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"It [Jai Shri Ram] is a recent import used as a pretext to beat people up."
NOBEL LAUREATE AMARTYA SEN DURING AN INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS OF JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY IN KOLKATA. (PAGE 8)

"The law and order has collapsed; now we see people are being stabbed to death in broad daylight."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR ON THE RISING NUMBER OF CRIMES. (PAGE 3)

"I will not allow any agreement that undermines our independence and sovereignty."
SRI LANKA PRESIDENT MAITHIRIPALA SIRISENA VOWS TO VETO MILITARY DEAL WITH THE U.S. (PAGE 8)

BARGUNA MURDER

Organised crime at the core



Victim Rifat Nayan John

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, from Barguna

It all stemmed from organised crimes like narcotics trade and motorbike smuggling in Barguna town.

Sabbir Hossain Nayan alias Nayan Bond used to run the illicit business with a network of over a hundred members of Facebook messenger group "007".

Rifat Sharif, a close friend of Nayan, was hacked to death by the Bond gang on June 26, months after he left the network and sided with another gangster, Manzurul Alam John.

John took over the network within a day after 25-year-old Nayan was killed in a

"gunfight" with police on July 2.

The Daily Star got this picture from locals, families and friends of the victim and attackers and investigators.

But what gave rise to the gang culture in a small town like Barguna and who are the patronisers?

POWER AND POLITICS

Barguna Awami League is divided into two factions -- one led by its president, Barguna-1 lawmaker Dharendra Debnath Shambhu, and the other by General Secretary Jahangir Kabir.

Jahangir's younger son Jubayer Adnan is the president of district Chhatra League. For this, AL President Shambhu has no

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Half-day hartal today

Left parties called it to protest the gas price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) is all set to observe a half-day strike today protesting the government's decision of gas price hike.

The LDA, a coalition of eight left-leaning political parties, yesterday brought out a procession from National Press Club to Sadarghat in the capital to get mass people's support in the strike.

During the procession, leaders of the LDA urged the countrymen to enforce the shutdown peacefully and make their protest successful.

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) illogically increased the gas price. The price hike will increase daily expenditures of mass people and cause public

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Rohit Sharma made history by scoring his fifth ton in a single World Cup in their match against Sri Lanka yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

পদ্মা সেতুর মূল কাঠামোতে ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছে শুধুমাত্র স্ক্যানসিমেন্ট

ভিভিসিই পুরো বাড়ি তৈরিতেই ব্যবহার করুন স্ক্যান সিমেন্ট মজবুত থেকে আপনার বাড়ির ভবিষ্যৎ

Historic Sharma powers India

AFP, Leeds

Rohit Sharma became the first player to hit five centuries in a single World Cup as India cantered to a seven-wicket win in their final World Cup group match against Sri Lanka yesterday.

The opener smashed 103 off 94 deliveries as semifinalists India chased down their target of 265 in 43.3 overs to end the group stage with seven wins, one defeat and a washout.

Sharma's opening partner KL Rahul top-scored with 111 as the pair put on 189 runs for the first wicket to put India in complete command.

Man-of-the-match Sharma reached his milestone with a boundary off Kasun Rajitha to pass the mark set by Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara, who scored four hundreds at the 2015 tournament.

His century came off 92 balls, with 14 fours and two sixes.

Sharma was dismissed shortly afterwards, caught by Angelo Mathews off the bowling of Rajitha.

Known as the "hitman", Sharma leads the current World Cup's run-scoring charts with 647 runs in eight matches after hitting his third successive century.

"I'm just trying to go out there and do my job, I'm not thinking of milestones," Sharma said.

"If I play well these things will happen on the way.

"I have learned from my mistakes in the past. I don't go into a match thinking of hundreds. Every day is a

new day."

He is only the fourth batsman after Sachin Tendulkar, Matthew Hayden and Shakib Al Hasan to score more than 600 runs at a single World Cup.

Tendulkar, India's all-time record run-scorer in one-day internationals, tweeted his praise for Sharma.

"3 consecutive 100s and 5 in a single @cricketworldcup is just phenomenal, Rohit," Tendulkar wrote.

Rahul registered his first century of the tournament but was caught behind shortly before the end of the game off veteran paceman Lasith Malinga -- playing his final World Cup match -- after hitting 11 fours and one six.

Skipper Virat Kohli remained unbeaten on 34 and Hardik Pandya hit the winning runs to give India a chance of finishing above group leaders Australia, who are playing South Africa in Saturday's later match at Old Trafford.

