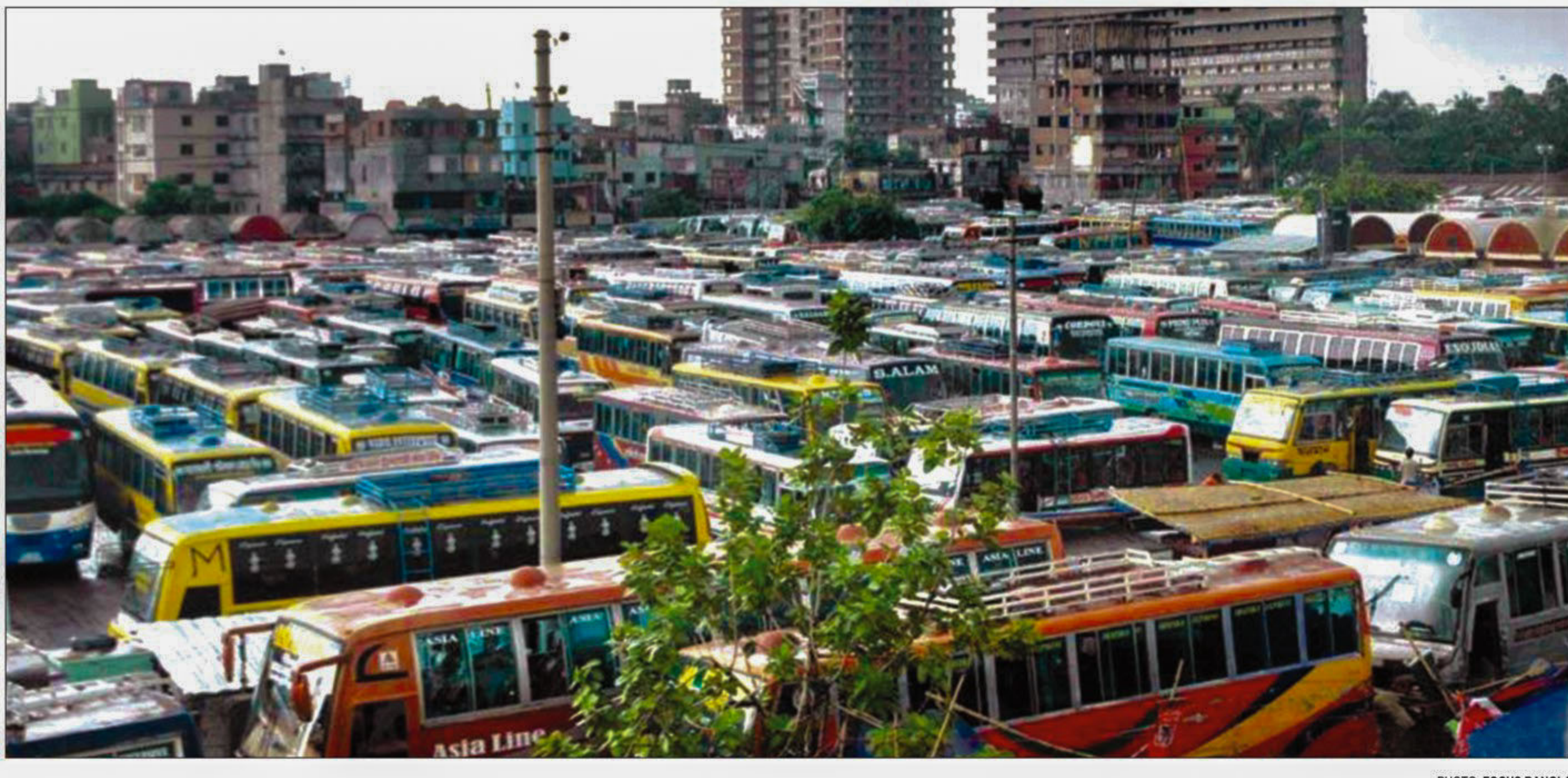


'ENRICHING SCHOOLS WITH NEW RESOURCES' Concluding ceremony in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg The concluding ceremony of 'Enriching Schools with New Resources' initiated under the English in Schools (EIS) programme will be held at Chittagong Collegiate School in the port city today. EIS is the country's largest CSR (corporate social responsibility) programme, a joint initiative taken by The Daily Star and Robi, a mobile operator, to improve English language skills of the secondary school students throughout the country. Prof Dr Anupam Sen, vice chancellor of Premier University, Prof Muhammad Abu Jafar Chowdhury, chairman of Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Chittagong, and Muhammad Aziz Uddin, headmaster of Chittagong Collegiate School, will be present as guests at the ceremony beginning at 11:30am. Michael Kuehner, managing director & CEO of Robi, and Shahnoor Wahid, editor of the Star Campus, will also attend the ceremony. The 'Enriching Schools with New Resources' programme began in Khulna on May 28. A total of 1000 schools have been brought under the English in Schools programme. To encourage the habit of reading English articles among the students, the schools are receiving three copies of The Daily Star five days a week free of cost along with a full page of English learning materials (EIS page) once a week.

SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER, EQUIPMENT Institute of Public Health limps along

MAHBUBA ZANNAT Shortage of manpower and equipment and the indifferent attitude of the government have left the Institute of Public Health (IPH) limping along in recent years. The major role of the institute, established in 1963, is to improve the public's health through quality control of foods and drugs, production of biomedical, and training and research, but its various units now could not carry out their activities properly due to lack of experts. The IPH has stopped producing tetanus, measles and diphtheria vaccines several years ago and its function to test food, water and drugs has been seriously hampered. It now only produces intravenous fluid, blood transfusion bags and rabies vaccine but cannot meet the annual production target. IPH Director Nurul Islam Prodan said the institute stopped production of tetanus, measles and diphtheria vaccines after samples of a batch of vaccines had failed quality tests abroad. The World Health Organisation (WHO) sent the samples to India for tests. The country now has to import these vaccines spending a huge amount of money. The Anti-Sera Production Unit of the institute has remained closed for over two and a half years and the costly equipment are getting damaged, IPH sources said. Also, many modern equipment at its Food Testing Laboratory have been waiting to be installed for the last four