

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

MASH VS TAMIM

Mashrafe's Kalabagan KC take on Tamim's Abahani in DPL opener today

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REST IN PEACE PRINCE

Iconic US singer dies at 57 in his Minnesota home

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Major limestone mine discovered

Deposits in the quarry in Naogaon 'could hit 50-100 billion tonnes'



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has discovered the biggest ever limestone mine in Naogaon whose commercial production could completely cut the country's reliance on import of the key ingredient for cement.

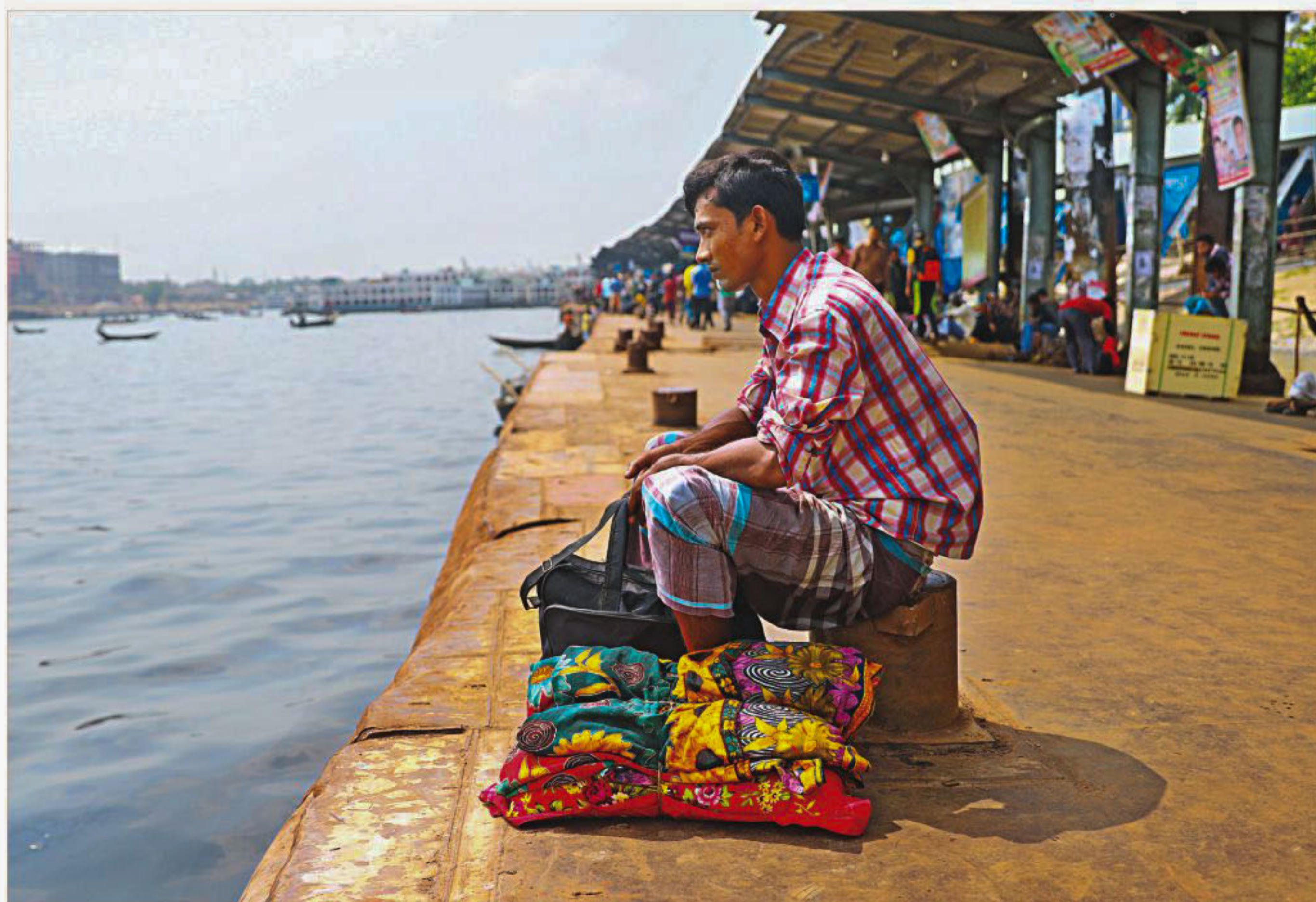
The mine is spread over a 50-square kilometre area in Tajpur of Badalgachhi upazila.

It might take two years for the mine to go into commercial production, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, told reporters at the secretariat yesterday.

The mine would meet the local demand for limestone, which is imported mainly by local manufacturers for producing cement.

Bangladesh would no longer need to import limestone, and it would

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A passenger waiting for a launch in the capital's Sadarghat terminal in the afternoon yesterday. Transportation of people and goods via rivers across the country remain suspended since early yesterday due to an indefinite strike called by river transport workers demanding pay hike.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

LAUNCH STRIKE Passengers suffer across the country

STAR REPORT

River communications across the country almost came to a halt yesterday as river transport workers enforced an indefinite strike to press home their 15-point demand, including pay hike.

Operations of motor launches, barges, tankers and lighter vessels remained suspended since midnight on Wednesday, causing severe sufferings to people.

Bangladesh Water Transport Workers Federation (BWTWF) called the strike demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 10,000 for workers and increase in overtime pay, festival bonuses and other benefits.

