

**Baby receives name upon crew father's tearful return**

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg  
The baby being unnamed over three months into his birth was given a name yesterday upon the return of his father Main Uddin, second engineer of MV Jahan Moni, Monday.  
Now the baby is Mohammad Araf Bin Main Uddin, the first child of Main Uddin and Sarjina Chowdhury Lisa of the village Jaldi in Banskhal upazila, Chittagong.  
Main along with his wife and son reached his village home to meet his parents yesterday morning, and arranged a brief naming ceremony.  
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Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam, *extreme right*, introduces the recently freed crewmembers of the ship MV Jahan Moni to audience at the programme "Celebrating Life" organised by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank Ltd in Chittagong yesterday. Artist Swarnamoy Acharya, *centre*, performing a song at the function.



PHOTO: STAR

**Enrich NHCR to ensure human rights: Mizanur**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman yesterday urged the government to provide necessary human resources, fund, and other facilities to the commission to ensure its capability in protecting human dignity of people.  
"Extend your hands...give us little help and little fund. We will fight our best for ensuring the human dignity of people," NHRC chairman requested the law minister at the inaugural ceremony of a workshop on draft strategic plan of NHRC at Biam in the city.  
Prof Mizanur demanded the law minister provide a separate secretariat to NHRC so the commission can contact the minister concerned and prime minister whenever it needs.  
He expressed concern as the commission has not got necessary human resources from the government despite asking for several times.  
The commission chief said they will launch a campaign from next month for raising consciousness among people about the human rights.  
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Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said the government is very attentive and conscious to protect the human rights of minorities and people of other deprived communities.  
The government has already adopted the national women development policy that clearly stated violence against women by any means or in any situation is unacceptable, he said.  
But it is regretful that a quarter has been trying to create anarchy and already announced a hartal without understanding the women development policy, he added.  
Shafique said the women development policy includes nothing that can hurt the religious sentiment, and the policy was prepared considering the constitution and human rights.  
The law minister said people's access to justice of is poor in the country. "Once a case goes to court, nobody knows when it will be disposed of...many people remain detained in jail without trial and thus the incidents of human rights violation occur too," he said.  
Shafique added that with the situation in mind the government is planning to bring changes in the criminal and civil laws.  
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**Japan crisis not to deter aid to Dhaka: Jica**

BSS, Dhaka  
Japan will not cut development assistance to Bangladesh despite the severe earthquake on March 11 and the following tsunami and the nuclear disaster that hit hard the major Asian economy.  
Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) in Dhaka Dr Takao Toda in an interview told the news agency yesterday that his country would not change the commitments of providing assistance to Bangladesh development projects including the Padma Bridge and grand metro rail in the capital despite its internal crisis.  
"Our commitment to Bangladesh would not change at all regardless of the internal crisis due to the massive earthquake and the tsunami," Dr Toda said.  
He said though Japan's economy had severely been affected by the natural and industrial disasters, it would stay beside Bangladesh in extending its all kinds of development cooperation.  
"The earthquake will not hinder our bilateral relations, rather the upward trend of Japanese assistance to Bangladesh will continue," Dr Toda said.  
He said the intensity of earthquake and the tsunami was very high, but it was not true that the capital city of Tokyo was paralysed. "Japan government and the people are working very hard to keep everything on the right track including the international cooperation," Dr Toda said.  
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**ACC to observe graft resistance week**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will observe 'Corruption Resistance Week' from March 26 to April 1 every year to involve cross section of people with the movement against corruption.  
"We fought for our freedom since March 26, 1971 (for the following nine months). Now, we will fight against corruption," ACC Secretary Faizur Rahman Chowdhury said while addressing a press conference at the ACC conference room on Tuesday.  
He said the key purpose of the campaign is to inject vigour among the youths for combating corruption.  
The week-long campaign has been chalked out to create awareness among the people especially the young generation to curb corruption.  
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**Rural areas also to be brought under OMS**  
Says Razzaque

