



PACKAGE VAT

It may be cut to ease pressure on small, medium shops

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SUNNY, GAZI REPORTED AGAIN

Rangpur Riders bowlers Arafat Sunny and Shohag Gazi's actions flagged

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UNCERTAINTY OVER

Finally, Thai parliament invites Prince Vajiralongkorn to become the King

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RECRUITMENT OF BANGLADESHIS Malaysia may hire thru' 10 agents

Concern over monopoly, higher migration cost; hiring to begin in a couple of months

PORIMOL PALMA and BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

Transparency in labour recruitment from Bangladesh for Malaysia still remains a major concern though the Southeast Asian nation is going to begin the hiring in a month or two.

The two countries are at the final stage of completing a recruitment process, G2G Plus, said Expatriates' Welfare Minister Nurul Islam after a meeting with Malaysian Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Richard Riot on November 17.

G2G Plus was undertaken by Malaysia and Bangladesh after the previous state-level labour hiring arrangement, G2G, signed in late 2012, appeared less effective.

Nurul Islam, however, did not elaborate the exact mode of operation of G2G Plus, but emphasised that labour migration cost would not be more than Tk 40,000.

Business insiders alleged a Malaysian private IT company, which will manage the overall recruitment process online, has selected a cartel of 10 recruiting agents of Bangladesh to manage the entire process in exchange for huge money.

A recruiting agent told The Daily Star he wanted to work under the G2G Plus and contacted an official of the expatriates' welfare ministry but was advised to contact the 10 agents.

"If the cartel remains, it will fully monopolise the job market. The migration cost will surely be high and it will lead to labour abuses," said the

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With his broken leg put in a cast, Sujan Miah lies on the floor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Two hermaphrodites allegedly pushed the youth off a moving bus for refusing to give them money. The attack left Sujan badly injured as another bus ran over his leg in the city's Khamarbari area on Monday evening.

PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Hijras assault youth, push him off bus

2 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An aspiring cricketer broke his right leg as a bus went over it after two hijras allegedly assaulted and pushed him off another moving bus for refusing to pay them money in Khamarbari area of the capital.

Sujan Miah, 20, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Doctors say his recovery would take several weeks.

These days, hijras get on buses on various city routes and demand money from passengers. They often harass anyone who refuses to pay, and such incidents are increasing, alleged several city dwellers.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Sujan said the incident happened on Monday evening when he was going to his relative's

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at a joint press conference with her Hungarian counterpart Viktor Orban at the Parliament Building in Budapest yesterday. PHOTO: PTD

Dhaka, Budapest to boost ties

Hasina meets Hungarian PM, 3 MOUs signed

UNB, Budapest, Hungary

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Dhaka and Budapest agreed to work together for the common prosperity alongside joining hands with the international community to fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

"We've reached an understanding that there is much scope for Bangladesh and Hungary to deepen bilateral cooperation in trade and investment," she said in a statement during her joint outreach with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Terming Hungary, which supported the Liberation War, a trusted friend of Bangladesh, Hasina said: "As friendly countries, we can work together and distance between the two countries can't be a barrier. We can shorten this distance as our hearts are close."

She thanked her Hungarian counterpart for his commitment to help Bangladesh. She said high-powered business delegations from both the countries will exchange views and have the chance to look deeper into the trade and investment opportunities available in the two countries.

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PLANE CRASH IN COLOMBIA

Brazilian footballers among 75 dead

Six people, including four players, survived; electrical failures blamed for the disaster



PHOTO: AFP

The wreckage of the LAMIA airlines charter plane carrying members of the Chapecoense Real football team is seen after it crashed in the mountains of Cerro Gordo, municipality of La Union, in Colombia yesterday.

AFP, Bogota

A charter plane carrying a Brazilian football team crashed in the mountains in Colombia late Monday, killing as many as 75 people, officials said. But they said six survived, including four players.

Brazil's President Michel Temer declared three days of mourning for the victims.

The LAMIA airlines charter declared an emergency at around 10:00 pm local time, reporting it had suffered "electrical failures," and crashed a short time later near the city of Medellin, officials said.

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The plane was carrying members of Chapecoense Real, a Brazilian football club that had risen from obscurity to play in the Copa Sudamericana finals today against Atletico Nacional of Colombia.

"The pain is terrible. Just as we had made it, I will not say to the top, but to have national prominence, a tragedy like this happens. It is very difficult, a very great tragedy," club vice-president Ivan Tozzo told Globo SporTV.

In all, there were 72 passengers and nine crew on board the British Aerospace 146.

\$81M CYBERHEIST

Philippine bank now blames it on BB

REUTERS, Manila

Philippine lender RCBC and a Bangladeshi minister yesterday traded blame over liability for tens of millions of dollars that were looted from a New York bank and then went missing in Manila after one of the biggest bank frauds ever.

Unknown cyber criminals tried to steal nearly \$1 billion from Bangladesh Bank in February and managed to make off with \$81 million via an account at the New York

Federal Reserve. That was transferred to four accounts with bogus names at one RCBC branch in Manila before vanishing.

The lawyer for RCBC, or Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC), said that her client had no reason to compensate Bangladesh Bank, saying that the lender was "negligent" because the initial security breach was its own fault.

Bangladesh's Law Minister Anisul Huq

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RCBC WONT COMPENSATE BB - B1

ATTACK ON B'BARIA HINDUS

One of the main instigators held

Claim police, say the anti-Islamic FB post wasn't made from Rasraj's cell phone

STAR REPORT

Detectives arrested one person early yesterday for his alleged links with the hate attacks on the Hindu community in Nasimagar upazila of Brahmanbaria a month ago.

The arrestee, Jahangir Alam shared an anti-Islamic post that had appeared on the Facebook wall of Hindu youth Rasraj Das, made copies of it and distributed those to foment trouble, said Brahmanbaria Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman.

Jahangir was arrested at Kalaisree Para in Brahmanbaria around 12:30am. He had been on the run since he



Jahangir Alam

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Tamim powers Vikings to 2nd place

SPORTS REPORTER

A mature half-century from Tamim Iqbal led the Chittagong Vikings to a crucial five-wicket win over the Khulna Titans at Mirpur yesterday and also helped them move to second place on the Bangladesh Premier League table.

When you talk about T20

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Victims must get justice

Health minister on deaths from toxic paracetamol syrup

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People responsible for the death of at least 28 children following intake of toxic paracetamol syrup in 2009 will be brought to justice, Health Minister Mohammed Nasim said yesterday.

The remark came as a response to the acquittal of five officials of Rid Pharmaceuticals Ltd the day before in one of the five cases filed over the links between children's deaths and toxic paracetamol syrups.

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Death race on Dhaka streets

SHARIER KHAN

It was around 1:30am Friday. Bachelor businessman Ashraf (not his real name) was returning home from a friend's place in Uttara to Dhanmondi. As the Mymensingh road was free, thirty-something Ashraf could not help himself cheerfully driving his white Toyota at a high speed.

Ashraf was crossing the Radisson hotel when a black Mazda with two young men zoomed past him.

Suddenly Ashraf felt a rush of blood in his head. His right foot instantly pressed the accelerator harder and his Toyota growled with greater speed. In seconds, the speedometer hit 120km as he was quickly catching up with that black Mazda Atenza as they approached the Banani flyover.

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A police tow truck salvages a car, left, which turned over near the city's Banani Flyover after running a race with another vehicle. Right, a mangled car involved in a similar accident in the area. Many become victims of reckless midnight races on city roads like these, thanks to lax enforcement of law.



FILE PHOTO: COLLECTED