Visiting the Sadarghat terminal in the city, this newspaper found many passengers roaming around. No vessels left the terminal

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500 LPG refuelling stations in 2 years

Beximco Group gets govt nod to set up the stations across the country

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

The government has given the nod to Beximco Group, one of the largest conglomerates in Bangladesh, to set up 500 LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) refuelling stations across the country in the next two years.

Beximco would franchise the operations of the filling stations and the first one would

open in July.

The cost of the project, which includes selling of LPG for cooking and industrial purposes, was estimated to be around Tk 1,000 crore, according to the company.

"We have agreed in principle that Beximco can go ahead with its plan to set up 500 LPG filling stations," Shamsul Alam, chief inspector of explosives, told The Daily Star.

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TIB lauds RMG safety progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday lauded the improvements in the safety standard at readymade garment industries in Bangladesh and termed the development "revolutionary".

"The progress in safety that Bangladesh had made in the garment sector over the last three years deserves national and international recognition," said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman at a press conference at his office in the capital.

The global anti-graft watchdog yesterday shared its findings of a study titled "Good governance in garment sector:"

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RCBC handled same 'dirty money' twice

2nd time was 2 days after Bangladeshi stop order; Deguito, lawyer say funds re-entered bank when Philrem sent dollars; bank's treasurer resigns

AGENCIES

Officials of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) allowed several transactions involving the \$81 million in stolen Bangladeshi funds to be credited and withdrawn despite queries from its controversial former bank manager for clarification and guidance from her superiors.

More importantly, the bank -- through the treasury department in its head office -- handled the so-called "dirty money" a second time two days after it was told by the Bangladesh Bank that the funds were of dubious provenance.

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Shafi Ahmed, a doctor of Bangladeshi origin, is seen performing an eye surgery on a patient in Royal London Hospital Whitechapel on April 14. The surgery was streamed live on a website and medical students were able to have a 360-degree view of what was going on via virtual reality headsets.

IMAGE: VR STREAM GRAB

A step towards future

Bangladeshi origin doctor in London conducts surgery streamed live 360-degree, first time in the world

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, from London

Medical students and trainee surgeons for the first time were able to view a 360-degree live stream of an eye surgery in the UK courtesy of years of effort by Shafi Ahmed, a doctor of Bangladeshi origin.

The surgery performed this Pahela Baishakh was streamed via a website and medical students and trainee surgeons across the world were able to watch on their computers and mobile devices with VR headsets.

"The approach, as part of a plan to help training, could improve and transform learning of surgeons worldwide including that of the developing world," said Shafi, a surgeon at the Royal London Hospital Whitechapel.

Medical students and trainee surgeons could get practical training on surgery via mobile phones with internet

connections and a virtual reality headset, something that could drastically reduce the cost of travelling abroad for surgery training.

This concept seems valuable as, according to the 2015 report by the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery, about five billion people worldwide do not have access to safe surgery.

"If that is to change, a global shortage of some two million surgeons, anaesthetists and obstetricians will need to be trained over the next 15 years," Shafi said.

It might appear a wishful thinking, but it is actually not. Medical Realities, the company founded by Shafi in early 2015 together with VR innovator Steve Dann, is currently working to launch a software that would enable doctors to teach remotely using 360-degree streaming.

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Wife buys time with jailed husband

RAFIUL ISLAM

A woman managed to briefly meet her imprisoned husband face to face, bribing her way through prison guards at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

In the end, however, the 26-year-old was spotted by the police while two prison guards were suspended for arranging the meeting.

The incident happened in the DMCH-2 in the afternoon. A special hospital staff, Masum, allegedly managed a room for the couple to talk in private.

Police and jail sources said the husband is

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UP POLLS PHASE-3 Campaign ends today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around three-weeklong election campaign for the third phase of the union parishad polls scheduled to be held tomorrow ended yesterday night as the Election Commission imposed a ban on all sorts of public meetings and campaigns in electoral areas.

Movement of all types of motor vehicles will be barred from entering the electoral areas from 12:01am tonight, while

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
 Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim



Shazneen Tasnim Rahman

SHAZNEEN'S 18TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY APRIL 23, 2016

It is, once again, that time of the year when we seek your company to collectively remember our dear Shazneen, who was torn away from our warm embrace in a most brutal and bestial manner. It is the event when we, her immediate family, share with you our continued agony, and the unbearable emptiness of our lives without the Heavenly Blessing that she was. It is the occasion in which, by inviting you all to be with us, we gather strength to continue to suffer the pain of her absence, and thank you all for helping us, through your prayers, friendship and goodwill, to carry on with our lives.

The 23rd April this year will be her 18th death anniversary. She was a bubbly, boisterous beauty of only 15 when the brutes emptied our hearts. She would have been a woman of 33 years now. The Almighty has made it our lot to mourn her death for more years than she was with us. This we do so in the firm belief, which is our only solace, that in taking Shazneen away from us the Almighty has a far greater purpose, a Divine Design, that we mortals are not able to understand or comprehend.

To collectively pray so that the Almighty grants Shazneen a place in the Heavenly Abode, we invite you to a Milad-Mehfil to be held **tomorrow, Saturday, April 23, 2016 after Asr (5:30pm)** at House No. NE(J)-4, Road 83, Gulshan - 2, Dhaka - 1212.

Latifur Rahman, Shahnaz Rahman and family

Friday, April 22, 2016