



## **GROWTH AND POLITICS**

Economy to grow at 6.1pc this year, as ADB slashes growth forecast for messy politics PAGE B1

#### **END PALESTINE OCCUPATION**

White House tells Israel; under pressure, Netanyahu apologises to Arab Israelis

PAGE 14

#### **PHALKE AWARD '15**

Shashi Kapoor gets India's highest film honour

PAGE 11

# 2 Bangladeshis freed in Libya

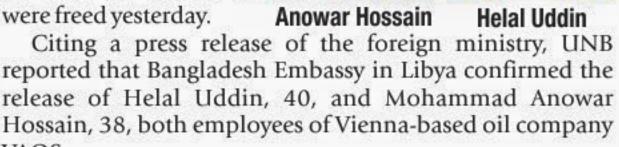
They were taken hostage by militants 18 days ago

STAR REPORT

Two Bangladeshi migrant workers, abducted by unknown militants from a Libyan oil field on March 6, were freed yesterday.







They were staying at Sirte hospital, about 700 km from Tripoli, and their physical condition was normal.

The two are expected to be brought to their employer's Tripoli office today, added UNB.

Helal is from Madarganj upazila in Jamalpur and Anowar from Goyeshpur village in Noakhali.

Quoting the press release, UNB said the two Bangladeshis were released following prompt initiatives and constant efforts of the foreign ministry and the Bangladesh Embassy in Libya.

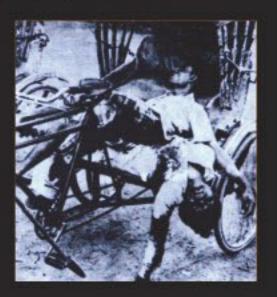
Unknown militants abducted Helal and Anowar along with seven other foreigners -- four Filipinos, an Austrian, a Czech and a Ghana national -- from the Al-Ghani oil field in Libya on March 6.

In a press statement on March 9, Bangladesh foreign ministry had said terrorist group ISIS had abducted them. But State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam later SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## THE BLACK NIGHT

BSS, Dhaka

The nation recalls today the Black Night of March 25. On this fateful night in 1971, the Pakistani military junta launched the "Operation Searchlight" and mercilessly killed the Bangalee SEE PAGE 2 COL 1





EUPHORIA AND DESPAIR IN ONE FRAME: New Zealand batsman Grant Elliott (R) celebrates with teammate Daniel Vettori after hitting the winning runs, a six over long-on, off the second last ball of a nail-biting World Cup semifinal against South Africa while the bowler in question Dale Steyn goes down on his knees inconsolable at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

РНОТО: AFP

# Kiwi dream lives on

Elliott six takes co-hosts into final first time

AFP, Auckland

South Africa-born Grant Elliott's brilliant 84 not out, capped with a stunning six off the penultimate ball, saw New Zealand to a four-wicket win over the Proteas in a cliffhanger World Cup semifinal at Auckland's Eden Park on Tuesday.

Elliott's winning six, off injured South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn, took New Zealand into the World Cup final for the first time and they will

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rain stoppage.

play the winner of Thursday's second semi, between Australia and India in Sydney, in Sunday's showpiece match in Melbourne.

New Zealand faced a revised target of 298 under the Duckworth-Lewis method after South Africa made 281 for five in 43 overs, which included a near two-hour

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

## Indian SC upholds free speech on internet

REUTERS, New Delhi

The Indian Supreme Court yesterday struck down a law that gave authorities powers to jail people for offensive online posts, a verdict hailed as a victory for free speech in the world's largest growth market for the Internet.

Section 66A of India's Information and Technology (IT) Act was challenged in the country's top court by law students, bloggers, writers and rights groups following arrests across the country for statements posted on social media sites.

Justices Jasti Chelameshwar and SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

No hartal call

for today

## Blockade on STAR REPORT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance has decided to spare people from hartal for today but continue the blockade, after enforcing shutdown for 37 working days, except for one day, since February 1.

Instead of hartal, the alliance announced to stage countrywide demonstrations today, demanding return of missing BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed and victims of enforced disappearances.

However, it could not be learnt whether the ongoing blockade, which enters into its 79th day today, will

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

# German plane crash kills 150

'No survivor' in the crash in French Alps; black box found

AFP, Seyne

A plane operated by Germanwings, a budget carrier of Germany's Lufthansa, crashed in a remote area of the French Alps yesterday, killing all 150 people on board in the worst aviation disaster in France in decades.

With the cause of the accident a complete mystery, authorities recovered a black box from the Airbus A320 at the crash site, where rescue efforts were being hampered by the mountainous terrain.

Local MP Christophe Castaner, who flew over the crash site, said on Twitter: "Horrendous images in this mountain scenery."

"Nothing is left but debris and bodies. Flying over the crash site with the interior minister -- a horror -- the plane is totally destroyed."

