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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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20 PAGES PLUS SHOWBIZ PRICE: Tk 12.00

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIV No. 176 | ASHAR 28, 1421 BS | RAMADAN 13, 1435 HJIRI



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**GOODBYE GRANDMA**  
Zohra Sehgal, the grand old lady of Indian film and theatre, passes away at 102  
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## Turag close to death

'Grabbers' claim to have lands in the river

**TAWFIQUE ALI**  
Strangled by land grabbers, the once mighty Turag river, fondly called *Kahar Daria* in yester years, now virtually lies on its death bed.  
People, from nursery owners and sand traders to industrialists and businessmen, are extensively filling up the river and erecting structures as if it was there for them to grab.  
"We used to fish and bathe in the clear water of this river in our childhood, when it was wide and mighty," an elderly Ansar Hossain of Tongi told this correspondent during one of his recent visits.  
But today, the river is nothing more than an ailing lean flow with powerful land grabbers choking it ruthlessly from both the sides, he said.  
The 38km river stretching from Kholamora to Teramukh across Tongi has been shrunk to virtually a stream under the very nose of the district administration, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, Department of Environment and police.  
During a number of visits in recent weeks, this correspondent found the river being massively filled up near Birulia Bridge, Dhour Bridge, Protyasha Bridge, Kamarpara Bridge and at scores of other sites along Tongi-Ashulia Link Road.  
Land grabbers have been driving death nails into the Turag's existence over the past three years as the district



Grabbers have fenced off a section of the Turag river near Kamarpara on the outskirts of the capital and are filling it up with sand using dredgers. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## 'Criminal' killed in city 'gunfight'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A suspected criminal was killed in a "gunfight" with the Detective Branch of police in the capital's Khilgaon early yesterday.  
The dead is Jakir Hossain alias Kengali Jakir, 40, an accused in the murder case of Sergeant Ahad.  
The incident occurred around two weeks into the killing of two suspected criminals in another "shootout" between some goons and detectives in Motijheel.  
Family members of Jakir said though the deceased was involved in criminal activities previously, he was leading a

## DEEP SEA GAS US firm for revised deal

**SHARIER KHAN**  
American company ConocoPhillips has found a prospect of 5-7 trillion cubic feet gas reserve deep in the Bay of Bengal, but its existing production sharing contract (PSC) with the government does not give it enough incentive to confirm discovery and supply of the gas.  
It would take \$3-5 billion investment to confirm and develop the gas prospect at site 350 kilometres off the Chittagong coast.  
The PSC signed in 2008 does not justify taking so much financial and technological risk for ConocoPhillips to drill a well 1.5 km underwater, develop the field and deliver the gas in Chittagong by installing a long and tough pipeline, says a competent Petrobangla source.  
There is only 17 percent chance of actually finding oil or gas in this prospective site that was identified through seismic surveys in deep sea blocks 10 and 11.

## PM to attend Girl Summit

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to fly for the UK on July 20 on a four-day visit to attend the first Girl Summit there.  
The summit is aimed at mobilising domestic and international efforts to improve the lives of girls and women in the world's poorest countries.  
Hosted by the UK government and UNICEF, the meeting will also help end early and forced marriage

## Gaza death toll 105

**Obama phones offering to broker ceasefire but Netanyahu vows more air strikes**  
**AGENCIES**  
Israel's aerial bombardment of Gaza claimed its 105th Palestinian life yesterday as Hamas pounded central Israel with rockets and Washington offered to help broker a truce.  
Diplomatic efforts to end the hostilities between Israel and Hamas militants gathered pace, with US President Barack Obama phoning Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.  
"The United States remains prepared to facilitate a cessation of hostilities," the White House said.  
But Netanyahu remained resolute, saying he would not end his campaign until he achieved his goal of stopping the Hamas fire, reports AFP.  
"No international pressure will prevent us from striking the terrorists who are attacking us," he told a news conference in Tel Aviv.



Argentine fans pass time at a makeshift campsite in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday. They arrived here to watch Sunday's FIFA World Cup final between Argentina and Germany at Maracana in the Brazilian city. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

## Germany supremely confident

**REUTERS, Santo Andre**  
Germany captain Philipp Lahm and forward Thomas Mueller sounded supremely confident on Friday that their team will be able to neutralize Argentina's Lionel Messi and win the World Cup on Sunday.  
Sounding at times as if they had already won the match, the two players told reporters at their team base that Germany have more talent, more experience, an extra day's rest and more than enough confidence to beat Argentina the way they did in the 1990 final and the quarter-finals in 2006 and 2010.  
"We're here to win the World Cup," said Lahm. "We all enjoyed watching the [Argentina-Netherlands] semifinal on TV and it didn't matter to us at all who we'd play in the final."

## Fifa unveils Golden Ball shortlist

**BBC ONLINE**  
Fifa has announced the shortlist for the 2014 Golden Ball, the prize awarded to the best player at the World Cup.  
Argentina have three nominees in Angel Di Maria, Javier Mascherano and Lionel Messi, while their opponents in tomorrow's final, Germany, have four.  
Mats Hummels, Toni Kroos, Phillip Lahm and Thomas Muller are the

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