



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
Star Showbiz



HIGH BUT STABLE
Prices of most essential items remain the same as last week
PAGE 3

MANDELA DAY CELEBRATED
World remembers the iconic South African leader on his 96th birth anniversary
PAGE 8

Silent revolution in Keraniganj

Small factories meet 70pc of local demand for garments; Tk 1,000cr sale expected before Eid

SUMAN SAHA, back from Keraniganj

One may get confused to see hundreds of people crossing the Buriganga river by small, wooden boats daily these days instead of using the nearby bridge.

But these people, mostly traders from across the country, prefer to use the Sadarghat boat terminal to make a short-cut entry to the apparel hub in Keraniganj in the southwest part of Dhaka.

The apparel centre that produces denim and woven items, including T-

shirts, jeans, shirts, undergarments and children's wear, meets around 70 percent of the demand for such products in the local market.

Apparel makers in Keraniganj, which boasts about 8,000 small factories and 6,000 showrooms, aim to take their sales to up to Tk 1,000 crore during this Ramadan.

In all, about 2 lakh people are employed in these factories and showrooms.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

8,000 small factories
6,000 showrooms
2 lakh workers
70% of annual turnover in Ramadan

- Products include jeans, T-shirts, children's wear
- Competitive price, product quality attract customers
- Makers target middle and lower income groups



A worker collects pairs of dyed jeans from rooftops in the apparel hub of Keraniganj in Dhaka yesterday. Factories in the area produce denim and woven items and mostly target lower and middle income groups.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

World demands answers

Obama slams Russia, says missile fired from area held by pro-Moscow rebels downed Malaysian plane; UN calls for 'full probe'

AGENCIES

World leaders called for a rapid investigation into the shooting down of a Malaysian airliner over eastern Ukraine and justice for nearly 300 deaths that could mark a pivotal moment in deteriorating relations between Russia and the West.

As Ukraine sought to rally international support against Russia, two US officials said Washington strongly suspected the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 with 298 aboard was downed by a missile fired by PRO-Moscow

Ukrainian rebels.

There were no survivors from Thursday's crash, the deadliest such attack on a commercial airliner, which scattered bodies across miles of rebel-held territory near the border with Russia.

A Ukrainian official says 181 bodies have been located so far at the crash site of Flight MH17 which was heading for Kuala Lumpur from Amsterdam.

Residents in the Netherlands were in shock yesterday as news spread that 189 of the passengers onboard the doomed flight were Dutch nationals.

Around the country, flags were

lowered to half-staff as people gathered in squares, and traditional festivals were toned down in honour of the victims.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on Friday vowed "not to rest" in tracking down those responsible for the disaster.

Of the rest of the passengers, twenty-nine were Malaysian, 27 Australian, 12 Indonesian, nine British, four German, four Belgian, three Filipino, one Canadian, one New Zealand and 4 as yet unidentified.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2
MORE ON PAGE 8



MH17 TRAGEDY

Black boxes recovered

181 bodies found

189 of victims are Dutch

SHOOTOUTS WITH COPS

BNP leader, suspected mugger killed

STAR REPORT

An upazila-level BNP leader and a suspected mugger were killed in "shootouts" with police in Satkhira and the capital early yesterday.

The dead, Sheikh Abdul Halim alias Biplob, 39, was assistant general secretary of Tala upazila unit BNP in Satkhira and also general secretary of Jalalpur union unit of the party.

The victim in the capital is Gias Uddin alias Apan, 30. With the latest death, four people have been killed in three weeks in incidents of "gunfights" in the city.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: Biplob was a demonstrator of computer studies at Shalikhia Degree College.

Police, however, claimed the deceased was involved in outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) faction Janajuddho and accused in five cases, including two for murder. He was on bail in all the cases.

Biplob, said law enforcers, had been absconding since 2009 after he was accused of two murder charges.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



A woman crosses herself as people lay flowers and light candles in front of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kiev yesterday, to commemorate passengers of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 which crashed in eastern Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel threatens to widen Gaza assault

Ground offensive intensifies; death toll hits 285 amid looming humanitarian crisis

AFP, Gaza City

Israel yesterday warned it could broaden a Gaza ground assault aimed at smashing Hamas's network of cross-border tunnels, as it intensified an operation that has so far killed 285 Palestinians.

With diplomatic efforts to secure a ceasefire gathering pace, US President Barack Obama said he had telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to voice concerns about the crisis.

And Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas reached out for French help to lobby Hamas allies Qatar and Turkey to pressure the Islamists into accepting a truce during talks in Cairo with Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius.

In the face of Israel's land, sea and air offensive that has sent terrified civilians running for cover, the Islamist movement Hamas remained defiant and warned the Jewish state it would "drown in the swamp of Gaza".

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



A Palestinian child cries out at al-Shifa hospital after Israeli forces shelled her house in Gaza City yesterday. Gaza hospitals are being filled with increasing number of injured -- many of whom are children -- as the Israeli onslaught continues.

PHOTO: AFP

Tragedy struck them twice

MH370, then MH17

AGENCIES

An Australian family has been struck by both Malaysia Airlines tragedies, losing two members of their extended family in the MH17 crash four months after another couple went missing on MH370.

Maree and Albert Rizk, who were returning to Melbourne after a month-long holiday in Europe, died Thursday when MH17 came down in eastern Ukraine, Australian media reported.

Maree's father is married to a member of a Queensland family which lost husband and wife Rodney and Mary Burrows on MH370 when it disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, Rodney's brother Greg Burrows told AFP.

"It's just ripped our guts again," Burrows told reporters. SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Commit crime, get someone else to serve time

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Nasir Uddin Khokon probably had no idea what he was stepping into.

A day labourer from Munshiganj, Khokon was lured into a Tk 5 lakh "job" given by Mohammad Jamal Sheikh, a rape accused.

The poor man thought that the money would turn the wheel of his fortune and accepted the "offer". His job was to surrender before a court impersonating Jamal. Little did he know that Jamal had been awarded life sentence in a rape case.

The moment Khokon surrendered, the court sent him to jail.

Khokon was dumfounded and Jamal, who was with him at the moment under a different identity, assured him of his release within two months. But neither the assurance of release nor the promise of

money was kept.

Instead, while Khokon has been languishing in jail for over three years for a crime he did not commit, Jamal was moving about freely with new names like Nuruzzaman or Kamal.

However, the good days of clever Jamal came to an end on Thursday when he was arrested by Tejgaon Industrial Police.

It all started in 2005. One Abdul Jabbar Fakir of Singpara village under Munshiganj's Srinagar filed a rape case under the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression in Munshiganj on 19 May 2005 against Jamal, who was already married and had three sons.

In the case details, he stated Jamal took Fakir's sister-in-law to his residence on North Lutfur Rahman Lane at Kotwali in the capital on May 4, SEE PAGE 11 COL 2