



THE ULTIMATUM

Theresa May given one month's Brexit deadline

PAGE 8

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

The RTI act can be a great tool for investigative journalism

PAGE 7

AUS ACREAGE FALLS

Farmers switch to other crops due to low prices of paddy

PAGE B1

Forced to help son's 'killers'

Father signs deal to get accused discharged in Keraniganj murder case

RAFIUL ISLAM

Alleged ruling party men, who shot a 10-year-old dead while trying to occupy a polling station in Keraniganj last year, forced the father to sign an agreement that says he would help the suspects get acquitted.

According to the document, which was notarised, Halim Kazi had also "agreed" to provide the kind of "evidence and information" that would help the accused be proved innocent in court.

Halim's only son Shuvo Kazi Srabon was killed when supporters of a ruling Awami League Union Parishad chairman candidate opened fire to take over a polling centre in Hazratpur union of Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital on March 31 last year.

"I will make all-out effort and testify in the court so that the accused are discharged

from the case," read a condition of the agreement signed one and a half months after the incident.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the document which the plaintiff, the accused and six other people signed as witnesses.

Halim was all for justice when his fourth grader son was killed. He had demanded the highest punishment for the killers. He even went to court on April 3 last year and filed a case accusing 12 people after police had refused to name them in the case filed with Keraniganj Police Station.

The alleged killers and their associates, who are influential people, have forced the father to sign such an agreement even though the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) does not allow murder cases to have out-of-court settlements, people with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Grief-stricken Halim Kazi cries touching the face of his son who was shot and killed when alleged ruling party men tried to take over a polling station in Keraniganj on March 31 last year. Ten-year-old Shuvo Kazi Srabon, along with his uncle, had gone to the polling station set up at his school to see election festivities. PHOTO: FILE



Resolute Kiwis still 303 runs adrift

AL-AMIN from Wellington

After Bangladesh declared at 595 for the loss of 8 wickets one hour into the third morning of the opening Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve in Wellington, it was the time for the baffled home team to try and match what the visitors had done.

The Black Caps responded well against an inexperienced Bangladesh attack, reaching 392 for 3 at stumps. However, the return of strong winds late in the day and the forecast of inclement weather on Sunday considerably

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 PHOTO ON PAGE 16

PM leaves for Davos tonight

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Switzerland tonight for a weeklong official visit to attend the 47th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

Diplomatic sources said the four-day meeting will be held on January 17-20 under the theme "Responsive and Responsible Leadership".

The WEF is a Swiss non-profit foundation, based in Cologne, Geneva, is best known for its annual meeting at the end of January in Davos. It brings together some 3,000 top business leaders, international political leaders, selected intellectuals and journalists for up to four days to discuss the most pressing issues of the world.

As per the programme

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

GULSHAN CAFE ATTACK From cook to a planner

Police arrest 'one of the masterminds'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A decade ago, he was an old JMB leader's cook. But his dedication to militancy earned him a top place in the "Neo JMB".

He is a mastermind behind the Gulshan café siege. He not only participated in planning the country's worst-ever militant attack but also recruited and supplied two of the five attackers, said police.

The man, Jahangir Alam alias Rajib Gandhi, 32, has been arrested.

"When 'Neo JMB' asked for attackers during one of its meetings in Bogra last March, Rajib came forward and supplied two men for the Gulshan and one for the Sholakia attacks," said a counterterrorism official, wishing not to be named.

"Rajib is the only mastermind behind the Gulshan café attack who has been arrested alive," said Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Three more café attack masterminds might be on the run, he told a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre yesterday.

According to him, one of them is Basharuzzaman alias Chocolate. The names and identities of the other two were not disclosed for "strategic reasons".

The militants might have some more top leaders and the matter would be clear after the interrogation of Rajib, he said.

Monirul said Rajib and his family had also stayed at the



Jahangir Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BISWA IJTEMA Akheri Munajat of first phase today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first phase of three-day Biswa Ijtema, the second largest Muslim congregation after the Hajj, is going to end today with the Akheri Munajat (concluding prayer) seeking spiritual well-being and welfare of the Muslim Ummah.

