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# Tuba workers still wait for arrears

## Group owner 'gets bail'; 12 hospitalised as hunger strike continues

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Tuba Group's 1,600 workers did not get three months' arrears and festival bonus even yesterday, pushing some to observe hunger strike for four days straight in a bid to drive their demands home.

As many as 60 workers on strike have fallen ill so far and 12 of them had to be hospitalised.

"As most of the workers are malnourished and anaemic, prolonged hunger strikes could permanently damage their kidneys," said Dr Mojibul Haq Arzu, convener of Progressive Doctors Forum, who has been attending to the on-strike workers since Wednesday.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Labour and Employment Mujibul Haque Chunnu yesterday said Tuba Group owner Delwar Hossain had secured bail before the Eid holidays. Delwar, managing director of Tuba Group, has been behind bars since February 9 in a case filed in connection with the Tazreen Fashions fire at Ashulia that killed 112 in 2012. Tazrin Fashions is a concern of Tuba Group.

The announcement of the state minister comes amid allegations that Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) was inciting the workers to go on the hunger strike to force the government to release Delwar.

However, the BGMEA leaders denied the allegations.

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Hooked up to a saline drip, the garment workers of Tuba Group on their fourth day of hunger strike yesterday inside their factory in Badda of Dhaka. They have been demanding three months' arrears and Eid bonuses.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# PM hints at DCC polls in November

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has hinted at holding polls to the two Dhaka city corporations (North and South) in November, sources say.

The government would go for the long-due DCC elections to mitigate public miseries, Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, said at a party meeting and asked her party leaders to make

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## INDO-BANGLA TRADE

# New shipping routes on trial

## Bangladesh to earn from goods transported thru' coastal shipping

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India are expected to open shipping routes using non-deep-sea vessels by end of the year, with dry runs beginning as soon as October 14.

The two sides are close to reaching an agreement on standard operating procedures for trans-shipment using the proposed routes, diplomatic sources said.

It would make transport of exports and imports cheaper and promote trade.

India is interested in getting cheaper and quicker transport facilities to and from its eastern and south-eastern Indian states and Bangladesh is banking on getting huge foreign currency and employment opportunities in return.

A high number of Bangladeshi vessels are likely to be used for commercially transporting cargo to and from India through Chittagong and Mongla ports, officials said.

In the absence of direct shipping arrangements, Dhaka and New Delhi

are now heavily dependent on costly land routes for the over \$6 billion bilateral trade.

According to rough estimates, the coastal shipping routes might reduce the cost of transportation by 20 to 40 percent compared to rail or road transportation.

Shipping ministry officials said 98 percent of vessels engaged in carrying goods under the water protocol of 1972 are Bangladeshi, although it has provision for a 50-50 use of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## SHOOTING OF BANGLADESHIS

# Greek court acquits locals

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A Greek court's decision to acquit local farmers who admitted shooting 28 Bangladeshi strawberry pickers when they dared to ask for months of back pay has sparked outrage in the country.

Politicians, unionists and anti-racist groups roundly condemned the verdict describing it as a black mark for justice in a case that had shone a light on the appalling conditions in which migrant workers are often kept in Greece.

"I feel shame as a Greek," said the victim's lawyer, Moisis Karabeyidis, after the tribunal in the western port city of Patras, delivered the shock ruling. "This decision is an outrage and a disgrace ... the court showed an appalling attitude toward the victims."

Scores of migrants, many sobbing in disbelief, protested outside the court house after magistrates allowed two of the men, including the owner of the farm who had been accused of human trafficking, to walk free.

Two others, accused of aggravated assault and illegal firearms possession, were handed prison sentences of 14 years and seven months and eight years and seven months but were also freed pending appeal.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3



PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

Even the inundation could not stop the people of Charripara in Patuakhali from visiting their neighbours on Eid day. Every fortnight the village gets a rush of water due to a damaged embankment. This maroons the villagers for around six hours. Inset, a woman doing the dishes with water up to her porch.

