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REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXI No. 348 | POUH 24, 1418 BS | SAFAR 12, 1433 HURI

RETELLING HISTORY

Review of a new book titled Murder Mayhem and Politics in Bangladesh

PAGE 12

CLIMATE BATTLE

Psychological management should be incorporated in disaster recovery plan

PAGE 24

'LEANER' US MILITARY

Obama unveils new strategy which is likely to axe thousands of troops

PAGE 7

Bright prospect of thriving e-healthcare

Bangladesh can make breakthrough if political will, policy support are there to promote use of ICT in healthcare to serve people better, say experts at The Daily Star leadership colloquium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh could make a big breakthrough in the healthcare system using information and communications technology if the government showed the necessary political will and provided proper policy support, said experts yesterday.

Some ICT based private and non-government initiatives in health management have already been introduced in the country and have seen remarkable success, while two key government agencies -- the Directorate of Health and the Department of Family Planning -- are implementing two relevant pilot

projects.

The opinion and information came from speakers in the plenary session of The Daily Star Leadership Colloquium 2012 on "ICT in Healthcare: Ensuring Efficiency and Accountability". The two-day event

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2 COLLOQUIUM SPECIAL ON PAGE 21, 22 & 23



PHOTO: STAR

Audience at The Daily Star Leadership Colloquium 2012 on ICT in Healthcare: Ensuring Efficiency and Accountability held yesterday. Inset, David K Aylward, a senior adviser to Global Health and Technology, presenting the keynote speech at the event.

SAVING POLLUTED, ENCROACHED RIVERS Tall talks, little success

PINAKI ROY

The government has spent at least Tk 100 crore to save Dhaka's rivers from pollution and encroachment in the last 30 months, but the initiative appears to have seen little success.

The move was frustrated by the lack of coordination among government agencies and an unholy alliance between government officials, politicians, businessmen and encroachers, say experts.

After taking office, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made pledges to put an end to encroachment and pollution in the Buriganga, Shitalakkhya, Turag and Balu rivers amid growing demand for saving the



3 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT

rivers. According to a decision of inter-ministerial River Saving Taskforce in 2009, steps were taken to stop discharge of industrial and household wastes into rivers, earth filling and encroachment.

Besides, the High Court gave a set of directives the same year asking the government to demarcate riverbanks, demolish illegal structures, and stop river pollution and earth filling.

Despite all these efforts to save the rivers, thousands of tonnes of sludge has been discharged into the Buriganga and

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

Govt efforts to save rivers to continue

Says shipping minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will continue its efforts to save the rivers around Dhaka from encroachment and pollution, said Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday.

"A taskforce has been formed to protect the rivers. We have started setting up boundary

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Zero tolerance for BCL wrongdoings

AL high-command for action against offenders

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League has directed the authorities concerned to show zero tolerance for Chhatra League leaders who embarrassed the party and the government by being involved in violence and an attempted rape incident in Satkhira on Wednesday.

It has also directed the Bangladesh Chhatra League high ups not to provide protection to the perpetrators for the interest of Awami League, Chhatra League and the government's image.

"We have directed the authorities concerned to take

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

NEWS ANALYSIS

PM'S ADDRESS TO NATION

'Successes' override people's concerns

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Addressing the nation on Thursday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina spoke at length about successes and development activities of the government, but skirted around some of the pressing issues that people were keen to hear about.

Almost every single achievement of the Awami League-led grand alliance government made it to her speech. Even the distribution of multimedia laptops to 503 primary schools got a mention.

The prime minister also did not forget to mention the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Tributes paid to Samson Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flowers were there, on the church altar, benches and in the hands of the people from all walks of life who came in their thousands and paid their tribute to the country's legendary industrialist Samson H Chowdhury yesterday. Ministers, lawmakers,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5 PHOTO ON PAGE 20

CTG ROAD MARCH

BNP prepares to go for next round of agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP is yet to finalise the next course of its movement which the party chairperson is expected to announce in the Chittagong polo ground rally on Monday.

Party insiders said Chairperson Khaleda Zia may sit with the senior leaders today in this regard. If this meeting does not come out with a decision she will finalise the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6 MORE ON PAGE 5

GOVT'S 3 YEARS Imam differs on opinion poll results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser HT Imam yesterday expressed his disagreement with the survey reports of The Daily Star and Prothom Alo on the government's three years in office.

Speaking to BBC Bangla radio, he claimed the number of success stories

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries is deeply shocked at the sad demise of Mr. Samson H Chowdhury on 5th January 2012. Late Mr. Chowdhury had long been actively involved with the Association as its President and Advisor.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries

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