



THE VIOS

Toyota's new design is all about sharp angles and Gundam robot influences

SEE SHIFT

NO SURPRISES IN BUDGET

The upcoming outlay will be more of the same, officials say

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IN THE DOCK

Iran starts closed-door trial of Washington Post journalist Jason Rezaian for espionage

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Signs of fear and abuse

Grim secrets of jungle trafficking camps revealed as Malaysia exhumes migrant graves

AGENCIES

Barbed wire and a human jawbone hinted at the brutality in suspected people-smuggling camps in Malaysia as police yesterday began the grisly task of exhuming dozens of graves along the Thai border.

Police escorted journalists on a gruelling hike into a thickly jungle state park in northern Malaysia where authorities have found 28 such camps in the latest grim turn in Southeast Asia's migrant crisis.

Fearing possible attack from armed traffickers lurking in the woods, police advised reporters to hit the ground if they heard any gunshots during the four-hour round-trip slog up a remote mountain.

Via a jungle path that was clearly well-trodden, reporters were led to a single small camp in a forest clearing, where barbed wire surrounded two rickety structures made of jungle saplings and bamboo, with tarpaulins lying on the ground.

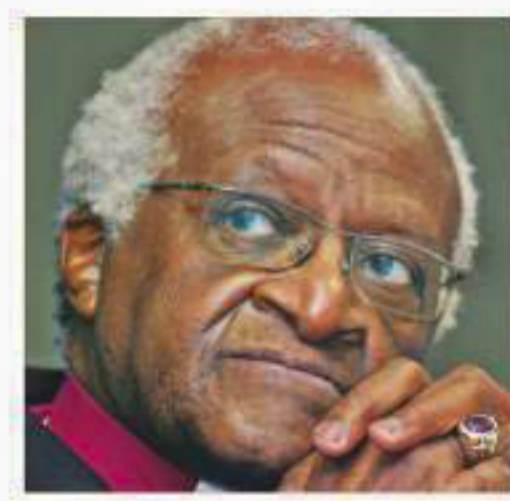
Malaysian police forensic teams, digging with hoes and shovels, began pulling out bodies from shallow graves found in abandoned jungle camps where an inter-governmental body said hundreds of victims of human traffickers may be buried.

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The combination picture shows clothes, shoes and sandals near an abandoned human trafficking camp in a Malaysian jungle. A forensic team yesterday began exhuming the bodies of suspected trafficking victims buried around the jungle camps near the Thai border.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Link Myanmar aid to rights of Rohingyas
Tutu urges world leaders

AFP, Oslo

South Africa's Archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu yesterday called for international aid to Myanmar to be linked to the plight of the country's persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority.

"2015 is a big year for Myanmar with both a referendum on its constitution and a general election," Tutu told an Oslo conference on the Rohingya.

"We have a responsibility to ensure that the plight of the Rohingya is not lost," he said in a pre-recorded message aired to participants.

"We have a responsibility

SHILLONG Salahuddin back in cop custody

STAR REPORT

BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed will be produced before a Shillong court today in a case filed for trespassing, according to Meghalaya police.

He was taken into police custody in the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya yesterday after hospital

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Peacekeeper killed in Mali

Another ends up in hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi UN peacekeeper was killed and another sustained bullet injuries as armed men opened fire on a UN vehicle in Africa's Mali early yesterday.

The deceased is soldier Nilkantha Hajong of Bangladesh Army. He is from Kartikpur in Dharmapasha upazila of Sunamganj.

Soldier Sirajul Islam was shot in the hand and was undergoing treatment at a local hospital, said an ISPR press release.

The attack was carried out in Bamako, the capital of Mali, around 7:30pm Monday local time.

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Nilkantha

Hopes run high over June 6

India confirms Modi's Dhaka trip

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Dhaka on June 6 on his first state visit to Bangladesh, as the two countries move to further strengthen ties and enhance cooperation in the fields of connectivity, infrastructure and trade.