Noted Islamic scholar Maulana Muhammad Saad from India is expected to lead the munajat starting between 10:00am and 11:00am, said the Ijtema organisers.

Before that, he will deliver a sermon on the importance of Islam based on the Quran and Hadith. The Ijtema's second phase will start on January 20 and conclude on January 22 with the Akheri Munajat.

Several million devotees, including foreigners from different countries, are likely to turn out for the Akheri Munajat on the Turag banks in Tongi of Gazipur.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Beggar? Not anymore

Atrai river gives over 2,000 destitute a chance to be farmers

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Jahirul Islam of Birganj upazila has given up begging after he found the goose that lays golden eggs.

He and nearly 2,000 others in Satogram union of the upazila have ended their plight by farming various winter vegetables, especially onion and garlic, on the riverbed of the Atrai during the dry season.

The Atrai river dries up in winter

leaving a layer of fertile silt on top, which turns into a vast farmland for landless, destitute people living in the surrounding areas.

"I don't go panhandling anymore. I've given up that profession as I have become self-reliant by farming," said Jahir who lives with his wife and five children at a government-housing project for the destitute in Dudumari area of the upazila.

He now grows vegetables in the dry

season and does other works such as pulling rickshaw in the rest of the year.

The silted riverbed is so fertile that crops grow there without any artificial fertilizer or without any extensive preparation of the land -- an advantage that helps keep the cost of production to a minimum.

That enticed poor people to try out their luck in farming with the small capital they could gather.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

With the help of his grandson, Elhaz Mia prepares the dry riverbed of the Atrai for growing vegetables in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur recently. Many poor people like him have become self-sufficient by farming on the dry stream bed during winter.

PHOTO: STAR



LET THE PRECAUTION BEGIN WITH CONSTRUCTION

We cannot prevent earthquakes. But building code compliant constructions with right-graded rods can reduce up to 90% risk of casualties. For your safety, we are producing the longest lasting steel of Bangladesh.

55 LAKHS CYCLIC LOADING . ZIGZAG BENDABILITY . UP TO 7% MORE ELONGATION

KSRM 60 GRADE 500W 550W



KSRM

শেকড় থেকে শিখরে

KABIR GROUP | KSRM.COM.BD | 01755 665776

Study in Australia



20th & 21st January 2017 The Westin Dhaka

11am - 1pm For Pre-registered Students
2pm - 5pm For All Walk In Students

Main Gulshan Avenue
Plot-01, Road 45, Gulshan-2

Submit applications for 2017 intakes

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- One on one meeting with representatives
- Learn more about courses available and the entry criteria
- Scholarship information
- Application fee waiver*
- On the spot application submission

Please carry original and photocopies of your educational certificates, IELTS score and passport

IDP EDGE!

- Australian Stock Exchange Listed Company
- Co-owned by 38 Australian Universities
- Over 4,00,000 students placed worldwide
- Global Network of over 100 offices in more than 32 countries
- Proud co-owner of IELTS
- Over 45 years of experience

Meet Representatives from 20 Australian Universities and Institutions

- Australian Catholic University
- Carnegie Mellon University - Australia
- Charles Darwin University
- CQUniversity
- Curtin University
- Deakin University
- Edith Cowan University
- Griffith University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- The University of Newcastle
- The University of Sydney
- The University of Western Australia
- University of Canberra
- University of New England
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology, Sydney & UTS: Insearch
- University of Western Sydney
- UNSW Global

POST STUDY WORK RIGHTS AVAILABLE*

IDP EDUCATION BANGLADESH PVT. LTD.

Hamid Tower, Level 5, Gulshan Circle 2, Dhaka - 1212 | Call : 09666782782 | 04478667788
www.idp.com/bangladesh | Email: info@idp.com | www.facebook.com/idpbd