



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT



INVADE UKRAINE?

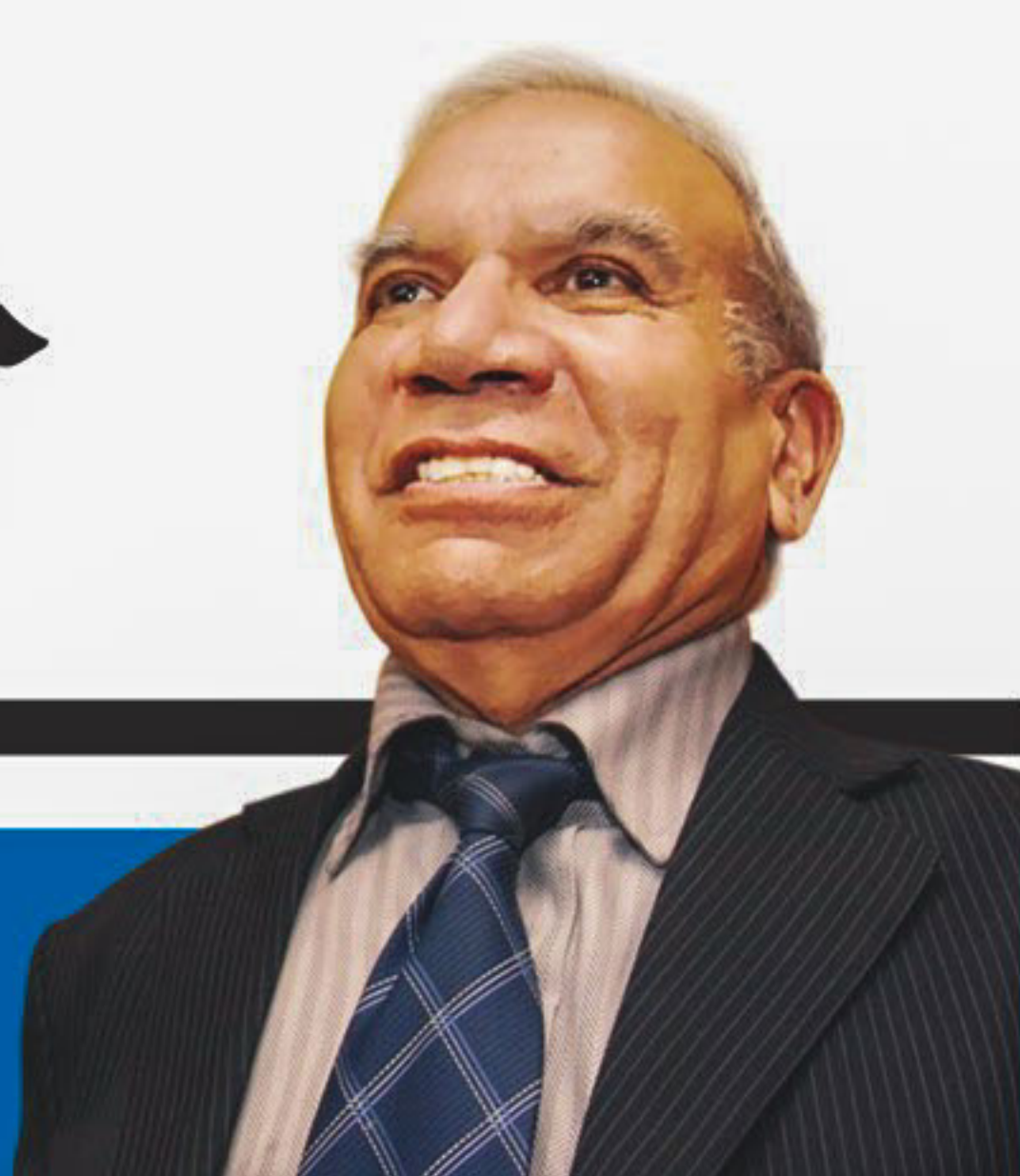
Nato says Russia could be poised to do exactly so

PAGE 8

PRAN PASSES AWAY

The creator of Chacha Choudhury breathes his last at 74

PAGE 9



Waiting for the dead

22 bodies found afloat near Mawa, in 4 downstream dists

WASIM BIN HABIB, PANKAJ KARMAKAR with FARHANA MIRZA

Their tears have gone dry. They have lost the strength to wail or search further. But they have kept waiting on the banks of the Padma river at Mawa Ghat to get news of their loved ones who drowned with the ill-fated Pinak-6.

