

## TCB to sell onion at nearly one-third of market price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) will start selling onion at Tk 35 per kilogramme -- nearly one-third of the existing market price -- to family cardholders in Dhaka.

Onion was selling for Tk 85-95 in Dhaka's retail markets yesterday, which is 125 percent higher than the price last year, according to TCB data.

Each of the cardholders will be able to buy two kg of onions at a time, the state-run agency said in a press release yesterday.

The sale of the cooking ingredient will continue depending on the arrival of imported onions, it said.

## Former Jubo League leader shot, hacked to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

A former Jubo League leader was shot and hacked to death by unidentified criminals in Rangunia upazila of Chattogram yesterday.

Manjur Hossain, 35, of Sanirvar area, was the former publication affairs secretary of Rangunia union Jubo league, said police.

His friend was also injured in the attack and admitted to the upazila health complex, Asaduzzaman Rubel, additional superintendent (crime) of police in Chattogram district, told The Daily Star.

The incident took place in the Shantiniketan area of Rangunia municipality, when criminals shot Manjur first and then hacked him indiscriminately with sharp weapons, leaving him injured critically, he said.

He was taken to Rangunia Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead, he said.

The reason behind the killing could not be ascertained immediately, he said, adding that police are trying to arrest the killers.

Local sources said Manjur and one of his friends were sitting at a roadside shop when a group of miscreants opened fire on them.

When Manjur fell to the ground, the criminals hacked him indiscriminately, they added.

## Gaza bleeds

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could threaten Palestinian hopes of self-determination and hem in Hamas' main backer, Iran.

Tehran's other main regional ally, Lebanon's Hezbollah, fought a war with Israel in 2006 and said its "guns and rockets" stand with Hamas. "We recommend Hezbollah not to come into this and I don't think they will," Israel's army spokesperson said.

The debris from Saturday's attack still lay around southern Israeli towns and border communities yesterday and Israelis were reeling from the sight of bloodied bodies lying on suburban streets, in cars and in their homes.

Palestinian fighters escaped back into Gaza with more than 100 hostages, including soldiers and civilians. Hamas said it would issue a statement later yesterday saying how many captives it had seized.

The capture of so many Israelis, some filmed being pulled through security checkpoints or driven, bleeding, into Gaza, adds another layer of complication for Netanyahu after previous episodes when hostages were exchanged for many Palestinian prisoners.

Hamas fired more rocket salvos into Israel yesterday, with air raid sirens sounding across the south, and the Israeli military said it would combine an evacuation of border areas with a search for more gunmen.

