



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star Showbiz

ARTNEWS TOP 200 LIST

Bangladeshi duo Rajeeb and Nadia among top art collectors in the world

PAGE 9

POPE SORRY

Francis apologises for Catholic crimes against indigenous peoples during colonisation

PAGE 8

27 killed in stampede

Tragedy occurs as over 1,000 poor scramble for zakat clothes at a businessman's house in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

In a jostle for zakat clothes, 23 women and four children got trampled to death in Mymensingh town early yesterday with the authorities fearing the death toll may rise.

Police and witnesses said since Thursday night over 1,000 people had started gathering on the narrow Atul Chakrabarty Road outside the home of zakat donor Mohammad Shamim, who owns a chewing tobacco brand Nurani Jarda.

Shamim had announced the distribution of free clothing at his home which also serves as his factory.

Around 5:00am, a small gate to the factory was opened and some people seeking zakat clothes went in but it was difficult to go through with every one trying to get in.

When the main gate was opened to let people in, the crowd stormed the compound.

With zakat seekers running and pushing and shoving each other in their frantic effort to get the clothes, some fell to the ground and got trampled, they said.

Over 50 people were injured.

After the incident, hundreds of sandals and blood spattered torn clothes were seen

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Relatives mourn after 23 women and four minors were killed in a stampede as a large crowd rushed into getting zakat clothes inside a Mymensingh businessman's residence yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Eid won't bring joy to them

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Just some new clothes on Eid were enough to bring a smile on the faces of Samu Begum and her family members.

So when they heard that someone was distributing zakat clothes nearby, they decided to rush there.

Around 11:00pm on Thursday, Samu, her daughter Sakhina Begum, and her granddaughter Lamia left their home in Patgudam Non-Bengali Camp area of Mymensingh town for Atul Chakrabarty Road, where the clothes would be given away, said Samu's husband Abdul Barez.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Reasons behind Ashraf's removal

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE



Prime minister's annoyance, internal political feud and his inactiveness in party and ministerial activities were behind Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam's removal from the LGRD ministry, sources in the government and the ruling party said.

According to them, a group of influential people in the government and the party had been working against Ashraf for quite some time and their roles were instrumental in his removal. In addition, Ashraf annoyed the government high-ups by differing with them on many policy

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

WORLD POPULATION DAY TODAY

Keeping low growth rate key challenge

STAR REPORT

Already burdened with a large population, Bangladesh faces a huge challenge in arresting further growth as it observes World Population Day today.

According to the Demographic Impact Study (DIS), the country's population might reach 265 million by 2061 from 156 million now.

The recent government study made the projection on the premise that the current fertility rate of 2.3 percent would remain static for the entire projection period. Bangladesh's population growth rate is now 1.37 percent.

The DIS report, prepared by the General Economics Division of Bangladesh Planning Commission, said the country's population density has reached 1,015 people per square kilometre, three and seven times higher than in India and China.

"Bangladesh is the only major country to have such a high population

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



BNP caught in fresh crisis

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Instead of holding out hope of a way out of the crisis the BNP is in, a suddenly called meeting has caused fresh resentment in the party as Chairperson Khaleda Zia sounded a strong warning against internal critics of the leadership, insiders say.

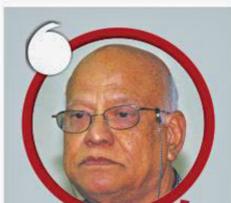
At the meeting, on Monday, Khaleda cautioned the senior leaders against discussing internal issues in public or creating divide in the party. She, however, didn't mention any one by name.

"She indirectly accused some senior leaders of trying to split the party. This has sent a negative message to our party leaders across the country," said a member of the BNP standing committee.

Convened after a long gap, the meeting exposed some unpleasant things within the party, he said.

Some senior leaders, who attended the meeting, think

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



TOP QUOTE

"Several of us knew beforehand that there would be a change in Syed Ashraf's portfolio."

FINANCE MINISTER AMA MUHITH ABOUT ASHRAF'S REMOVAL FROM LGRD MINISTRY



South Africa's 20-year-old debutant, Kagiso Rabada, centred, decimated Bangladesh's top-order with a hat-trick in the second over and finished with figures of 6 for 16, the best ever by a debutant. His efforts skittled Bangladesh for 160 before the South Africa batsmen raced on to the target with eight wickets in hand in the rain-curtailed first ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Rabada rips sorry Tigers

BISHWAJIT ROY

The first ODI began two hours and forty minutes after the scheduled time due to heavy rain but when it began, South Africa's debutant pacer Kagiso Rabada tore the Bangladesh batting lineup apart in the rain-curtailed 40-over match to set up a comfortable eight-wicket victory at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The batting demons returned to haunt the Tigers once again as Rabada, the 20-year old pacer from Johannesburg, finished with 6 for 16 -- the best ever figures in ODIs by a South African and the best ever by a debutant -- to set a 161-run target for his batsmen, which they overtook

easily, with 9.5 overs to spare, thanks to an unbeaten 99-run third wicket partnership between Faf du Plessis (63) and Rilee Rossouw (45). The pitch was slow but du Plessis continued his good form after his match-winning knock in the first T20I.

After a poor showing in the two-match T20I series, everybody was anticipating a better performance from the Tigers in their favoured format, but the Tigers looked like a shadow of the side that clinch series victories over Pakistan and India earlier in the year. Their poor batting on a good batting track was the main reason they could not even put up a fight in the first game of the three-match series.

With his pace and accuracy, young Rabada

also became only the second bowler to claim a hat-trick on debut, after Bangladeshi left-arm spinner Taijul Islam.

The heavy downpour started from the morning and continued till the afternoon, but fans still braved the inclement weather and flocked to the venue with hopes of watching the Tigers' first ODI against South Africa. They cheered with joy when it was announced that a reduced 40-over-a-side clash was going to begin from 5.40pm.

The fans were hoping against hope as the incessant rain threatened to spoil the match, but the fantastic Mirpur venue with its incredible drainage system took little time to get prepared once rain finally stopped.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Fake currency haul again

2 held as fraudsters continue to release fake notes ahead of Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion seized fake notes worth Tk 25 lakh and arrested two persons, including a woman, at Adabar in the capital on Thursday night, in a fresh drive against money counterfeiting gangs ahead of Eid.

Every year before the festival, such gangs become active as people spend a lot in shopping and fakes notes often change hands undetected.

Maj Maksudul Alam, deputy director of Rab's legal and media wing, told The Daily Star that on information, a Rab-1 team raided Baitul Aman Housing area around 10:00pm and arrested

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

FIGHTING TERRORISM IN S ASIA

Modi, Sharif agree to work closely

AGENCIES

The prime ministers of nuclear-armed rivals Pakistan and India agreed at a rare meeting yesterday to cooperate on eliminating terrorism in South Asia, Pakistan's foreign ministry said.

In a sign of easing relations, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also accepted his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif's invitation to attend a South Asian regional summit to be held in Islamabad next year.

"Both sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and agreed to cooperate with each other to eliminate the menace of terrorism from South Asia," Pakistani Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said in a statement.

Sharif and Modi met in the Russian city of Ufa, where they are attending summits of the BRICS trade group and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, writes AP.

The hostility between Pakistan and India dates back seven decades, but strains have grown since nationalist Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office a year ago. Last month, US Secretary of State John Kerry voiced "enormous" concern over heightened tensions between the two countries.

Both sides have accused the other of fomenting terrorism. Pakistan alleges that India's spy agency is behind

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Fake banknotes worth Tk 25 lakh and note-making equipment seized by the Rab from a flat in Baitul Aman residential area in the capital's Adabor yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR