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Your Right to Know

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FALL OF POUND

UK garment buyers ask Bangladeshi exporters to reduce prices

PAGE B1

HAZARIKA-LAJMI LOVE AFFAIR

A movie to be made on the relationship between the legendary singer and the filmmaker

PAGE 9

DON'T GO MESSI

Maradona asks the Argentine captain to hold off his retirement

PAGE 14

Illegal, yet expanding

Modhumoti Model Town grows eating up wetland, lake

PINAKI ROY

The site of Modhumoti Model Town project, which has been declared illegal by the top court, has been expanded by filling an adjacent lake and the lowland along the Dhaka-Savar road.

During a recent visit there, this correspondent found the lake almost filled. At least 30 trucks were dumping soil into the water body.

Encroaching on fresh areas, the project site was expanding fast towards Vacurta and Basila villages. Also, new buildings sprouted there.

Locals said the Modhumoti authorities engaged many trucks as they wanted to fill the area before the government could take any action.

No project official was found when the correspondent visited the site on May 30.

"They have been filling the lake for the last three days and the main project area for the last one month," a security guard at the Modhumoti site told this correspondent.

Many people came to see the plots, he said when asked whether the land was up for sale.

Reached over the phone the next day, Zakaria Khan, general manager of Modhumoti Model Town, said they were not involved in the filling work.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A portion of a lake filled up to expand the project site of the illegal Modhumoti Model Town near Salehpur bridge on Dhaka-Aricha highway on the outskirts of the capital as seen in the photo taken on Monday. Inset, trucks dumping sand late last month to expand the housing estate.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, PALASH KHAN

Legal tangle leaves wetland not recovered

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The authorities of Modhumoti Model Town (MMT) and Rajuk are yet to implement the Supreme Court directives to restore the wetlands of Savar where the housing scheme was developed, citing five review petitions pending with it against the verdict.

Even the lawyers concerned with the case could not specifically say when the review petitions would be heard and disposed of by the apex court, although the deadline given by it for reviving the wetlands had expired about two years ago.

On July 11, 2013, the Appellate Division of the SC released the full text of the 159-page verdict, directing MMT's owner -- Metro Makers and Developers Ltd (MMDL) -- to restore within six months the wetlands in Bilamalia and Bailarpur mouzas of Savar where it had built the project.

The court came up with the verdict to keep the area a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Istanbul airport attack kills 10

Many injured as suicide bomber hits Turkey's busiest airport

AFP, Istanbul

At least 10 people were killed yesterday evening in a suicide attack at the international terminal of Istanbul's Ataturk airport, Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said.

Two explosions hit the airport -- Turkey's biggest -- followed by gunfire, local television channels reported.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

More poor women giving birth in health facilities

Says Unicef on maternal care in Bangladesh

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladesh has substantially bridged the rich-poor gap in terms of women giving birth in health facilities.

However, the country has far less number of physicians, nurses and midwives than the minimum required number.

In its annual flagship report, the United Nations Children's Fund

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

MITU MURDER

Babul's link has not come up yet
Says home boss; 2 more held, firearms found

STAR REPORT

It has not yet come up that SP Babul Akter was responsible for or involved in the killing of his wife Mahmuda Khanam Mitu, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said yesterday.

He said this when asked about the police official's "suspected links" to the murder as reported in the media.

The minister was talking to reporters at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium after an Anti-Narcotics Day event arranged by the Department of Narcotics Control.

Earlier, some media outlets reported that "detained suspects divulged Babul's links to the killing".

Investigators kept Babul in custody for about 15 hours from early hours Saturday.

Police said the SP himself went to the DB office on Minto Road to answer some questions as he is the plaintiff in the case. But according to his family members, he was interrogated as some arrestees had informed police about his "involvement in the murder".



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

No special treatment for UK

EU leaders talk tough as Cameron arrives in Brussels for summit; Labour leader loses confidence vote as political turmoil deepens after Brexit

AFP, Brussels

Impatient European leaders yesterday pressed a humiliated Prime Minister David Cameron to speed up Britain's divorce from the EU, warning that the UK cannot expect special treatment outside the bloc.

Five days after Britons shocked the world by voting to leave the 28-nation EU, British domestic political chaos spiralled with the leader of the opposi-

tion Labour party losing a no-confidence vote but refusing to resign.

US President Barack Obama warned however against "hysteria" as stock markets and the pound staged a tentative recovery after days of losses that saw sterling slump to a 31-year low.

Cameron, at probably his last EU summit in Brussels before stepping down over the referendum result, is refusing to bow to pressure quickly to initiate proceedings to exit the EU.

Instead he is leaving it to up to his successor -- to be named on September 9 -- to trigger Article 50, the EU treaty clause that starts a two-year count-down until Britain's departure.

As he arrived for what is likely to be an awkward dinner with his counterparts, Cameron said the split should be "as constructive as possible" and that he wanted the "closest possible relationship" with Europe afterwards.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

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