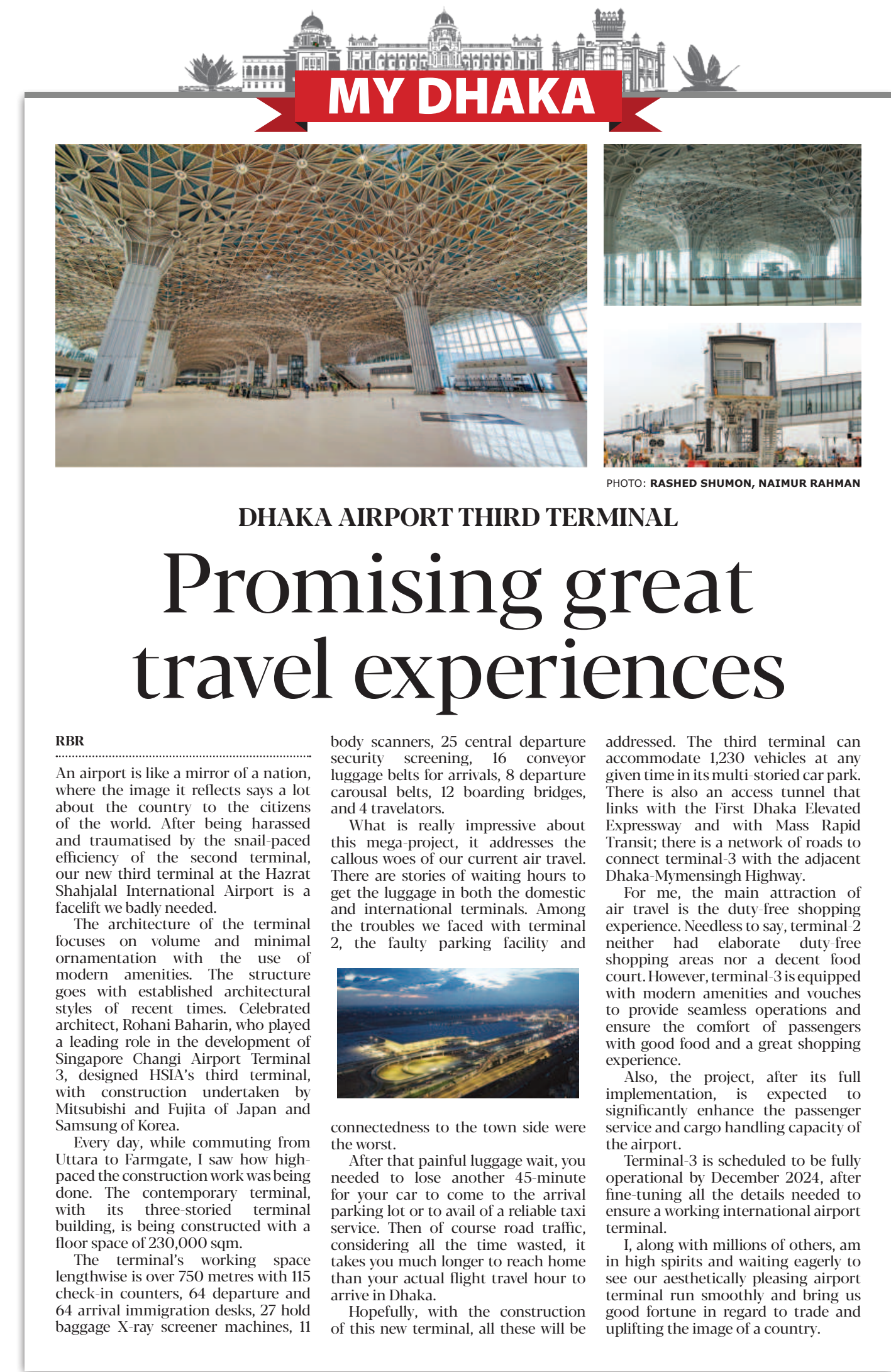
Israeli air strikes on Gaza began soon after the Hamas attack and continued overnight and into yesterday, destroying the group's offices and training camps, but also houses and other buildings.

Gaza's health ministry said 370 people had been killed and 2,200 wounded in the retaliatory strikes.

More than 20,000 Palestinians in Gaza have sought refuge in schools run by the United Nations, the UN's Palestinian refugee agency said.

US President Joe Biden has voiced "rock solid and unwavering" support for Israel and warned "against any other party hostile to Israel seeking advantage in this situation".

US Secretary of state Antony Blinken told CNN "we have reports that several Americans were killed" and others missing and "we're working to verify those reports".



DHAKA AIRPORT THIRD TERMINAL

# Promising great travel experiences

RBR

An airport is like a mirror of a nation, where the image it reflects says a lot about the country to the citizens of the world. After being harassed and traumatised by the snail-paced efficiency of the second terminal, our new third terminal at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport is a facelift we badly needed.

The architecture of the terminal focuses on volume and minimal ornamentation with the use of modern amenities. The structure goes with established architectural styles of recent times. Celebrated architect, Rohani Baharin, who played a leading role in the development of Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, designed HSIA's third terminal, with construction undertaken by Mitsubishi and Fujita of Japan and Samsung of Korea.

Every day, while commuting from Uttara to Farmgate, I saw how high-paced the construction work was being done. The contemporary terminal, with its three-storied terminal building, is being constructed with a floor space of 230,000 sqm.

The terminal's working space lengthwise is over 750 metres with 115 check-in counters, 64 departure and 64 arrival immigration desks, 27 hold baggage X-ray screener machines, 11

body scanners, 25 central departure security screening, 16 conveyor luggage belts for arrivals, 8 departure carousal belts, 12 boarding bridges, and 4 travelators.

What is really impressive about this mega-project, it addresses the callous woes of our current air travel. There are stories of waiting hours to get the luggage in both the domestic and international terminals. Among the troubles we faced with terminal 2, the faulty parking facility and



connectedness to the town side were the worst.

