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In Banshkhali, despair and panic is all

With their breadwinners dead, imprisoned or on the run, families face hard times

PINAKI ROY, DWAIPAYAN BARUA and PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, back from Banshkhali

Md Shafiq, a 14-year-old boy from Pashchim Gondamara, somehow escaped from the police vehicle after being picked up from his house, but his elder brother Rafiq, also a teenager, could not.

"At first I was puzzled. But when they [police] tried to handcuff me, I jumped off and ran away," said Shafiq, still haunted by the horror.

Around 3:00am of April 4, police also picked up his father Asad Ali and a relative visiting them from their house. Four other neighbours were also arrested in a raid over a case filed the previous night.

This out-of-the-blue arrests prompted locals to call for a protest rally on the afternoon of the same day, which turned violent, leaving four people dead.

With their bread earners either in jail or on the run fearing arrests, these families are passing a hard time.

"We are spending our days amid uncertainty. Police have arrested my son and husband. We don't know where they are. Nobody wants to go to the police station fearing arrest," said Sufia Khatun, mother of Shafiq.

The poor woman has no money to process petitions for

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Sufia Khatun and her son Shafiq going through tough days after police arrested Sufia's husband and elder son along with four others of Khamarupara in Banshkhali of Chittagong on early April 4. The arrestees allegedly set fire to vehicles of a team of the S Alam Group which wants to build a coal-fired power plant on a nearby site. The family refuted the allegation and says police also tried to pick up Shafiq but he escaped. Inset, another woman wails in Charpara after her husband and son-in-law were killed in a clash over setting up of the power plant later in the day.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

STILL OPERATING AT HAZARIBAGH

HC asks for list of tanners in 3 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the industries secretary to submit before it within three weeks the list of names and addresses of the businessmen who are still running their tanneries at Hazaribagh in the capital.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Shahidul Huq passed the order in response to a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for

Bangladesh (HRPB).

The organisation submitted the petition on Tuesday, seeking an HC directive on the industries secretary to provide the names and addresses of the people operating their tanneries at Hazaribagh in violation of its judgments.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that many people have reportedly been continuing their tannery business at Hazaribagh although the HC in

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Fuel prices cut likely next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will cut the prices of fuel oil next week following a global downtrend in the petroleum market.

A notice of the price cut would be issued within seven to 10 days, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid Bipu told reporters at a press briefing

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Panama cops raid, search Fonseca HQ

Global tax powers meet to jointly probe murky offshore dealings

AFP, Panama City

Police on Tuesday raided the headquarters of the Panama law firm whose leaked documents have unleashed a global scandal over how the world's elite use offshore companies to hide their wealth.

Organized crime police surrounded Mossack Fonseca's headquarters in Panama City as the offices were being searched,

along with several other branches.

Prosecutors said the raids had taken place "with no incident or interference," but gave no details on the results of the searches.

The fallout from the so-called Panama Papers, which law firm Mossack Fonseca claims were stolen when hackers from abroad breached its system, has spread around the world.

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Bullet-hit bodies of two Shibir men found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Two Jhenidah Islami Chhatra Shibir activists were found dead on Bahrapur cremation ground in Jessore Sadar upazila yesterday several days after they had been abducted.

The Detective Branch of police picked up Abu Jar Gifari, 21, president of Kaliganj municipality unit of Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, on March 18, and Shamim Mahmud, 22, an activist of the same unit, on March 25, family members of the victims said.

