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LIFE STYLE

THE DESERT TRIP

McCartney, Young together deliver inspiring sets at the all-star fest

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WORLD AT 'DANGEROUS POINT'

Ex-Soviet leader Gorbachev warns amid soaring US-Russian tensions over Syria

BANGLADESH-CHINA RELATIONS

Focus on better economic ties

Analysts, diplomats at The Daily Star roundtable call for attracting more Chinese investment in Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

With a boost in mutual trust and cooperation, bilateral relations between Bangladesh and China have reached a new height that could be used for greater economic growth and benefits of the people of both the countries, say diplomats and experts.

"We should negotiate with China smartly so that we can attract more foreign direct investment from it," said Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The two countries are expecting further increase in bilateral trade and cooperation with Chinese President Xi Jinping due to make a landmark visit to Bangladesh on October 14.

Mustafizur was speaking at a roundtable titled "China-Bangladesh Relations: Connecting Two Economies" organised by

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Bangladesh is ready to offer an SEZ to Chinese investors

China committed \$23 billion to Bangladesh last year

China's export to Bangladesh is nearly \$10b

Bangladesh's exports to China reached \$808.14m last year

Investment from China depends on smart negotiations

Experts suggest Bangladesh use Chinese investment to improve its infrastructure

Related story on B1



Bangladesh players, including skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L), and bowling coach Courtney Walsh walk to their hotel in Chittagong yesterday, where the third and final ODI against England will be played tomorrow.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

TOP QUOTE

"Investing in girls is both the right thing to do, and the smart thing to do. It has a powerful ripple effect across all areas of development, and reaches forward to future generations."

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
BAN KI-MOON
IN HIS MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

A new horizon for malta

One man's effort paves the way for malta orchards in Chapainawabganj

RABIUL HASAN with ANDREW EAGLE

When Motiur Rahman, a driver by profession, from Rehaichar in Chapainawabganj town first planted malta trees, results were far from certain. The red, hard and dry Barind Tract soils offers challenge to even seasoned farmers. Malta has no tradition of being grown there. Nonetheless, Motiur thought to give them a try.

"Palms with deep green or blackish leaves grow locally," says Motiur. "They are common vegetation here. I wondered: if those palms can grow with plenty of sweet sap then why shouldn't malta also be sweet?"

Despite working as a driver, Motiur has long held interest in agriculture and has proven himself a successful farmer in the past. Despite limited training, Motiur first pursued his interest some years ago when he leased six-

teen bighas of land to establish his "Manamina Nursery" in Atahar, twelve kilometres out of town.

There he planted mango, guava and other fruit; tending the new orchard with the help of his wife Begum Nasima Rahman and their son and daughter.

Then, in mid-2013 the Horticulture Centre selected Motiur's nursery as a suitable demonstration site for their Second Crop Diversification Project. He agreed to plant 200 BARI-1 variety malta saplings as an experiment.

"The district's soil is actually favourable for malta cultivation," says Dr Saifur Rahman, the Horticulture Centre's deputy director. "It's possible to produce especially sweet, high quality malta here."

The deputy director of the agricultural extension department in Chapainawabganj, Sajdar Rahman, agrees.

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Motiur Rahman at his malta orchard in Chapainawabganj. Bottom left, eco-friendly fruit bags are being used to protect the fruits from insects and fungal spotting. Right, bright yellow and green malta of his orchard. The photos were taken last month.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

CHINESE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Sonadia deep-sea port may not be on table

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The longstanding issue of building a deep-sea port at Sonadia in Chittagong may not be discussed during Chinese President Xi Jinping's two-day state visit starting Friday.

When Xi Jinping visited Bangladesh as vice president in 2010, China proposed to give assistance to Bangladesh for building a deep-sea port in Chittagong, and expressed interest for the same several times since.

On Sunday, a top government policymaker told The Daily Star that Beijing wanted to bring up the issue again during Xi's visit, but Dhaka did not include it in the agenda.

When Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited China in 2014, the two sides agreed



to sign a framework agreement on the deep-sea port for an estimated cost of \$14 billion, but the signing did not eventually take place as Bangladesh backtracked on it at the last moment, said a foreign ministry official.

In 2014, after the official talks of the two prime ministers, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque told reporters that the issue of constructing Sonadia deep-sea port figured prominently in the talks, and the two sides agreed to continue the discussions.

In the current fiscal year, however, Sonadia deep-sea port is listed in the separate budget for government's fast-track mega projects.

Due to geopolitical reasons, the government is not willing to build the port with

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Durga Puja ends today

UNB, Dhaka

The five-day Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the Hindus, ends today with the immersion of the goddess Durga's idols in water bodies.

The Hindu devotees will also celebrate Bijoya Dashami, a special ceremony to reaffirm peace and good relations among the people.

The annual festivities began on Friday with Mahashashthi puja while the Maha Saptami puja was held on Saturday; Maha Ashtami, Kumari Puja and Sandhi puja on Sunday and Maha Nabami puja yesterday.

Durga Puja is being celebrated this year at 29,395 permanent and temporary puja mandaps across the country, including 229 in the capital, said leaders of Bangladesh Puja Ujapan Parishad.

According to Hindu
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11 SLAIN 'MILITANTS', 1 'FINANCIER'

Two days gone, none officially identified yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The identities of the 11 suspected militants and the "Neo JMB financier" could not be officially confirmed even two days after the raids that led to their deaths on Saturday.

Initially, law enforcers found names of some of the dead through tenants' information submitted to police, national ID cards and a passport. But those were proved fake.

To know the identities of the seven killed in the police raid on a two-storey building in Gazipur's Patartek, Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Sunday night released their photographs on its Facebook page and website.

Through the posts, police urged whoever has any information about the seven to contact them.

A family in Old Dhaka claimed that of those in the photos, the No. 3 could be Ibrahim, a 19-year-old student of a madrasa in Jatrabari.

Ahmed Abdullah, a member of the family and resident of Purana Mogholtuli, told this newspaper last night that the one with red shirt seemed to him as his brother Ibrahim. "We can be sure if we see the body," he added.

Primarily, officials suspected one of the seven as Faridul Islam Akash, Dhaka region's operational commander of "Neo JMB", an offshoot of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

But nobody has yet identified or claimed the body. Law enforcers say militants mostly use pseudonyms in organisational activities.

Two other suspected militants were killed in another raid on a house in Gazipur's Lebu Bagan. This one was conducted by Rab.



B Holmstrom Oliver Hart

Two US-based academics get Nobel Prize in economics

AFP, Stockholm

Two US-based academics won the Nobel Economics Prize yesterday for groundbreaking research on contract theory that has helped design insurance policies, executive pay and even prison management.

Oliver Hart, a British-American economist, and Bengt Holmstrom of Finland "have developed contract theory, a comprehensive framework for analysing many diverse issues in contractual design, like performance-based pay for top executives, deductibles and co-pays in insurance, and the privatisation of public-sector activities," the Nobel jury said.

Their pioneering work has laid "an intellectual foundation" for designing policies and institutions in

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