NEWS IN brief

Star-BSRM-Drishty debate contest final May 12

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The quarter and semifinal rounds of The Daily StarBSRM-Drishty national English debate championship were held at the district Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

Eight schools of the port city contested in the quarter finals. Of them, Cider International School Team-1 and Bangladesh Elementary School reached the final round, which will be held on May 12.

Meanwhile, a two-day "The Daily Star-BSRM-Drishty inter-university debate competition" will start on May 11 with the participation of 12 univer-

Youth beaten to death in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A young man was beaten to death in the city's

Pathantola area yesterday saying him 'theft'. The deceased was Foyez Ahmed, 18, son of Gous Miah of Ambarkhana area.

Sources said Foyez entered the house of one Afroz Miah in Pathantola area at about 11:00am. Sensing stealing, the inmates and their neighbours gave him a good beating.

He was rushed to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where, the doctors declared him dead.

However, the deceased's brother Ali Ahmed claimed that Foyez had gone to the house to meet a boy, known to him.

Sylhet Kotwali police said the house owner and three others were picked up for quizzing. They seized a motorbike of the youth.

Muggers shoot trader, snatch Tk 4 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot a trader and looted Tk 4.20 lakh from him in the capital's Jurain area yesterday.

The victim Jamal Uddin, 45, is an owner of a grocery shop in Mirhajirbag.

About four people riding two motorbikes halted him while he was going to a bank to deposit the money at about 1:30pm, snatched the money after shooting two bullets in his left thigh, said Jamal.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Jamal filed a case with Shyampur Police Station, said police.

NGO Affairs Bureau web hacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The website of NGO Affairs Bureau (www.ngoab.gov.bd), which is under the supervision of the prime minister's office, remained closed for last two weeks as it was hacked, said the officials.

Khorshed Alam, an official of the bureau, said the website could not be restored as the lone programmer of the bureau Morshed Alam was on leave due to illness.

Book on Dr Khan Sorwar published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangle Academy has published a felicitation book on reputed educationist and diplomat Prof Dr Khan Sorwar Murshid recently.

The title of the book is "Khan Sarwar Murshid Shongbardhana-Grantha".

Fifty writers wrote the book that contains 400 pages, says a press release.



Roundtable

Shujan will organise a roundtable; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Memorial meeting

Sector No-7 Muktijoddha Parishad will hold a memorial meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time:

Human chain

Swadhinata Forum will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am. Rally

Bangabandhu Mancha will arrange a protest rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Sit-in

Bangladesh Polytechnic Shikkhak Samity and Bangladesh Polytechnic Shikkhak Parishad will stage a sit-in; Venue: Directorate of Technical Education, Agargaon; Time:



Change in temperature likely

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having channels of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Rangpur, Rajshahi divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and it may continue, said Met Office.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32pm and rises tomorrow at 5:18am.

Country's highest temperature 39.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.5 degrees at Rajshahi.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major

cities and towns yesterday were: **Humidity** in City/Town Temperature in Celsius percentage Morning Evening Dhaka 35.2 26.5 32.2 Chittagong 25.4 Rajshahi 39.2 24.5 34.8 26.3 57 Rangpur Khulna 36.2 26.5 67 Barisal 35.1 26.3 65 Sylhet 35.2 25.5 60



Black clouds of smoke billowing from a mock airplane accident staged at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday. The exercise, conducted every two years, involved fire fighters, armed forces personnel, airline representatives and others concerned. PHOTO: COURTESY

Declare Bangla as official UN language: President

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) to declare Bangla as an official United Nations (UN) language.

City

"I hope the UN will consider the matter with due importance, showing respect to the Bangla-speaking people of the world," he said.

The president was addressing a special convocation at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University where he conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Unesco Director General Irina Bokova.

The degree was in recognition of the outstanding contribution of Irina Bokova, the first female director general of Unesco, in the field of education and culture.

Zillur said, "I believe it (the degree) would act as a bridge between Unesco and the University of Dhaka."

