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in Short

ARREST OF LEADER

BNP calls hartal in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The main opposition BNP has called a half-day hartal in Sirajganj for tomorrow protesting the arrest of its district general secretary advocate Mokaddes Ali.

Police arrested Mokaddes, also the district municipality mayor, from Hotel Sonargaon in the capital early yesterday in connection with a case filed against 72 leaders and activists of BNP.

The case was filed following a clash

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Urchins get on and off moving trains between Karwan Bazar and Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital on regular basis. What appears to be a game for them has cost limbs of many. In the shanties of Karwan Bazar many children are seen with missing limbs. The photo was taken from Moghbazar level crossing yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN KL

Brokers fleece workers over regularisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some brokers in Malaysia are taking hefty sums from undocumented migrants including Bangladeshis promising them regularisation. They claim they are government-authorised agents.

Three weeks back the Malaysian government decided that it would allow the illegals to get regularised or leave the country without any penalties. The brokers picked up this as an opportunity to deceive the migrant workers and make money.

Datuk Michael Chong of Malaysia Chinese Association, a regional NGO, told Malaysian newspaper The Star on June 13 they received complaints that some companies are taking 1,000 ringgits in advance from illegal immigrants for their registration with the government. The companies also said they would charge 10,000 ringgits to have the workers regularised.

Mantu Kumar Biswas, labour councillor of the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, said they also have heard of such incidents and already pub

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

5 killed in Narsingdi road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Five people were killed and 10 others injured when a pick-up rammed a stationary truck on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Gabtali bus stand in Shibpur of Narsingdi early yesterday.

The dead are labourers Shahid Mia, 45, Shahin, 25, Hamid, 35, Alauddin, 50, and an unidentified man, aged about 45, of the pick-up.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Experts suggest rail bridge over Jamuna

Restrictions on speed, load continue on Bangabandhu Bridge

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Construction of an exclusive rail bridge over the Jamuna has become very crucial as the Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge is now handicapped by various limitations, including restrictions on speed and load of trains.

The government should urgently construct the rail bridge parallel to the Bangabandhu Bridge, suggested experts, as it will be cost effective and can be built within two years.

"If the rail bridge is built to the north of the existing bridge, it would not require the costly river management, land acquisition and approach rail track," said Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, a civil construction expert.

It does not make any sense running trains on the bridge with so many limitations, he observed.

Though the current bridge has already lost about half of its capacity for developing numerous cracks, the train service over it continues, mentioned officials of Bangladesh Railway (BR).

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30,000 trees felled there

Patuakhali forest officials estimate a day after mindless destruction of mangrove forest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Forest officials yesterday visited Char Bestin in the coastal areas of Patuakhali and Bhola and found over 30,000 trees of the mangrove forest have been chopped down by around 400 locals on Thursday.

Of these trees, over 10,000

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

The felled trees at Char Bestin of Patuakhali. The photo was taken yesterday.

3 suspected Tahrir men arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested three suspected activists of outlawed Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir at the city's Shahi Eidgah yesterday afternoon.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station, around 3:00pm went to an abandoned house where a group of 10-15 people gathered. Sensing the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Efforts on to find treatment

DU offers legal aid to tortured teacher Rumana

RAKIB AHAMMED

With no treatment available in Bangladesh and India to restore Rumana Manzur's eyesight, her family is now approaching eye specialists in developed countries hoping to find some treatment for her eyes there.

"We are contacting hospitals and eye specialists abroad. They might do something in a complicated situation like this," said Rumana's cousin Rashed Maqsood.

He said they have already sent the diagnostic reports of Rumana's eyes to the USA, Singapore, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands.

"We are trying to explore if any doctor in the world can treat the eyes that do not respond to light," he said.

Rumana, an assistant professor of International Relations at Dhaka University and a postgraduate student at the University of British Columbia in Canada, sustained severe injuries as her husband Hasan Sayeed Sumon pushed his fingers into her eyes on June 5. He also gnawed her nose, cheek and throat.

Doctors in Bangladesh and India said her left eye has been completely damaged and the other one is not responding to light.

She is now taking treatment at capital's LabAid Hospital where doctors are trying to protect her eyes from infection.

Quoting doctors, her father

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Rumana Manzur

Sweden and the Netherlands.

BNP decides to recast JCD body

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The BNP high command has decided to form a new central executive committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), an associated body of the party, to give momentum to its ongoing anti-government movement.

A group of BNP leaders, who are known as former JCD leaders, have primarily selected members of an executive committee

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Triple blasts kill 23 in Baghdad

BBC ONLINE

At least 23 people were killed in three explosions in a busy district of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on Thursday, officials said.

The blasts hit the Shurt al-Raba market in the south of the city, an interior ministry official told AFP news agency.

The area was crowded with shoppers and at least 82 people were wounded by the explosions, which occurred in quick succession.

Violence in Iraq has fallen sharply from its peak in 2006, but deadly attacks still occur on a daily basis.

An interior ministry official said explosives loaded into wooden carts were detonated in the market at 06:40pm local time.

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8 held with liquor, beer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint team of Department of Narcotics Control and Rapid Action Battalion yesterday seized huge quantity of liquor and arrested eight youths at Ashulia in Savar yesterday.

Acting on a tip off, the team conducted a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Explosions rock Myanmar cities

Several wounded in serial blasts

REUTERS, Yangon

Four explosions rocked Myanmar's capital, Naypyitaw, and two other towns yesterday, residents said, adding several people were wounded but no one had been killed.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility or response from the authorities. Myanmar's government usually blames bombings on ethnic minority rebels.

The first three blasts went off within minutes of each other in three different places.

The first suspected bomb exploded in a jeep in Mandalay, the country's second-biggest city after the former capital, Yangon, at about 12:10pm (0540 GMT).

The incident happened near Zaygyo Market, a major shopping centre in the central city, about 400 miles north of Yangon.

"We heard the car was badly damaged and four people were wounded," a shopkeeper told Reuters by telephone from the town, adding the market was closed, otherwise

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar police inspect the site of a blast that destroyed a car near the main market in the central city of Mandalay yesterday.

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Nazmul Huda that there should be a talk between BNP and the government with active participation of Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina?

Yes (77.3%)

No (22.0%)

No Comments (0.7%)

TOTAL VOTES: 291

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP that Arafat Rahman Koko's conviction is politically motivated?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

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