



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

16 PAGES PLUS SHOWBIZ PRICE: Tk 12.00



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXV No. 236 | BHADRA 28, 1422 BS | ZILQAD 27, 1436 HIJRI

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

MEZBAH, SHIRIN FASTEST

The navy sprinters win 100m titles yet again

PAGE 14

VICTORY FOR DIPLOMACY

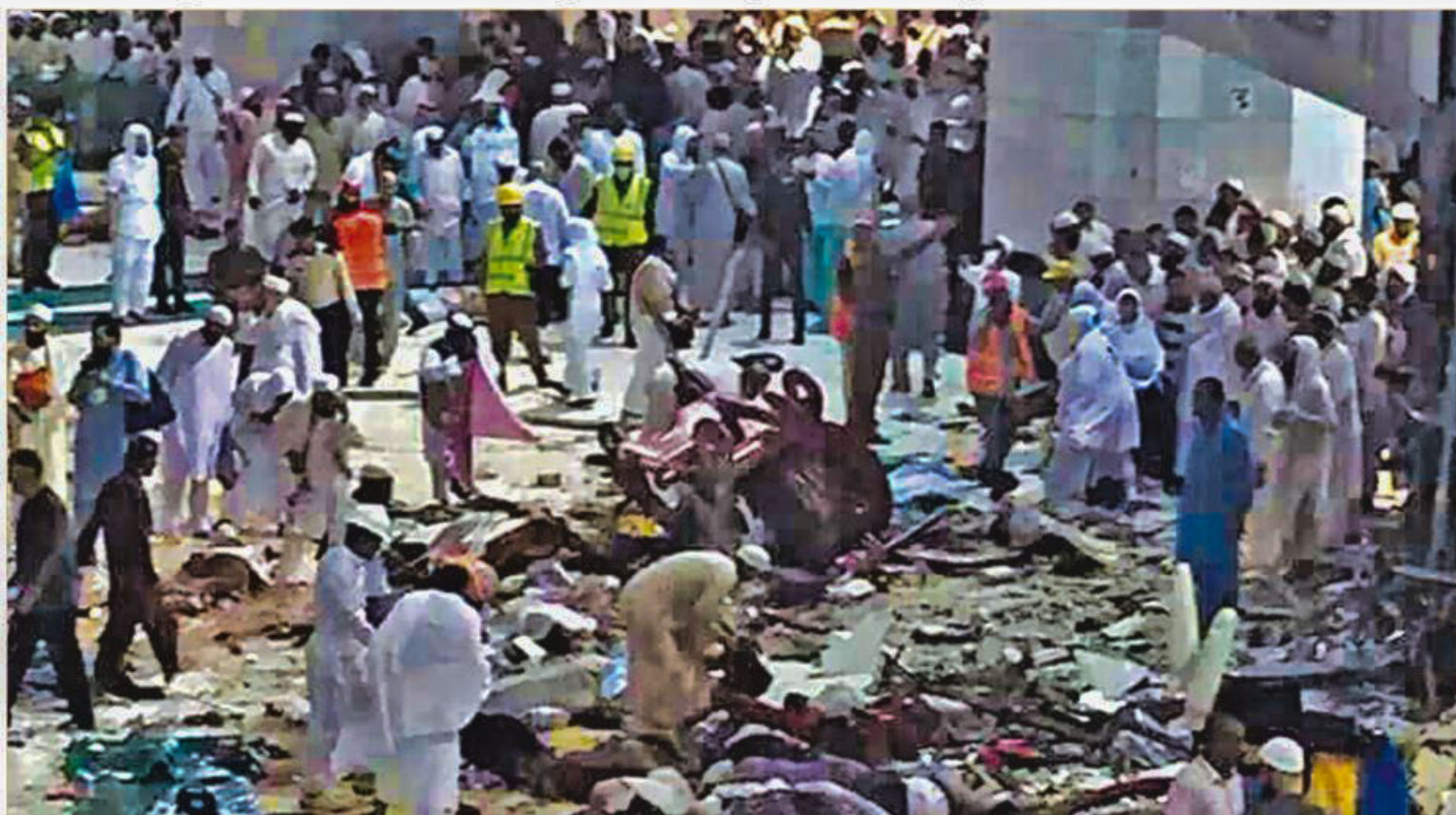
Obama hails vote as Iran nuke deal survives US Congress test

PAGE 8

CRANE COLLAPSES ON GRAND MOSQUE

87 killed in Makkah

40 Bangladeshis among 184 injured, says ambassador



AFP, Riyadh

A massive construction crane crashed into Makkah's Grand Mosque in stormy weather yesterday, killing at least 87 people and injuring 184, Saudi authorities said, less than a fortnight before the hajj pilgrimage starts.

