



## QUESTION LEAK OUTRAGE

Students agitate for fresh medical admission tests with more people joining their cause

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## THE UNLIKELY DUET

Eddie Vedder is joined by Beyonce for rendering of "Redemption Song"

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## 'NO IMPUNITY'

Ban Ki-moon calls for Syrian crisis to be referred to the Int'l Criminal Court

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## SCRAPPED ACQUITTAL OF GRAFT ACCUSED

# 19 cases wait for HC rehearing

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Over the past 20 months, the Supreme Court has overturned the High Court's acquittal of 19 people, mostly politicians and their family members, in graft cases and ordered rehearing of their appeals against conviction in lower courts.

But the HC could not hear a single case afresh because its Criminal Appeal Section did not produce the case documents although two HC benches demanded those, Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

At least 10 of the appeals were even put on the cause list of the HC for hearing, but the court had to drop those later, he said.

The HC is now on a 44-day annual vacation and reopens on November 1. So it cannot rehear any of them before that.

The 19 convicts whose acquittals were scrapped by the SC include Relief and

Disaster Management Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, former BNP minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda, former BNP state ministers Iqbal Hasan Mahmood Tuku and Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Nasir's son Mir Helal Uddin and independent lawmaker and AL leader Haji Mohammad Selim.

They were sentenced to various terms ranging from three to ten years in prison by lower courts in different graft cases filed by the ACC. The cases were mainly over amassing illegal wealth and concealing wealth information.

Khurshid said that immediately after getting the SC order, the relevant section should have produced the case records before the HC benches for rehearing so that the benches could decide whether the lower court judgments were correct or not.

The SC cancelled the acquittals of the 19

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receives "Champions of the Earth" award, UN's highest environmental honour, from United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Achim Steiner at a programme in New York on Sunday.

PHOTO: BSS

## IMPLEMENTING NEW DEVELOPMENT GOALS

# Hasina calls for global support

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh and other developing countries need global support on finance, technology, capacity building and debt to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"The international community must deliver on the means of implementation

for each goal of the SDGs. We also must ensure that global trading and financial regime and institutions are fair and just," she told the UN summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda at UN headquarters here on Sunday.

The PM called upon the international community to ensure that the new climate

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## CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH

# PM receives top UN award

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has received the highest environmental accolade of the United Nations Environmental Programme (Unep), The Champions of the Earth, in recognition of Bangladesh's far-reaching initiatives on climate change.

Unep Executive Director Achim Steiner handed over the award to the PM at a gala reception at Hotel Cipriani Le Specialita on Sunday evening. He appreciated Hasina as an

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# Italian national shot dead in Gulshan

Unverified report claims 'IS link'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Italian national was shot dead by armed criminals in the capital's Gulshan diplomatic zone yesterday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Cesare Tavella, 50. He worked as the project manager of Profitable Opportunities for Food Security (Proofs), a project of Netherlands-based organisation ICCO Cooperation, Dhaka



Cesare Tavella

Metropolitan Police (DMP) told The Daily Star last night.

According to a Reuters report, an online statement in the name of the hardline Islamist group Islamic State later claimed responsibility for the attack.

However, police told the news agency that they were not aware of the claim.

Around 6:15pm yesterday, three youths

UK TRAVEL ALERT -- 16

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## HAJJ STAMPEDE

DEATH TOLL BREAKDOWN, SO FAR

Iran: 226

Egypt: 55

Nigeria: 54

India: 45

Indonesia: 41

Cameroon: 20

Niger: 22

Pakistan: 40

Ivory Coast: 14

AFP, RIYADH

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### AFTERMATH OF HAJJ TRAGEDY

# Stances of Saudi, Iran worrisome

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The tragic death of around 800 Hajj pilgrims in Makkah may or may not have been caused by the Saudi's faulty management but it has brought the simmering hostility between Saudi Arabia and Iran to a boil.

The latest deaths by stampede at the Hajj, one of the biggest religious gatherings in the world, have prompted Iran to launch a passionate war of words against Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh has countered by blaming the Iranians themselves. They accused a few hundred Iranians of causing the

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## BANGLADESHI CASUALTIES IN MINA

# 18 deaths claimed so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 18 Bangladeshis are among those killed in the September 24 stampede in Makkah, Hajj Agencies' Association of Bangladesh (Haab) said yesterday quoting Bangladesh Hajj Mission in Saudi Arabia.

Ninety more are still missing amid fears that the death toll would rise, said Haab President Ibrahim Bahar.

He couldn't give any details of the deceased Bangladeshis. Talking to The Daily Star over the phone yesterday, Nazrul Islam, deputy chief of mission at Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh, said they were trying to get details of the dead and missing Bangladeshis by verifying photographs that the Saudi authorities gave them.

Arab News reports, the authorities displayed 1,100 photographs of the stampede victims at the Muaisam mortuary in Mina.

"Many of them died from heatstroke and other natural causes during the pilgrimage," a Saudi official said, putting the death toll from the Mina stampede at 769.

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# Liquid water exists on Mars: NASA

CNN ONLINE

Potentially life-giving water still flows across the ancient surface of Mars from time to time, NASA scientists said yesterday in revealing a potential breakthrough in both the search for life beyond Earth and human hopes to one day travel there.

While the discovery doesn't by itself offer evidence of life on Mars, either past or present, it does boost hopes of that the harsh landscape still offers some refuge to life.

"The existence of liquid water, even if it is super salty briny water, gives the possibility that if there's life on Mars, that we have a way to

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Bijoy Rudra Paul, the man wearing glasses, with students in front of his school for the underprivileged children of tea garden workers in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

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# Bijoy's dream comes true

## Tea garden worker's son runs school for kids of his community

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Bijoy Rudra Paul had a dream that no child in the tea estate under Juri upazila in Moulvibazar would be deprived of education.

His mother is a worker in a tea garden and his father a bicycle mechanic.

Realising such a dream was next to impossible for a poor chap like him who could not even sit for his SSC exams, failing to pay the registration fee.

Economic hardship persisted in his family but he did not relent. After over a decade's hard work, his dream came true, and now children in his community have a school to attend.

While talking to this correspondent recently, Bijoy narrated his story, "I don't want to see anybody quit their studies because of poverty. I missed my SSC exams in 2000 for lack of money. I had to work hard for two years after that to save enough money for the exam fees."

That, however, was just the beginning. When time for his HSC enrolment came, he had to wait four more years as the family was going through extreme poverty.

# AUSTRALIA'S TOUR Foolproof security promised

SPORTS REPORTER

It was a busy day for the Australian security contingent yesterday as they attended a number of meetings with different security agencies and government wings in a bid to analysing the safety measures for the Australia series.

They had meetings lined up with the Home Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the DGF and RAB as well. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), on its part, proactively supported the team and ensured that these meet-ups were organised as quickly as possible.

Speaking to reporters following the visitors' meeting at the Home Ministry yesterday afternoon, Australia's high commissioner to Bangladesh, Greg Wilcock, provided a short statement to reporters

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