



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



### FOODS THAT KILL

FAO official casts light on food adulteration in Bangladesh

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### WAR OR PEACE?

Tension in Ukraine remains high even as Putin tries to rein in pro-Russian rebels

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## N'GANJ ABDUCTION, KILLING Cops probing, people sceptical

### IO replaced amid controversy over his close ties with main accused; govt forms probe body, asks for report in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police officer probing the murder of seven people in Narayanganj was replaced yesterday in the wake of a controversy over his alleged links with the prime accused in the murder case.

Inspector Abdul Awal of the Detective Branch of police is no longer the investigation officer of the case, Narayanganj Superintendent of Police Khandaker Mahid Uddin told The Daily Star last night.

Mamunur Rashid Mondol, officer-in-charge of the Monohardi Police Station in Narsingdi, will take over as the IO, he said.

Asked about the reason behind the replacement, the SP said it was done to ensure a fair and effective probe into the abduction and murder of the seven, including Narayanganj panel mayor Nazrul Islam.

DB officials said Mondol would take up his new assignment today.

There has been a controversy over the police probe following allegations that Awal has close ties with Narayanganj ward councillor Nur Hossain, the main accused in the murder case.

Locals in Siddhirganj say Awal became close to Hossain, a local Awami League leader, when he was posted at the Siddhirganj Police Station about four years back.

On condition of anonymity, several officers of the police station also confirmed this to The Daily Star yesterday.

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After the temperature reached the mid-thirties earlier in the day, two girls let go and drench themselves in the afternoon shower, a sign of how welcome the rain was. The photo was taken near TSC of Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Transaction of Tk 6cr under BB scanner

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh Bank has begun investigating the alleged exchange of Tk 6 crore for the recent abduction and killing of seven people in Narayanganj, including the city panel mayor, Nazrul Islam.

The money was given to some members of the Rapid Action Battalion through Shimrail branch of Dutch-Bangla Bank and Rayerbagh branch of Jamuna Bank to kill Nazrul, alleged his father-in-law Shahidul Islam on Sunday.

BB officials will visit the branches today, Mahfuzur Rahman, executive director and spokesperson of the central bank, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Nazrul along with his four aides and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker with his

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### NEWS ANALYSIS

## DISMISSAL OF 3 RAB OFFICIALS Reform of Rab is a must

INAM AHMED

We are supposed to be happy at seeing rapid action taken against the three Rapid Action Battalion officials whose names have surfaced in connection with the gruesome kidnap and murder of seven persons in Narayanganj.

But we cannot really feel a sense of relief because Narayanganj is only the tip of the iceberg and unless Rab is thoroughly investigated and reformed, such future happenings cannot be stopped.

Actually, with this latest incident, Rab itself has been confronted with a big question: How can an organisation which has become a monster over the years through impunity and unchallenged power be rectified? The other big question we have to face is: Why did our political leadership not take matters seriously when a litany of allegations

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## 3 dismissed Rab officials to be tried in regular court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three dismissed Rab officers will face charges in regular courts, not military courts, if they are found guilty in the investigations on the recent abduction and killing of seven people in Narayanganj.

Rab-11 commanding officer Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, Major Arif Hossain and Lieutenant Commander Masud Rana have been sent on forced retirement and they are no longer a part of the armed forces. They cannot be tried under military law, according to different government sources.

The sources said the trio had been interrogated by the military after Shahidul Islam, father-in-law of Narayanganj city councillor Nazrul Islam, who had been abducted and killed, alleged that some Rab personnel killed Nazrul in exchange for Tk 6 crore from prime accused Nur Hossain and others accused in the abduction and murder case.

The three have been confined to the Log Area of Dhaka Cantonment without access to telephones and internet. They are also under constant

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## Thai court ousts PM from office

### New PM appointed after Yingluck, 9 ministers axed for abuse of power

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's Constitutional Court yesterday dismissed Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and nine ministers for abuse of power, leaving the government clinging to power but the nation still locked in a political crisis.

The cabinet swiftly appointed a deputy premier -- Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan -- to be Yingluck's replacement as the ruling party struggled to regain its footing after the judicial blow.

The court, which has played a key role in deposing two other Shinawatra-linked governments in recent turbulent years, ruled unanimously that Yingluck acted illegally by transferring a top security official in 2011.

"Therefore her prime minister status has ended... Yingluck can no longer stay in her position acting as caretaker prime minister," presiding judge Charoon Intachan said in a televised ruling.

Nine cabinet ministers who endorsed the decision to

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Yingluck Shinawatra



With no safety gear whatsoever, not even a proper saddle, children who are supposed to be in school become jockeys in a horse race in Rajapur, Jhalakathi. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## Horse jockeys at home

### Children used illegally in Jhalakathi race

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

When using children as camel jockeys is finally being stopped in the Middle East, young children are being used in horse racing in Jhalakathi and its neighbouring districts.

Kids as young as five are being recruited in the risky job of horse jockeys.

Poverty forces families to send these minors to work where they are not given any safety gears to protect them from possible fall and injury, locals say.

"Young children are more suitable for horse

racing as they are light, which enables the horses to carry them easily," explained Harun Ur Rashid, who manages a group of horses at Dogona of Kathalia in Jhalakathi.

Lal Miab, a local, has four horses and seven jockeys -- all children aged between eight and 11. He earns between Tk 600 and 1,000 per race from each horse.

The kids in turn earn a meagre Tk 50 per race. "I know the risks involved but I know no other way to earn money," says Shakil, barely eight years old.

"I fell from a horse a few days ago and I was

hurt."

Shakil told this correspondent that he left the job several times, but the owner brought him back by persuading his poor parents, who are in need of money.

Asit, 12, says he has been working as a jockey since he was five.

The Child Act 2013 prohibits engaging children in hazardous work. Under the law, any one under the age of 18 is a child.

"Forcing children to work in such hazardous conditions is illegal," Fawzia Karim, a member

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### Doctors won't treat journos!

#### Injured leaves Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in fear

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Rajshahi

An injured photojournalist was refused treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Tuesday afternoon after some unidentified interns told his wife that he would not be treated there.

"No journalists will be treated at this hospital. You may go to Dhaka or somewhere

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### Jamaat leader killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Satkhira

A Jamaat leader was killed in a "shootout" with police in Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira early yesterday.

Ashrafur Islam, 38, was the ameer of Kushlia union unit of Jamaat-e-Islami and also the superintendent of Sadpur Dakhil Madrasa.

Golam Rahman,

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