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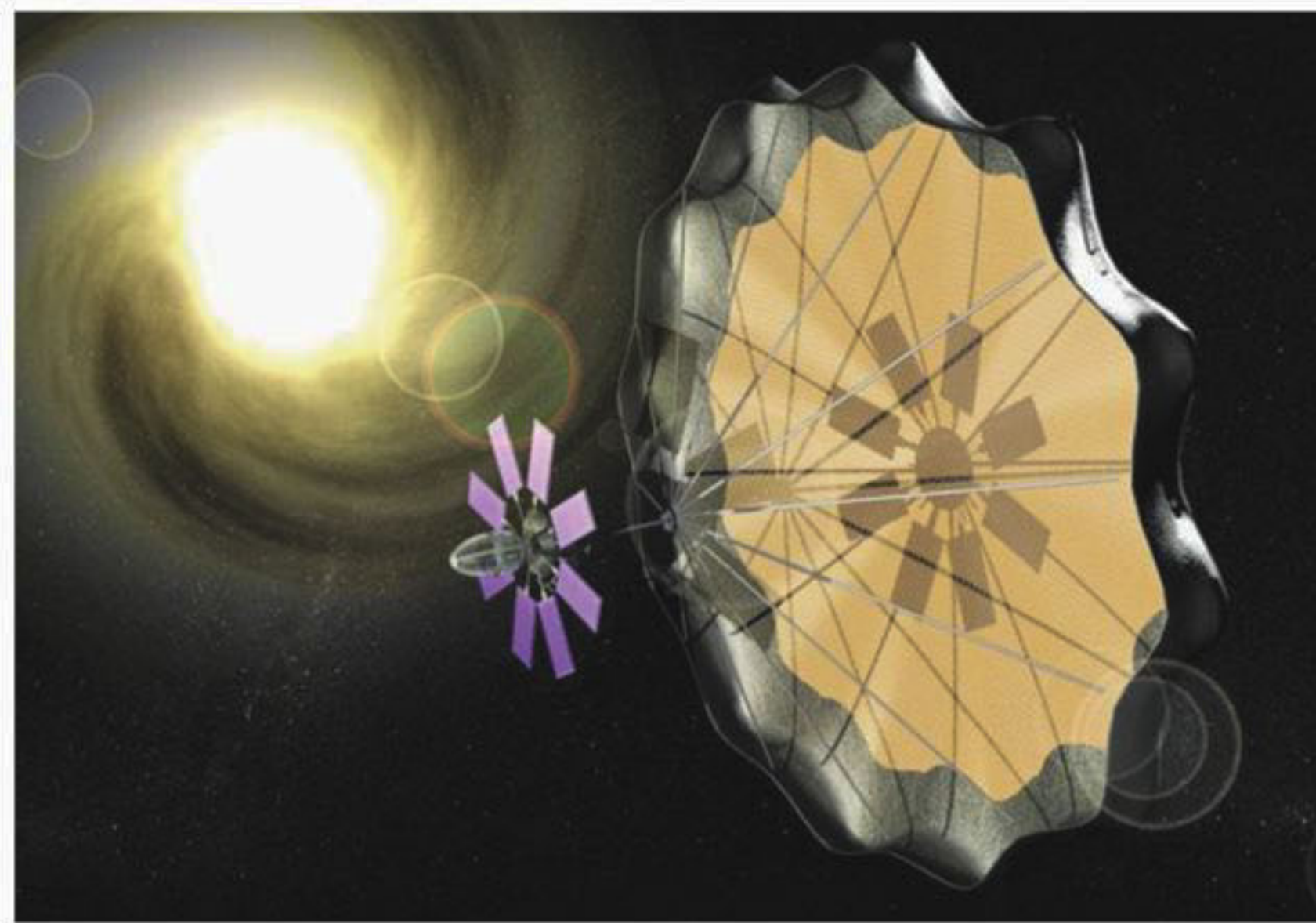
Fire breaks out again in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A fire broke out in Chandpai range of the Sundarbans in Bagerhat yesterday, barely two weeks after a blaze damaged foliage on 1.66 acres of land in the largest mangrove forest.

The fire originated in Abdullah Chila area under Nangli Forest Camp of Dhan Sagar Station and gutted the nearby Pocha Koralia and Napitkhali

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Hawking backs interstellar travel project

BBC ONLINE

Stephen Hawking is backing a project to send tiny spacecraft to another star system within a generation.

They would travel trillions of miles; far further than any previous craft.

A \$100m (£70m) research programme to develop the computer chip-sized "starships" was launched by the billionaire

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CONVICTION OF 8 FOR GRAFT SC orders fresh HC hearing of appeals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld its previous orders scrapping the High Court verdicts that acquitted eight people, mostly BNP leaders, in six graft cases filed against them during the military-backed caretaker government rule from 2007-08.

The apex court also affirmed its directives to the HC to hold fresh hearings on the appeals filed by the accused.

The eight challenged the lower court judgments that handed them jail terms of between three and 13 years.

The accused are former BNP minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda, former BNP state ministers Iqbal Hasan Mahmood Tuku, Aman Ullah Aman and Mir

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 14
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-45 6-24 7-45
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 5-00 6-28 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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