Though no Bangladeshi was killed so far, at least 40 Bangladeshis were injured in the incident, Colam Moshi, Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told The Daily Star around 2:00am today over the phone.

"Three of them, one identified as Chan Mia, were shifted to intensive care unit at a hospital. Their conditions are stable," he said, quoting doctors.

Pilgrims and rescue workers at the site where a massive crane had collapsed yesterday. At least 87 people were killed and 184 injured in the incident inside the Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah.

PHOTO: ARAB NEWS

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SWIPE & SAVE

15% MORE

Use your Visa Debit /Credit Card to pay and avail a 15%* discount on your bill.

For more details on the exciting offers visit www.bd.visa.com

Laurels for BRILLIANCE IN BUSINESS

DHL The Daily Star honour 2 companies, 2 individuals with 15th Bangladesh Business Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pursuit of excellence itself is a reward. So says Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

"Nothing can be more pleasant than pursuing excellence. If you have that excellence, you will be rewarded one day," Muhith said.

His words of wisdom reflected the successes of two enterprises and two individuals who were honoured at the 15th Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka last night. The awardees stood out among their peers for their contribution to the economy that came through hard work, ethical practices and governance.

Muhammed Aziz Khan, chairman of Summit Industrial and Mercantile Corporation, won the coveted award as the Business Person of the Year while Walton Hi-tech Industries was recognised as the Enterprise of the Year.

Mutual Trust Bank was honoured as the Best Financial Institution and Rubana Huq, managing director of Mohammadi Group, was awarded as the Outstanding Woman in Business.

Aziz Khan, Anis A Khan, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, SM Mahbulul Alam, a direc-

tor of Walton, and Rubana Huq received the awards from Muhith at the ceremony attended by nearly 300 guests, including diplomats, politicians, industrialists, corporate heads, economists, civil society members and celebrities.

At the ceremony all speakers extolled the winners who made the cut for their outstanding

contributions.

DHL Express, the world's leading logistics company, and The Daily Star, the leading English-language newspaper in Bangladesh, MORE ON PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

From left, Yasmin Aladad Khan, senior vice president of DHL Express for Southeast Asia and South Asia; Rubana Huq, managing director of Mohammadi Group; SM Mahbulul Alam, a director of Walton Group; Anis A Khan, managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank; AMA Muhith, finance minister; Muhammed Aziz Khan, chairman of Summit Group; and Desmond Quiah, country manager of DHL Express Bangladesh, pose for photographs at the Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka last night.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Reconsider VAT

Private universities urge govt; Muhith says students do not need to pay VAT this year but may have to in future; students continue demonstration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after a massive protest by private university students, the university authorities yesterday called upon the government to reconsider the move to slap 7.5 percent VAT on "tuition fees".

At a press conference in the capital's Gulshan Club, leaders of the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) said they now left the ball in the govern-

ment's court.

"We request the government to reconsider the matter. We also hope that the prime minister would give it [the VAT decision] a second thought," said APUB President Sheikh Kabir Hossain.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, however, said yesterday that the VAT would be in place, reports UNB.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Rising cost big challenge

Say top businesspersons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Resilience of local entrepreneurs helps Bangladesh make strides, but rising cost of doing businesses, particularly for inadequate infrastructures, puts a dent on their efforts to enhance competitiveness and facilitate the economy to grow faster.

"We have tremendous possibilities. We can grow much faster. We want the government to improve gas supply and road infrastructure," said M Anis Ud Dowla, chairman of ACI.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



VISA everywhere you want to be

Conditions Apply.