years. "At the Food Testing Laboratory, 107 food items can be tested. But we can't ensure the quality of testing as various modern equipment such as the atomic absorption machine, spectrophotometer, gastro chromatography and S PLC machines are lying idle as they could not be installed due to lack of expert technicians," said Dr Abdur Razzaque Mia, deputy programme manager of Food Safety Programme. Currently some 95 posts are lying vacant against 926 sanctioned posts at the IPH. A letter was sent to the health ministry for manpower recruitment about two years ago, but no steps has been taken in this regard, said the official. "The IPH is one of the idle zones of the health sector. It has been neglected for years together and could not utilise its full potential," Dr Razzaque said, adding that the government is not paying proper attention to the institute due to low revenue earning from it. The Intravenous (IV) Fluid Production Unit of the IPH produces only 10 lakh bags of fluid a year, which is half the annual production target, whereas the domestic demand is 80 lakh bags. "If we had had generators to ensure uninterrupted production during loadshedding and enough manpower to run three shifts, the machines would have been utilised properly and the production would have increased at least three times," the director said, adding that the process of procurement of generator could not be completed in the last four years due to bureaucratic tangle. The institute is manufacturing 600 blood transfusion bags and sets daily against its capacity of 1200. The drug-testing lab also cannot work to its full potential due to lack of modern equipment, reagents and manpower. It can test only 4,300 samples a year, whereas the WHO said the lab should test 20,000 samples a year considering the volume of drugs in the country's market, the authorities said. During a visit recently, WHO representatives asked the authorities to modernise the Drug Testing Laboratory and suggested bringing it under the Directorate General of Drug Administration. The institute also had a credible history of producing small pox, cholera and typhoid vaccines to help prevent outbreak of diseases which is virtually absent now. It has now been manufacturing Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) through Nerve Tissue Culture, which is an obsolete process, although WHO has asked the authorities at least three times to stop its production. "Public health issue cannot be neglected and the IPH can play a very important role in ensuring quality in health services. It could work better if the government pays a little more attention to it," said Habibur Rahman, a former deputy director of IPH. He also suggested that the government should take short-, medium- and long-term programmes for its development and the institute be brought under the Directorate General of Health Services.



