



GAZI RETURNS

Off-spinner Shohag Gazi, who last played for Bangladesh last year, returns to the national fold

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NUKE TALKS EXTENDED

The head of UN atomic watchdog travels to Iran for talks on a stalled nuclear bomb probe

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Police asked to protect tenants

HC directs govt to form commission in 6 months to fix rents, appoint rent controllers in cities

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court yesterday directed the police to accept tenants' complaints against house owners in all cities, and take immediate steps to protect them if they are forcefully evicted or their gas, water and electricity lines are disconnected illegally.

It ordered the government to form a seven-member commission within six months to fix the minimum and maximum house rents based on areas and identify the reasons behind disputes between house owners and tenants.

The court asked the government to appoint a rent controller at every ward in the cities, subject to government's financial ability, for resolving disputes over house rent until the commission places recommendations to the authorities concerned.

It also observed that a separate authority was needed for controlling house rent in cities.

Delivering its verdict on a writ petition, the HC ruled that the high-powered commission to be led by a legal expert nominated by the law ministry would give suggestions for resolving problems regarding house rent.

It said the commission would record statements of tenants and homeowners and hold mass hearing, if necessary, and then make recommendations for reforming the House Rent Control Act 1991 to turn it into a comprehensive law.

The HC hoped the government would amend the existing law in light of the commission's recommendations.

The six other members of the commission would include a university teacher, who is an expert on housing and urban issues; a distinguished economist; a senior official of the housing and public works ministry; an expert on consumer rights;

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Licence to kill

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

He neither owned any business nor paid income tax when he applied for a licence to buy a firearm for protection of his life and assets. There was no police verification either to assess if he could misuse a gun.

A rather rowdy man, Bakhtiar Alam Rony obtained a small arms licence in 2010 and bought a Turkey-made Taurus pistol which, his inner circle says, he would always carry.

And with this very firearm, he recently killed two innocent men.

Son of ruling party lawmaker Pinu Khan, Rony got no-objection certificate from the then home minister Sahara Khatun soon after applying for the licence in February 2010.

Apart from the NoC, to get a small arms licence one must have proof of Tk 3 lakh income tax payment and no criminal record.

There was no criminal case against Rony, but he had years of close contacts with several hardened criminals, according to his friends and associates.

His file at the deputy commissioner's office contains the home minister's approval note but no record of his tax payment, DC office sources said.

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Govt wants media policy, not control

PM asks journos to work neutrally

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged journalists to be neutral in their work, and assured them that her government does not want to control the media.

She also called upon them to raise their voice against militancy and terrorism.

"We don't want to control the media... it is better to run the media under a policy so that the society is not polluted," she said.

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Bangladesh goes one step forward

Now a lower middle income country, says WB

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh yesterday graduated from the low income status to lower middle income nation (LMIC), meeting the World Bank's requirements comfortably.

This will be seen as a giant leap forward for the country to become a middle income nation after being bracketed as a low income country for decades.

The promotion came on the back of the country's stride towards higher per capita income in recent years, riding on stable economic growth.

The WB used last year's data to determine this year's ranking.

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Rony fired shots killing 2 on Apr 14

Says DMP spokesperson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday said the gunshots that killed a rickshaw-puller and an auto-rickshaw driver in the capital's New Eskaton on April 14 were fired by Bakhtiar Alam Rony.

"We have enough evidence to believe that it was Rony who had fired the shots," said Monirul Islam, spokesperson for the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

"There will be no issue in proving the case at the court," he told a press briefing at the DMP headquarters.

Rony, son of ruling Awami League lawmaker Pinu Khan, claimed that he fired random shots in the air in a drunken rage "being frustrated over post-midnight traffic".

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Greece crisis deepens

PM for new bailout concessions as Athens misses IMF payment deadline

BBC ONLINE

Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has made a defiant speech as cash withdrawal limits begin to bite for Greek bank customers.

Mr Tsipras promised Greeks their pensions and wages would be safe.

Before his speech he put new proposals in a letter to eurozone partners, accepting most of what was on the table before talks collapsed, but with conditions.

But the Eurogroup later rebuffed it.

Germany had already said talks with Greece will not be possible until after a referendum called by Mr Tsipras for Sunday.

Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem said finance ministers had a conference call on Wednesday evening and they saw "no grounds for further talks at this point".

In Sunday's vote, Greeks will be asked to accept or reject proposals made by creditors last week.

Mr Tsipras's latest offer to creditors is tied explicitly to agreement on

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A woman helps her mother walk into a bank in Athens, as banks opened yesterday only for pensioners to allow them to get their money up to 120 euros.

PHOTO: AFP



PM SHEIKH HASINA TOLD JOURNALISTS AT THE JATIYA PRESS CLUB YESTERDAY

HSC admission in a shambles

Students suffer as flawed system triggers trouble

WASIM BIN HABIB

UU Laboratory College, an institution in Uttara's Azampur took approval from the authorities around six years ago, but never enrolled any student. As a matter of fact, the institution has never initiated its academic activities at all.

That, however, did not deter the authorities to select at least 52 students for admission to this college.

So the students rushed there but to their utter dismay, what they found there was a private university instead.

This is one of the many bizarre steps the Dhaka

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WAR CRIMES 1971 Tribunal to try 4 in absentia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday decided to try four war crimes accused from Kishoreganj in absentia along with another arrestee for their alleged crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim took the decision as the alleged

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