



SHIPBUILDERS RELIEVED

They await brighter days as demand picks up in local and global markets

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CHIRKUT'S MUSIC MISSION

Reaching foreign audience, the group seeks to uphold Bangla in global arena

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COHEN THE OUTSIDER

New album, new book capture the life of a singer who always stood apart

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NUMBER PLATES AND RFID TAGS

Taxpayers get no service

Vehicle owners forced to shell out for new plates and tags, RFID fails to stop auto theft

M ABUL KALAM AZAD with ROBIN GAZI

Zillur Rahman lost his car minutes after he parked it at the TSC on Dhaka University campus on June 8 evening. He rushed to Shahbagh Police Station nearby, and a wireless message was dispatched about the theft. He also talked to a few top police officials until midnight asking for help to find the car.

Zillur, a consultant at the World Bank, tried to contact the BRTA (Bangladesh Road Transport Authority) Elenbari office in Tejgaon, which is equipped to track vehicles, but failed as the office was closed by then.

The next morning, he went to the office again. But BRTA officials were of no help; they suggested that he ask the police for help. Zillur returned home utterly dejected.

A year ago, he had to pay Tk 3,652 to get special number plates and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags installed on his car so that it could be traced. But it all came to nought.

The government has been forcing people to buy recto-reflecting number plates and RFID tags for their vehicles under a Tk 600 crore scheme that does the vehicle owners no good.

Owners of cars, buses, minibuses, microbuses, sport utility vehicles, trucks and other large vehicles are charged Tk 3,652 each while those of motorbikes and three-wheelers like auto-rickshaws have to pay Tk 1,805 for

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Examples of the RFID tags, top, and new number plates.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A train rushes by structures dangerously close to rail lines in Karwan Bazar yesterday. After four people were killed being run over by a train at an illegal market on the rail lines recently, the authorities had removed illegal structures there. Their effort went in vain apparently and people still occupy the lines, inset. The photo was taken 50 yards away from the accident site.

Hartal affects education, transport

4 kids hurt as abandoned bomb goes off

STAR REPORT

Education, businesses, transport and public life brace for more disruptions as yet another nationwide hartal, this time from dawn to dusk, starts with the Jamaat-e-Islami's 24-hour shutdown drawing to a close this morning.

The BNP-led 20-party alliance on Saturday called the 12-hour hartal from this morning to protest the constitutional amendment that empowered parliament to impeach Supreme

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BB seeks account information of 13

Sons of Khaleda, Ershad, Maya on list; banks given 7 days to report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has asked banks to send account information of 13 people, including that of Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad's son Rahgir Al Mahi Ershad and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Arifat Rahman Koko.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya's son Sajeeb Haque Chowdhury (Dipu) was also on the list.

The list was sent by the central bank's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), which deals with money laundering, financing criminal activities and suspicious transactions.

"We usually ask banks for account information in line with the requirements of Anti-Corruption Commission and other agencies. This is part of that process," said a BB official, seeking anonymity.

The banks have been asked to provide the information within seven days.

The people on the list include Haji Mohammad Salim, Juba League

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N'GANJ 7-MURDER
Rab denies orders to arrest Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion Headquarters yesterday denied that it had issued any order for the arrest of Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam, who was kidnapped and killed along with six others in April.

Rab Director General Mukhlesur Rahman claimed that the HQ was not even aware of the seven-murder beforehand.

"The Rab HQ does not issue arrest order against any specific person. After scrutinising information

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PM TO ADDRESS UNGA ON SEPT 27

Focus on global peace, climate

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In her speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will highlight international peace and security, democracy and good governance, empowerment of women, poverty alleviation and climate change.

Hasina, who left Dhaka for the United States last night to attend the 69th session of the UNGA with a 185-member delegation, the biggest entourage in the history of Bangladesh, will address the session on September 27, said Foreign Ministry officials.

She will deliver the speech in Bangla as usual.

The prime minister in her speech will elaborate Bangladesh's position on the theme of the general debate of the 69th UNGA: "Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda".

Hasina will highlight Bangladesh's achievements in establishing democracy and good governance and

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KEPZ 'failed to use land'

Muhith justifies govt plan to take back part of it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the government would take back part of the land it had given to YoungOne Corporation for industrial development.

The Korea-based company was allocated about 2,500 acres 17 years ago to set up Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) but it couldn't use even 500 acres, the minister said. "This is wasteful."

These remarks came as Muhith was talking to journalists at his secretariat office and his attention was drawn to The Daily Star reports on government plan to take back the land.

Muhith said the KEPZ authorities would have to prove that 500 acres of land had been used and then surrender the rest.

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