



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT**RAB IS BACK**

The elite force starts patrolling city streets after a month's gap

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MALIKI DEFIANT

Iraq PM rejects Kurdish territorial claims

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THEN



NOW

The photo on the left, taken in Sept 2012 from Ichhapur Bridge in Rugganj, shows how the authorities had demarcated the Balu river to protect a piece of land carved out of the river. The red pillars follow the shore straight but then go towards the middle of the river. In the photo on the right taken from the same place last month, homes are seen built on that piece of land, apparently encouraging another encroacher to take another slice out of the river.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

CENTRAL COAL TERMINAL Chinese firm interested

\$1b proposal likely next month

SHARIER KHAN

A Chinese company has expressed its interest in building a central coal terminal in Maheshkhali to facilitate import and distribution of coal for several large coal-fired power plants to be built there over the next decade.

The China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) will submit a detailed proposal for the \$1-billion terminal early next month. It has primarily said it will arrange the finance from China.

A central coal terminal will directly help the government produce cheaper coal-based power.

The government has planned to turn Maheshkhali into the country's energy hub by building eight to 10 coal power plants there generating 10,000 megawatt, which is more than what the country produces now. Huge land has already been acquired to that end.

In the first phase, the government plans to install four 1,200MW plants each and the first tender for such a plant was floated in May.

Each of the 1,200 MW plants will annually require more than 3 million tonnes of coal. When there will be full 10,000 MW power generation on this island, it would have to handle around 27 million tonnes of coal annually, which is a massive affair.

The tender floated in May by the Power Development Board (PDB) has sought to build a dedicated coal terminal for the first plant, which means it had not considered a central terminal. The tender also sought the contractors to ensure the source of coal for nine years.

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Fears over rise of extremism in Muslim nations

Majority Muslims against terror outfits like al-Qaeda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A strong majority of people in Bangladesh are concerned about Islamic extremism, but they have negative opinions of extremist groups like al-Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Pakistani Taliban, according to a Pew Research Centre survey.

Such fear is on the rise in countries with large Muslim populations in the

Middle East and South Asia, the survey says.

It says 69 percent of people in Bangladesh, 66 percent in Pakistan and 63 percent in Malaysia expressed their concerns about extremism.

And the fear has increased in the past one year in most Middle Eastern countries, according to the survey conducted among 14,244 respondents in 14 countries from April 10 to May 25

this year.

Asked whether suicide bombing or other forms of violence against civilian population can be justified to defend Islam, some respondents said that this form of violence is often or sometimes justified, but such support has generally diminished in the last decade.

Still, Muslims in a few countries, including Bangladesh, said it can be

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ISLAMIC EXTREMISM

69%

Bangladeshi respondents concerned

66%

have negative opinions of al-Qaeda

47%

believe suicide bombing can be justified

56%

see Hezbollah unfavourably

56%

have an unfavourable opinion of Hamas



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

The World Cup has so far been a rollercoaster ride as far as the fans are concerned. True that the eight first-round group champions have now made it to the last eight, but there were lots of heartbreaks in the round of 16 as five of the eight games went into extra time or beyond.



Still anyone's game

AARONY ZADE

At this point, it is safe to say the unanimous verdict should be that this is the best World Cup ever. This tournament has already robbed us most of our regular lives, yet all fans can look forward to at the moment is Friday, when the quarterfinals kick off. There are plenty of counter arguments here that referee decisions and Brazil's political conflicts have had a negative mark. But they all take a backseat once the only thing that matters comes into consideration -- the quality of football itself.

The 154 goals scored so far should indicate why this has

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India agrees to extradite Nur Hossain

Sangsad told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India has agreed to extradite Nur Hossain, the prime accused in the seven-murder in Narayanganj, Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali told parliament yesterday.

Responding to lawmakers' queries, he said the issue was raised during the recent visit of Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to Dhaka.

"During a meeting with her, we sought Nur Hossain's deportation... she agreed to extradite him," mentioned the minister.

Dhaka, he said, will now send a letter to Delhi requesting it to send back the arrestee.

Replying to another query by a legislator, the minister said 28 diplomats have been working under the ministry on contractual basis.

West Bengal police arrested Nur Hossain along

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Return of GSP seems far off

USTR review finds Bangladesh behind schedule in meeting commitments; praises progress in some areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has made some important progress, but must do more to address the worker rights and worker safety issues that led American President Barack Obama to suspend trade benefits, the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) said yesterday after an interagency review.

At the time of the suspension, the US provided the Bangladesh government with an action plan that provides a basis for Obama to consider the reinstatement of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) scrapped in June last year.

"The Obama administration has been engaging the Bangladesh government and stakeholders over the past year to press for changes to address the worker rights and worker safety issues," US Trade Representative Michael Froman said in a statement.

"We are seeing some improvements that move us closer to our shared goal of protecting workers from another workplace tragedy such as the April 2013 Rana Plaza building collapse, including a significant increase in the registration of unions.

"However, we remain concerned about the large number of factories that have yet to be inspected, the lack of progress on needed labour law reforms, and continuing reports of

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