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Nimtoli sisters' weddings at Gonobhaban tonight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Weddings of Ratna and Runa, the sisters who have lost family members in Nimtoli blaze, will be held tonight at Gonobhaban.

Their gaye-halud (a wedding ritual) was held yesterday at Gonobhaban, the prime minister's official residence, said an official of PMO, which is arranging the weddings.

Earlier on Monday, when the sisters and their would-be grooms met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Ratna's wedding was fixed Wednesday.

The date of her younger sister Runa's nuptials however could not be finalised at that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

No cheers for rural medicare

25,000 health posts still vacant despite pledges for recruitment

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Nearly 25,000 sanctioned posts are vacant in public health sector despite the government's pledge of adequate recruitment on several occasions.

The severe manpower shortage constrains health services in upazila health complexes and district sadar hospitals across the country, depriving scores of patients of proper medical attention and treatment every day.

PM Sheikh Hasina and the health minister several times announced plans to appoint employees including doctors, nurses, health

assistants and community health care providers to fill the vacant posts.

In last one and half years, only 3,551 doctors and 6,100 health assistants have been recruited.

Dr Abu Bakar Mollah, the civil surgeon of Madaripur Sadar Hospital, draws a neat picture of the crisis as he says, "There are 22 sanctioned posts of doctors in this hospital. But maximum of the posts remain vacant for a long time. Is it possible for me to run a 100-bed hospital with only 12 doctors?"

There is no consultant for the departments

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

20 injured in BCL-police clash in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and police near Sylhet Polytechnic Institute yesterday.

Local sources said a section of BCL activists brought out a procession at 11:30am demanding eviction of Saikat Chandra Rimi, convenor of Polytechnic unit BCL, from hostel accusing him of harassing a female student.

The clash erupted when police tried to resist the activists from entering the campus. Chase and counter chase and exchange of brickbats then took place leaving 20 people injured.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

JS GRAFT PROBE ACC serves notices on Sircar, Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday issued notices on former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, asking for their statements in connection with alleged misappropriation of Tk 2.5 crore.

The anti-graft body could not serve any notice on former deputy speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui as it did not have his current address.

A parliamentary probe last year found the three BNP leaders to have been involved in misappropriation of the Jatiya Sangsad's funds.

Sources in the ACC said they have asked police for Akhtar's current address, while Sircar and Delwar have received the notices that asked them to respond in five workdays.

The notice contains questions regarding medical bills, use of unauthorised public vehicles, additional fuel allowances, corruption in procurement, beautification and arboriculture, recruitment, entertainment bills, allocation of residence for officials and receiving money from Parliament Members' Club.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Chinese vice president due Monday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping will arrive here Monday on a two-day official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We consider the visit highly important as the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Girl hacked by stalker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lamoni that

In broad daylight at district bus stand yesterday, a stalker hacked a female rail employee indiscriminately that chopped her right thumb off as she refused to marry him.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

OnlinePoll

Do you think the government will be able to prevent future disasters by demolishing faulty buildings?

☐ Yes (51.47%)
☐ No (46.72%)
☐ No Comments (1.81%)

Total votes: 1160

TODAY'S POLL

How do you see the 'alternative budget' presented by leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

REPORT ON RAPE Magistrate, SP, expert asked to appear in HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the chief judicial magistrate superintendent of police (SP) and another police official of Rangpur, and a forensic medicine expert to appear before it tomorrow in connection with a report on violation of a woman.

The HC also ordered the SP, and the officer-in-charge of Kawnia Police Station to produce the woman before it, and explain what action they took against alleged perpetrators of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

AL MPs trash Khaleda's proposals

BNP declines PM's invite

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of senior ruling alliance lawmakers yesterday criticised opposition leader Khaleda Zia for placing budget proposals outside parliament Monday and accused her of violating the constitution.

Taking the floor on points of order, they said the constitution and the rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad empower only the finance minister to place budget proposals.

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June 13 Anti-stalking Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to observe Uttaktakaran Birodhi Dibash (anti-stalking day) across the country on June 13 to create awareness.

During a preparatory meeting at the education ministry yesterday, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said his ministry has already sent letters to all deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers to observe the day.

"We have chalked out different programmes to aware people and build social resistance against stalking,"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

All about epithets

AP, Johannesburg

Nicknames are a big part of popular culture in most countries, particularly in sports, but most still hold tight to formalised

names when it comes to anything official. Not so the Brazilians.

Affectionate familiarity in Brazil is for everyone from the kid next door all the way up to the country's president.

"We don't use the last names," said Lyrus Wiedemann, a native of Porto Alegre, Brazil, who is now director of the

Portuguese language program at Stanford in the United States. "It reflects a trait in the culture that's more personalized. We care about the person, and the person is not the family name. It's who they are."

It's why no one knows Ricardo Izcson dos Santos Leite as anything but Kaka. Why one player on Brazil's 2006 team was called, simply, Fred. And why Edson Arantes do Nascimento is just some guy until you realise he's Pele.

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360MW power project okayed

Ecneec also approves 9 other schemes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved ten development projects, including 360MW power generation and construction of 253 food silos, involving Tk 8,227 crore.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the Ecneec meeting held at the NEC auditorium.

Implementation of Bheramara Combined Cycle Power Plant (360MW) project worth Tk 4,215 crore will start in July this year for completing it by September 2015. The government will provide Tk 993 crore while the rest will come from foreign assistance.

According to the project document, of the 360MW, 240MW will be single unit gas turbine and 120MW single unit steam turbine.

The project aims at meeting ever increasing demand for power in the western region of Bangladesh through locally generated electricity. Its primary source of fuel will be gas. The project was taken in 2000 at a cost of Tk 1,746 crore. But as foreign assistance was not available it could not be implemented then.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

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