But the rescuers were yet to locate the sunken vessel even three days after the disaster.

Since Tuesday night, the BIWTA, BIWTC, the navy, police, coast guard, fire service and district administration have been conducting an intensive search covering an area of six kilometres, but all to no avail.

Family members and relatives of the missing people were frustrated and angry at what they said was the government's inept handling of the situation. They had given up hope of

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 16

SEE APGE 2 COL 2



This image taken from a video captured by an eyewitness shows a lifebuoy of a passing ferry being thrown into the Padma where people on speedboats were trying to pull passengers of Pinak-6 out of the water moments after it sank. Use QR code scanner of your smartphone/tablet to view the video.

PHOTO: VIDEO GRAB

When your heart breaks but you can't help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As they were going down, some passengers of the sunken launch waved frantically and cried at the top of their voices pleading to people in nearby boats for help. While many made it to the rescue boats, some ill-fated ones drowned.

A 3:16-minute video posted on Facebook shows the victims' desperate attempts to stay afloat amid strong currents just about 700 metres off Mawa terminal.

"It's heartbreaking to see so many people dying in front of your eyes when you can't do anything," Sam Sumon, an accounting

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

TUBA GROUP CRISIS

Workers confined, forced to take partial payments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Owners of Tuba Group backed by police confined more than 1,000 agitating workers for hours yesterday in an apparent bid to quell their ongoing protests for full payment of arrears.

The nine-hour confinement ended around noon when an unidentified man opened the gate of the building where the workers have been on hunger strike for 10 days. But the workers still refused to go to the BGMEA office to take partial payments promised earlier.

Police used loudspeakers to ask the workers to leave the protest venue and

go to the headquarters of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association. Some 100 police personnel were deployed in the area, with repeated sirens from standing police vans filling the air.

The Daily Star spoke to several workers and labour leaders who accused the police and company owners of locking the gate, but police said they were not involved in locking the gate.

Chaos thickened when some ruling party men and a group of trade union activists supporting BGMEA's stance started beating up the protesters.

Samina Luthfa, a teacher of Dhaka University, and Saydia Gulrukh, an

anthropologist, who were expressing solidarity with the protesters -- also came under attacks.

"We went to the BGMEA office several times. But it did not respond. Now it offers us two months' salary. We want full payments, including Eid bonuses, at our factory, not at the BGMEA office," Shiuly Akter, a 45-year-old sewing operator, said in the afternoon.

Standing 10-15 yards away from Tuba Group's factory building at North Badda in the capital, she, along with her colleague Moina, was trying to contact some of the workers inside the building.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5
TROUBLED DAY FOR WORKERS ON B4

This employee of a garment factory of Tuba Group got a call on her phone informing her of her mother-in-law's death yesterday. She had been on hunger strike inside her Badda factory demanding unpaid wages and Eid bonuses. When she came downstairs to leave for home, she found the gates locked.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Bus crash kills 10

4 of them burnt to death as vehicles collide, catch fire

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed and 40 were injured as two buses collided head on and caught fire at Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi on Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday afternoon.

The fire fueled by leaking compressed natural gas from one of the buses engulfed the vehicles minutes after the impact near Kararchar around 5:10pm, reports our Narsingdi correspondent.

Four people were burnt to death inside the buses. Another person died on the spot and the other five died at Narsingdi Sadar Hospital and Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Gazans battle for survival

Israel ready to extend truce

AGENCIES

Fighting has stopped in Gaza after a long month. There was no whistling of a bomb being dropped from a plane or a shell being fired from a tank. Even the rattling sound of a machine gun was absent as a 72-hour ceasefire held for a second day.

Meanwhile, Israel said it is prepared to extend the ceasefire unconditionally amid intensified Egyptian effort.

MORE ON PAGE 8

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



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GOES THE WAY, SHOWS THE WAY.

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