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DAUGHTERS OF FATE

Having parents lost in Rana Plaza tragedy, they got home at Anjuman

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FOREX RESERVES

External balance must not be taken for granted: WB officials

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ON RELIGIOUS IDENTITY

President Abbas says Palestine will never recognise Israel as Jewish land

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Alarm over antibiotics

Improper use of medicine causing more harm than cure; infections may be beyond cure in future

PORIMOL PALMA

The country's rural population is exposed to serious health hazards, particularly liver and kidney damage, because of indiscriminate taking of antibiotics, a study finds.

A nexus between drug companies and a section of physicians is mainly behind the irrational use of antibiotics. Patients' negligence too is to be blamed, according to the findings.

Citing the study, Kumar Bishwajit Sutradhar, senior lecturer of pharmacy at Stamford University in Dhaka, said drug companies bribe a section of physicians both in cash and kind.

"And the result is prescriptions of inappropriate or unnecessary and expensive drugs."

Sutradhar and others conducted the study among 6,000 patients and 580 physicians, village doctors and pharmacists in rural areas of Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions from July to December 2012. It was published in the UK-based

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SORRY POINTS

44pc doctors ignore mandatory diagnosis

Drug companies influence use

Patients too negligent in its use

CONSEQUENCES

Liver, kidney being affected

Antibiotics turning ineffective



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A heat haze at Bijoy Sarani-Rokeya Sarani intersection in the capital. The heat wave made life difficult over the past two weeks. A drizzle yesterday evening brought some relief for the city dwellers.

Drizzle cools down Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After two weeks of a heat wave, a light drizzle brought some relief to more than one crore residents of the capital yesterday.

A fresh nippy wind rose in the evening, carrying with it a whiff of wet earth. And the noise of thunder rolled across the city.

The Met office said it had recorded 1 millimetre rainfall in the capital.

The temperature also fell in the city yesterday, much to the comfort of residents who on Thursday experienced the hottest day in the last 54 years with the mercury shooting up to 40.7 degrees Celsius.

The maximum temperature in the city was 38 degrees Celsius yesterday while it was 39 degrees Celsius on Friday, Met office says.

A moderate to mild heat wave has been sweeping over the city for last 11 to 12 days, reaching its peak on April 24, said a Met official.

Though short-lived nor'westers usually give people respite from the sweltering heat in April, there has been hardly any storm this season.

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106kg gold found in Biman toilets

Aircraft mechanic arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials seized 106 kilograms of gold stashed in toilets of a Biman flight at Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

Mohammad Anisuddin, assistant aircraft mechanic of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, was arrested in connection with the haul of gold worth Tk 46 crore, said the officials.

"A total of 936 gold bars, each weighing 10 tolas, were stashed in seven toilets of the Biman aircraft BG-052 from Dubai," said Moinul Khan, director general of customs intelligence at a press briefing at the airport.

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Picked up from Uttara, found dead in Laxmipur

Family says plainclothes law enforcers abducted the Jubo Dal leader

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday recovered the bullet-hit body of a Jubo Dal leader in Laxmipur 33 hours after he had been abducted allegedly by law enforcers from the capital's Uttara on Thursday night.

Shamsul Islam Solaiman, 42, was an assistant organising secretary of the Laxmipur district unit of Jubo Dal, the youth front of the BNP.

On information from locals, police recovered his body around 8:00am from Basurhat in Sadar upazila, said Sub Inspector (SI) Mozammel Hossain, in-charge of Dasherhat police outpost in Laxmipur.

Hailed from Charshahi of Laxmipur Sadar, Shamsul's family have been living in the capital's Goran for over two decades.

He used to run a lace factory in Khilgaon, near his residence.

The victim's wife Salma Islam claimed that her husband was killed only because of his involvement in BNP politics.

According to her, some five to six men identifying themselves as law enforcers kidnapped her husband at gunpoint from Road 5 near Zainal Market at Uttara Sector 6 around 11:00pm on Thursday night.

