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HAIKKAR CANAL
Govt asked to stop grabbing in week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take steps to stop within seven days all kinds of encroachment, construction and earth filling in Haikkar Khal in the capital's Mohammadpur.

The deputy commissioner (DC) and the metropolitan police commissioner of Dhaka and officer-in-charge (OC) of Mohammadpur Police Station have to carry out this order.

In response to a writ petition, an HC bench ordered the Dhaka DC, director general (DG) of Land Record and Survey Authority (LRD), and managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to conduct a survey to demarcate the original area of the canal and submit a report to this court within two months.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury

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Trains collide, kill 14

100 others injured; wrong signalling seen as reason; PM, JS condole deaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 14 people were killed and over 100 injured, as two trains collided head-on in Narsingdi yesterday.

Witnesses said the collision between the two--Chittagong-bound intercity Mahanagar Godhuli and Dhaka-bound Chattola Express--occurred at Narsingdi rail station at 4:45pm.

Most of the carriages of the trains went off the tracks on impact, and were badly mangled. Hit hard, a carriage leapt onto another.

Of those killed, identity of only five could be known. They are loco master Jahir Miah, rail security guards Mofizul Islam and Shafiqul Alam, Akhaura locomotive section staff Mahmudullah and passenger Haifuzuddin.

The injured were immediately rushed to Narsingdi general hospital and Narsingdi sadar hospital. Later, nine including three loco masters were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and nine others to Pangu (Orthopaedics) Hospital in the capital.

Chattola Loco masters (drivers) Rafiq Uddin, 42, and Mayeen Uddin, 30, and Godhuli's assistant loco master Arifur Rahman Russell, 32, were among those moved to DMCH.

Talking to reporters at DMCH, loco master Rafiq said as his train entered the station on track number-1 after a signal clearance, he saw another train coming from the opposite direction at speed.

Alarmed, he and his assistant brought down the speed of Chattola to 10 km an hour from 70. He cannot remember anything after that, added Rafiq.

Railway sources suspect wrong signal might have caused the accident.

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Carriages of Mahanagar Godhuli and Chattola Express lie crushed and mangled after a collision in Narsingdi late yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

JS prays for Hasina's Nobel

Spends 90 mins in praising her peace efforts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some ruling Awami League lawmakers yesterday in parliament said they hope Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her outstanding peace-making efforts at home and abroad.

They were speaking on a thanksgiving motion for the premier's honorary doctorate degree from St Petersburg State University in recognition of the international humanitarian development.

Amid the absence of the BNP-led opposition lawmakers, the House passed the resolution thanking Sheikh Hasina, also leader of the House, for the honour.

A total of 14 AL-led ruling alliance lawmakers spent about 90 minutes praising Hasina who was not present in parliament at that time.

AL lawmakers Abdur Rahman, Abdul Mannan,

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Clean chit to Grameen

Norway clears the bank of fund anomaly allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Norwegian Minister Erik Solheim yesterday said the Grameen Bank had neither embezzled Norad fund nor used the money for unintended purposes.

The minister for environment and international development also said the microfinance institution was not involved in corrupt practices, according to a press release on the website of the Norwegian foreign ministry.

The remarks came after the Norwegian



Prof Muhammad Yunus

Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) on Tuesday submitted a report on the Grameen Bank's alleged undue transfer of funds to one of its spin-off organisations.

Last week, he had requested Norad to prepare a report on it after a Norwegian TV channel broadcast a series of documentaries on alleged fund anomalies involving the bank.

"According to the report, there is no indication that Norwegian funds have been used for unintended purposes, or

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Norad report in short

We are publishing the abridged version of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) letter to the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review matters regarding Grameen Bank:

Date: December 6, 2010

Order from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review matters relating to Grameen Bank

Order

We refer to the telephone call and written notification from the Ministry on December 1 ordering an overall presentation / explanation of the issues related to

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Investors burn as stocks crash

DSE sheds 6pc before regaining all but 1.5pc

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

Hundreds of angry investors took to the streets in the bustling financial district of Motijheel yesterday to protest an unprecedented 547-point crash in the premier bourse within an hour and a half of the start of trading.

Aggrieved investors set fire to wood and paper in front of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) building, vandalised two private cars, and chanted slogans against top bosses of the bourse and the market regulator.

Baton-wielding riot police charged morning demonstrators, who brought traffic around the bourse area to a standstill for two hours. Investors in other cities including Chittagong, Sylhet, Barisal and

Tangail, also protested the crash in share prices.