He said the people of Bangladesh are very grateful to Unesco for declaring 21st February

as International Mother Language Day.

Bangladesh is a South Asian country of huge potential. "Unesco has been working for the development of education, science and culture of Bangladesh since the country's inception," said Zillur, chancellor of Dhaka University. Bangladesh has been playing an impor-

tant role in raising world opinion in favour of world peace and climate change issues and gone a long way in achieving the Millennium Development Goal targets, said Zillur. Expressing gratitude on being conferred

faction in the progress Bangladesh made in the fields of education, food and human development. Addressing the programme, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique

the degree, Irina Bokova expressed her satis-

ring the degree to "a friend of Bangladesh". Parliament members and DU syndicate and senate members, deans of different

said Dhaka University takes pride in confer-

faculties and teachers were present at the convocation.

Launch, bus catch fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A triple-decker passenger launch caught fire while being repaired in a dockyard at Kaliganj of South Keraniganj in the capital's outskirts yesterday.

A firefighter, Zahid Hossain, suffered injuries while dousing the flames and had been admitted to Mitford Hospital.

Shahidul Islam Bhuiya, owner of the vessel MV Parabat-9, said sparks from a welding machine, being used by workers on the second floor, ignited a pile of foam kept nearby at around 9:10am.

"As the ceilings and the furniture on the cabins are all made of wood, the fire took no time to spread all over," he said.

Shahidul, also owner of the dockyard, Madaripur Dock, said by the time firefighters doused the flames around 12:50pm, only the launch's iron structure was left.

He added that the launch, which plies on the Dhaka-Barisal route, was docked there for the last 10 days for repairs.

Meanwhile, a fire resulting from an overheated engine burnt down a passenger bus at the capital's Moghbazar yesterday morning.

Fire brigade sources said they doused the flames on the bus of Sakalpa Paribahan before Moghbazar Wireless Gate at around 10:00am and none was hurt in the incident.

BEGUNBARI-HATIRJHEEL ROAD

HC stays plot allotment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the allotment process of plots allegedly prepared on a proposed 60-feet-wide road of the capital's Begunbari-Hatirjheel development project. Issuing a suomoto order based on a newspaper report,

the court said the stay order will remain in force till further orders. It also summoned six people, including former BNP state ministers Ziaul Haque Zia and Maj (retd) Kamrul Islam, to

appear on May 16 to explain their roles in "illegally and

improperly" allocating and receiving the plots. The four others are Ziaul's son Joy, Kamrul's wife Nazma Islam, the Rajuk chairman and the public works department chief engineer.

The court asked the chairman to submit a report to it by May 16 on whether any other plots were prepared on the proposed roads, their numbers, whether they were handed over and names of the receivers.

It issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain why the allocation of the plots should not be cancelled. It also asked the authorities concerned of the government

and Anti Corruption Commission to explain why they should not be directed to prosecute those responsible for making the plots. The court requested Prof Dr Sarwar Jahan of Bangladesh

University of Engineering and Technology and Abul Hasnat of Department of Architecture to be present to provide their opinion on the development of the capital's roads. The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury

Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim came up with the order following a report published on the daily Samakal on March 24, 2010. Headlined "Sarak prokolpo ratarati hoye gelo shilpo plot"

(road project became industrial plot overnight), the report said the BNP-led four-party alliance government allocated the road to the state ministers in 2006, violating a plan of A 10-katha plot was given to Nazma, director of Famous

Fashions Limited, and two plots on one and a quarter bighas of land were given to Joy at a very minimal cost, it said. Joy and Nazma got the land at Tk 1.25 lakh per katha

though the market price was around Tk 1 crore, it added. Assistant Attorney General Yeadia Zaman yesterday

placed the report before the HC bench for necessary orders.

She said "a conscious citizen" brought the report to her notice and requested her to place it before the HC.

10 Ruet students expelled

SAJIB MURDER

RU CORRESPONDENT

Ruet authorities on Tuesday expelled ten students, also Chhatra League (BCL) activists, for involvement in the murder of a student.