"I and my husband were returning from a doctor's chamber by a rickshaw. As we reached the market, two young men, both aged around 20, got down from a microbus and blocked the rickshaw, brandishing arms," Salma told The Daily Star yesterday.

She claimed to have seen three to four more people sitting inside the microbus and one of them had beards and long hair.

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MANZUR MURDER-4

President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in Chittagong on May 30, 1981. Two days later, General Manzur was murdered. Facts related to the planned killing of Manzur show how top military leaders at the time desperately tried to bury the truth behind the Zia killing and how it helped them seize power. Manzur was the unsuspecting victim of their duplicity, which has become evident from the depositions of witnesses and the accused and from some authoritative books on the killing. All these years since June 1981, justice for Manzur and his family has remained elusive.

The nation fed cooked-up story

SHAKHAWAT LITON and CHANDRA HALDER

CHAITANYA

Brigadier General Azizul Islam made a phone call to Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Saifuddin Ahmed in the morning of June 2, 1981 to place the responsibility on the civil administration of burying Major General Abul Manzur, who had been murdered inside the cantonment the previous night.

When Aziz made the call, Saifuddin was at a meeting with Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Ziauddin M Chowdhury, DIG of

Police ASMA Shahjahan and some other senior civil and police officials at his office to review the prevailing situation.

Aziz asked Saifuddin to have Shahjahan and Sheikh Maruful Haq, superintendent of police in Chittagong, go to the cantonment to arrange Manzur's burial.

On receiving the phone call, the senior officials discussed their next course of action.

"In no way will we get involved in the burial process," a firm Ziauddin told Shahjahan.

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3 'snatchers' beaten dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Three people were beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of attempting to steal a motorcycle in Gazipur's Sreepur yesterday.

Of them, Nurul Islam, 27, son of one Abul Hossain of Sohadia village of Sreepur upazila, stood accused in a number of carjacking cases, police said.

Identities of the two others could not be known.

Mohsinul Quadir, officer-in-charge of Sreepur Police Station, told The Daily Star the three were preparing to snatch a motorcycle in Gilashwar village of the upazila around 3:00am. Sensing their attempts, locals chased them.

They managed to catch the tree in adjacent Sohadia village. The angry mob gave the three a savage beating, leaving them dead on the

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Chased by cops, man drowns

He tried to escape during drive against illegal power connections in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man drowned in a canal while trying to escape policemen chasing him during a drive by Desco to snap illegal electricity connections to Jhilpar slum in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

The dead is Abdul Khaleque, 38, who worked as a cook at different events.

A team of Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) along with a police contingent went to the slum at Rupnagar of Mirpur around 10:30am to cut off unauthorised electricity connections to the slum, said Mohammad Kamal Hossain, assistant commissioner (Pallabi) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Incensed, slum dwellers obstructed the team, attacked Desco staff and the law enforcers.

Witnesses said a "lineman" of the slum, Rahim had asked police to grant slum residents some time to get their connections authorised.

As Rahim was being beaten up by the cops, his accomplices attacked policemen, said day labourer Nur Hossain of

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Hawkers at Farmgate in the capital occupy the pavement and light them up with illegal electricity connections yesterday at a time when the nation is enduring a heat wave and frequent power cuts.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Ties with US not comfortable

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's relations with the US are not yet comfortable due to issues tied to politics and Grameen Bank, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

US officials appreciate Bangladesh's development programmes but are not happy about its political matters, he said.

Returning from his 15-day visits to Washington DC and Mexico, Muhith held a press conference at his secretariat office to brief the media on the outcome of the meetings in the US.

"Political pressure is not comfortable and devoid of etiquette," the minister told reporters, referring to his meeting with a US high official in Washington.

Replying to reporters' queries as to whether the US official broached the January 5 national election, he said, "He tried but I did not allow him to raise the matter."

The US will continue giving financial

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