The market recovered 75 percent of the loss in the afternoon, after the regulator reversed the moves which investors blamed for the crash.

Market insiders blamed the historic fall on the market regulator's directive, which squeezed "netting facilities", and stopped them from buying new shares with funds from another share sale that was ordered but not finalised.

Surprisingly, the directive was issued without the consent of the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The regulator served a show-cause notice to Mansur Alam, member of the commission, who told the SEC surveil-

lance department to issue the directive on Tuesday.

Investors are now used to buying shares, using netting, before completing share sales, and expect to adjust the sale value to the market price any time of a single day's trading.

"The directive was on the proper execution of existing rules on netting facilities," claimed Alam.

"It was nothing new. I thought there was no need to take prior permission from the chairman, and it would be okay if I informed him later."

Aggrieved investors and market insiders alleged that the directive was profiteering sabotage. They suspect

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Govt to start drive for arms in southwest

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The government will launch a special drive to recover illegal arms in the crime-prone south-western region and some other northern districts of the country ahead of the next month's municipality poll.

The massive drive will cover the outlaw infested

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Crew still out of contact

Hijacked ship close to Somali coast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The hijacked Bangladeshi ship will reach the Somali coast early Saturday if it continues its current course and speed while people and authorities concerned wait to hear from the vessel, which remains out of reach.

The management company of the Bangladeshi ship MV

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Govt mulls retrial

PM tells JS about execution of army officers during Zia's rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday her government is considering reinvestigation and retrial of the armed forces' officers, who were also freedom fighters, executed through "farical trial" in martial law tribunals during the military rule of general Ziaur Rahman.

Responding to lawmakers' queries in parli-

ment, the premier also said she thinks it is necessary to carry out an inquiry into the killing of workers and farmers during the previous BNP government's tenure. And her government will take steps to this effect.

She went on, "The government is yet to decide on reinvestigation and retrial of freedom fighter-armed forces' officers hanged

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MUNICIPAL POLLS

Army watch at risky zones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army will be deployed in some 'vulnerable' municipalities during the polls to be held in the middle of next January, decided the Election Commission (EC) yesterday.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda made the announcement after a high profile meeting held at

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The Daily Star

12th 'O' & 'A' Level

Award Presentation Ceremony, 2009-2010

Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools

Private Candidates

Private candidates who fulfill the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

Criteria for 'O' Level

Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2009 to May/June 2010

Criteria for 'A' Level

Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2009 to May/June 2010)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Khairul Islam at The Daily Star office, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka - 1215 with their original Results Certificates along with a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on 12, 13, 14 or 15 December 2010 between 11:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Schools

Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Khairul Islam at The Daily Star Office (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215) at the aforementioned dates and times or email him at abeer@thedailystar.net by December 20, 2010 with:

- The name of the school, a phone number of a responsible representative (who will attend the meetings) and a valid email address that is checked regularly.

The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.

Joy pulls for connectivity

Tells The Daily Star about negative politics by BNP, why AL should stay in power for longer time

SOHEL PARVEZ

Bangladesh sits at the centre of three main drivers of growth in Asia --India, China and South East Asia region. But the country has failed to take advantage of its geographical position by developing connectivity with the three economies for various reasons.

One of the reasons is the opposition from BNP, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy has said.

"Without connectivity and trade in this age of globalisation, the pace of growth and investment will not increase," Sajeeb told The Daily Star after a luncheon meeting organised by American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Sajeeb also shared his opinions on confrontational politics, business climate and Bangladesh's potential to almost double its present economic growth at nearly 6 percent.

"They [BNP] have taken the name of Bangladesh Nationalist Party literally and...sort of confusing nationalism with isolationism," he said at the programme.

"Fortunately, Awami League does not believe in that," he said, adding, AL has moved to establish Bangladesh's connectivity with the region, which will facilitate expansion of trade,

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Sajeeb Wazed Joy

3 'robbers' beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Three alleged robbers were killed in a mob beating at Jhenidabagia village in sadar upazila of Rajbari early yesterday.

The dead are Dabir Mandal, 35, of Mulghar village, Faruk, 35, of Alladipur village and Mahinur of Brahmandia village of the upazila.

A gang of nine to 10 robbers swooped on Kuddat Sheikh's house at the village around

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2 construction workers shot at

Land dispute suspected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard and a construction labourer of a housing project received bullets when a gang fired indiscriminately and exploded homemade bombs in the capital's Ashkona yesterday.

Injured security guard Sekander Hawlader, 40, of

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