Long-distance buses remain stranded at different bus terminals in the city during hartal hours yesterday. The picture was taken from the Syedabad bus terminal. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

DAILY STAR-MUTUAL BANK DEBATE Contest begins in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg The Daily Star-Mutual Trust Bank Debate Competition and Festival 2010 kicks off in Chittagong today. Prof Syed Ahsanul Alam Parvez of Chittagong University will inaugurate the 18th inter-school debate competition at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium at 9:30am. Drishti, an educational and cultural organisation, is organising the debate competition under the auspices of The Daily Star and Mutual Trust Bank. Nestle Bangladesh Limited is the co-sponsor of the event. Eighteen leading schools in the port city are participating in the parliamentary-style debate. They are Chittagong Collegiate School, Dr Khastagir Government Girls' High School, Ispahani Public School and College, Kapashgola City Corporation School, Bakolia Laboratory School, Krishna Kumari City Corporation School, Chittagong Government High School, Government Muslim High School, Aungkur Society Girls' High School, Silver Bells Girls' High School, Government Girls' School, Bangladesh Women Association (BAWA) School, Kalakakoli School, Imaratun Nesa City Corporation School, State Quest School and BAF Shaheen School and College. The debate festival also features 10th inter-college and the 7th inter-university national debate competitions, which will begin tomorrow. The participating colleges include Chittagong Government College, Government Mohsin College, BAF Shaheen College, Jarina Mofzal College, Jarina College, Agrabad Women College, Government Commerce College, Cantonment Public College and City Commerce College. And the universities include Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), North South University, Stamford University, Jahangir Nagar University, Chittagong University, International Islamic University, Premier University, University of Science and Technology and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology. Mutual Trust Bank's Agrabad Branch Manager Md Nazrul Islam, Star Campus Editor Shahnoor Wahid and Sales Manager of Nestle Bangladesh Md Shahadat Hossain will attend the inaugural ceremony.

Ex-customs man sent to jail for graft

COURT CORRESPONDENT A Dhaka court yesterday sent a former customs inspector to jail in a case filed against him for not submitting his wealth statement to the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC). Judge (in-charge) Mohammad Ismail Hossain of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after the ex-customs inspector Mohammad Zakaria appeared before the court and sought bail in the case. Anti-Corruption Commission official Abdulla Al Zahid, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the inspector on March 16 this year, showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses. The IO also prayed for issuing arrest warrants against the accused and an order to attach his properties as he has been absconding since the filing of the case. The case was filed with Ramna police station on October 18, 2004 against Zakaria for committing the offence.

BUS HITS MOTORBIKE 4 of a family narrowly escape death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The victims were rushed to the emergency unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors provided them with primary treatment. Mizan's state was critical as he received injuries to his head while the others were out of danger said Shefalya Rani Barai, a senior staff nurse of the emergency unit of DMCH. The victims left DMCH for Ibn Sina Hospital an hour after they had arrived, she said. The family was going towards the Sangsad Bhaban from their house at Mohammadpur for some physical exercises, Yunus Shikder told The Daily Star over the phone. "The bus hit my bike while I was crossing the road and continued pushing it forward sending my wife and elder son flying out of the bike. My youngest son who was holding on to handle of bike was dragged along as well," said Yunus. His wife and son, Mizan were still undergoing treatment at Ibn Sina Hospital as of yesterday evening.

