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GOOD NEWS FOR INDUSTRIES

Gas crisis in industrial sector to be solved in two years, says Muhith

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CRACKING UNDER PRESSURE?

Annoyed by questions about his future, Man Utd coach Van Gaal storms out of media briefing

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HOLIDAY

The Daily Star remains closed today on account of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. However, you can always visit our website www.thedailystar.net for the latest news.

Miladunnabi today

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), will be observed in the country today with due religious solemnity. On this day in 570, the 12th of Rabiul Awal of the Hijri calendar, Muhammad (pbuh) was born in Makkah of Saudi Arabia with divine blessings and messages of peace for mankind. He also passed away on the same day. The day is a public holiday in Bangladesh. Various Islamic and socio-cultural organisations and political parties have chalked out elaborate

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Two SWAT members walk down the street after an operation in a building in the city's Mirpur yesterday. Top left, police raided two flats on the fifth floor; bottom left, DMP's bomb disposal unit deactivating a bomb near the building.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



15-hour raid on 'JMB den'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a 15-hour crackdown in a militant den on the capital's Mirpur, detectives yesterday seized 16 improvised grenades, other ingredients, including power gel enough to make over 200 bombs and grenades,

and a suicide vest, police said.

Six youths, aged between 20 and 30, were said to be arrested during the raid at two apartments on the top floor of a six-storey building in Shah Ali area.

Two of them are key operatives of banned militant outfit Jama'atul

'Grenades, suicide vest' seized from Mirpur building; 2 militants, 4 suspects arrested

Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and the four others are suspected militants, detectives said, but did not disclose their identities.

The JMB men were arrested from one of the two apartments where the grenades

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GREETINGS

The Daily Star wishes its valued readers, patrons, well-wishers and advertisers a Merry Christmas

Step up security for Christians

Oikya Parishad urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad (BHBCOP) yesterday urged the government to step up security for the Christian religious and community leaders who were threatened with death recently.

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Tied to tree, journo hacked to death

His reports on drug peddling might be the reason

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Unidentified assailants hacked to death a journalist of a local daily, tying him to a tree in an isolated place in Rangpur city on Wednesday night.

Police recovered the body of 30-year-old Mashur Rahman Utsho, staff reporter of the Daily Juger Alo, from Dharmadas area on Dhaka-Rangpur highway around 8:00am yesterday.



Mashur Rahman

It was a planned murder. The killers hit him with sharp weapons in the head and hands, said police. The motive behind the killing was yet to be ascertained.

Police said they were trying to recover the cell phone, motorbike and digital camera the killers took away from the slain journalist.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 7

Pakistan summons Bangladesh envoy twice

Accuses Dhaka of harassing its diplomat

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Islamabad yesterday summoned the Bangladesh high commissioner there twice to lodge protest against the recent "treatment meted out to its envoy" in Dhaka.

The development came a day after the Pakistan government withdrew Farina Arshad, second secretary (political) at the Pakistan high commission in Dhaka, in the wake of allegations of her involvement in terror financing.

A press release on the website of Pakistan foreign ministry said, "Miss Farina Arshad, second secretary at

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PAHELA BAISHAKH SEX ASSAULT

Not a single culprit is booked

After 8 months, police submit final report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday submitted the final report in the case over sexual assault on women during this year's Pahela Baishakh celebrations, saying none of the culprits could be identified or arrested.

Sub-inspector Dipak Kumar Das of Detective Branch (DB) of police, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, gave the report to Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in the afternoon.

"The incidents of sexual assault [on women] took place during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations on the Dhaka University campus. We have submitted the final report but could not identify or arrest



any of the offenders," court sources quoted the IO as saying in the report.

Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, which is dealing with the case, will now decide whether the report will be accepted. The tribunal will hold a hearing after the winter vacation ending on January 2, added the sources.

In the evening of Pahela Baishakh (April 14), at least 20 women were sexually assaulted on the DU campus for over an hour.

Although a number of police personnel were standing nearby, they did not do anything to stop it. Moreover, one officer released two of the culprits caught and

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MG!

"The Election Commission is being kind to them [BNP] and unkind to us [AL] ... Despite being the ruling party, the Awami League is not getting equal treatment from the commission."

AL JOINT GENERAL SECRETARY
MAHBUBUL ALAM HANIF
AFTER A MEETING AT THE ELECTION COMMISSION

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MOVE TO SET UP SEZ Protests go on at Chandpur tea estate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Workers of Chandpur Tea Estate in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj yesterday held a rally at the estate, protesting the government move to set up a special economic zone there.

They also observed a two-hour work stoppage for the fourth consecutive day.

Chandpur Bhumi Rakkhya Committee, an organisation of Chandpur tea estate labourers, organised the rally. Members of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) also spoke at the programme.

Speakers at the rally said they would rather die than give up their ancestral land

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