

TOWARDS HEALTHY AGEING

Life expectancy of older people continue to rise worldwide

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CHHAYANAUT FEST ENDS

Graceful presentations of classical dance mesmerises audience

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IRAQ ACTION UNLIMITED

Obama orders additional 1,500 troops straining his pledge of limited action

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Eye on \$50b

Exporters vow to fix safety flaws as they plan to take the garment industry to next level

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment exporters are aiming to bring in \$50 billion a year by 2021, provided that safety concerns would be eliminated, weak infrastructure improved and labour unrest gone.

The sector, considered the lifeline of the economy, has grown in the last few decades, as far as "backward linkage" is concerned, but falls short on "forward linkage", said Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

"Bangladesh will have to go for product diversification and innovation," he said.

Quoting a McKinsey report, the

BGMEA chief said the country would have to develop skilled human resources, ensure adequate power supply, develop ports, improve work conditions and ensure healthy politics to take the garment sector to new heights.

"If we can overcome these problems, we will be able to do anything," he said.

The garment makers were speaking at "Roundtable on Export Challenges and the Way Forward" organised by The Daily Star yesterday.

Bangladesh would have to upgrade the existing ports and set up a deep sea port so that two-way flow of containers could be handled and it is needed to earn \$50 billion a year from garment exports,

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PROBLEMS

Lack of professionals, skilled manpower

Cumbersome cash incentive

Energy crisis

No follow-up action

Labour unrest

Vested trade unions



Winner of this year's Lux Channel i Superstar Nadia, centre, with second runner up Nila, left, and first runner up Nazifa at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BURDWAN BLAST

Prime accused captured

Reuters reports arrest of woman 'out to kill Hasina'

STAR REPORT

In a major development in the Burdwan blast probe, West Bengal police yesterday arrested main accused Sajid, stated to be a Bangladeshi national and the chief of the Burdwan module of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The 40-year-old was captured near Kolkata airport around 2:40pm Indian time. Hailing from Narayanjanj, he has been absconding since the October 2 blast that left two suspected JMB members dead and another injured.

Sajid was handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) of India. The authorities had announced a cash award of Rs 10 lakh for information leading to his capture.

Meanwhile, Assam police yesterday arrested a 36-year-old woman for plotting assassination of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports Reuters.

Sajid is the first Bangladeshi arrested in the case. Earlier, at least nine people, three from Burdwan and six from Assam, were picked up by law enforcers.

"Today we arrested a person, Sheikh Rahamatullah. He is a Bangladeshi. After interrogation, it was revealed that he is Sajid. He is involved in the Burdwan blast and is the chief of Burdwan module," Bidhannagar Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar told reporters in Kolkata.

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China presses on with new Silk Road plan

Pledges \$40b to fund set up for connectivity across Asia

AGENCIES

China will contribute \$40 billion to its new Silk Road fund designed to improve trade and transport links in Asia, President Xi Jinping announced yesterday.

The goal of the fund is to "break the connectivity bottleneck" in Asia, state media quoted Xi as saying during a neighbourhood summit in Beijing with leaders from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

The announcement comes on top of a \$50

billion Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) that China established last month with 20 other nations.

Xi said this past week that the bank and the new Silk Road fund would help to finance China's plans to develop a "Silk Road Economic Belt" and a "21st Century Maritime Silk Road."

The "Economic Belt" is a network of highways, railways and other critical infrastructure linking China to Central and South Asia, the Mideast and Europe. The maritime route entails building or

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SEE PAGE 3 FOR HAMID-XI TALKS IN BEIJING



Hail the girl

Raped overnight, she pulls herself together to sit JSC exam; culprit still in hiding

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

She was raped only the previous night. She was dealt a crushing blow even before she could know what life really was. Her father attempted suicide several times over the night. And in the morning, she had to go through a medical test, a process often con-

sidered a further embarrassment for the victim.

But neither the trauma of the horrific incident nor the fear of social stigma could deter the 14-year-old girl from moving on with her life.

The brave and bold Junior School

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Robi Offers iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus

Robi Axiata Limited is pleased to announce that it will offer the biggest advancements in iPhone history, the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus, from Thursday, 20th November 2014.

Customers will be able to pre-order both the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus from Friday, 14th November 2014 onwards at <http://www.robi.com.bd/en/current-offers/robi-iphone6/prebook>.

For more information on Robi Axiata Limited, please visit: www.robi.com.bd.

For more information about the iPhone, please visit: www.apple.com/iphone

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