Invest more at home President urges expatriates

BSS, Dhaka President Zillur Rahman has urged the expatriates, residing different parts of the United Kingdom, to invest more at home for upgrading Bangladesh to a middle income country by 2021. "All including the expatriates would have to do hard work unitedly and sincerely being imbued with patriotism for building a happy, prosperous and dignified Bangladesh," he said this while he was speaking at a reception, accorded to him by the Bangladesh expatriates in the UK at the Kensington Hall in London on Saturday night, according to a message received here yesterday. Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni also spoke at the reception with eminent journalist, columnist and writer Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury in the chair. Younger sister of the Prime Minister Sheikh Rehana, members of House of Lords Baroness Pola Uddin, son of the President Nazmul Hasan MP and a huge number of Bangladeshi expatriates were present at the reception. Zillur lauded the role of expatriates for sending remittance which is marked as one of the major fuels of the country's socio-economic development. He said the present government is considering making the expatriates voters of Bangladesh. Zillur said 22 districts of the country achieved bumper production of Aman paddy in the last season because of a number of measures undertaken by the department concerned. He said the government is working relentlessly to turn the country into a middle income one by 2021. Bangladesh is playing a leading role in the international arena in raising voice against adverse impacts of climate change, he said. The president congratulated Rushanara Ali for being a member of the House of Commons (British Parliament) as the first Bangladeshi expatriate and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's granddaughter Rezwana Siddique Tulip as an elected councillor.

Mechanic hacked to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Miscreants hacked a motor mechanic to death in capital's Turag area yesterday. The dead was identified as Billal Hossain, 25. He lived at Chakuli of Pallabi. Witnesses said a gang of four to five local miscreants took Billal to Chandura Balur Math under Turag Police Station at around 1:00pm and left him seriously injured. Local people took Billal to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where on duty doctors announced him dead. Kalipada Chandra Sarker, the owner of Preeti Automobile at Pallabi bus stand where Billal was an employee, said some of Billal's friends took him out from his house at around 11:00am. Turag police station officer-in-charge said, Billal was a mugger and he fell victim to an internal feud among the local muggers. Police and Rab men are trying to arrest the miscreants of local Apu Bahini who were involved in the killing.

Obituary

METRO DESK Md Riad Anwar, son of Nurul Chowdhury Logic, former employee of Osmani Glass Sheet Factory, passed away due to blood cancer at Apollo Hospitals of Chennai in India on Saturday at the age of 27, says press release. Riad was a senior officer of The City Bank Limited in Chittagong. He will be buried at Garibullah Shah Mazar Graveyard in Chittagong after namaz-e-janaza at Shahi Mosque after Esha prayers today (June 28).

WEATHER TODAY

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Indian Khasias intrude for third day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet Tension prevailed on Jaintapur borders in Sylhet as the Indian Khasia tribesmen intruded and tilled farmlands for the third consecutive day. Qulkhwani Qulkhwani of Begum Rowshan Elahi, a former BNP lawmaker, will be held at her residence at Apartment B-3, Century Tower, 119/1 Boro Moghbazar, in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release. She died of a cardiac arrest at a city hospital on Friday at the age of 75. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad and doa mahfil to be held on the occasion. yesterday over 60 yards inside the zero line. Locals and BDR sources said over 100 Khasia men entered the croplands at Kathalbari and in Minatila area at about 10:00am. The BDR men warned and asked them to leave the croplands, which they ignored. The Khasia men, however, left the scene when the BDR raised red flags at around 12:00 noon. They returned after 5:30pm and till the farmlands until 5:30pm. Major Abdullah Al Mamun, second-in-command of 21 battalion of BDR, said the border guards have raised red flags after intrusion of the Indian Khasias on the Kathalbari and Minatila area and informed the higher authority about the matter. Havilder Monir, Minatila BDR camp in charge, told the Daily Star that the Indian Khasias left the farmlands at 5:30pm. He said they are trying to occupy 23 acres of land, although it is about 60 yards inside Bangladesh from the border pillar 1283/1S".

Advertisement for Queen Mary College featuring a logo, text in Bengali and English, and a list of facilities: সম্পূর্ণ নিরাপদ ক্যাম্পাস, দেশের সেরা শিক্ষক, অডিও ভিজুয়াল এইড শিখার পদ্ধতি, শীতাতপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত ক্লাস রুম, কম্পিউটার ল্যাব, আধুনিক হোস্টেল ব্যবস্থা, সত্যক লাইব্রেরি, ফুড কোর্ট, পরিবহন সুবিধা, আন্তর্জাতিক নামের শিক্ষা পদ্ধতির সকল অয়োজন.