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Jubo League men ransack fair for toll
A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Pro-Awami League Jubo League activists demanding tolls ransacked a fair at Hizla upazila in Barisal on Wednesday.

Belayet Hossain Dhali, Guabaria union parishad chairman, said a three-day long Baishaki Mela was organised at the field of Kalikapur Govt Primary School.

He alleged that activists of Jubo League demanded tolls from the fair organising committee on Wednesday.

When they refused

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A shot of the colourful **Mongal Shobha Jatra**, a procession brought on Pahela Baishakh every year by the students of Fine Arts faculty of Dhaka University.

PHOTO: STAR

Pahela Baishakh celebrated
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation celebrated the Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla calendar, on Thursday amid traditional fanfare and festivity leaving behind the gloom of past and pledging to uphold the nation's heritage.

Tens of thousands of people from all walks of life dressed in traditional clothes poured into the streets, parks and open spaces across the capital and elsewhere in the country to welcome the year 1418.

Attired in traditional clothes, mostly sari and punjabi, they thronged venues of cultural programmes and make-shift fairs throughout the day.

Many expressed the determination to move forward with a vision to build a prosperous future through this year's carnival of Pahela Baishakh with traditional songs, music, fanfares and colourful processions.

The day was a public holiday.

The biggest venue of the celebration was set at the Ramna Batamul, where programmes started with a Chhayanaut performance of Rabindranath Tagore's song

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BSF shoots Bangladeshi cattle trader
UNB, Benapole

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot and injured a Bangladeshi cattle trader at Sadipur border of Benapole upazila in Jessore early Thursday.

The victim was identified as Mominur Rahman Munna, 23, son of Deen Mohammad Deenu of Namajgram village in the upazila.

Liaquat Ali, BGB commander of Benapole check post, said BSF members stationed at India's Petrapole fired on a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Rapid bus route planned for city

Work starts early next year on 45-km Gazipur-Sadarghat double-lane route

TAWFIQUE ALI

The government has planned to start work on a double-lane rapid bus route in the capital early next year to introduce an improved mass transportation service and ease the perennial traffic gridlock.

The 45-kilometre long route, otherwise known as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), has two segments. Stretching from Gazipur to Sadarghat, it will occupy two central lanes (6.5-metre wide) of the existing road.

The final feasibility report and preliminary design of its 20-km long section between Gazipur and Shahjalal International Airport is due by this month,

said Project Director Md Aminur Rahman Laskar.

The other portion, proposed in the Strategic Transport Plan as BRT-3, stretches from the airport to Sadarghat.

To manage the heavy load of traffic, the existing roads will be widened, added Aminur.

With the BRT in place, a commuter will be able to travel from airport to Sadarghat in about one-and-a-half hours, said officials involved in the scheme. Presently it takes more than three hours during peak hours.

There will be adequate number of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Punish reckless drivers
Govt urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Families of road crash victims on Thursday urged the government to extend jail term for guilty drivers and make their offence non-bailable.

Families United Against Road Accident (Fuara) arranged a signature

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

TRAPPED IN CONTAINER
Pot smoking was a factor

PORIMOL PALMA

The two Bangladeshis, who were discovered in a cargo container shipped from Chittagong to Singapore, had smoked marijuana in the container before being locked in.

"For some time, we forgot that we were in a container," said port worker Din Islam, who was lucky to survive after being trapped in the container for nine days without food or water, but his colleague Alamgir died after seven days.

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BGB jawan dies in jail

UNB, Gazipur

A jawan of Boarder Guard Bangladesh (BGB), who was kept as under-trial prisoner in Kashimpur Jail, died of chest pain yesterday.

The body of Santosh Chandra Dhar, 30, a resident of Ramchandi village in Araihasar upazila of Narayanganj, was handed over to his relatives.

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Correction

The photo credit for "Hill Hope in Frame" on page-12 of April 14 (Thursday) issue goes to Anurup Kanti Das. We regret the inadvertent error.

Dhaka asks Manama to regularise workers

10,000 undocumented workers affected in unrest-hit Bahrain

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh has sought Bahrain's intervention to regularise the undocumented workers affected by the political unrest and subsequent state of emergency in the Gulf nation.

"We have requested Bahrain's labour ministry to consider regularisation of the

undocumented workers, as they know local language and have work experience here," Bangladesh Embassy's First Secretary Muhammad Ibrahim told The Daily Star.

There are about 10,000 undocumented Bangladeshis of a total of 1.5 lakh Bangladeshi workers, he said, adding that

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PRAYER TIMING April 16

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr 4-35 | 5-10 |
| Zohr 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr 4-45 | 5-00 |
| Maghrib 6-24 | 6-28 |
| Esha 7-45 | 8-15 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

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ONLINE POLL

What to do with this Bangladesh cricket team?

1. give more time
2. replace captain
3. overhaul the team

Overhaul team (41.8%)
Replace captain (16.5%)
Give more time (41.8%)

TOTAL VOTES : 441

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think former army chief general Moeen U Ahmed's written explanation to parliamentary sub-committee probing the campus violence during last caretaker government's tenure is satisfactory?

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