



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE  
STYLE

## LAST CHANCE SALOON

Bangladesh booters take on Tajikistan in World Cup qualifier at BNS today

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## OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Wanted Sudan President Omar al-Bashir flies home defying court order

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# 4 nations to get linked by road

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal sign deal allowing cross-border movement of vehicles, prepare roadmap for implementation by 6 months; \$8b needed

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal have mapped out a six-month action plan starting in July to establish a seamless movement of passenger and cargo vehicles across their territories.

Transport ministers of the four countries, who signed a deal in Bhutanese capital Thimphu in this regard yesterday, identified 30 transport corridors to be transformed into economic corridors. This will potentially increase intraregional trade within South Asia by almost 60 percent and with

the rest of the world by over 30 percent, according to a joint statement.

The infrastructures for the four-nation road connectivity would require an estimated \$8 billion. Each government will be responsible for completing the infrastructures in its territory by its own fund with support from donor agencies.

Already, a number of these corridors, which also include bridges, have either been improved or are under construction.

The corridors, associated routes and their costs have been determined based on an

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Exhausted, a worker dozes off, lying precariously on the edge of a running pickup van full of wood planks, while another sits next to him. Both men are holding ropes, but they still run the risk of falling off the vehicle. The photo was taken at Farmgate in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**TOP QUOTE**

"No country in the world has so little investment in

EDUCATION MINISTER  
**NURUL ISLAM NAHID**  
WHILE TALKING TO PUBLIC UNIVERSITY TEACHERS YESTERDAY ABOUT THE POOR INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Khaleda's change of heart on India

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Within a week of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has made a U-turn on her recent stance on India after realising that she could cut no ice with Modi, BNP insiders said.

She has realised that her earlier statement to disclaim BNP's anti-India politics and her eager and warm welcome to Modi did not really leave any imprints on Indian mindset and she rather lost political credibility, they said.

Before Modi came, BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon had repeatedly said the BNP had never done any anti-India politics. The BNP was also very eager to meet Modi and elated when the Indian premier agreed to it. After meeting Modi, Khaleda talked to an Indian weekly, The Sunday Guardian, and dismissed the idea that BNP holds an anti-India stance.

"Why should I be anti-Indian?" she had quipped to a question.

After remaining silent for a week on the visit and the following raft of deals on connectivity, Khaleda suddenly bared her mind. On Sunday night she said heavy Indian

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## SHOOTING BY MP'S SON DB now waits for 'conclusive evidence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators have found Bakhtiar Alam Rony's involvement in shooting and killing two people on April 14, but they await the ballistic report for conclusive evidence, said DMP spokesperson Monirul Islam.

"At this stage of the probe, it can be said that Bakhtiar was in a black Prado car, bullets were fired from his licensed pistol and two people were killed in that shooting," Monirul told journalists at the DMP media centre yesterday.

"Hopefully, we will get the ballistic report in two to four days and then we will have conclusive

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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

# 47 more back home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-seven Bangladeshi trafficking victims, who had been rescued by the Thai authorities from the Andaman Sea last year, returned home from Bangkok yesterday.

A Biman flight carrying them landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 7:50pm,

an official of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said.

They were brought back after getting confirmation of their nationality through police verification, said BM Jamal Hossain, director (welfare & MRP) of the foreign ministry.

"They were rescued by the Thai authorities last year. Our mission in

Bangkok started the procedure of their repatriation in November," he said.

The Bangladeshis were kept at Thai detention centres after being rescued from the sea, he added.

Officials of the foreign ministry and the IOM received them at the airport.

Among the 47 returnees, 10 hailed from Jessore, nine from Sunamganj,

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# Girls under 20 most vulnerable to rape

FAARIA TASIN

When nine-year-old Asma Khaton (not her real name) was coming home from school by herself on a regular afternoon, she did not know what lay ahead.

On her way, Asma's neighbour Yousuf stopped and lured her with the promise of a mango. She followed him to a lonely place of the village where Yousuf raped her.

Young girls like Asma fall prey to this violent crime frequently in this country.

A study by The Daily Star has discovered that 82 percent of rape victims are under the age of 20.

Although we have found 800-900 rape incidents being reported in a year, these numbers, however, do not reflect the whole story.

Because of the social stigma of rape,

many rape incidents are not reported. This means that the number of rapes, in reality, is much higher.

The Daily Star compiled all the rape incidents that were reported in the newspaper from January 2011 to June 2015.

From the study, it was found that 52 percent of the victims were raped or violated by an individual male. Thirty-seven percent of the girls or women were gang-raped and 11 percent faced rape attempts but managed to escape or was saved.

The study also found that girls between 2 and 19 years were the most vulnerable.

According to it, 80 percent of the rapists are known to the victims.

**ATTACKED WHEN ALONE**

More than half of the rape victims, 52 percent, were schoolgirls. Twenty-seven percent

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