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### A promising solution to mosquito menace

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### Bangladesh lose first match under new coach

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### S Africa heads for coalition as ANC support plunges

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## A councillor and his illicit tobacco trade

MOHAMMAD SUMAN and MARTIN SWAPAN PANDEY

A significant share of Bangladesh's illegal cigarette market is controlled by two companies where Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) Councillor Abdus Sabur Liton and his brother have the majority stakes, an investigation by The Daily Star has found.



ABDUS SABUR LITON

people. On May 21, CIC and customs intelligence busted Bijoy International's office in Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar and recovered documents that point to the tobacco company's link with manufacturing cigarettes with illegally imported raw materials, according to documents and customs officials.

Earlier on May 9, customs intelligence raided another tobacco factory, Tara International Tobacco, where Liton has the majority share, documents show. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

The councillor's companies making "fake versions" of foreign brand cigarettes

Customs' raid finds evidence of large-scale illegal cigarette production

Trading companies supply illegally imported raw materials to his factories

7.56 tonnes of cigarette box paper meant for his company are currently held by port authorities

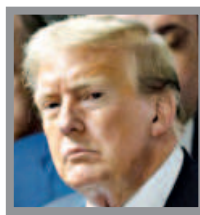
The councillor says all his business operations are legal



Jobseekers through Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to catch flights for Malaysia. Many of them waited at the airport for about 10 hours after receiving assurances from manpower brokers that they would be flown to the Southeast Asian country before the expiration of the deadline for new Bangladeshi expatriates to enter the country at midnight last night. The photo was taken around 3:00pm yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## HUSH MONEY TRIAL Trump 'guilty on all 34 counts'

Verdict won't bar him from contesting US presidential polls



- Judge sets sentencing for July 11
- Trump says real verdict will be delivered on polling day

AGENCIES

Donald Trump on Thursday became the first former US president ever convicted of a crime after a New York jury found him guilty on all charges in his hush money case, months before an election that could see him yet return to the White House.

The jury found him guilty on each of the 34 counts of falsifying business records to hide a payment meant to silence porn star Stormy Daniels. He could in theory be sentenced to four years behind bars for each count but is more likely to receive probation.

The 77-year-old Republican, who was released without bail, is now a felon -- a historic and startling first in a country where presidents are frequently described as the most powerful man in the world. SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## LAST DAY OF ENTRY TO MALAYSIA ON WORK VISA Hundreds flock to Dhaka airport

Many of them could not fly as agencies fail to provide them with tickets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred Malaysia-bound migrant workers waited for hours at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport amid uncertainties as the deadline for workers to enter the southeast Asian country ended yesterday.

They came to the airport without plane tickets after the local recruitment agents promised that the tickets would be provided on time.

Throughout yesterday, the two international terminals remained packed and there were crowds in front of the terminals as well. Many of the workers reached the airport on Thursday night or earlier.

Some said they were losing hope of reaching Malaysia because the recruiting agents were not answering their phones.

Around 5:00pm, Muhammad Aziz, who came to the airport on Thursday night from Jamalpur, said he had been

waiting for more than 12 hours and he was not sure whether the agent would give him the ticket.

He added that he received the Malaysian visa on May 21 to work at a furniture factory.

In March, Malaysian authorities said workers of Bangladesh and 13 other countries will not be allowed to enter the southeast Asian country after May 31.

Nurul Islam, who came to the airport from Jhenaidah, said he had been waiting at the airport for three days. He did not receive his ticket as of 3:15pm.

"I spent Tk 5.40 lakh for this. I will be in serious trouble if I cannot reach Malaysia on time," he said, breaking down in tears.

Many other workers at the airport were in a similar situation. Most of them spent between Tk 5 lakh and Tk 6 lakh they managed by selling their lands or borrowing from banks.

Another man said he got a ticket to waiting for more than 12 hours and he was not sure whether the agent would give him the ticket. SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## 'Benazir, his family left the country'

Say several officers of govt agencies

DIPAN NANDY

Though the authorities remain tightlipped about the whereabouts of former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed and his family members, several sources say they have left the country.

Benazir, his wife, and their three daughters left Dhaka on a Singapore Airlines flight on the night of May 4, said several officers of law enforcement and intelligence agencies on the condition of anonymity.

According to an officer, the former police chief, who is facing an Anti-Corruption Commission probe, went to Singapore with his family, stating on documents that his wife needed treatment. They

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Cyclone Remal has caused extensive damage to Menhazpur Hakkani Secondary School on the bank of the Nilganj river in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila. At least 474 educational institutions in the district have been affected by the cyclone that made landfall on Bangladesh coast on Sunday afternoon. The photo was taken on Wednesday. PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

## 6 SOUTHERN DISTRICTS Over 1,250 edn institutions hit hard by 'Remal'

STAR REPORT

At least 1,259 educational institutions in six southern districts have been affected by Cyclone Remal, according to education offices.

The institutions include primary and secondary schools, colleges, and madrasas.

Some of the schools made of tin and wood have been destroyed by the storm, while tin roofs of some others have been blown away.

Playgrounds and ground floors of many educational institutions have been damaged as floodwater entered there. Tidal surge caused flash floods during the cyclone that hit the country's coastal areas on Sunday.

Academic activities in the affected educational institutions are being hampered, said officials and teachers.

In Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, Menhazpur Haqqani Secondary School, which was made of tin and wood, collapsed.

"We don't know when our school will be rebuilt and when our classes will resume. We want to go to school soon," said Rabiul Hossain, an eighth grader of the school.

"We are trying to build a makeshift structure to continue classes. It will take at least one week to resume our academic activities," said Ashraf Uzzaman, headmaster of the school.

Around 250 students study there, he added.

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