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3 workers electrocuted
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three construction workers were electrocuted and another sustained injuries at a construction site on English Road in the city's Kotwali yesterday.

The dead are Akram Mridha, 28, Sirajul Islam, 20, and Saiful Islam, 18, while the injured is Alamin, 22. They all hail from Fulpur in Mymensingh.

Alamin is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The incident happened around 10:30am when the four were moving a

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CNG PRICE HIKE

Transport fare up overnight

Auto-rickshaw drivers, bus operators charge extra; minister hints at fare hike

HELEMUL ALAM and NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

A day after the government increased the price of compressed natural gas (CNG), the burden of additional fare fell on the city commuters as public buses and CNG-run three wheelers yesterday started charging them more.

The price hike-- from Tk 16.75 to Tk 25 per cubic metre-- was brought into effect Thursday midnight.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday that the fares of buses and three wheelers will be increased this week.

Earlier on May 5, the government increased the prices of all petroleum products by Tk 2.

Josna, a resident of Mirpur-12, yesterday said, "A CNG driver has charged me Tk 20 extra to the metre fare to go to Baridhara from Mirpur."

Tapan Chandra Das, a bus passenger, said he had to pay extra Tk 2 in a Tarabo bus from Signboard to Jatrabari.

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Toddlers are employed by tanneries at Hazaribagh in the capital to collect and lay down small pieces of leather to dry in the sun. These child labourers get as low as Tk 15 for a day's work.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Indigenous girl killed after rape
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A 13-year-old indigenous girl was killed reportedly after being violated by a stalker at Zianagar in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari on Thursday night.

Police recovered the body of the victim, a student of Kamokkachhara Govt Primary School in the area, from the woods, some 250 yards of her house around 9:00am yesterday.

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SSC RESULTS 2011

Gap between urban, rural students widens

WASIM BIN HABIB

This year's record-breaking SSC results demonstrate the gap between education standards in urban and rural areas with most urban schools dominating the top of the list in every education board.

Though the authorities say the schools in rural areas are doing well in terms of pass rate, urban schools, particularly in metropolitan cities, remain the best for the last decade.

Educationists observe, most urban students fare better than the rural area students as they have tuition in addition to extensive classroom activities.

In an education system swallowed by capitalism students from solvent families achieve glorious results, they added. On the other hand, rural students from poor families struggle to obtain even pass marks as their schools cannot provide them with quality education, they added.

They placed stress on more training and monitoring to ensure good education in rural schools, otherwise the gap would be widened further.

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations, published on Thursday under the

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Continued help assured for Grameen's independence
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Friends of Grameen, an international platform promoting Grameen Bank and its activities, yesterday insisted that it will continue its fight to help the microfinance institution retain its independence.

The statement from the global platform came a day after Grameen Bank founder Prof Muhammad Yunus stepped down as the bank's managing director -- much to the

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RETURNEES FROM LIBYA

Delay in providing grant for workers

Govt says it will take 2 more months

PORIMOL PALMA

As returnees from war-torn Libya cry for help, the government says it needs two more months to start providing them each with Tk 55,000 grant announced in mid-April.

"We want to make the handover process foolproof. We'll give them the grant through banks. We need some more time to process all these," said Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan.

The grant is meant to meet their immediate needs, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said on April 17.

The government is borrowing \$40 million to that end from the World Bank, whose board has approved the loan, but its agreement with the government is yet to be signed, Khan told The Daily Star.

Starting from early March, nearly 36,000 Bangladeshis were repatriated from Libya. Most of them failed to bring any money home, as they were not paid

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SSC examinee kills herself after failure
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A girl committed suicide after failing to pass this year's SSC exams at Satla village of Uzirpur upazila in Barisal Thursday afternoon.

Bithika, 15, youngest daughter of Laxman Chandra Bain, hanged herself with a scarf from a beam of her tin-shed

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Falgunnee of Galachipa High School in Patuakhali sitting for her SSC exams a few months ago. She has secured GPA-5. She even obtained a primary scholarship in the talent pool in 2005. She had to have her hands amputated after a freak electrocution accident in 2002. Coming from a family doing not so well financially, Falgunnee plans to serve the country as a BCS cadre officer.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

COUNTER TERRORISM

Pakistan to review US cooperation

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan said it would review counter-terrorism cooperation with the United States as it came under growing domestic pressure to punish Washington for the Osama bin Laden raid.

It was unclear if the move Thursday was intended as a threat, but it showed the extent of the task facing US Senator John Kerry as he prepares to embark on a mission to shore up badly strained ties with Washington's

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US cancels DV lottery
AFP, Washington

US officials revealed yesterday they had canceled an annual visa lottery for citizens of poor nations, after a computer programme failed to make a random selection among some 20 million applicants.

"Regrettably, the results that were previously posted on this website are not valid, they were

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16 bombs recovered in Noakhali
UNB, Noakhali

Police recovered 16 handmade bombs at Hirapur village in Begumganj upazila of the district on Thursday night.

However, none was arrested in this connection.

Police said Nazrul Islam, resident of the village, found a bomb in a pile of straw in his house yard when he

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Bangladesh won't be an LDC after 10yrs

Says UN official

AFP, Istanbul

Bangladesh and Nepal are expected to graduate from the status of least developed countries (LDCs) within the next 10 years.

Cheick Sidi Diarra, the secretary general of the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs, said this during a press conference on the closing day of the gathering yesterday.

"Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, three Pacific small islands are already in line for graduation in coming three to five years," the UN official said.

"We have five or six countries that are lining up already for graduation," Diarra said, adding three oil-producing countries to the list: Equatorial Guinea, Angola and Timor-Leste.

"They are still weak in terms of human capital development," he said, although their per capita income exceeded the threshold set by the UN.

But the secretary general said they believe they would reach the level of graduation during a decade long course of the new action plan that is adopted in the conference.

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ONLINE POLL

Do you find BNP's rejection of the Supreme Court verdict regarding the caretaker government system justified?

Yes (64.9%)
No (32.8%)
No Comments (2.3%)

TOTAL VOTES : 399

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the hike in the CNG price is justified?

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OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM