

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star
the STAR
stories behind the news**MOODY'S RATING**

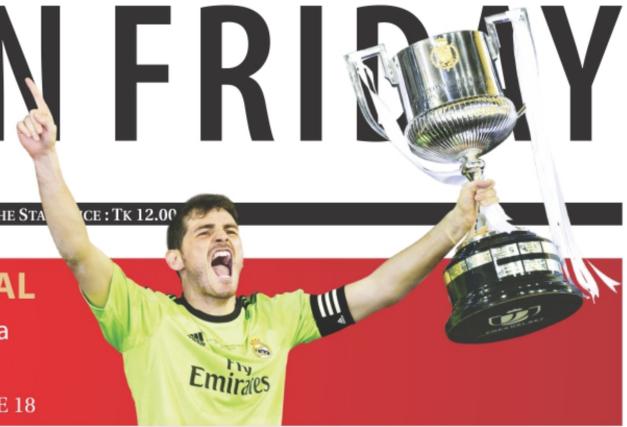
Bangladesh continues to have a stable credit outlook

PAGE B1

COPA JOY FOR REAL

Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 to clinch title

PAGE 18



Abductors free Abu Bakar

Cops find him on way home at Kalabagan with CNG-run auto-rickshaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kidnappers freed Abu Bakar Siddique, husband of prominent environment lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan, around 11:00pm yesterday, about 33 hours after the abduction.

Police later spotted him near Kalabagan on his way home on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 12:00am today, and took him to Dhanmondi Police Station. He later went to his Central Road home from there.

It still remains unclear who abducted him or why.

Syed Nurul Islam, superintendent of Narayanganj police, said they would try to find out the motive and the persons behind the abduction after gathering more information from the victim.

Talking to reporters at Dhanmondi

Police Station, Siddique said his abductors left him blindfolded near Ansar Camp in Mirpur, and gave him Tk 300. He hired a rickshaw there to come to Kazipara from where he took a CNG-run auto-rickshaw to reach home.

He said his abductors did not torture him or demanded any ransom.

In her reaction, his wife Rizwana told journalists, "I'm delighted. I'm thankful to the prime minister, the media, the law enforcers and all concerned for their efforts for his rescue."

The kidnappers were forced to release him because of the pressure from law enforcement agencies and the media, she added.

Gunmen kidnapped Siddique around 2:30pm on Wednesday in Fatullah of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Abu Bakar Siddique with his wife Syeda Rizwana Hasan at Dhanmondi Police Station in the capital around 3:00am today, after he was freed by abductors near the Ansar camp in Mirpur around 11:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: GRAB FROM EKATTOR TV

MURDER OF HILSAS

Hilsa, the mystical fish that every Bangalee craves for, swims from the sea to the rivers, the Padma and the Meghna, when the time comes for breeding. They lay eggs and then nobody knows what happens to them, whether they die after spawning like salmon or swim back to the sea. But this annual ritual replenishes the fish stock. Hilsa actually makes up about 30 to 40 percent of the open water catch. But increasingly some fishermen are using finely meshed nets called "current net", which are banned, and scooping up the hilsa fry locally known as Jatka in tonnes. Like the 2,600kgs of Jatka seized in Munshiganj yesterday that could have spawned a few million hilsas. To stop hilsa fry catching, the government needs to crack down on the manufacturers of such nets, or else the future of this pelagic fish remains mired in uncertainty.

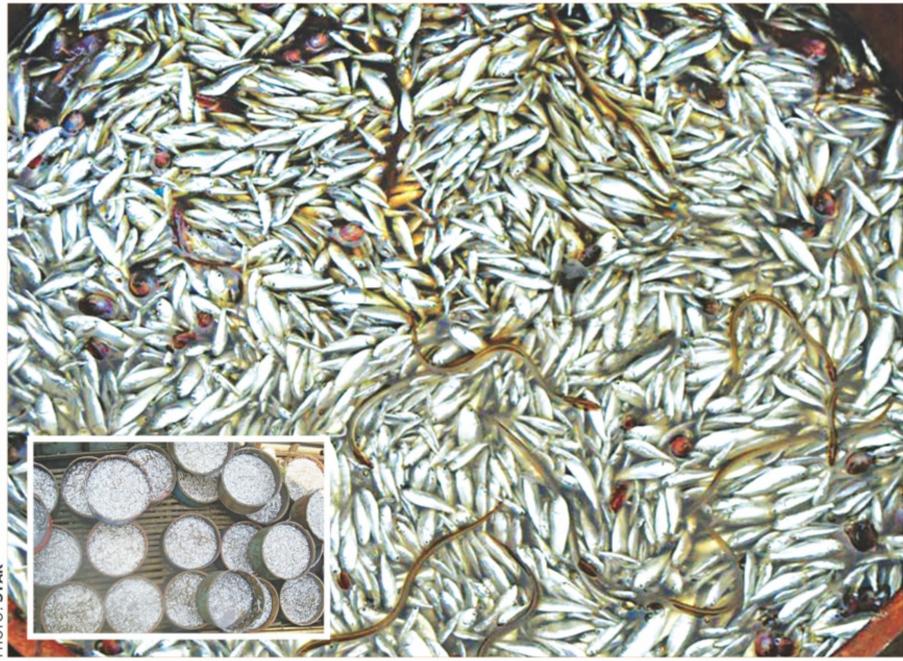


PHOTO: STAR

KILLING OF 8 BCL MEN IN CTG

4 death convicts acquitted by HC

Lack of witnesses works in Shibir cadres' favour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted four Islami Chhatra Shibir activists, condemned to death by a Chittagong court for killing eight people, including six Chhatra League activists, in the port city about 14 years ago.

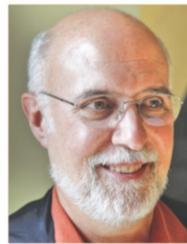
The HC gave the verdict after hearing appeals by the four accused against the

lower court judgment.

The charges brought against them were not proved, as none of the witnesses saw them spray bullets at the eight people who were killed at Bahodderhat in Chittagong in July 2000, said the HC bench of Justice Md Abdul Hye and Justice Krishna Debnath.

It didn't say anything about the other

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



The Daily Star will publish the second series of an investigative report by renowned American journalist Lawrence Lifshultz on the murder of Maj Gen Abul Manzur, starting tomorrow.

Death sought for Khokon

War crimes tribunal closes arguments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 could set a date any day for delivering the verdict in the war crimes case against absconding BNP leader MA Zahid Hossain Khokon.

After the prosecution and the defence concluded their closing arguments yesterday, the Tribunal-1 chaired by Justice M Enayetur Rahim with member judges Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Anwarul Haque kept the case in CAV (Curia Advisari Vult, a Latin legal term meaning

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



US for greater political inclusion

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal has said Washington continues to press for greater political inclusion in Bangladesh, without which a more stable and prosperous future will be at risk.

Biswal made the comment while delivering a lecture, "US Foreign Policy in South Asia: A Vision for Prosperity and Security", at the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University on Wednesday.

She said successful elections in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India -- all in the span of a year -- had

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

UP TO 12 HOURS
LASTING FRESH BREATH



THIS IS NOT JUST A
TOOTHPASTE
THIS IS
closeup

*Up to 12 hours lasting fresh breath is based on In-vivo study with regular use over 4 weeks. Creative articulation.