"We wanted to play good cricket but we didn't expect to do this well heading in to the semis," Kohli said.

"That's what hard work gets you. I am really proud of this team as a captain, they are amazing people.

"More or less everything is set for the semis but we don't want to be one-dimensional. We need balance in the side. We are very happy.

"England or New Zealand next? The opposition has never mattered. We don't focus on what they bring to the table. If we play well we can beat anyone."

Earlier, Mathews hit his third one-day international

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RICKSHAW BAN Sudden move to trouble commuters

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Three major streets in the capital are off limits to rickshaws from today with experts saying the "hasty" move without any alternative arrangements is all set to put many commuters in trouble.

They opined rickshaws should not be plying the main thoroughfares, but also argued that the authorities should have implemented the decision taking more time and in a planned way.

The experts said without rickshaws, many, who do not have their own vehicles, would suffer while traveling some short distances, amid the absence of adequate

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Wari girl raped before murder

Forensic tests show; 6 held; culture of impunity, moral degradation blamed for rising rape incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A culture of impunity and degradation of moral and social values are among the main reasons why rape incidents are rising, eminent sociologist Prof Mahbuba Nasreen has said.

Other factors include easy access to internet and a lack of awareness among the people in general about the crime, she told The Daily Star last night when asked to give her insights into the rising rape incidents in the country.

Forensic examinations yesterday confirmed that the Wari victim, Samia Afrin Saima, was raped before she was killed. The body of the seven-year-old was found on Friday in an empty flat of the building her family lived in.

"Test results and other examinations confirm that the victim was raped and then strangled with a rope," Sohul Mahmud, head of forensic medicine at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, told journalists.

Her body bore some injury marks, he said, adding that they collected DNA and other samples for further examinations.

Incidents of child rape have increased alarmingly in the country recently.

At least 496 children have been raped in the first six months of this year across the country, said Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), a platform of non-government organisations working for child rights.

Of them, 53 were gang-raped and 23 murdered after rape. Twenty-seven of the victims are physically challenged.

During the same period last year, 351 children were raped, the BSAF said in its report on July 2.

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PM returns home from China

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday concluding her five-day official visit to China.

A special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the PM and her entourage touched down at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 1:40pm.

During her visit, Hasina attended the annual meeting of World Economic Forum in Dalian on July 2. She held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang in Beijing on Friday and Thursday respectively.

She also had a meeting with Communist Party of China Minister for International Affairs Song Tao.

All the Chinese leaders said they would help Bangladesh resolve the Rohingya crisis through convincing the Myanmar government and its leaders.

Bangladesh and China

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The Turag is almost completely choked near the Tongi-Abdullahpur Bridge at the northern edge of the capital as piling work for a new bridge is going on. The photo was taken last month.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Prices of egg, spices rising

ABDULLAH AL NAYEEM

Prices of eggs, one of the main sources of protein, have been rising for the last couple of weeks.

Each dozen is being sold for Tk 110 to 115, about Tk 15-20 more than the prices two weeks ago.

Essential spices like onion, garlic, cardamom, cinnamon and cumin have also become pricier during the same period.

In the capital's Moghbazar, Farmgate and Karwan Bazar kitchen markets, each kg of both local and imported onion prices have risen by at least Tk 10, garlic by Tk 20 and cardamom by Tk 1,000.

Each kg of cinnamon is being sold at Tk 400 to 450 and cumin at Tk 380 to 450. The spices were only between Tk 40 and 60 a kg less than a month ago.

Shoppers alleged that retailers and wholesalers were out to make some extra profit ahead of the Eid. They had started raising the prices since the budget was announced early last month.

"Eggs are not cheap anymore, especially for low-income people. It is going almost beyond our means," said Al-Amin, a shopper in Farmgate area.

However, shopkeepers claimed that the hot and humid weather rotting stockpiles and rising prices of imported goods were causing the price hike.

Dulal Babu, wholesaler of eggs at Karwan Bazar, said poultry farm owners were reporting a slump in production as chickens fell sick or simply laid fewer eggs.

"The price of a kg of cardamom is nearly Tk 3,000 -- it is unacceptable. It was much cheaper during the Ramadan," said Arshadul Islam, a shopper at Moghbazar.

Spice wholesaler Laal Sharif in Karwan Bazar said the prices had increased recently in the international market

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