

**Pran Pasterized Milk**



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

## SHOUT

### THE BUTTERFLY MAN

A conversation with Murtaza Bashir on his 86th birthday

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### THE 'BOTH SIDE' THEORY

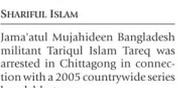
Trump draws party ire, but praise from white supremacists

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## AUGUST 17 SERIAL BLASTS 2005

# Out of jail, into terrorism again

Many JMB bombers released from jail, remain below radar; counterterrorism steps falter for lack of de-radicalisation programme



Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh militant Tariqul Islam Tareq was arrested in Chittagong in connection with a 2005 countrywide series of bomb blasts.

A Chittagong court later sentenced him to five years in prison for the bomb attack.

He served the time and was released in 2013. On October 5, 2015, he stormed a Madhya Badia house and hacked a spiritual leader (pir) dead. He was arrested nine days later.

The murder was carried out at a time when militants in a series of attacks killed secular bloggers, free thinkers, people of minority communities, and pirs.

Tareq had told police that he stole pir Khajir Khan, also former Power Development Board chairman, for different religious views.

Interrogating him, detectives learnt that Tareq had become more radicalised in prison when he had the company of Jihadist JMB militants.

This was a terrifying revelation as many of the 334 JMB militants convicted and jailed in 93 cases filed over the series bomb blasts of 2005 had been released from prisons and the authorities do not know if they had corrected themselves or had become even worse militants.

This brought into fore the fact that none of the 68 prisons in the country has any programme to de-radicalise militants.

The police could not say how many were already released but said many were about to be released.

"Since most of the cases were filed under the Explosives Substances Act and the highest punishment is 10 years' imprisonment, many of the convicts have completed their terms," said a counterterrorism official.

Now, the counterterrorism officials are in a pickle. They have to keep an eye on them

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**ABHORRENT CRUELTY...** Thakurgaon DC Abdul Awal, right, taking domestic abuse victim Taslema Khatun, 85, to hospital from Haripur upazila yesterday. Taslema was beaten up by her eldest son and his wife on Monday for refusing to hand over her last 25-decimal of land. Doctors said she was out of danger but needed care for her age. The DC said Taslema would be lodged in an orphanage where she would get the care.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Rice import gets boost

Govt cuts duty to 2pc to facilitate import as 20 lakh tonnes of crop lost in flood, diseases; importers who held back rice in ports save over Tk 6 crore in duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Disclosing for the first time this year's crop loss figure, the government yesterday decided to slash the tax on rice imports to 2 percent from 10 percent.

Flashfloods in the six northeastern haor districts and fungal attacks (rice blast) in 19 districts in the Boro season have caused 20 lakh tonnes of crop loss, said the food ministry.

At least 20 districts in the north and elsewhere in the country have been flooded over the past few days.

Against this backdrop, a cabinet

committee meeting at the secretariat yesterday approved the government's decision to import 20 lakh tonnes of food grains – 15 lakh tonnes of rice and 5 lakh tonnes of wheat – in the current fiscal year. This is an 11 lakh tonnes addition to the government's earlier projected food import volume of 9 lakh tonnes.

The decision to cut import duty has been sent to the law ministry for vetting, said a press release of the National Board of Revenue last night.

All of this comes at a time when

private importers have been dragging their feet for the last 10 days in releasing nearly 24,000 tonnes of rice from some 800 trucks, which remained stuck at Hilli and Benapole land ports.

After import of the staple from India, the traders refrained from having those released from the ports in anticipation of a tax cut.

This happened when rice prices were showing an uptrend both in wholesale and retail markets in

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Indian trucks with rice parked at the Benapole Land Port yesterday. Importers delayed unloading the rice anticipating a reduction of import duty on the staple. The government decided to reduce the duty to 2 percent yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



## Mayor Anisul now 'out of danger'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Anisul Huda, admitted to a hospital in central London, is stable.

He is kept in close observation. AKM Mizanur Rahman, assistant personal secretary of the mayor told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Contacted, his wife Rubana Haq said he was suffering from cerebral vasculitis, which was not

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## HAOR DAM GRAFT CASE

# Jubo League leader held at airport

Also a contractor of the Sunamganj embankment, Khairul was about to fly to Canada with daughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission arrested contractor and Jubo League leader Khairul Huda in a case filed over corruption and purposeful mismanagement in dam construction in Sunamganj hit hard by flash floods in March.

Khairul, convener of Sunamganj Jubo League and president of Sunamganj Chambers of Commerce, was detained at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital around 12:30am when he was about to board a flight to Canada via Singapore.

The ACC filed the case against him and 60 others, including Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) engineers and contractors, on July 2 after the anti-graft body in a probe found gross negligence and corruption in dam construction in Sunamganj.

The people in Sunamganj's haor areas had to endure untold sufferings and count a huge loss of crop as the

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## PM meets president

Discusses flood, 16th amendment verdict among other issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met President Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban yesterday and discussed the overall flood situation and the Supreme Court verdict in the 16th amendment case, among other issues.

Law Minister Anisul Haq, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Attorney General Mahbubey Alam were also present.

During the hour-long meeting last night, discussions took place about the apex court verdict and also about Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, Anisul told 'The Daily Star'.

In reply to a query, he said no decision was made on the issues.

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