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Martyr Asad:
our timeless hero

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Asaduz zaman, a student of the department of history of Dhaka University, president of the DU unit and general secretary of the Dhaka city unit of East Pakistan Chhatra Union (Menon group), died on this day in January 1969 while leading a protest march on the streets of Dhaka. His death occurred when Pakistan's security forces, on instructions from the government, fired into the crowd. It was a crowd of Bengalis raising the very legitimate

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SCHOOL COMMITTEES 62pc political appointees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 62 percent members of the school managing committees (SMCs) are politically nominated, and this is one of the key reasons for anarchy in the education sector, said a Dhaka University (DU) professor quoting a World Bank study which is yet to be released.

"These members have connections with ministers. The teachers or educators concerned remain helpless before these SMC members," Dr ASM Amanullah, professor of DU Sociology department, told a dialogue at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Amanullah, a researcher involved with the study on school management last year, said it is nothing but the sickness of society and the state. Unless the state addresses the problem, it is not possible to overcome it, he said.

The Department of Applied Sociology of ASA University Bangladesh organised the dialogue on morality and the lack of it of teachers and way forward.

Other academics at the dialogue also said political interventions and irregularities in teachers' recruitment had led to a degradation of morality among teachers, many of whom then get involved in irregularities.

Speakers at the event identified some major drawbacks in the education sector, including teachers' lack of

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PHOTO: STAR

Herons gather in a paddy field of Katakhal, Rajshahi, to have a feast on insects. These wild birds are disappearing fast from the marshlands and ponds in the northern region owing to indiscriminate trapping and shooting for their meat, and also because of a lack of sanctuary.

Khaleda for unity against govt to 'save country'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all to forge a united anti-government movement to protect the country from a disaster.

"Please come together to save the country, people and education system from disaster. Nothing will be achieved through isolated movements," she told at a discussion at the auditorium of Institution

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Kadar cleared of last 2 cases

Carjacking, robbery charges found false

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday finally submitted the probe reports excluding the name of Dhaka University student Abdul Kadar who was tortured in police custody in connection with cases filed last year.

The probe reports submitted by Detective Branch of police say the charges brought against Kadar were found to be "false and fabricated," court sources said.

"No evidence was found to prove the



Abdul Kadar

charges of committing robbery and carjacking against Kadar," the reports add.

On November 3 last year, Kadar was relieved from another case filed with Khilgaon police for possessing sharp weapons. A Dhaka court passed the order relieving Kadar following an appeal submitted by DB Inspector Mohammad Shahjahan, also investigation officer of the case.

The two cases were filed in connection

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USE OF \$1B CREDIT India relaxes condition

BSS, Dhaka

India yesterday relaxed a major condition on using its \$1 billion credit to Bangladesh to expedite the implementation of various projects with this loan.

A major hurdle to implementing the projects was the condition of purchasing 85 per cent of supply from Indian origin, allowing Bangladesh sourcing only 15 per cent from the local market.

But India has agreed to allow Bangladesh more

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Gilani stands firm in contempt battle

Insists on complete immunity for Pak president; court adjourned until February 1

AGENCIES

Pakistan's embattled prime minister yesterday defended himself against contempt charges before the Supreme Court, refusing to back down in a case that could see him disqualified from office if convicted.

It is only the second time that Pakistan's highest court has initiated contempt proceedings against a sitting



Yousuf Raza Gilani

prime minister, plunging the weak government deeper into a crisis that could force early elections within months.

With the government also under enormous pressure from the army and judiciary over a memo asking Washington to prevent a feared coup last May, the administration is widely believed to be staggering on its last legs.

The turmoil is so profound that it has

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A cloud of dust kicked up by vehicles on the dilapidated Bahaddarhat Terminal Road in Chittagong. People traveling on this road struggle with dust every day but the authorities are yet to take any initiative for its renovation. The photo was shot a couple of weeks back.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

PROECTING CTG Preparations on for March 8-23 festival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Preparations are under-way to showcase the rich heritage and business potentials of Chittagong, the country's second most important city, through a special festival styled "Odommo Chattagram" (Indomitable Chittagong) in March.

The Daily Star took the initiative of projecting the brighter sides of the port city through the 16-day festival starting from March 8. We inadvertently mentioned the launching date of the event as March 18 in yesterday's issue.

The festival will kick-start with a gala opening

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ROAD CRASH Worker's death sparks protests, vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred garment workers blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway at Borobari of Gazipur for three hours protesting the death of a coworker in a road accident, yesterday morning.

Vehicular movement came to a halt following the blockade, causing a long tailback on both sides of the thoroughfare in Gazipur and Uttara.

The deceased worker identified as Sheuli Akhter, 22, was a sewing operator of Best Shirt Ltd and lived with her parents at Borobari.

Coworkers said Sheuli died on the spot as a Dhaka-bound bus ran over her around 7:50am while she was crossing the highway with some of her colleagues on their way to work.

As the news spread, agitating factory workers and locals barricaded the highway and staged angry

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DHAKA-BARISAL ROUTE Launch fares rise up to 33pc

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Owners of launches plying on Dhaka-Barisal route raised fares up to 33 percent on the existing from Wednesday.

According to the new fare chart, a passenger now has to pay Tk 240 for travelling on deck instead of previous Tk 180, Tk 950 for a single cabin which was Tk 600, Tk 600 for single seat which was Tk 350 before and Tk 5,000 for a VIP cabin which was previously Tk 3,500.

Passengers of state-owned Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) vessels on the same

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DHAKA-DINAJPUR HIGHWAY Robbers loot 25 vehicles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Robbers looted at least 25 vehicles on the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway in Nawabganj upazila of the district in the early hours of yesterday.

The firearms they used in the robbery were of Highway Patrol Police, said Dinajpur police.

Ahead of the robbery, 10 to 15 men around 1:30am held hostage highway policemen Sub-Inspector Golam Mawla, a second officer of Nawabganj Police Station; and two constables Mokhesur Rahman and Hafiz Uddin,

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ব্যাকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ফোন করুন

১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে

জনস্বার্থে
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