



### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

80pc of country's married women face abuse by husbands: report

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Skipper Jos Buttler says about his team's plan to take on Tigers

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9/11 widow files lawsuit against the Kingdom over its 'role' in the attack

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## Farmlands near Payra in peril

### Government move to set up port there triggers rush for land purchase

REJAUL KARIM BYRON, SOHEL PARVEZ and SOHRAB HOSSAIN

If one goes deep inland in Kalapara of Patuakhali near the Payra Port, hundreds of signboards could be seen on pieces of land covered by Aman seedlings.

After the government moved to establish the port there, the quiet farming neighbourhood has changed. There is rush for buying land by public and private firms and local wealthy people to set up various establishments close to the port that is on 6,000 acres of land.

Prices of land surrounding the port skyrocketed and so did the tension among land owners, according to some locals of Tiyakhali union. Some have sold land without their co-owners consent, while some others are trying to buy land off co-owners.

Prior to the government's announcement to build the port there, locals usually sold three decimals of farmland for less than Tk 20,000. But the prices began soaring after the government announcement in 2013. Now, the prices are between Tk 30,000 and

Tk 40,000.

In some cases, the prices went up even higher following the government's move to acquire land for the port, for public agencies to set up five power plants, a land-based Liquefied Natural Gas (LPG) terminal and an oil refinery, according to data from Patuakhali DC office.

For example, state-run North West Power Company Ltd has sought 1,015 acres to build a 1,320MW power plant. Bangladesh-China Power Company Ltd has already started building a 1,320MW power plant near the new port.

Rural Power Company Ltd, Ashuganj Power Company Ltd, Sena Kalyan Sangstha, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation and Petrobangla have also lined up for land to build power plants, oil refinery and LGN terminal in the area.

The government has approved three 1,320MW power plants of the five proposed plants, said Payra Port Authority (PPA) acting chairman Capt Md Saidur Rahman. Madina Group, owned by lawmaker

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Signboards on arable land near the Payra Port claiming ownership of land. Public, private companies and the affluent are buying land there to set up power plants, refineries, garment factories and other industries.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

### Diplomatic ties with Pakistan to continue

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh's diplomatic relations with Pakistan will continue alongside disputes although Pakistan has been making various adverse statements on the ongoing war crimes trial.

"...whatever [adverse thing] they [Pakistan] are saying, we're protesting that...our diplomatic relations with them will continue alongside disputes," she said.

Hasina made the comment while replying to a query during her scheduled press conference on her recent visits to Canada and the USA. The conference was organised at her official residence the Gono Bhaban.

She said Pakistan is a defeated force and it was compelled to recognise Bangladesh in 1974.

Hasina said there might

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## Man with a mission for school children

### Kulaura primary schools turning colourful for young learners

MINTU DESHWARA with ANDREW EAGLE

Pioneering Sharif-ul-Islam, who works as the upazila primary education officer in Moulvibazar's Kulaura, knows how to make a lot from a little. In efforts to encourage attendance and inspire young learners, he has set about transforming the upazila's 193 primary schools from drab, run-of-the-mill institutions into campuses that can only delight.

Most of Kulaura's primary schools have become "colourful schools".

"The majority of children who attend our school," says Abu Sayeed Md Shafique Rahman Siddique, head teacher of Amir Solfu Government Primary School in Kulaura, "are from struggling rural families. Earlier, we had

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### Prevent cross-border terror

Saarc chair Nepal urges member states; announces summit postponement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Just a couple of days after host Pakistan postponed the 19th Saarc Summit following isolation, Nepal yesterday urged the member states to ensure that their territories are not used by terrorists for cross-border terrorism.

"To achieve peace and stability in the region, Saarc member states must, among others, ensure that their respective territories are not used by terrorists for cross-border terrorism," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal said in a statement.

Nepal also regrets that regional environment is not conducive to hosting the 19th Saarc Summit scheduled for November 9-10 in Islamabad.

"Nepal will initiate necessary consultation on

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A decorated school building and classrooms in Kulaura of Moulvibazar. Upazila education officer Sharif-ul-Islam is leading the transformation of Kulaura's primary schools with colour and decoration as he believes colourful schools can inspire students, staff and parents, leading to better environment for education.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

## GULSHAN CAFE ATTACK

### Tahmid freed on bail, cops find he'd no link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tahmid Hasib Khan, who had been detained over the Gulshan café siege, was released on bail yesterday.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka passed the bail order after a petition was moved by his lawyer. Also, police turned in a probe report with a prayer for relieving him of the accusation that he had involvement in the terror attack.

In the prayer, police said they found no evidence of his links to the Gulshan attackers or any other militants.

The court fixed Wednesday for hearing on the report, submitted by Inspector Humayun Kabir of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of DMP. It was sent to the court's general recording section on September 28, sources said.

Jahangir Kabir, senior jail superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, told The Daily Star last night they released Tahmid at 10:15pm on completion of all formalities.

Tahmid, a Canadian university student, and Hasnat Karim, a former private univer-

sity teacher in Bangladesh, were arrested on August 3 under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), according to police.

Section 54 says police can arrest any person on suspicion without any warrant.

Police produced them before a Dhaka court on August 4 and sought 10 days' remand for each, but the court granted eight days.

After the remand ended, police produced Hasnat before the court as an accused in the Gulshan attack case on August 13.

Though Hasnat, now in jail, was shown arrested in the case that day, Tahmid was kept detained under section 54.

While praying for their remand, police had said, "It appeared during primary interrogation that the said accused [Tahmid and Hasnat] instigated the militant attack."

Police further said they needed to interrogate them "about patronising members of militant organisations, their connections with militant outfits and for arresting other terrorists".

After their eight days' remand ended, the

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## Militants attack Indian army camp in Kashmir

### 1 BSF man killed, another injured

AGENCIES

At least six militants attacked an Indian army camp in north Kashmir last night, killing one border guard and wounding another, two weeks after a similar attack killed 19 of its soldiers and ratcheted up tensions between India and Pakistan.

Local reports that two attackers had been killed could not immediately be confirmed.

It came just three days after India claimed to have carried out a "surgical strikes" on suspected militant launch pads across the Line of Control in response to the September 18 attack in an Indian army camp by suspected Pakistani militants.

Yesterday's attack on the camp of India's 46 Rastriya Rifles in Baramulla, which also houses a unit of the Border Security Force (BSF), started at around 10:30pm and repeated exchanges of fire ensued.

"One BSF personnel was killed and one injured when militants tried to enter an army camp," said local Superintendent of Police Imtiyaz Hussein.

The military said after two hours of intense gun battle that firing had stopped and that the situation was "contained and under control".

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### TOP QUOTE

"I have led the party for 35 years and I will be very happy if I get the opportunity to retire."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA ALSO AWAMI LEAGUE PRESIDENT, TOLD REPORTERS AT GONO BHABAN.