Dhaka and New Delhi yesterday simultaneously announced that Modi would visit Bangladesh on June 6-7 at the invitation of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina.

According to diplomatic sources in both countries, it will be a 36-hour trip. Modi will fly in on June 6 morning and depart in the afternoon the next day.

The Indian PM might make certain positive announcements during the visit, said diplomatic sources in New Delhi.

He might declare some economic facilities for Bangladesh to address



Goal regional Govt to reintroduce rail link up to Shahbazzpur border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to reopen the Kulaura-Shahbazzpur rail track in Moulvibazar and upgrade it to a dual-gauge line.

The decision came at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The Ecne approved the revised project titled "Kulaura-Shahbazzpur section rehabilitation project" at a cost of Tk 678 crore.

The government will provide Tk 122 crore for the project while the remaining Tk 556 crore will come from the Indian Line of Credit (LoC), signed in 2010.

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TOP! QUOTE

"Two-thirds billboards in the areas under Dhaka North City Corporation are illegal."

DNCC MAYOR
ANNISUL HUQ
WHILE VISITING DIFFERENT
WARDS YESTERDAY

Fruits boom in the hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They were barren hills of the Chittagong Hill Tracts a few years back, but now they have become a big source of fruits in the country.

Pineapple, banana and papaya were grown there initially, but now there are also mango, jackfruit, litchi, watermelon and almond orchards.

Last year, over 1.2 lakh tonnes of mangoes were produced on around 9,000 hectares in Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

Besides, over 2.43 lakh tonnes of jackfruits, 25,000 metric ton of litchis, 45,000 metric ton of guavas and 5.20 lakh tonnes of bananas were grown in the three districts, according to the Department of Agriculture Extension.

Most of the fruit orchards in the CHT are now being operated commercially like those in the country's plains.

However, some farmers complained that despite a good harvest this year, they could not make a good profit due to shortage of cold storage and poor road communications with the district headquarters.

Rialdo Bawm of Munlaipara under Ruma upazila of Bandarban grew

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Summer fruits are brought to Banarupa Somotaghat of Rangamati by boats from remote areas of the hill district. Wholesalers buy the produce and send it to different other districts by trucks. Right, an orchard of litchi, another summer delicacy, in Dinajpur Sadar upazila.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS/STAR

Juicy relief all around

Fruit contamination drops remarkably for govt's awareness campaign

PINAKI ROY

It's summer; time for luscious fruits.

Take a stroll through any village in the country, especially in the northern districts, and you won't miss those thick, dense bunches of green mangoes and reddish litchis hanging from the trees. They bring waters in your mouth as much as they bring smiles on the faces of the farmers who grow them.

This year in particular, fruit farmers are smiling real big as they have a bumper production of all the seasonal fruits,

including mango, litchi, jackfruit, pineapple and watermelon.

There is some good news for consumers too.

Following extensive media reports for the last few years that growers apply excessive pesticides and harmful ripening agents, the government this season took a number of initiatives to address the problem.

"We directed fruit farmers not to use

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Nine students caught for abduction

Rab says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine university students have been arrested on allegation of kidnapping two persons in Gazipur, the Rab said yesterday.

Of them, seven are students of the Uttara campus of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) -- Sheikh Shaheen, Tarikur Rahman, Rokey alias Jibon, Abu Tarek, Sanjay Roy, Al Amin and Sabrinina Kabir alias Moumita -- all aged between 20 and 25.

The two others -- Sheikh Sakib and Mohammad Quayum -- are students of Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology (Duet) and Uttara University respectively.

In a statement, the Rab officials also claimed they have rescued the two victims -- Shimon Miah and his cousin Mohammad Saddam -- from Gazipur's Bhaoraid forest area.

Talking to this newspaper, Lt Col Tuhiin Mohammad Masud, commanding officer of Rab-1, quoted the arrestees as saying victim Shimon came to the country from Singapore on May 5. Sabbir, who lives in Singapore, phoned Shaheen and said Shimon owed him Tk 2 lakh.

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