



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star
the STAR
stories behind the news



PUTIN DEFENDS FOREIGN POLICY

Says it's needed for his country's survival; accuses foes of trying to dismember Russia

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MY ABSENT FATHER

Today's Wide Angle on little-known chapter of the Reggae King's life

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Vegetables aplenty for Dhaka

Rich supply promises happy winter for city dwellers

SUMAN SAHA

Many farmers in the areas around the capital have emerged as big suppliers of vegetables to city dwellers, especially in the winter season.

Favourable weather has helped them get a good harvest this season. Vegetable farmers of Manikganj, Tangail, Narsingdi and Munshiganj as well as Savar, Keraniganj and Dhamrai now meet 60 to 70 percent of the capital's demand for winter vegetables, said traders.

"The districts around Dhaka saw a bumper yield of vegetables this year. Farmers of these areas are bringing their produce to the capital for a better price," said Lokman Hossain, general secretary of Karwan Bazar Kitchen Market Wholesalers' Association.

Around 450 trucks and covered vans loaded with vegetables enter Karwan Bazar kitchen market every day. Of them, 150-200 are from greater Dhaka and neighbouring districts, he said.

Favourable weather is a major reason for the rise in vegetable supply to city's kitchen markets, said Mohammad Mohsin Uddin, treasurer of

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Lush green swathes of spinach at Shibpur of Narsingdi. Bumper yield of vegetables in the districts around the capital signals a tummy-happy winter for the city people this year. Farmers say favourable weather has facilitated an increased production of cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, bean, bottle gourd, carrot, aubergine and other winter vegetables.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



MRP STORIES
Rejoinders, our replies

IRIS Corporation Berhad, a Malaysian company, and MRP Project Office have issued two rejoinders to two reports and an editorial of The Daily Star.

Below we publish the full text of the rejoinders as it is:

IRIS CORPORATION BERHAD

IRIS Corporation Berhad wish to clarify a number of statements published in The Daily Star's press articles dated 15 November 2014 and 12 November 2014. As a public listed company listed in Bursa Malaysia, we are in compliance with our corporate governance rules that restrict us from divulging business sensitive issues to the public. IRIS is also bound by the standard rules and regulations that is always observed that it will not discuss or release information that might cross the boundaries of any client country's national security issues.

IRIS is doing or performing duties on contracts that

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WHERE? WHY?

Tearful, families seek to know whereabouts of their loved ones allegedly picked up by law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four-year-old Arwa was supposed to be cuddled by her father. Instead, she had to go to the Jatiya Press Club yesterday with her family members, crying for his return.

"Bring back my father...bring back..."

Little Arwa hardly could complete a sentence; she was in tears, so was her elder sister Raita, 10.

They were attending a press conference arranged by families of eight

victims of "enforced disappearance". Six including Arwa's father Sajedul Islam Suman of Nakhla para went missing from Bashundhara Residential Area and two others from Shaheenbagh in the capital in December last year.

The Rapid Action Battalion-1 picked them up between 8:00pm on December 4 and 2:00am of December 5, according to the families.

The other seven are Zahidul Karim Tanvir, Mazharul Islam Russel, Abdul Quader Bhuiyan Masum,

Asaduzzaman Rana, Al Amin, Adnan Chowdhury and Kawsar Ahmed.

According to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), as many as 250 were abducted, reportedly by law enforcers, between 2007 and 2013. At least 68 people were picked up last year alone.

In the first nine months this year, the number rose to 82. Of them, 23 were found dead, while 10 others were released later, says an ASK report.

State Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan, however, denies

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Mother of Masum, one of the eight people missing since being abducted allegedly by law enforcers exactly a year ago, fails to hold back tears as she speaks at a press conference of the families of forced disappearance victims at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Whatever happened to our sense of decency?

Abusive language of internal politics now being flung at foreign diplomats

MAHFUZ ANAM

COMMENTARY

When politics and politicians become abusive, it is a clear sign that democracy is not working, for one of the pre-conditions of democracy is a minimum sense of decency in how we conduct ourselves.

Alas, we have lost that "sense of decency" in the AL-BNP confrontational politics of the last two decades whose most disgusting demonstration was given by a few BNP and AL women MPs in the last parliament.

However, when similar abusive language starts being flung at foreign diplomats, we need to ask -- is that a sign of ignorance, immaturity, delusion

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'Govt officials meet Khaleda'

Contradictory statements from BNP men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several public officials, serving as officers on special duty (OSD) for years, held a meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office last night in violation of Government Servants' (Conduct) Rules.

Party insiders said around 20 officials and employees of different ranks -- from deputy secretary to MLSS -- entered Khaleda's office in groups between 7:30pm and 9:00pm.

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LOPA, MAHAJABIN Bodies exhumed for fresh autopsy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As mystery continues to revolve around the cause of death of former child actress Nayar Sultana Lopa and Dr Shamarukh Mahajabin, their remains were exhumed yesterday after the families had rejected the autopsy reports.

Both the reports said the deceased committed suicide, but the families say they were murdered.

Meanwhile, the High Court has granted a four-week anticipatory bail to Amin Ali and Yeasmin Amin, Lopa's parents-in-law, in connection with her death.

The body of Lopa, a popular child

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Implementation, only if PM wants

Santu on CHT peace accord

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord would be implemented only if "the person holding all the power in the country" takes an initiative with the stakeholders, said Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS).

"The government was compelled to sign the accord with PCJSS [in 1997]. Now it seems we would again have to make them implement it," said the PCJSS chief, popularly known as Santu Larma, at a discussion yesterday.

With the support of rights organisation Manusher Jonno Foundation, Bangladesh Indigenous People's Forum (BIPF) and Kapaeeng Foundation jointly organised the programme titled "Strengthening special administrative institutions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in line with the CHT accord" at

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