After that painful luggage wait, you needed to lose another 45-minute for your car to come to the arrival parking lot or to avail of a reliable taxi service. Then of course road traffic, considering all the time wasted, it takes you much longer to reach home than your actual flight travel hour to arrive in Dhaka.

Hopefully, with the construction of this new terminal, all these will be

addressed. The third terminal can accommodate 1,230 vehicles at any given time in its multi-storied car park. There is also an access tunnel that links with the First Dhaka Elevated Expressway and with Mass Rapid Transit; there is a network of roads to connect terminal 3 with the adjacent Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway.

For me, the main attraction of air travel is the duty-free shopping experience. Needless to say, terminal-2 neither had elaborate duty-free shopping areas nor a decent food court. However, terminal-3 is equipped with modern amenities and vouches to provide seamless operations and ensure the comfort of passengers with good food and a great shopping experience.

Also, the project, after its full implementation, is expected to significantly enhance the passenger service and cargo handling capacity of the airport.

Terminal-3 is scheduled to be fully operational by December 2024, after fine-tuning all the details needed to ensure a working international airport terminal.

I, along with millions of others, am in high spirits and waiting eagerly to see our aesthetically pleasing airport terminal run smoothly and bring us good fortune in regard to trade and uplifting the image of a country.

## Couple, infant hurt in N'ganj gas blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A couple and their 19-month-old infant suffered burn injuries in an explosion in the kitchen of their house in Narayanganj's Araihaazar upazila early yesterday.

The injured are Arizit, 35, an NGO employee, his wife Rinku, 28, and their son Kabbo.

Their neighbours suspected that the explosion originated from a gas cylinder leak.

They were admitted to the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Doctors at the Emergency Department of the Burn Institute stated that Rinku's condition was critical, with 80 percent burns on her body. Her husband suffered 14 percent burns, and the child 20 percent.

The incident occurred around 3:00am at Nagerchar area when Rinku went to the kitchen to heat up some milk for the child.

As she lit the cooking stove, an explosion took place, spreading fire in the house located on the ground floor, said neighbour Arman Ali Molla quoting the victim Arizit.

Hearing their screams and seeing the fire, neighbours rescued the three from the house and took them to hospital, he said.

The neighbours also put out the fire.

## MEGHNA TRAWLER CAPSIZE

## 3 more bodies found, 2 still missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Three more bodies were recovered 48 hours after a trawler capsized in the Meghna near Gazaria ghat of Munshiganj.

The victims were identified as Sabbir Hossain, 40, Jannatul Marwa Sabiha, 8, daughter of Kazi Burhanuddin, and Mawa, 6, daughter of Sumana Akter, who was also killed in the tragedy. All were residents of Munshiganj's Gazaria.

Jannatul and Sabbir's bodies were recovered in the morning from the river near Shatnal of Chadpur. Mawa's body was recovered in the afternoon off the Char Kishoreganj ferry ghat.

With yesterday's recoveries, two children still remained missing, said police.

The trawler with 11 passengers, which was touring Meghna, capsized after being hit by a Narayanganj-bound bulk carrier.

## Bangladeshi man dies in Malaysian factory

STAR REPORT

A Bangladeshi national was killed after falling into a mixing machine at a factory in Klang, Malaysia, yesterday.

Selangor Fire and Rescue Department Assistant Director Ahmad Mukhlis Mukhtar said they responded to the distress call at a factory in Bandar Sultan Sulaiman.

"Medical officers confirmed the death at the scene," he said, adding that documents showed that the victim had a temporary employment pass as a construction worker.

Source: The Star, a member of the Asia News Network (ANN)

## Money launderers enemies of nation

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instance of a Dhaka court convicting PK Halder, who faces 40 more graft and money laundering cases in Bangladesh.

"A talented citizen can play a role in building the nation by using his talent. On the other hand, if he gets involved in criminal circles, he becomes dangerous for the nation. PK Halder is a shining example of that," the judge said.

The court also sentenced 13 others to seven years' imprisonment and fined them various amounts of money on two counts -- assisting PK Halder in money laundering and helping him possess the illegal wealth. They were given four years on the first count and three years on the second count.

