

# The Baily Sta



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People's Right to Know

JAISTHA 21, 1412 BS

RABIUS SANI 25, 1426 HIJRI



# Gias Hazarika killed in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Top criminal and notorious arms dealer Giasuddin Iftekhar alias Gias Hazarika was killed in a "crossfire" between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his accomplices at Rangunia in the district here early

The members of the elite force recovered four firearms and 18 SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Rab arrests top criminal Arman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arman Khan, one of the 23 top listed criminals of the country, was arrested by the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday.

Confirming the arrest, Rab and police sources said the members of Rab-4 arrested Arman and two others at a flat near Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital in Dhanmondi at about 9:30am with three firearms and 150 bullets.

However, Director of Rab-4 Saber Sharif told The Daily Star last night that he would not make any com-

# Bangladesh to propose FTA with Malaysia

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will propose a Free Trade Agreement with Malaysia in Bangladesh-Malaysia Joint Commission (JC) meeting to be held on June 6-7, after a break of 10 years.

A foreign ministry official yesterday said Dhaka would also seek duty-free access for 19 Bangladeshi products to the Malaysian market, and propose setting up a Joint Trade Commission.

Other issues likely to figure prominently in the talks include manpower export, visa, joint investment in energy and agriculture sector, introduction of direct shipping as well as co-operation in IT, health, education and cultural sectors.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Road accidents cost about 2pc of GDP

Mishaps doubled in last 8 years killing annually over 10,000, study says

Ershad faces pressure

to toe 4-party line

AKBAR HOSSAIN

Reckless driving, plying of unfit vehicles and overloading account for about 90 percent of road acciloss of around Tk 4,000 crore a year, equivalent to two percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), says Absence of desired public aware-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

to a 'politics of compromise'.

his party, sources said.

The Jatiya Party (JP) led by HM

sure from the ruling coalition to take

A total of 15 graft cases pending

against the former president has

provided the government with a

powerful leverage to turn him into a

puppet, even to dictate the recent

expulsion of his wife Bidisha from

In a telephone call in the early

hours today, Bidisha said a team of

police raided her Baridhara house at

around 12:50am, told her she was

under arrest. She said the police

were hauling her away in a van,

Ershad is under tremendous pres-

system, as well as a rise in the number of vehicles and an inadequate road network are also responsible for many accidents.

Every year 10,000-12,000 lives are lost due to road accidents, which is much higher than police records show, says the study conducted by the Accident Research Centre (ARC) of Bangladesh University of ness, lack of proper road design, Engineering and Technology (Buet).

> where she had been under treatment since her return from a 40-day

A witness confirmed the arrest,

but both the deputy commissioner

of Detective Branch of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police and the officer-

in-charge of Gulshan Police Station

In a meeting last Tuesday, an

influential leader of the ruling BNP

threatened to revive the corruption

cases against Ershad and to throw

him back into jail, if he does not evict

Bidisha and toe the line, sources said.

any thing against the government, it

threatens to revive the cases," said a

IP leader. "He is so afraid of going to

"Whenever Ershad wants to do

denied the incident.

The study, however, contained no figures of injuries in road acci-

"When a person succumbs to his or her injuries due to a road acci-'dent, it cannot be viewed only from an economic point of view. Rather, it has a huge implication for the victim's family. So, we considered all these things in our study," Director

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# Mobile JCD teams still guard DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men split in at least five mobile teams guarded round the clock different entrances to Dhaka University (DU) to keep the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) workers from entering the campus yesterday.

Activists from different ward and thana chapters of the JCD, the student wing of ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), joined the DU unit workers in the watch.

BCL, the student wing of main opposition Awami League (AL), yesterday threatened to enforce an indefinite student strike and shut

### **CRACKDOWN** BSF on high alert to stop 'return' of Indian rebels

India has put its northeastern border guards on high alert to stop rebels infiltrating from Bangladesh during a crackdown there on Indian guerrillas, a top paramilitary officer said yesterday.

'We were formally informed by Bangladesh that they were carrying out operations in their territory against Indian militants," S.C. Srivastava, inspector general of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF),

"We've put our troops on high alert to prevent fleeing rebels from Bangladesh sneaking into our terri-

New Delhi has repeatedly urged SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

# Dhaka denies allegation of Ulfa-run hotels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka yesterday denied a PTI report that the United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa) runs seven international-standard hotels and operates three bank accounts in Bangladesh.

The Indian news agency yesterday quoted S C Srivastava, inspector general of Indian Border Security Force of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland frontier, as saying at a news conference in Shillong that the ULFA-run hotels are located in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet.

The report traced the three bank accounts to Arab Bangladesh Bank's Farm Gate Branch in Dhaka and Zinda Bazar Branch in Sylhet, and Al-Barakah Bank's Pahartali Branch in Chittagong

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

**ARSENIC WATER CONTAMINATION** 

# Local tech-whiz devises a simple way out



NAIMUL HAQ

A Bangladeshi scientist has devised a simple, inexpensive but ingenious technology to treat surface water for drinking that offers a cost-effective substitute to the arsenic-contaminated water. widespread in the country.

