

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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LOW OIL PRICE

Remittance receipts fall 7.75 percent year-on-year in April

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LONDON ELECTION

Sadiq Khan looks set to be city's first Muslim mayor after divisive campaign

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Zero tolerance to terrorism

Bangladesh, Kuwait agree to work together to fight extreme violence; 4 deals signed

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Kuwait yesterday pledged to work together against the twin dangers presented by terrorism and extreme violence to the Muslim community worldwide.

The two countries also reached a consensus to further expand cooperation in the fields of economy, investment, trade, energy, manpower, military and ICT.

The consensus came during the official talks between the two sides at the Prime Minister's Office in the afternoon. Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina led their respective countries in the meeting.

The Kuwaiti leader highly praised Hasina's initiatives to fight terrorism and extreme violence, Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque told reporters after the meeting.

He said the official talks highlighted investment promotion, energy cooperation, reducing trade gap, boosting manpower export to Kuwait and defence, technical and economical cooperation.

The two premiers pointed out their "zero tolerance policy" against terrorism and extreme violence, saying these are against humanity and contrary to the solidarity of the Muslim Ummah.

Hasina requested the Kuwaiti premier to invest in Bangladesh's Special Economic Zones in various sectors, especially in IT.

Mentioning the Bangladesh government's priority on the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomes visiting Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

BRUTAL KILLINGS US calls for effective, quick probe

Biswal meets foreign minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States yesterday pressed the Bangladesh government to bring the perpetrators of the brutal murders of secular bloggers and activists to justice through effective and prompt investigations.

At an extensive and lengthy meeting with foreign ministry officials, an American delegation led by US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal called for speedy trial of the April 25 killing of USAID staff Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Mahbub Tonoy upon a quick investigation.

The Bangladesh side reiterated the government's zero tolerance to extremism and terrorism and assured the US delegates of ensuring justice through an immediate and proper investigation.

The delegation said the US would stand beside Bangladesh and work

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DETECTING GRAVITATIONAL WAVES Two Bangladeshis win special prize



Selim Shahriar

Dipankar Talukdar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshis are among a team of scientists and engineers who are to get Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics for their contribution to the detection of gravitational waves, announced on February 11.

Dipankar Talukdar and Selim Shahriar are in the team of scientists with the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in the United States that detected gravitational waves, hypothesised by Albert Einstein a century ago, according to breakthroughprize.org.

Dipankar and Selim worked with the LIGO team and had great contribution in gravitational wave detection.

Born in 1977 in Barguna, Dipankar passed HSC from Barguna Government College, completed graduation (2002) in physics, received the commonwealth scholarship

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Stop driving on wrong sides

HC issues rule asking for explanation in 2 weeks; DMP bans use of sirens, stickers of various professions in cars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain by two weeks as to why they should not be directed to stop vehicles running on the wrong side of roads in Dhaka.

The order came amid rampant violation of the traffic rule by influential people, including top government officials, law enforcement agency members and media people and following a number of news reports on it.

It has almost become a norm that huge sport utility vehicles with government stickers, some flying the national flag, would travel on the wrong side while the "commoners" are stuck in traffic on the

correct side of the road.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Shahidul Huq came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Ali.

The lawyer submitted the petition on May 3 based on a photo published in The Daily Star on March 17 under a headline "Laws bent for some".

Ali submitted the petition seeking necessary order from the HC to stop vehicles travelling on the wrong side of roads.

The petition said travelling on the wrong side of road is a punishable offence under the motor vehicles law, but vehicles carrying

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Govt to watch news media

Inu reveals plan to set up monitoring centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has moved to set up a "media monitoring centre" to keep an eye on news items published in different media, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu told parliament yesterday.

But he did not clarify how and when it will be set up or how it will operate. Comments from ministry officials were not immediately available.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, Inu said a section of the media and blogs were trying to create divisions in the society by writing against different religions and beliefs.

Ruling Awami League MP Pinu Khan claimed some online newspapers, social media and blogs were trying hard to destabilise the country by using religion. She sought to know what measures the information ministry would take to thwart the "conspiracy".

In reply, Inu said the government had taken a very hard stance against any provocation or "conspiracy" to hurt religious sentiment and to create anarchy.

"The government has taken various measures to tackle such conspiracies," Inu added.

On surveillance of online-based news portals, the

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BB FUND HEIST Interpol team in town to help CID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The six visiting Interpol officials teaming up with the Criminal Investigation Department yesterday started forensic analysis of the computers and other computerised evidence related to the Bangladesh Bank heist.

"They started working from today [yesterday] in the CID's laboratory and are helping CID officials in computer forensic analysis," Additional Deputy Inspector General of CID Shah Alam told The Daily Star by phone.

"They all are technical persons with expertise in computer forensics. They will help only in forensic analysis of computers," he said.

Replying to a query, the CID official said the Interpol officials would neither investigate the bank heist nor visit Bangladesh Bank or other places. They will work basically inside the CID lab.

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CASINO FATULLAH: Apparently the Dhaka Premier League matches at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium are not entertainment enough for a few spectators. A certain group, pictured here during the Abahani-Victoria match yesterday, come to the matches every day and sit in the same place betting on the cricket. Bets range between Tk 100 and Tk 500, with the punts concerning boundaries, hit, player achievements, match results, etc. The scenario here could well be a small example of a much wider sports gambling scene, as it has been reported that illegal betting takes place on cricket matches of all levels around the country.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

8 DETAINED BANGLADESHIS IN S'PORE 'They formed cell, met in parks, shared radical contents'

STAR REPORT

The eight Bangladeshi workers held recently in Singapore had allegedly formed an "Islamist" cell that met in parks and other open fields and shared radical "propaganda" and videos.

The Bangladeshis have recently been detained on charges of plotting to launch attacks and overthrow the government back home.

The group had an organisational structure and its leader, deputy leader and other members had individual roles, according to a new statement of Singapore's home affairs ministry posted on its website yesterday.

The authorities issued a two-year detention order for the eight men who they say were members of a group called Islamic State in Bangladesh (ISB).

The order was issued under Singapore's colonial-era internal security act, which allows suspects to be held for lengthy periods without trial, reports Reuters.

One of the detainees, Mizanur Rahman, who allegedly formed the so-called ISB, started becoming radicalised after reading radical materials online around 2013, said the statement.

He became more radicalised after a Bangladeshi shared ISIS propaganda material with him when he was in Bangladesh last year, it claimed.

Asked whether the authorities concerned would consider blocking "certain sites" used for radicalisation of people, Singapore Home Minister K Shanmugam yesterday said, "I

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