

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT**COST OF STANDARD**

Around 11,500 RMG workers lost jobs to factory inspection

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ARCHIE IS TO "DIE"

The July instalment of Life with Archie will bid the hero farewell

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Political unrest ate up \$1.4b

WB study finds service sector most affected in six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has suffered a production loss of \$1.4 billion (around Tk 10,857 crore), which is more than 1 percent of its gross domestic product, in the current fiscal year due to political turmoil from July last year to January, according to a World Bank study.

The WB revealed the findings yesterday at the launch of Bangladesh Development Update Report 2014 at its Dhaka office.

In late January, local think-tank Centre for Policy Dialogue also came up with an estimate of the country's economic losses, almost five times that of the WB.

The CPD estimated that nationwide shutdowns and blockades from July to

85 hartals, blockades since Jan 2013**More than 1% of GDP lost****Growth rate declines to 5.4%****Industry, farm sectors badly hit**

December last year caused a loss of Tk 49,017 crore to the transport, garment, agriculture and tourism sectors.

The economic loss Bangladesh suffered in the current fiscal year was more than one percent of the country's GDP of around \$130 billion, according to the WB.

Of the losses, 86 percent was in the service sector, 11 percent in industry and the remaining 3 percent in agriculture, it said.

"This loss reduces the growth rate [GDP] from the 6.2 percent benchmark to 5.4 percent," said Zahid Hussain, lead economist of WB's Bangladesh chapter.

Zahid said the WB's latest growth projection on Bangladesh was not disastrous

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DHAKA BOARD

Today's HSC exam postponed over 'question leak'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Education Board last night postponed today's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination reportedly over question leak.

The test under other boards would be held as per schedule.

The test for English second paper was postponed due to "unavoidable reasons", said Prof Taslima Begum, chairman of Dhaka board and Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee.

Sources, however, said the authorities had postponed the exam following a rumour that the question paper was leaked. The rumour started spreading in Dhaka and other parts of the country soon after the exams began on April 3. Some parents and teachers even called The Daily Star about it.

Nazmul Hossain, a parent of an HSC examinee, said he had seen one of his neighbours get the questions via SMS. He also said the neighbour had told him that the questions for English first paper also was received via text.

"How could our children concentrate on their studies amid such a situation?"

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**NEWS ANALYSIS**

Hilarious-torian on the block

Tarique proves he learns nothing from history

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The constitutional provision for the election of a prime minister in the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy is crystal clear. The leader of the majority party in parliament is elected prime minister.

BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman, who has been living for more than five years now in the UK, the birthplace of the Westminster style of parliamentary democracy, is supposed to have gained some knowledge of how a prime minister is elected in countries following this system.

His latest remarks terming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman an illegal prime minister in newly independent Bangladesh, however, have proved that he has learnt nothing. Otherwise, he could not make such a ridiculous claim within two weeks of his ludicrous invention that it was none but his father Gen Ziaur Rahman who was the first president of Bangladesh.

His comment on Bangabandhu's premiership is tantamount to a rejection of the historic facts regarding the formation of Bangladesh's first provisional government in April 1971 that waged the Liberation War. The remark has also undermined the people's mandate and authority of the then elected representatives and distorted the constitutional history of Bangladesh.

Representatives elected to the national and provincial

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Mujib 'illegal' PM in 1972

Tarique gives another twist to history

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In yet another demonstration of his creative imagination, BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman has claimed that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman became prime minister "illegally" in 1972.

Tarique's latest discovery comes less than two weeks after he made the startling remark that his father Ziaur Rahman was the first president of Bangladesh.

Quoting the declaration of independence, he said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was to remain president and Syed Nazrul Islam vice-president until a constitution was adopted.

"Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned to the country on January 10 [of 1972] and became prime minister on January 12. There was no constitution in the country.... So should we not say that he was the illegal prime minister?" he told a meeting at Westminster Hall in London on Tuesday night.

The BNP's UK chapter organised the programme.

"Sheikh Mujib's daughter Sheikh

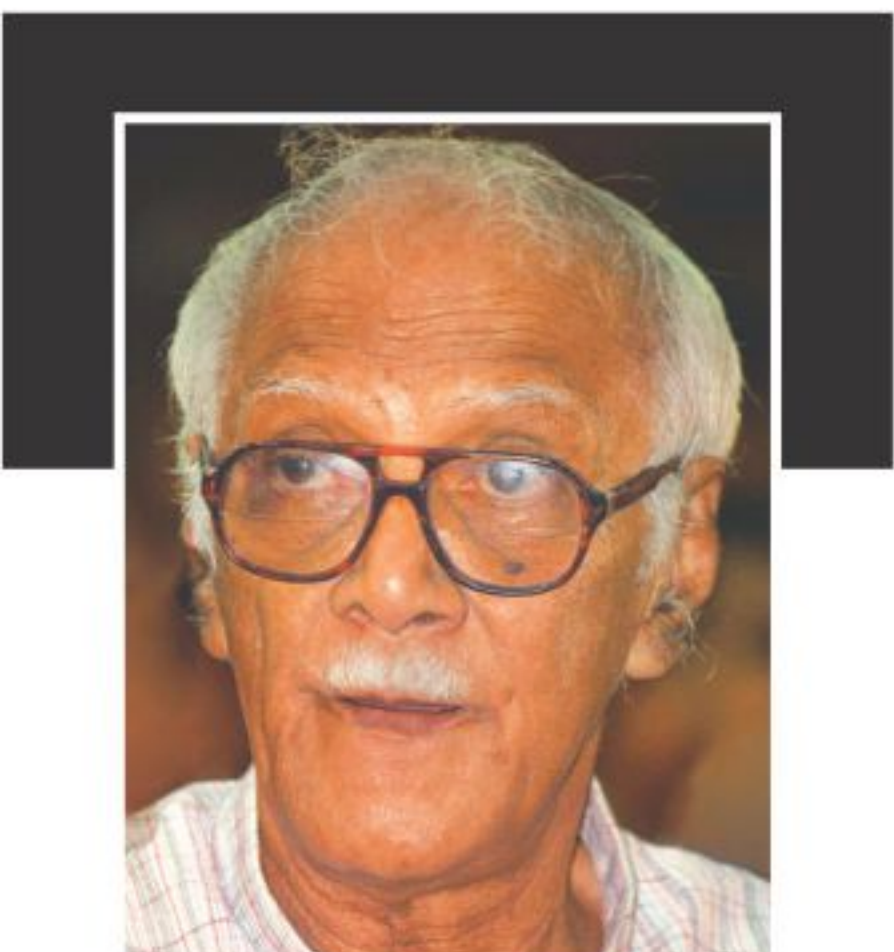
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It's Guinness world record

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The efforts of more than 2.5 lakh people finally paid off as Bangladesh has been listed in the Guinness World Records for an event where the largest number of people sang the national

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ABM MUSA (1931-2014)

Cracks in the soul

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

In October 1997, ABM Musa was part of the Bangladesh prime minister's team to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Edinburgh.

Sensing that there was really little for him to do, he asked me in humorous fashion, "Badrul, have you brought me to Britain to walk around, eat hamburgers and do nothing else?" He was trying to prove a point: good journalists, once they find they are suddenly free of writing, are in a

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