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in Short

BEATING STUDENT
Khulna teacher suspended
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The managing committee of Noornagar PWD High School on Thursday suspended teacher Kamallesh Roy for six months with effect from May 5 for inflicting corporal punishment on Rizia

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Woman, daughter 'murdered'
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The bodies of a woman and her daughter were recovered from a paddy field at Delduar upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead were identified as Hazera

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents a framed photograph of Padma Boat, used by Rabindranath Tagore, to Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari at the inaugural function of the national programme arranged to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the poet laureate in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Hasina for secular, poverty-free S Asia

Opens Rabindranath's 150th birth anniversary celebration

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for concerted efforts to build a poverty-free South Asia being imbued with the spirit of democracy and secularism.

"As I always say, the main enemy for the

people of South Asia is poverty... we need to make concerted efforts to tackle hunger and poverty in the region," she said.

Hasina was speaking as the guest of honour at the inaugural function of the three-day national programme arranged to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

Hamid Ansari, vice president of India, also addressed the function as the guest of honour at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Columnist and language hero Ahmed



Ahmed Rafiq, left, and Ajit Roy have been awarded with Rabindra Purashkar 2011.



Rafiq and Rabindra Sangeet singer Ajit Roy were awarded with Rabindra Purashkar 2011 at the function, which was followed by a cultural presentation with songs and poems of the great poet.

Addressing the function, Hasina

expressed her strong commitment to build Bangladesh as a true welfare state in all respect cherishing the dreams of Rabindranath and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She said that to preserve the memories of Rabindranath in the lands of Bangladesh, the government has taken steps to set up Rabindra University at Shelaiddaha in Kushtia.

Hasina said her government also wants to set up a Bangladesh Bhaban at

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Stop killings on border

Khaleda urges India in meeting with Ansari

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has urged the Indian government to put an end to the frequent killing of Bangladeshi nationals in border areas.

Khaleda made the request when she paid a courtesy call to Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari at his Hotel Sonargaon suite here yesterday morning.

Bangladeshi people in border areas feel insecure as innocent people are often being killed, and the Indian government should take the matter

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Youth kills sister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student yesterday surrendered to police after killing his elder sister at the capital's Sabujbagh.

Mithun Bala, an honors student of Govt Kobi Nazrul College, told the police that he killed his sister Rekha Rahman, 30, for her extramarital affairs.

Rekha's husband Kamrul Hasan Sumon has been in Singapore for last six months. Mithun and his sister moved to a rented flat at West Mathertek of the city four months back.

Police said Mithun yesterday entered Rekha's bedroom around 2:00am when she was asleep and hacked in the head with a local machete.

Hearing the victim's scream, owner of the house and neighbours rushed there and found Rekha lying in a pool of blood, said Mohammad Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sabujbagh Police Station. Rekha died after a while.



Mithun Bala

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

GB official harassed, threatened

Police to probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Grameen Bank official was allegedly abducted by a group of unidentified people yesterday evening and released four hours later.

The victim, Sagirur Rashid Chowdhury, an account officer of the bank, said he was abducted around 7:30pm while going to Mirpur-1 from the bank's headquarters by a rickshaw.

The news of his abduction came a day after the Grameen Bank Employees' Association at a press conference

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Lower courts to get 250 more judges

Appointment of 101 underway

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Judicial Service Commission has planned to appoint around 250 more judges to lower courts under its proposed rules while appointment of 101 judges is underway.

According to the new rules, the candidates for lower court judges have to qualify in the examination for enrolment as advocates under Bangladesh Bar Council -- the licensing authority for the country's lawyers, said the commission sources.

The age limit for candidates has been extended to 32 years in place of 30 years in the proposed rules, so that one can complete Bar Council examination after finishing law school.

The Judicial Service Commission has

sent the set of rules to the president for approval, sources said.

A high official of the commission on April 30 told The Daily Star that the commission would take necessary steps for the appointment of 250 judges after the president approved the rules.

For the recruitment of the 101 judges and judicial magistrates, the commission has introduced the provision of 30 percent quota for freedom fighters' children.

The commission has already held a written test of over 1,600 candidates. The viva voce will soon be held, sources said.

Over 16 lakh cases are pending with lower courts across the country with only 1,256 judges to deal with them, said sources at the Supreme Court and the law ministry.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

BNP protests oil price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


The main opposition BNP yesterday protested the fresh hike in fuel prices and said the government decision will heighten public suffering.

"The government has failed in all fronts including controlling prices of essentials. Instead of resolving crises in public life, the government hiked the price of fuels which will further contribute to people's woe," BNP's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhurul Islam said.

He was talking to journalists after party chairperson's meeting with the visiting Indian vice president at Sonargaon Hotel.


The government on


SEE PAGE 19 COL 8




ONLINE POLL

Do you think US contradictory statements regarding Osama's death are undermining its success?

Yes  (64.1%)

No  (32.9%)

No Comments  (3.0%)

TOTAL VOTES : 237

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the hike of all petroleum products prices to adjust to the prices in the international market?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING May 7

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-31	6-35
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Concern over sending female workers to KSA

PORIMOL PALMA

A senior researcher of Human Rights Watch (HRW) has expressed concern over the government decision to send female domestic helps to Saudi Arabia where they are often abused by their employers.

"It's not the question if they will face abuse, but the question is when they will face it. Because I am sure that it'll happen," said Nisha Varia, who has been working at the Women's Rights Division of the HRW for eight years.

Her work mostly focused on the migrant domestic workers in Asia and Middle East. She came to Dhaka for attending a meeting on labour migration from April 18-22. On the sideline, she sat for an exclusive interview with The Daily Star to talk about the issue.

The Human Rights Watch is one of the



Nisha Varia, HR activist

world's leading independent organisations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights across the globe.

Following talks with a Saudi delegation in early April, Bangladesh's expatriates' welfare minister said Saudi Arabia might hire 10,000 female domestic helps and the process would start in two months.

During the talks Sanarcom and Baira -- associations of recruiting agencies of Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh -- signed a memorandum of understanding for workers' protection.

Nisha Varia, however, says domestic helps are not covered in Saudi labour law. So, they have neither weekly holidays nor any limit to working hours. Many have to work 18 hours a day for months or even years without a break.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Prof Yunus to remain MD until decision by GB board

Says his counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Yunus is still the managing director of Grameen Bank and will continue to be so until the bank's board of directors appoints a new MD, said Rokonuddin Mahmud, a counsel for the Nobel laureate, yesterday.


Rokonuddin's statement came a day after the Supreme Court (SC) affirmed a High Court verdict upholding the removal of Yunus from the post of managing director of the microlender he had founded three decades ago.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

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The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.



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