# EU adopts sanctions against Russia

## Moscow fights back, announces tit-for-tat measures over Ukraine crisis

AFP, Brussels, Moscow

The European Union formally adopted broad economic sanctions against Russia yesterday, aiming to make it pay a price over the Ukraine crisis in the hope Moscow will reverse course.

A defiant Russia said Wednesday that Western sanctions over Ukraine would backfire on the

United States and lead to energy price hikes in Europe after Brussels and Washington unveiled the toughest punitive measures against Moscow since the Cold War.

Russia's response came as the Ukrainian military pushed on with its offensive against pro-Russian rebels in the east, retaking the town of Avdiyivka,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

# Turkish women defy deputy PM with laughter

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

Twitter in Turkey broke into a collective grin on Wednesday as hundreds of women posted pictures of themselves laughing.

They weren't just happy. They were smiling in defiance of the deputy prime minister, Bülent Arıncı, who in a speech to mark Eid al-Fitr on Monday said women should not laugh in public.

"Chastity is so important. It's not just a

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

## The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the Awami League never believes in the politics of compromise?

Yes

32%

No

68%

TOTAL VOTES: 461

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the BNP's planned anti-government movement would be able to force the government to hold dialogue?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

## PRAYER TIMING

| August 1 |       |        |
|----------|-------|--------|
|          | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr     | 4-03  | 4-08   |
| Juma     | 12-30 | 1-15   |
| Asr      | 5-00  | 5-15   |
| Maghrib  | 6-47  | 6-57   |
| Esha     | 8-15  | 8-45   |

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় অধিদপ্তর

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১০০ টাকা মূল্যমানের

বাংলাদেশ প্রাইজ বন্ডের

৭৬ তম 'ড্র' এর ফলাফল

১৬ শ্রাবণ, ১৪২১/৩১ জুলাই, ২০১৪ তারিখে ১০০/- টাকা মূল্যমান

বাংলাদেশ প্রাইজবন্ডের ৭৬ তম "ড্র" অনুষ্ঠিত হয়

প্রথম পুরস্কার

টাকা ৬,০০,০০০

০৮১৩৩২৮

দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার

টাকা ৩,২৫,০০০

০২৩৮৮৫২

তৃতীয় পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ১,০০,০০০ টাকার মোট ২টি পুরস্কার

০১৫২৯৬৪

০৯৬৬২২৭

চতুর্থ পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ৫০,০০০ টাকার মোট ২টি পুরস্কার

০৩৬৯০৮৭

০৬৮৮২৪০

পঞ্চম পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ১০,০০০ টাকার মোট ৪০ টি পুরস্কার

|         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ০০২০৬৮১ | ০১৭০৯১৬ | ০৪২১৯৮৫ | ০৬৮৮৫৩৪ | ০৮২১০৯৮ |
| ০০২১৪৮৫ | ০১৯১৬৮৭ | ০৪৯০২৭৭ | ০৭০৬৬৬৯ | ০৮৪০৩৭৫ |
| ০০৩৪৩৪৩ | ০২২১৩০৭ | ০৫০১৩৫৫ | ০৭১৮৯৭৬ | ০৮৪৫১৫৬ |
| ০০৪৫৫৮১ | ০২৬১৮৯১ | ০৫১৬১৫২ | ০৭৩৭১১০ | ০৮৬১১৮১ |
| ০০৭৪০১৯ | ০২৬৪১৯৬ | ০৫৫০৪৮২ | ০৭৪৯৮০০ | ০৮৭৭৮৯৪ |
| ০১১৮৯৬৭ | ০২৮৯১৩০ | ০৫৫৮৩৪৭ | ০৭৮০৭১৮ | ০৮৯৮৯৩২ |
| ০১৫৬০৫০ | ০৩২৬৬৭২ | ০৫৭৮২৫৭ | ০৮০১৫৮৫ | ০৯১৯৫৮৩ |
| ০১৫৬৪৬২ | ০৪০৭৮৯৫ | ০৬৬৮৩৭৭ | ০৮১৯০১১ | ০৯৬০৭৭৮ |

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আপনাদের সেবায়

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