

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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## THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

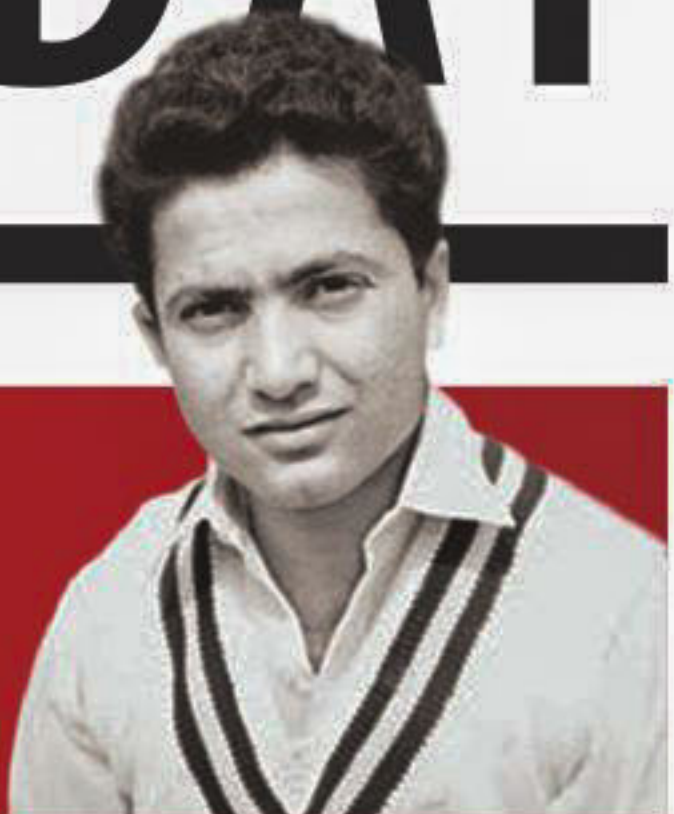
Children die in our arms, helpless doctors write to Obama urging action

PAGE 9

## LITTLE MASTER DIES

Pakistan batting legend Hanif Mohammad passes away aged 81

PAGE 18



## COMMERCIAL SET-UPS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

# 18,000 businesses may lose trade licence

Eviction drive sparks fear of huge job loss; questions raised why they were allowed to run business for years

SOHEL PARVEZ

The government drive to force commercial establishments out of residential areas in Dhaka has not only created fears of job loss but also raised questions as to how those establishments operated with government clearance when rules clearly say they cannot.

Since the fourth week of July, the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) has been closing down businesses that have been running in residential areas for years.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DSCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) have also warned businesses, which do not operate in Rajuk-approved commercial buildings or in commercial areas, that their trade licences would be cancelled, officials said.

The DSCC is giving businesses a seven-day deadline to move out.

A staggering 18,000 businesses in the capital, 13,500 of them under the DNCC, could lose their trade licences, according to data from the two city corporations.

The High Court in June 2012 declared all commercial operations in Dhanmondi Residential Area illegal, with the exception of authorised commercial establishments on Mirpur Road, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi Road-2 and Dhanmondi Road-27. It directed the authorities to remove those establishments. The Appellate Division on August 1 upheld the HC verdict.

Utility service providers, like Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO), have started issuing notices on commercial establishments in residential areas seeking their occupancy certificates, said business owners.

The notices also warned of disconnecting power

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Furniture being shifted from a campus of Maple Leaf International School on Road 11/A in the capital's Dhanmondi on Monday. The campus was relocating as per a Supreme Court order. Recently, the Dhaka South City Corporation has also asked different commercial and educational institutions in Dhanmondi residential area to shift to other places.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## SCHOOLS IN DHANMONDI AREA

# Worries, uncertainty over sudden relocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uncertainty looms large over the academic life of thousands of students as at least 21 educational institutions in the capital's Dhanmondi residential area brace themselves for relocation.

The Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), in the last one month, served notices to the management of different educational and commercial institutions, asking them to remove their establishments from the area within

seven days.

The move came following a cabinet decision in early April.

Those who have received the notices include 15 schools, four universities and two colleges, The Daily Star has learnt.

DSCC officials say they would gradually serve notices to other entities running in the residential area "illegally".

On July 20, the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk), which is launching drives against commercial establishments in several residential areas,

gave an advertisement in different dailies, asking such institutions to relocate.

Later on August 1, the Supreme Court ruled that the authorities concerned should stop unauthorised commercial activities in Dhanmondi to protect its residential "character" and environment.

Contacted, the school authorities said they will comply with the SC order and the government decision.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

# Saudi jobs now free of cost

Riyadh lifts ban on hiring workers from Bangladesh; Saudi companies, employers will bear cost of migration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi migrant jobseekers now won't have to pay private recruiting agencies to get work visas for Saudi Arabia.

The kingdom, Bangladesh's largest overseas labour market, made the announcement after it lifted a seven-year ban on recruitment of Bangladeshi male workers on Wednesday.

"Bangladeshi workers won't need to pay any money to recruiting agencies for obtaining work visas. Now, their Saudi employers will bear all the costs, including air fares and service charges payable to recruiting agents," Golam Moshir, Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

On Riyadh's decision to open the labour market to Bangladeshis in all sectors, the ambassador said the Saudi authorities would follow the same recruitment process it does for workers from Sri Lanka, India and Nepal.

Saudi Arabia, home to some 13 lakh Bangladeshi migrant workers, imposed the restriction in early 2008, alleging malpractices in the recruitment system. The decision led to a

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



## Strengthen anti-militancy awareness

PM tells Islamic scholars

UNB, Dhaka

Reiterating her firm resolve to free the country from terrorism and militancy, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all, including Alem-Ulema, to strengthen the spirit against terrorism and militancy among the common people.

"I think a strong public opinion has been created across the country against terrorism and militancy which is very good news. A good spirit has also been

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Hungary's Aron Szilagyi (R) defended his Olympic sabre title on Wednesday to deny Daryl Homer what would have been America's first men's fencing gold in over 100 years.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Siddikur off to a poor start

Mahfizur improves timing

ATIQU ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

Bangladesh had pinned all its hopes on two of its flagbearers -- golfer Siddikur Rahman and swimmer Mahfizur Rahman. While the latter kept his words by improving on his previous best timing, the former disappointed with a sorry performance in the first round of his event.

Mahfizur had said ahead of the Olympics that his target would be to better his timing in his pet event of 50m freestyle in the Rio Olympics. On Thursday, the 23-year-old managed to do just that, clocking 23.92 seconds and slicing off 0.07 seconds from his previous best. That effort, though, was only good enough for a 55th place finish among 84 starters.

Swimming in lane seven, Mahfizur was quickest off the blocks in his heat, with a reaction time of 0.65 seconds, but

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



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