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**WITH TODAY'S ISSUE**

**STYLE**

**'EVICTION NO SOLUTION'**

Restaurant owners say at Star roundtable

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**KEY CCP MEET BEGINS**

Chinese President Xi Jinping seeks to tighten his control over party

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Hundreds of barges along the Pasur river extracting silt and sand from the river bed to fill and level up areas along the river banks. Numerous industries have staked claims for building their factories and the plots are within 14-16km of the Sundarbans, surrounding the Rampal plant site, right. Bottom right, construction of an LPG bottling plant along with a jetty occupying part of the river is almost done. Most of the industrial plot owners have no legal permission to set up industries there, say officials. PHOTO: STAR

## Who cares about Sundarbans?

Growing industrialisation near Rampal power plant site creates concern

**SHARIEF KHAN**

Floating down the Pasur river on a boat from Mongla towards Khulna any day, a visitor will come across hundreds of barges and launches anchored along the river banks. Thick steel pipes fixed to powerful pumps in these vessels discharge silt and sand from the river bed to fill up the uneven plains and water bodies of the farmland on both banks.

As far as the eyes can see by the riverides, hundreds of signboards dot the area marking claims to demarcated plots. The new owners will build industrial complexes and use the Pasur river to bring in raw materials and send out finished products.

An LPG bottling plant infrastructure is almost finished along with a big private jetty that occupies part of the river. Its owner, Index LPG, has built a 6000-tonne LPG storage

facility here.

Right in the middle of these brand-new "industrial plots" stands the massive project area of the Rampal 1320 megawatt coal-fired power plant project.

All of these industrial plots are within 14-16 km of the Sundarbans surrounding the Rampal plant site. Some of these small signboards inform passersby of future LPG facilities, others just have the name of the owning company.

It now looks like a planned industrial zone. But actually it is not. The Khulna Development Authority's Development Structure Plan 2011-2031 shows this area as "agricultural land" except for the Rampal plant site.

Officials told The Daily Star that only three out of these numerous industrial plot owners have permission from the government to set up industries there.

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## Quader pledges qualitative changes in AL

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

**Obaidul Quader**, newly elected general secretary of the ruling Awami League, yesterday said he would bring qualitative changes in the party and that would include discipline among the leaders and workers.

"We have to change our behaviour and become more acceptable to people," he said, adding he would work to make the party men more disciplined.

"If we can't change ourselves, how can we change Bangladesh in line with the dream of our leader Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina?" Quader was talking to journalists at Dhanmondi's Priyanka Community Centre in the capital yesterday.

It was his first media briefing after being elected AL's second-in-command in the party's 20th national council on Sunday when Sheikh Hasina was re-elected AL president for the eighth consecutive time.

Rooting to strengthen the party's grassroots units, Quader said two misdeeds are enough to ruin 10 good jobs.

About the party's next course of action, Quader said they have two agendas - defeating communal forces and preparing for the next general elections.

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## A loss in the books, but a win for hope

**SABIR SUBHAN** from Chittagong

It could have been much less or a bit more than the 19 minutes it turned out to be. A cricket fiasco raised and sustained on limited-over cricket sat in front of their television sets all over the country, commenting on social media in droves about a Test match that only had 33 runs and two wickets in it.

At the end of those 19 minutes, a disconsolate Sabir Rahman sat hunched on the pitch, head bowed. At first Stuart Broad - the man who on the previous evening had played a major hand in the young man's eventual despair - came into the picture and put a consoling hand on the shoulder of the debutant who has played such a stirring hand in bringing his country to the brink of their greatest cricketing achievement to date, only to see it snatched away in the space of three deliveries. Joe Root then hunched down beside his fellow batsman, opened his own helmet and said a few words.

Sabir just sat with his head propped up by the handle of the bat, which he had

propped up on the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury pitch that played a starring role in producing not only the greatest Test on Bangladesh soil, but one of the best Test matches in recent memory.

Could he have been thinking that he should have allowed Tajal Islam to face as many as 33 out of 51 deliveries during their 25-run partnership? As the batsman likeliest to have taken them home, Sabir ideally should have played the lion's share. It wasn't the debutants fault - it was a team decision based on Tajal not being an absolute mug with the bat but it eventually proved a gamble too far.

For the statisticians, Bangladesh lost the first Test against England by 22 runs in Chittagong on the fifth morning yesterday. Over four days and 19 minutes of cricket 1044 runs were scored from 2110 deliveries and the 40th wicket fell when number 11 batsman Shafiqul Islam was adjudged leg-before by umpire Kumar Dharmasena off a reverse swinging ball by player-of-the-match Ben Stokes. The 26th review of the match was

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"The biggest achievement is to have played consistently for the whole Test match when nobody expected us to play in this manner after 15 months"

BANGLADESH CAPTAIN MUSHFIQUR RAHIM AFTER AN ABSORBING CHITTAGONG TEST



England pacer Stuart Broad consoles Sabir Rahman, whose fighting half-century went in vain, after Ben Stokes grabbed the last two scalps and spoilt Bangladesh's party in Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Business with a vision

Recycling millions of plastic bottles can protect environment, save huge amount of import bill



**REAZ AHMAD**

Long gone are the days when we sipped soft drinks from glass bottles and returned the empty bottles to our neighborhood vendors for recycling and refilling at factory facilities.

We now drink water, soda and fruit juices - all from PET bottles. Once the drinks are consumed, the PET bottles - millions of them - litter the environment and end up in the landfills.

PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is the most common thermoplastic polymer resin of polyester family. It is used in fibres for clothing, containers for liquid and food, thermoforming for manufacturing, and in combination with glass fibre for engineering resins.

**STARTLING STATISTICS**

Bangladesh spends \$225 million a year on import of more than 1.4 lakh tonnes of PET resins for producing PET products and synthetic yarn.

On an average, 400 crore PET bottles are manufactured every year in Bangladesh and most of them are discarded after being used only once.

**RECYCLING PET BOTTLES**

Meet Khadem Mahmud Yusuf, a Bangladeshi entrepreneur having long experience of working in Silicon Valley, who came up with a different idea about used PET bottles.

A news report on export of waste PET bottles to China in 2011 encouraged him to look into the prospects of recycling PET bottles at home, and saving money spent on import of PET resins.

Khadem Mahmud thought of minimising the disposal of plastic waste into the environment, curbing pollution and creating jobs.

Five years down the line, Khadem Mahmud's company - Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL) - is running the country's first and only PET recycling factory in Narayanganj.

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## FREEDOM FIGHTERS Govt raises allowances

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The cabinet yesterday approved a proposal to increase the allowances of those awarded for gallantry, war-wounded freedom fighters and families of the martyred freedom fighters.

The approval came at the cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair as the liberation war affairs ministry placed the proposal.

Those who have been receiving more than one allowance until now will be allowed to avail themselves of the higher allowance after the implementation of the proposal, said Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam while briefing reporters.

Valiant freedom fighter Tamam Bibi will get allowance under "Bir Pratik" category, he said.

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