**EXECUTED** 

**ABDUL QUADER** 

MOLLAH

Jamaat Assistant

Secretary General

DEATH

Video images from a government helicopter flying near the area showed a desolate snow-flecked moonscape, with steep ravines covered in scree.

Budget airline Germanwings said the Airbus plunged for eight minutes but French aviation officials said the plane had made no distress call before crashing near the ski resort of Barcelonnette.

"A black box was found and will be delivered to investigators," Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said.

Weather did not appear to be a factor in the crash, with conditions "calm" at the time.

"There was no cloud at the plane's cruising altitude", winds were "light to moderate" and there was no turbulence that could have contributed to the crash, French weather officials said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

SERVING

**TERMS** 

DELAWAR

HOSSAIN

SAYEDEE

Nayeb-e-Ameer of

Jamaat-e-Islami

## Bangladesh awarded for closing gender gap

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday received the prestigious Women in Parliaments Global Forum award, known as WIP award, for its outstanding success in closing gender gap in the political sphere.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam received the award, SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

CONVICTED WAR CRIMINALS

**REVIEW** 

**PENDING** 

MUHAMMAD

KAMARUZZAMA

Jamaat Assistant

Secretary General

## Why cops shouldn't be punished?

HC asks govt, police over torture of journo; lower court denies him bail again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government and the police to show cause in two weeks as to why the law enforcers responsible for torturing Prothom Alo's Baufal correspon-

dent ABM Mizanur Rahman should not be punished. The HC bench of Justice Quazi

Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Razik-



Mizanur from the salaries of those law enforcers.

In its ruling, which came following a writ

petition by Mizanur's father Abdus Salam, the HC ordered the government and the police to explain why inhuman physical and mental

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

ABDUL

**JABBAR** 

Former Jatiya Party

lawmaker

JAIL UNTIL

PERSONS

18

JAMAAT-E-

ISLAMI

AND EIGHT

INDIVIDUALS

32



participated in one of the most memorable of games. It doesn't make me feel better at all. It hurts quite a bit. I'm gutted." SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN

**AB DE VILLIERS** AFTER LOSING TO NEW ZEALAND IN THE WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

#### WAR CRIMES TRIBUNALS Five years, 17 verdicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The trial of war criminals

passed yet another year with two special war crimes tribunals having delivered eight verdicts so far to the satisfaction of the justice seekers.

But delay in initiating trial against Jamaat-e-Islami as an organisation for its alleged crimes committed during the Liberation War frustrates many. Besides, no verdict of the tribunals was executed in the last one year due to legal proceedings at the Supreme Court, further extending people's long

wait. The Awami League-led government formed an International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on March 25, 2010 in line with the party's electoral pledge to try the war criminals. A second tribunal was SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

**ABDUL** 

ALIM

Former BNP minister

**JAIL UNTIL** 

DEATH

**DIED IN JAIL** 

**GHULAM** 

**AZAM** 

Former chief of

Jamaat-e-Islami

90-YEAR JAIL



MOTIUR **RAHMAN MOHAMMAD** NIZAMI MOJAHEED Ameer of Jamaat-e- Secretary General of Jamaat-Islami e-Islami

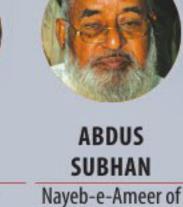


QUADER

CHOWDHURY

**BNP National Standing** 

Committee member



Jamaat-e-Islami

DEATH



APPEAL PENDING





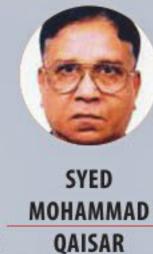
**ABUL KALAM** 

AZAD

Islami member

DEATH

MIR QUASEM ALI Jamaat Central Executive Committee member Former Jatiya Party DEATH minister



CHOWDHURY

**MUEEN UDDIN** 

leader in 1971

DEATH

Expelled Jamaat-e- Islami Chhatra Sangha Islami Chhatra Sangha



**FUGITIVE CONVICTS** 

**ASHRAFUZZAMA** 

N KHAN

leader in 1971

DEATH

#### TRIAL AT A GLANCE NUMBER NUMBER CASES **VERDICT** UNDER TRIAL PROBE COMPLETED UNDER League leader INVESTIGATION DEATH

MA ZAHID

HOSSAIN

KHOKON

Faridpur BNP

leader

### JAMAAT'S TRIAL Amendment to law waits

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

for months

The process to try Jamaat-e-Islami for its alleged crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971 remains halted for months as the government has yet to take steps to amend the war crimes law.

Investigation into the anti-Liberation organisation's role in 1971 completed a year ago and the law minister, on several occasions, said the government would amend the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 to pave the way to try Jamaat.

Trial of an organisation is not possible under the existing law, which does not specify punishment in case the organisation is found

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1