UNB, Dhaka  
Assuring the nation of adequate food supply, Food Minister Abdur Razzaque yesterday said the government has now stock of 11.15 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat.  
Around nine lakh tonnes of rice and wheat are in the godowns and over two lakh tonnes are at Chittagong port.  
Another consignment of 2.5 lakh tonnes of rice from Vietnam will reach the Chittagong port by March 30. Besides, L/C was opened yesterday for importing two lakh metric tonnes of rice from Thailand.  
Dr Razzaque informed the reporters of the satisfactory food stock after a meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) at the planning ministry. LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Commerce Minister Faruk Khan, and Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen attended the meeting.  
The minister said Open Market Sale (OMS) will be expended to all unions, Dhaka City, industrial belts of Tongi, Savar, and Narayanganj.  
The rice price is expected to come down to Tk 30 kg before the boro comes to the market, from which the farmers expect to reap a bumper crop in about six weeks.  
"We'll be able to supply food in any situation as we have sufficient stock for keeping the market under control as well"  
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Automobiles used by ministers, MPs, and secretaries need not queue up to obtain CNG from the filling stations. The unwelcome advantage taking tendency exercised by the bureaucrats too often anger people waiting for hours to have their vehicles CNG filled. The photo was taken from in front of a CNG station in Moghbazar of the city yesterday.

**'Cut use of underground water'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A section of environmental activists yesterday said sources of drinking water should be preserved and rainwater should be used to reduce the use of underground water.  
Speaking at a view-exchange meeting, they said crisis of drinking water in Bangladesh has been deepening gradually due to pollution in natural drinking water sources like rivers, canals, ponds and other wetlands.  
As a result, dependency on underground water has been increased raising risk of health and environment, the environmental activists observed in the meeting organised at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity.  
Environmental activist Dr M Feroz Ahmed, Syed Mahbul Alam, Mobassher Hossain, Dr Abdul Matin, among others, spoke on the occasion jointly organised by the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and WBB Trust, says a press release.

**BDR MUTINY**  
**Eight witnesses cross-examined**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Fifty-seven suspected accused of BGB Sector Headquarters cross-examined eight prosecution witnesses who earlier gave depositions against the accused in a mutiny case at a special court in Pilkhana yesterday.  
Sepoy Wahiduzzaman, runner of the then Dhaka Sector Commander slain Col Mujibul Hoque, in his depositions said Sepoy Monsur Ali took part in the mutiny with arms.  
During the deposition, Sepoy Monsur was screened in a picture that showed he was holding a SMG near gate no 4 of BGB headquarters.  
The court then asked Mansur, "Is it your picture?" Mansur denied that it is not his picture. But during the cross-examination, Monsur admitted that he found a gun in front of his house and handed it over during the surrender.  
A total of 84 accused mutineers were produced before the Special Court-11 set up at the entertainment centre of 13 Rifle Battalion at Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) headquarters in Pilkhana yesterday.  
Col Iftekhar Uddin Mahmud, Sector Commander of Mymensingh of BGB, led the court that was adjourned till 9:00am of March 29.  
Meanwhile, the trial proceedings against the accused of 13 Rifle Battalion held for a short time at the BGB Darbar Hall yesterday, and only one prosecution witness gave depositions against the accused. The court was adjourned till 9:00am of April 17.  
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**Delwar safeguarded BNP in crisis point**

Leaders tell condolence meeting  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
BNP leaders yesterday paid tribute to the party's late secretary general Khandaker Delwar Hossain hailing his extra ordinary role during the military backed caretaker government.  
They also expected dedicated and committed leadership like him so that BNP can fight any sort of conspiracy in the future.  
Delwar was ignored within the party, but he played the most vital role in the crisis moment of the party and the country as well, they said.  
The leaders condoled the death of Khandaker Delwar Hossain at a meeting at Engineers Institution Auditorium in the city, chaired by BNP vice chairman Justice TH Khan.  
BNP standing committee members Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, RA Gani  
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