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BANGLADESHI ART IN SEOUL

An exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi masters draws art connoisseurs in the South Korean capital

PAGE 11

BAISHAKHI SALES

Boutiques are busy making traditional clothes to woo customers before Pahela Baishakh

PAGE B8

NY 'AT RISK'

New York is set to be a major loser in sea-level rise

PAGE 7

Govt trying to protect masterminds

Alleges BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday demanded that the probe report on share market anomalies be made public and blamed the government for trying to protect masterminds of the market manipulation.

Addressing a press briefing at the party's central office at Naya Paltan in the capital, the acting secretary general of the main opposition said the finance minister's approach of not publishing the full probe report is nothing but an attempt to save the manipulators.

About Friday's clash between BNP activists and police in Keraniganj on the capital's outskirts, Fakhrul said ruling party men and police jointly

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

NON-PUBLIC OFFERING

30 top share holders under scanner

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Private placement of shares, a method of raising capital, has been a major source of irregularities in the stockmarket, found the government probe committee on the recent share debacle.

The committee has asked the government to investigate irregularities in awarding shares to 30 top private placement holders.

Private placement is a non-public offering in which securities are usually sold to a limited number of chosen private investors.

The probe body led by Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled said the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) should extensively investigate the source of funds and a nexus of 30 top private placement holders.

In its report, the committee listed 100 such placement holders and singled out 30 of them for the probe.

One of the committee members told The Daily Star that massive corruption was done in the name of private placement, which had been used in bribery.

"There were attempts to influence powerful people by giving them placement," the report said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



A car goes over a speed breaker in an angle so that it does not scrape its bottom on the high bump. A large number of the speed breakers in the country are too high for small vehicles to scale over comfortably even at crawling speed. The photo was taken near Jahangirnagar University on Dhaka-Paturia Highway.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Milk magician

Bangladeshi scientist develops surgical thread from dairy by-product; trials show it doubly efficient

REAZ AHMAD

A Bangladeshi scientist has developed a fibre from milk protein as medical suture for repairing damaged tissues, cut vessels and surgical incisions in a biodegradable way.

The suture that combines a polymer with an easy to extract dairy by-product is more biocompatible than others available now, and hold the potential of minimising the use of drugs by patients.

And clinical trials on animals have already shown the fibre can help heal wound in almost half the time conventional suture materials do.

The man behind the breakthrough, biomaterials scientist Dr Azam Ali, disclosed this to The Daily Star in an exclusive e-mail interview from Christchurch, New Zealand.



Dr Azam Ali

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

NAT'L WOMEN POLICY PM seeks women's help

UNB, Sirajganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought cooperation from the women community to implement the newly formulated National Women Development Policy.

A certain quarter is misleading the common people by spreading false campaign against the policy, she said while addressing a public meeting at the BA College ground in the afternoon.

Hasina said that Awami League (AL) had never gone against the holy Quran and Sunnah and will never do so in the future.

"Let me assure you, AL

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Speed breakers the accident makers

Unauthorised, faulty bumps turn highways only too risky for vehicles, passengers

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Roadside residents and shopkeepers are building unauthorised speed breakers in their attempts to curb reckless driving, but the practice is exposing motorists to danger and

increasing travel time.

In a 40-kilometre stretch of road between Dhaka and Mawa, 41 speed bumps were built in the last two years.

Most of those bumps, made by local masons and laymen, are on

national highways without any marker or warning sign, posing a threat to motorists who are unaware of their existence.

Some are so incompetently built that those are too high for small

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

GABTOLI TO PATURIA Riding on bumps

MORSHED ALI KHAN

There are 61 speed breakers between Gabtoli Bridge in Dhaka and Paturia Ferry Terminal, 90km in the north. A gateway to south-western and northern districts, the road is a single lane extremely busy highway. The journey time on any normal day could take as long as four hours.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Poverty fight needs blended effort

Roundtable told isolated approach not enough

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Haphazard initiatives to reduce poverty will not yield desired results; a unified approach is needed to ensure poverty alleviation and its sustainability.

Development workers and analysts shared this view yesterday at a policy dialogue on sustainability of poverty reduction initiatives in Bangladesh.

They said an integrated approach involving the government, NGOs and private sector is needed to reduce poverty and injustice to the poor.

Analysts said poverty is a political issue

and it cannot be eradicated without equal focus on economic growth, more employment opportunities, education and wider social safety nets for the poor.

"We cannot simply treat poverty as a technical issue. It is a political issue," said Geof Wood, professor emeritus of Bath University in the UK.

"We need a holistic policy mix," he said, adding that individual projects will not be effective if it is implemented in isolation.

"We need a formal blended approach," said Wood at the dialogue jointly organised by The Daily Star and Shiree, an NGO,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



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