They are Sukumar Mridha, a lawyer for PK Halder, and his daughter Anindita Mridha, PK Halder's mother Lilabati Halder and

brother Pritish Kumar Halder; and associates -- Abantika Baral, Shankha Bepari, Purnima Rani Halder, Amitav Adhikari, Rajib Som, Subrata Das, Ananga Mohon Roy, Uttam Kumar Mistri and Swapan Kumar Mistri.

Among the convicts, Sukumar, Anindita, Abantika and Shankha are now behind bars, while the remaining 10, including PK Halder, are absconding.

All accused other than PK Halder will serve the jail sentences concurrently.

The punishment of the fugitive convicts will be effective from the day of their arrest or their surrender before the court, said the judgement.

The period during which Sukumar, Anindita, Abantika and Shankha were in jail custody would be deducted from the jail term.

The court confiscated four flats, 6,419 decimals of land, 11 vehicles and Tk 1.87 crore deposited in 41 accounts

of various banks. The properties and the money were owned by PK Halder and two other convicts.

The court directed the convicts to pay their fines within 60 days, or serve one year's additional rigorous imprisonment.

Prosecution lawyer Mir Ahmed Ali Salam expressed satisfaction over the verdict.

As per the rules, PK Halder and the other absconding accused had no legal representation in the court.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against PK Halder on January 8, 2020.

Investigation Officer Md Salahuddin, also a deputy director of ACC, on February 10 last year submitted a charge sheet to a Dhaka court against PK Halder and 13 others.

On September 8 last year, the court framed charges against them. As many as 114 prosecution witnesses testified in court against the accused.

## Not living up to hype as yet

FROM PAGE 1

the two teams at Lord's four years ago.

Pakistan quite predictably thrashed the Netherlands by 81 runs, although the ICC associate membership were expected to put up a better fight after restricting the former champions to 286.

Bangladesh won the third game by six wickets against an Afghanistan side whose batting collapsed to 156 all out after a good start. Then there were plenty of fireworks in the fourth game where South Africa thrived on three centuries to post a record World Cup total of 428 against Sri Lanka. Despite a blistering 79 from Kusal Mendis, the Lankans lost the game by 102 runs.

The fifth game last night between five-time champions Australia and hosts India promised a cracker. But the game in Chennai failed to live up to its billing after the Aussies were bundled out for 199 against the three-pronged Indian spin attack.

The Aussies gave India an early scare by claiming three wickets for two runs in the first two overs and almost had Virat Kohli, who mistimed a pull shot while on 12. But Mitchell Marsh, who had a forgettable outing with the bat, dropped a sitter.

After that reprieve, India were hardly troubled in reaching the victory target of 200, riding on excellent knocks from Kohli and KL Rahul.

Although the five games are only the beginning of a long 45-match first-round fixture, the early indication suggested that the toss played a role in deciding the results. In the first four games, the team that won the toss decided to chase a target with the wicket appearing more batting-friendly in the second innings. Three of those were successful, except the Lankans who

were blown away by the brute Proteas force.

Australia are the only team who have opted to bat first on a tricky surface at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, anticipating the wicket to become more bowling-friendly in the second innings. But the Aussies saw everything going horribly wrong for them. They were simply outclassed by a versatile Indian spin attack.

The results so far are disappointing for neutral fans, who want competition and close finishes more often than not. However, with the teams settling their nerves after those early jitters, we can only expect the showpiece event to start unfurling all the excitement and magic moments sooner rather than later.

## Kohli, Rahul steer India

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Defending a paltry total, Australia's pace attack decided to fight fire with fire and Starc set the tone by removing Ishan Kishan for a first-ball duck.

India's poor start became a veritable nightmare as Josh Hazlewood began with a double-wicket maiden.

Hazlewood trapped Rohit lbw with his third ball and Shreyas Iyer became the third Indian to fall for a duck when he slapped the ball to Warner at short cover.

It could easily have been 20-4 for India had Marsh not dropped Kohli in what proved a costly mistake.

While Kohli absorbed pressure at one end, Rahul released it by hitting Adam Zampa for three boundaries in one over as the batters focused on risk-free accumulation of runs.

Kohli fell to Hazlewood but Rahul held firm to seal India's victory with his second six.