heard the closing arguments of both the prosecution and the defence in the war crimes case against another Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee for the second time after Justice Md Nizamul Huq stepped down over a controversy and ATM Fazle Kabir took over the charge as chairman. And it was all done, the court said, for the sake of justice.

The government took only two days’ time to reconstitute the tribunal at that time.

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TARIQUE RAHMAN Surrender order's copy released

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court on Thursday released the certified copy of an order asking BNP leader Tarique Rahman to surrender before the trial court in a money laundering case.

This completes a step of the procedures before the HC begins the hearing on the appeal filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission against a lower court order that acquitted the BNP senior vice chairman, who is currently in London, in the case involving Tk 20.41 crore.

The ACC filed the case against Tarique and his friend and business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun in October 2009 for laundering the money to Singapore

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Putting the table into the tablet

MAIL ONLINE

You will definitely need a coaster for this coffee table -- as well as a sizeable front room.

Ideum has built a giant 46-inch Android touchscreen table that can recognise up to 60 simultaneous touches.

The device, which also comes in a 32-inch version, is set to go on sale later this year and prices start at \$6,950.

By comparison, the larger model is the equivalent size of five full-size iPads placed side-by-side.

New Mexico-based furniture maker Ideum teamed up with engineers from 3M to build the table.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you think BNP-Jammat-backed candidates' victory in 52 out of 97 upazilas indicates unpopularity of the ruling Awami League at the grassroots level?

Yes

80%

No

20%

TOTAL VOTES: 449

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP grassroots leaders that the BNP-led alliance would have easily won if it had contested the January 5 elections?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

February 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:20	5:55
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:03	6:07
Esha	7:30	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

UN boss calls for linguistic diversity

UNB, Dhaka

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has urged all to join hands in promoting linguistic diversity and multilingualism to build a better world and a life of dignity for all.

The UN chief for the first time made the call in a message in observance of

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Kolkata to get Shaheed Minar

Says Mamata Banerjee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
New Delhi

Kolkata is going to have a Shaheed Minar as a mark of respect for those who laid down their lives for Bangla language in Bangladesh in 1952.

"Our government will erect a minaret in memory of the language martyrs

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A miniature Shaheed Minar decorated with flowers at the Central Shaheed Minar on Amar Ekushey yesterday.

Obama meets Dalai Lama, defying China

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama welcomed Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to the White House yesterday, defying China, which said the meeting would "seriously impair" ties between the two countries.

The encounter took place in the Map Room on the ground floor of the president's residence and not the Oval Office, which Obama usually uses to meet foreign leaders and visiting dignitaries.

There were no sightings of the Dalai Lama at the White House and, in a sign of its diplomatic sensitivity, the Obama administration ruled that the meeting would be closed to the press.

The National Security Council said on Twitter that Obama was meeting the Buddhist monk "in his capacity as an internationally respected religious & cultural leader."

Lobsang Sangay, the Tibetan prime minister-in-exile, hailed Obama for holding his third meeting as president with the Dalai Lama. The pair, both Nobel peace laureates, last met at the White House in 2011.

Sangay said that the two discussed the human rights situation inside Chinese-ruled Tibetan areas.

"It sends a very powerful message to Tibetans inside Tibet because it gives them a sense of hope that their voices are heard, even by the most powerful person in the world,"

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