

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star Showbiz



WASHED IN THE RAIN

Chittagong Test looks headed for a draw as rain threatens to interrupt Day 5 too

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MALDIVES U-TURNS

Court commutes ex-president Nasheed's 13-year jail term to house arrest

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BRUTAL KILLING OF RAJON

Probe finds cops negligence

Jalalabad OC closed, two SIs suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A police probe committee has found negligence of law enforcers in arresting the killers of 13-year-old Samiul Alam Rajon, and political influence in letting one perpetrator flee the country.

Based on the committee report, the Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) closed an officer-in-charge and suspended two sub-inspectors of Jalalabad Police Station yesterday.

Rahmat Ullah, additional deputy commissioner of the SMP, confirmed to The Daily Star that the action was taken against OC (investigation) Alamgir Hossain and sub-inspectors Aminul Islam and Zakir Hossain.

Earlier on July 14, SI Aminul Islam was withdrawn allegedly for cutting a deal with accused Kamrul Islam and helping him flee to Saudi Arabia after the killing.

"Police failed to arrest Rajon's murderers due to their negligence and there was a political interference to save them," SMP Additional Commissioner SM Rokun Uddin, who headed the probe body, told this correspondent yesterday.

But he did not clarify who were behind the political interference. Rajon was beaten to death in Kumargaon Bus Stand area of Sylhet on the morning of July 8. A group of men hit the boy with a stick in the head, feet, joints of legs and shoulders for "trying to steal a rickshaw".

One of them filmed the scene on a mobile phone and shared it on the social media, sparking outrage at home and abroad.

The boy died of brain haemorrhage. His body bore 64 injury marks.

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An excavator perched on a boat removes garbage and weeds clogging the Golam Bazar-Begunbari part of Subhaddya Khal, a major canal in Keraniganj. The local authorities have taken the measure to keep the waterbody alive.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

No let-up in road fatalities

17 more killed in road crashes as holidaymakers returning to capital

STAR REPORT

Deaths in road accidents continue to climb as 17 more people lost their lives in different districts yesterday, taking the death toll in road crashes across the country to nearly 100 in the last eight days.

Thursday was the deadliest day with 24 deaths reported.

The roads are now crammed with vehicles carrying Eid holidaymakers who have been the common victims.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1983, would be made an act, keeping the provision of stern punishment against those responsible for road accidents.

Visiting the development work of an eight-lane road at Shimrail intersection in Narayanganj, he also said the move would aim at preventing the

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TENDER SNATCHING

Jubo League suspends Mazhar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jubo League leader Gazi Mazharul Islam alias Gofran, who earlier was arrested on charge of attempting to snatch tender documents from Rajuk Building, was suspended from the organisation yesterday.

Mazharul, liberation war affairs secretary of Jubo League (South) in Dhaka, was arrested along with his five accomplices on Thursday as they tried to take away the tender documents of a Rajuk project, Rab said.

As per the decision of Jubo League central committee, Mazharul was

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING LINK

Thai general, 71 others indicted

BBC ONLINE

Thai prosecutors have indicted 72 people, including politicians and an army general, over the trafficking of migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Arrest warrants have been issued for more than 30 others, the attorney general's office said yesterday.

The investigation follows the discovery of mass graves, believed to contain the bodies of refugees, in jungle camps near the Thai-Malaysian border in May.

Many migrants endured arduous sea

journeys before arriving in Thailand.

The suspects face charges including human trafficking, partaking in a transnational crime network, and bringing aliens into the kingdom illegally.

Most of those indicted are from Thailand, but several Myanmar and Bangladeshi citizens are also being held.

"We will not let influential people rise above justice," said Wanchai Roujanavong, a spokesman for the attorney general's office (OAG).

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TOP! QUOTE

"We are taking steps to turn the Motor Vehicles Ordinance into a law by the yearend with provisions for stringent punishment for everyone responsible for accidents."

ROAD TRANSPORT MINISTER
OBAIDUL QUADER
WHILE VISITING DHAKA-N'GANJ
HIGHWAY YESTERDAY



Children coming out of a boat school at a Baniachong haor in Habiganj. Inset, they are taking lessons inside the boat's cabin.

PHOTO: STAR



Boat of dreams

SUHAS SHANKAR CHOWDHURY, back from Habiganj

"Bhai re [Brother], I could not attend school. And now, I have to toil from dawn to dusk to eke out a living. Even at night, I go to bed with my head full of worries. No, I don't want my son to grow up to be someone like me. I want him to be educated and become an officer... a big service holder."

This is how 40-year-old day labourer Idris Mia was describing his dream for his son to this correspondent, sitting on the roof of a boat in Batiparar Beel, a wetland at Kagapasha village in Habiganj district's Baniachong.

Down inside the boat's big single cabin was his nine-year-old son, Rajon Mia, taking lessons along with 29 more children, all aged between 7

and 10.

This is a unique boat. Used both as a classroom and a school bus, it is named Shikkha Toree which literally means the boat of education.

Co-funded by Qatar-based initiative Educate A Child, Brac is operating this boat school along with around 400 more in 14 districts of the country.

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Cops to sue 70 for human trafficking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police will file cases against 70 alleged traffickers and brokers from 14 districts in connection with the trafficking of 155 people who were repatriated from Myanmar on Wednesday.

All the cases will be filed with the respective police stations in the districts as the victims disclosed details of the suspected traffickers, Shamol Kumar Nath, SP of Cox's Bazar, said yesterday.

"The 155 returnees gave important information about their organised human trafficking business in 14 districts," he told The Daily Star.

After the filing of the cases, raids will be carried out in the districts to detain 70 alleged traffickers and brokers, he added.

The SP, however, did not divulge their identities for the sake of investigation.

Sources at the police said, all the suspected traffickers and brokers are from Cox's Bazar, Narayanganj, Sirajganj, Madaripur, Jhenidah, Pabna, Chuadanga, Jessore, Sunamganj, Magura, Comilla, Kushtia, Joypurhat, and Satkhira districts.

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A father's struggle

Cheated by manpower brokers, Sirajganj farmer toils in Malaysia

PORIMOL PALMA, back from Malaysia

In the midst of a busy Eid shopping day in the bustling island city of Penang, Musa Sheikh, 53, was selling tabiz, amulets thought to bring good luck and protect people from diseases. This is how he tries to earn a few extra ringgits in Malaysia.

"People here don't care for tabiz. Only some Bangladeshis buy them once in a while. Whatever I get is my income," said Musa, who looks much older than his age.

His tabiz for good luck does not seem to help him much. He does not have a valid

work permit in Malaysia. Even if he had one, employers would be unlikely to hire him for work given his age and weak physique. He stays without any work for almost half a month. In his spare time, he sells his good luck tabiz.

His income from work in construction is not constant. On a good job he gets Malaysian Ringgit (RM) 1200 (Tk 25,000). He can then send home RM 800. Other times he earns about RM 400, just enough for him to get by.

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Bangladeshi migrant Musa Sheikh, who sells tabiz (amulets) at Penang's Komtar area in Malaysia, holds up the photos of his son and daughter. The 53-year-old man toils day and night to earn a few extra ringgits for his family and for the education of his only son in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: PORIMOL PALMA