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# Child labour still there

Claims US Dept of Labour about Bangladesh's informal garment sector

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

A US agency in its new survey Monday claimed the presence of child labour in the Bangladesh's informal garment sector, as it expanded its list of products worldwide it says were likely produced by child or forced labour.

The US Department of Labour said 11 goods made with child labour have been added to the sixth edition of its list.

The goods are: garments from Bangladesh; cotton and sugarcane from India; vanilla from Madagascar; fish from Kenya; fish from Yemen; alcoholic beverages, meat, textiles, and timber from Cambodia; and palm oil from Malaysia. The full list now includes 136 goods from 74 countries.

"There's a story behind each item on these lists -- a child facing back-breaking labour without education or other opportunities for a better life or an adult trapped in a dismal job through deceit or threats," Labour Secretary Thomas E Perez said in a statement.

"These lists raise awareness about child and forced labour. Through collective efforts we can, and must, work together to end these cycles of exploitation."

Marcia Eugenia, head of the US Office of Child Labour, Forced Labour, and Human Trafficking, cited Bangladesh is of particular concern, according to the news agency AP.

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Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan performs on the final day of Bengal Classical Music Festival in Dhaka yesterday. The five-day event is likely to have deep imprints on the minds of Bangladeshi music lovers.

PHOTO:  
RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## French MPs vote for recognising Palestine

AFP, Paris

French lawmakers voted yesterday in favour of recognising Palestine as a state, sparking an immediate angry reaction from Israel which said such "unilateral measures" would harm efforts towards Middle East peace.

Following hot on the heels of similar votes in Britain and Spain, French MPs voted 339 to 151 in favour of a motion urging the government to recognise the state of Palestine as a way of achieving a "definitive resolution of the conflict."

The vote -- which is non-binding on the government but highly symbolic -- comes as European countries seek alternative ways to restart the stalled Middle East process.

Sweden's government has gone even further, officially recognising Palestine

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## CJ cautions judges, court staff against corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain has cautioned lower court judges and staff against corruption, saying stern action will be taken against any of them found guilty of committing the crime.

"Corruption will not be

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## Proton to set up car plant in Bangladesh

Dr Mahathir tells Hasina

UNB, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian car manufacturer Proton Holdings Berhad will open its plant in Bangladesh soon, company chairman and former Malaysian premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He was in a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite at Grand Hyatt in the evening. Hasina is now on a three-day official visit to Malaysia.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary AKM Shameem Chowdhury said Mahathir lauded Bangladesh's progress in all sectors under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

The PM highlighted Bangladesh's achievements in various sectors and invited Mahathir to visit Bangladesh.

Earlier, a red carpet was rolled out as

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TRAFFICKING TO MALAYSIA

## 36 fortune seekers rescued in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Thirty-six people were rescued from the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong by the coast guards while allegedly being trafficked to Malaysia last night.

Acting on a tip-off, a patrol team of the coast guards intercepted the small engine boat near Chittagong Boat Club area around 10:00pm and found 36 people huddled on the trawler, said Captain

Shahidul Islam of the Coast Guard's east zone.

Quoting the rescued, Captain Shahidul said the boat was carrying them to the Saint Martin's Island from where they would be put onto a larger boat to Malaysia.

Five boatmen were detained in the drive and hunts were on for apprehending other members of the trafficking gang, he added.



## Bhutan PM due Saturday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay is due in Dhaka on December 6 on a three-day visit which is expected to strengthen cooperation in electricity, connectivity and trade between the two countries.

This is going to be Tshering's first visit to Bangladesh since he assumed office in July 2013.

The Bhutanese PM will lead a 10-member high-profile team of ministers and he will be accompanied by a business delegation during the visit.

The prime ministers of Bangladesh and Bhutan will have a bilateral meeting when the two sides will discuss a host of issues, including power generation, water resources management, trade, connectivity and culture.

"There is a possibility to

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Two men showing off the 10-foot wingspan of a Eurasian Griffon Vulture that landed in Bishnupur village of Dinajpur's Biral upazila. The rarely sighted bird of prey landed at a crop field on Monday with injuries. Belonging to an endangered species, the griffon was treated and handed over to forest department officials a day later.

PHOTO:  
KONGKON KARMAKER

## ISIS leader's family detained in Lebanon

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The Lebanese army have detained a wife and child of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of Islamic State (ISIS), as they crossed from Syria, security officials said yesterday.

The officials declined to reveal the name or nationality of the woman, whom they described as one of his wives.


The Lebanese newspaper As-Safir reported that the army had detained the woman in coordination with "foreign intelligence apparatus."

The arrest is a blow to Baghdadi and could be used as a bargaining chip against his group.

A senior Lebanese security official said Baghdadi's wife had been travelling with one of their daughters, contradicting earlier reports that it was his son. DNA tests were

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The Daily Star




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ONLINE POLL

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 Yes (51%)

 No (49%)

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TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with an international report that women representation in different institutions is very poor in Bangladesh?

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PRAYER TIMING December 3

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

HIV evolving into milder form: study

BBC ONLINE

HIV is evolving to become less deadly and less infectious, according to a major scientific study.

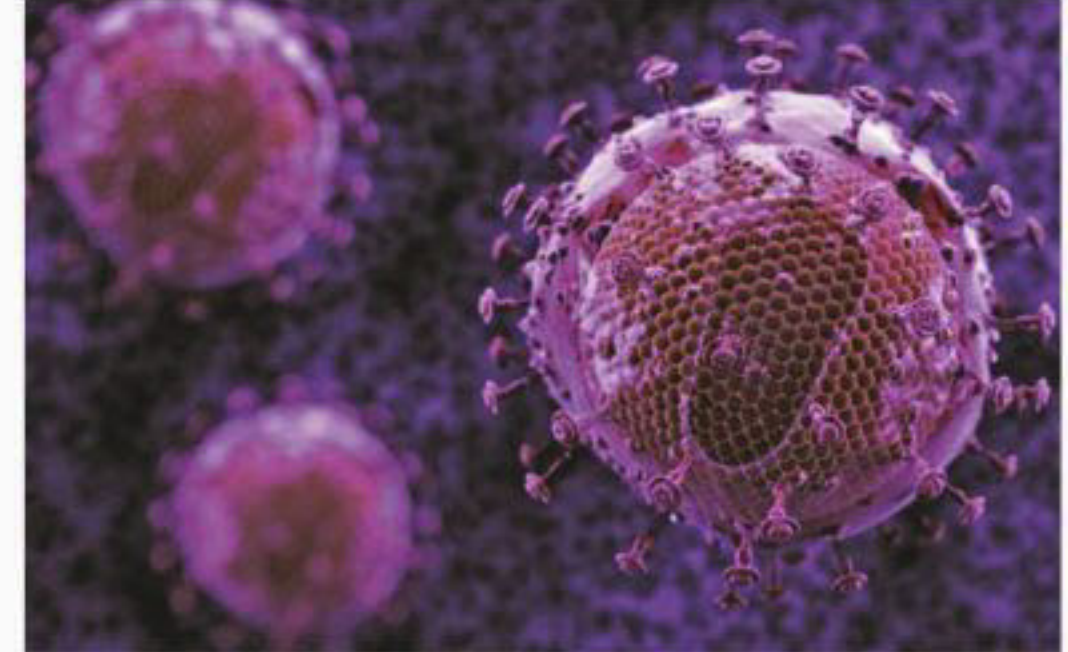
The team at the University of Oxford shows the virus is being "watered down" as it adapts to our immune systems.

It said it was taking longer for HIV infection to cause Aids and that the changes in the virus may help efforts to contain the pandemic.

Some virologists suggest the virus may eventually become "almost harmless" as it continues to evolve.

More than 35 million people around the world are infected with HIV and inside their bodies

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Arrest the culprits

Journos demand at human chain for Zaglul Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists yesterday demanded the government arrest those responsible for the bus accident that killed veteran newsmen Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury four days ago.

They also called on the government to make public the report to be submitted by the committee tasked with probing the road crash and implement its recommendations.

The demands were made from a human chain programme protesting the journalist's death in the road crash at the capital's Karwan Bazar area on Saturday night.

Newsman under the banners of Bangladesh Federal Union of

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Deputy Managing Director

Human Resource Development Division

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