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HAT-TRICK OFFER

# KURMITOLA ARSON

## Biharis point fingers at Elias

### 7 camp residents remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The residents of Kurmitola Bihari Camp in Mirpur yesterday blamed the local ruling party lawmaker for Saturday's attack on the settlement that killed at least 10 Biharis.

Elias Uddin Mollah, MP of Dhaka-16 constituency, however, outright denied having any connection with the arson and attack on the stranded Pakistanis of the camp.

Agitating Biharis converged on Kalshi road early yesterday, wearing black bandanas and chanting slogans against Mollah. They also burnt an effigy of Mollah.

According to the protesters, the lawmaker visited the area last Wednesday and asked the Biharis to allow an illegal electricity connection to an adjacent slum of Bengalis.

"When we refused to allow the connection, he threatened us saying, 'I will make you pay in two days' time.' And on Saturday, our homes were set on fire," said Anju Begum, a resident of the camp.

Many other inhabitants of the Bihari settlement made the same allegation.

The camps, which were set up for the stranded Pakistanis following the 1971 Liberation War, get free electricity and water as government relief.

Mollah wanted to give electricity links from the transformer of Kurmitola Bihari Camp illegally to power around 1,700 settlements built on government land between the camp and Matikata, Biharis alleged.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Biharis bring out a procession in front of Kurmitola Bihari camp in Mirpur, demanding justice for the killing of 10 people in the Saturday morning arson.

# RAMNA BATAMUL

## Verdict today in carnage case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgment in the Ramna Batamul carnage case against 14 leaders and activists of banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji) will be delivered today.

Judge Ruhul Amin of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court will pronounce the verdict at 11:30am, court sources said.

On May 28, after completion of arguments from the prosecution and the

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

# BASIC Bank's credit rating sees steep fall

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

A credit rater downgraded the troubled BASIC Bank's rating by nine notches this year from a year ago, sounding an alarm over the lender's growing vulnerability to collapse.

In its latest report, Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB) attached CCC1 to BASIC Bank, taking it down from BBB1, which means the ailing bank needs a financial lifeline and carries a very high credit risk.

In 2013, CRAB had downgraded BASIC Bank's ratings by five notches to BBB1 from AA2 in 2012.

The rating agency also lowered the bank's short-term rating to ST-5 from ST-3, mean-

ing that the bank has inadequate capacity for timely repayment of obligations. CRAB has also withdrawn the bank's Government Support Rating (GSR), which controls funds injection by the government.

The bank's rating outlook is negative this year, just as in the previous year.

"The downgrade of BASIC Bank's ratings reflects the heightened risks the bank may face and that it may be unable to sustain in the medium to long term without considerable government explicit financial support as well as visible steps to improve governance and management," the rating agency said in its latest report.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

# Another gas field?

Bapex hopes to hit commercially producible gas in Rupganj

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex) expects to hit commercially producible natural gas in a well drilled in Rupganj close to the capital anytime next week.

Bapex has already hit non-commercial gas in that well at a depth of 3,600 metres early this week.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

# UNDERGROUND RAILWAY IN DHAKA

## Ministry asked to study feasibility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet purchase committee yesterday directed the communications ministry to conduct a feasibility study for an underground railway in the capital to ease traffic congestion.

The directive came at a meeting of the committee at the Cabinet Division, with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair.

The meeting approved appointment of two consultants for the Dhaka-Chittagong Expressway and Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit projects.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) and China have expressed interest in financing the Dhaka-Chittagong Expressway and the underground railway in the capital, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told a press conference at the auditorium of the National Economic Council.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

The digging of a trench on Road 35 in Gulshan for installing storm-water drainage line continues on Saturday in violation of a local government decision that no individual or organisation would be allowed to carry out such work after May 30. Because of the digging, ankle-deep mud has been strewn all over the place, making life for residents of the area a misery. The situation gets worse whenever it rains. The city corporation maintains it had to undertake the work as locals insisted and could not do it earlier due to beautification work for the cricket world cup.

# ENGLISH ADS ON BILLBOARDS

## Advertisers in big trouble

DCCs serve short notice for removal

HELEMUL ALAM and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

After Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) too has moved to have all hoardings with advertisements in English or mixed language removed much ahead of a High Court deadline, upsetting advertisers.

On Friday, the DNCC issued a public notice in national dailies, asking advertisers to remove such signboards, billboards or banners within three days, though they have till July 1 to comply with the court order.

Last Tuesday, the DSCC published a similar notice in newspapers.

The HC on May 28 ordered the information secretary to take measures to stop publishing advertisements in electronic and print media in English language in a month unless there are any unavoidable circumstances.

The HC directed both the home and the information secretaries to submit a report before it by July 1 after complying with its orders.

However, the court did not specifically say in what circumstances English language ads can be allowed.

Contacted, a legal expert, requesting anonymity, said

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

# First case of Bangladeshi MERS victim detected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scientists have identified an expatriate to be the first Bangladeshi ever diagnosed with MERS coronavirus in the country.


The 53-year-old arrived in Dhaka from New York via Abu Dhabi two weeks ago, said Moshtak Hossain, principal scientific officer of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research (IEDCR) in the capital.

The patient was admitted to a city hospital with fever,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

PRAYER TIMING			June 16
Azan	4-05	Jamaat	4-40
Fajr	12-45		1-15
Zohr	5-00		5-15
Asr	6-50		6-55
Maghrib	8-15		8-45
Esha			

The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with former caretaker government advisers Akbar Ali and M Hafizuddin Khan that it is necessary to revise the power structure of the prime minister and the president?

Yes

91%

No

9%

TOTAL VOTES: 276

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government should form a judicial probe body to investigate the Bihari camp incident that left 10 people dead?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

# RANA PLAZA BUILDING CODE VIOLATION

## ACC sues Savar mayor, 16 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued the Savar municipal mayor and 16 others for allowing the construction, in violation of the building code, of Rana Plaza that collapsed last year killing at least 1,135 people.

It, however, did not bring charges against Sohel Rana, who had been responsible for

the building management, since he did not own the piece of land in Savar on the outskirts of the capital and had not made any formal appeal seeking approval for the building, said ACC Director Wing Commander Tahidul Islam.

However, Rana's parents Abdul Khalek and Morjina Begum were made accused in the case since they own the plot, according to ACC sources.

# Computers set to replace teachers

MAIL ONLINE

A new flagship 'free school' is planning to replace teachers with computers for some day-to-day lessons, it was claimed on Friday.

One of England's biggest academy chains -- Ark Schools -- wants to set up a new 'blended learning' model, which will see children taught over the internet for large chunks of the day.

The new 'e-school' will be known

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