The new technology demands a return to the tradition of drinking surface water instead of ground-water, says Prof M Fakhrul Islam, the inventor.

The devise, christened 'Chulli Water Purifier', is made of a hollow aluminium coil and some plastic pipes. It makes use of the heat

generated by a clay oven (Chulli), common in rural Bangladesh. during cooking to treat water.

Over 650 households have already adopted the technique and the Unicef has successfully field-tested around 500 purifiers in the last couple of years, says Fakhrul, a retired professor of applied chemistry and chemical technology of the Rajshahi University.

The purification process involves passing surface water through the hollow aluminium coil connected to a clay oven. As water passes through the coil, its SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



A village housewife using Chulli Water Purifier, a simple yet ingenious locally invented device; water purifier coil and connectors (above).

### where to, she did not know. She had jail again that he agreed to oust even his wife from the party," he added. just returned home last night from Sikdar Medical College in Gulshan, SEE PAGE 15 COL : Cops, criminals on regular

The Bally Star probe exposes dark truths

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and DAUD KHAN

bribe the police and local criminals, each splashing out upwards of Tk 1 lakh a month, to facilitate the thriving sex trade in the city, an investigation by The Daily Star reveals.

It is no secret that many of the residential hotels in Maghbazar are just fronts for prostitution. The escape last Sunday night of a young girl from one of these hotels, where she was forced into servicing clients, has helped illuminate the inner machination of the underground

sex trade. The day after her flight, these correspondents went undercover into the heart of this criminal zone, seeking to verify what is often whispered but seldom seen.

The central market area was crowded and bustling close to midnight. Light bulbs shone brightly in the shop-fronts, illuminating the throngs of men shuffling about the street. Just above them, residential hotels crammed the city sky, advertised in colourful signs.

Finding a pimp proved easy, like walking into a shop, The correspondents approached a man standing in front of Hotel Rupashi Bangla, a dingy-looking five-storey building standing right next to Hotel Capetown, where the teenage gir escaped from the day before.

The police, with members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), National Security Intelligence and Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, converged on this street just the night before, arresting the management staff of Hotel Capetown. Nonetheless, the broker was eager to make a deal.

Posing as two friends seeking sexual pleasure, the correspondents asked him if he could supply young SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# payroll of sex traders

Many residential hotels regularly

নিয়মিত আয়ের নিশ্চিত উপায়

# **UNO** threatens to beat up journos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A UNO (upazila nirbahi officer) of Joypurhat Thursday at a gathering attended by ruling BNP leaders threatened to beat up three journalists of the district.

UNO Abul Kalam Azad of Khetlal upazila at the inauguration programme of paving the Jugipukur-Fasitola road termed journalists Anwaruzzaman Nadim, Alamgir Chowdhury and Azizar Rahman as "enemies" and threatened to beat them up "publicly within a month'

Meanwhile, it was learnt that UNO Azad at his office on March 28 SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## BSF kills one in Lalmonirhat

UNB, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi national was gunned down by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Singimari border in Hatibandha upazila of the district

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources aid the Indian border guards of Fulbari camp entered Bangladesh territory in the morning and fired at Hafizul Islam, 30, while he was working in his crop land. Hafizul,

died instantly. BDR sent a letter to its Indian counterpart protesting the killing.



On the auspicious occasion of the 9th Anniversary on June 03, 2005

# **Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited**

Extends its profound felicitations to its valued clients, patrons and well wishers

Our clarion call on this grand occasion

 Save the nation from the curse of dowry Prevent Acid Violence Take care of Female Reproductive Health

### To support the victims As in the past, this year also DBBL undertakes:

Donation of Tk. 10,000 each to 400 divorced women due to curse of dowry and 100 acid victim needy rural women for establishing small agro-based / rural economic enterprises like setting up Poultry Farm, Fish Farm, Livestock Rearing, Nursery, Cottage Industries etc. amounting to Taka 50,00,000 (fifty lac) only with a view to making them self-reliant.

If the beneficiaries of this program can effectively manage and operate their business enterprises, Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited will further extend Small Scale Loan Facilities to those successful operators at a very minimum interest rate (5%) to expand their enterprises.

The Bank also undertakes a program of operating 500 distressed rural women who have been suffering from Fistula occurred due to unsafe delivery (VVF) at a total cost of Taka 50,00,000 (fifty lac) only.

Genuine affected rural women willing to avail financial help or willing to undergo operation for Fistula may apply to Coordinator, Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation, Sena Kalyan Bhaban, Motijheel, Dhaka by June 30, 2005



**Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited** 

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এককালীন বিনিয়োশের উপর প্রতিমাদেই নিশ্চিত মাসিক মুনাফা

১ খেকে ৩ বছরের মধ্যে যেকোন মেয়াদ