



**GDP TO GROW 6.5PC**  
 Govt's growth forecast for this fiscal year surprises analysts  
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**MODI IN CHINA**  
 The Indian PM starts a three-day key visit, eying to boost trade ties  
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## Taken to Shillong by car, blindfolded

Salahuddin told visiting relatives at hospital prison cell; Dhaka Interpol writes to Delhi office for his arrest

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, who had remained missing for about two months, was blindfolded when he was dropped off by a car in Golf Link area of Shillong on Monday, according to two of his relatives.

He was taken to Shillong, the capital of Indian state of Meghalaya, by an SUV after nearly an overnight's drive. But he could not say from where the car started and who were with him.

Removing the blindfold, Salahuddin asked people about the place and came to know that it was Shillong. He went to a

nearby police station and gave his identity, one of the relatives, Ayub Ali, quoted the BNP leader as saying.

The two relatives met him at the prison cell of Shillong Civil Hospital yesterday afternoon. Ayub, introducing himself as a cousin of Salahuddin and a resident of Kolkata, briefed journalists emerging from the hospital.

The Daily Star learnt from a reporter of ShillongTimes what Ayub told the newsmen. But sources from Shillong earlier told this newspaper that locals and police found Salahuddin roaming Golf Link area on Monday.

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Sand piled up by traders is gradually filling up the Dhaleshwari River to the west of Dhaka-Mawa highway. Activities relating to illegal sand trading have been continuing on this riverbank reportedly for the last few months. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## MODI'S DHAKA VISIT Date to be fixed after his return from China

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Although the dates of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh are yet to be finalised, officials of the two countries are preparing to organise the visit in the first week of next month.

"Till now, June 6-7 is being accepted [as the dates of the visit] by Dhaka as proposed by New Delhi and preparations are underway according to that," a highly-placed diplomatic source in Dhaka told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, another  
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## Local among the killers

Cops also suspect outsiders' involvement in Ananta murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The gang that took part in the killing of secular blogger Ananta Bijoy Das had members from both in and outside Sylhet, law enforcers believe.

At least one of the four assailants is from Sylhet, as he spoke in local dialect while fleeing the murder scene on Tuesday morning, said a police official involved with the investigation.



Ananta Bijoy Das

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

## Ananta isn't dead, we are

MARTIN SWAPAN PANDEY

Ananta Das is dead and cold alright. Yet because man is what he stands for and believes in, something tells me it's not him that is dead. Rather, those of us who have failed to save his life are.

This latest attack on free speech comes with a disturbing record. In less than three months, he is the third Bangladeshi blogger to be murdered. And our deep slumber is pointer that the record may get only worse before

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## 10 die on ferry of death

Desperate scenes on Thai waters as stranded migrants plead for their lives

AFP, Off Koh Lipe

A boat crammed with scores of Rohingya migrants, including many young children, was found drifting in Thai waters yesterday, with passengers telling AFP that at least 10 fellow boatpeople had died over the

past few days.

Dozens of visibly weak-looking people were on the deck of the stricken vessel, which was found adrift several kilometres off the southern Thai island of Koh Lipe, in the Andaman Sea, according to AFP correspondents at the scene.

"About 10 people died during the

journey. We threw their bodies into the water," one migrant shouted to Rohingya to a boat carrying reporters.

"There are 300 of us... we have been at sea for two months. We want to go to Malaysia but we have not reached there yet."

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New agenda for the world  
 Debapriya talks to Star on MDGs  
 SAJJADUR RAHMAN

The Millennium Development Goals or MDGs, which were adopted in 2000, are coming to an end this year. Lots of talks have already surfaced about the successor of the MDGs. Accordingly, the United Nations member states, NGOs and the private sector have been holding meetings for the last couple of years, aiming to work out a new set of goals for the

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**MG!**

"There's no need for the Awami League, Chhatra League alone is enough to send Khaleda in exile."

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 SIDDIQUE NAZMUL ALAM  
 AT BANGLADESH CHHATRA LEAGUE'S FENI DISTRICT UNIT CONFERENCE

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