Those expelled for life include electronic engineering department students Mohaiminul Haque Polash, Sultan Rajibul Islam, Tanvir Ahmed and Zahangir Alam, in their fourth year, and Sufian Alam, in his third year, and a mechanical engineering department student, Md Arafat Al Jami Rezwan, in his third year. Those expelled for three

years include civil engineering department students Mirza Abu Golam Rasel and Jayan Ahmed, in their third year, and Kazi Mastiyak Ahmed, in his fourth year, while Aminul Islam, in his third year, was expelled for two years. Aziz Khan Sajib, organis-

ing secretary of Zia Hall unit BCL and a student of civil engineering department, died on March 16 following an attack by rival BCL activists on March 12. The expulsion decision

came at a meeting of the

Ruet disciplinary committee, chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Sirajul Karim Chowdhury, on the basis of a report prepared by a committee formed by Ruet. Ruet student adviser Dr

Shamimur Rahman said they took the decision after scrutinising the responses of the students concerned.

JU BCL men vandalise Bangabandhu hall

JU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra League (BCL) men of Jahangirnagar University's (JU) Moulana Bhasani Hall unit vandalised some rooms of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall yesterday over an attack on one of their activists.

Injured Nur Nabi, of Moulana Bhasani Hall, was given treatment at the JU medical centre.

He alleged that the Bangabandhu hall BCL men led by Rubel, Shagor and Shamim attacked him at the JU swimming pool, accusing him of being an outsider.

In retaliation, Moulana Bhasani Hall BCL activists led by Aornab, Ferdous, Sayed, Shopon and Sohel carried out the vandalism, said witnesses.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Hossain, director of United Services Ltd (local agent of

passed away at United Hospital in the capital yesterday at the age of 64.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurunnessa Begum, wife of late Qazi Mahtabuddin Ahmed, died of old-age complications at her Bakshibazar residence in the capital yesterday at the age of 90.

She left behind four sons and two daughters to mourn her death.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bithi Rani Bashu

Bithi Rani Bashu, mother of Kishore Kumar Bashu, coorganising secretary of Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee, passed away yesterday noon at her residence in Dhaka due to old age complications.

She left behind husband and two sons.

Cop killed wife, body found after 19 days STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of a housewife yesterday from a water body at Uttara in the capital after 19 days of killing by her husband, a policeman. The victim is identified as Sumi Akhter, 19, wife of

Abdul Alim Sumon, a constable working at Industrial

Police of Gazipur. Police arrested Sumon and his friend

Shamim Al Mamun on Tuesday in this connection. Sumon admitted to police that he killed Sumi to make a way of marrying a female constable as he had an extra-

marital affair with her. The body was recovered from under the water hyacinths. A scarf was found wrapping around the victim's neck.

Father of the victim, Sultan Mahmud, told The Daily Star that his daughter came to his house on April 10 from Sumon's house at Kalihati of Tangail.

Sumi went out from home around 8:30am on April 20 as Sumon asked her to come to Tangail bus stand. Around 9:30am, she told her mother over cell phone that she was on the way to Jamuna Bridge on a motorbike

with her husband, said Sultan Mahmud. But at noon family members found Sumi's cell phone off.

this connection. Detecting Sumon and Shamim's phone numbers in victim's cell phone call lists, police arrested the two. Following their confessional statement, the body was recovered. At primary interrogation, Sumon said he took Sumi to

Turag and killed her on April 20 evening. His friend helped him to commit the crime, said Nazrul Islam, officer-incharge of Tangail Police Station. Partnership."

Book titled

Europe 2012'

launched

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

'Bangladesh and

The envoys of the European Union yesterday launched a book titled "Bangladesh and Europe 2012" marking the Europe Day and 40 years of partnership between Bangladesh and the EU.

The book, which is first attempt to display the full extent of cooperation between the EU and Bangladesh, is also published on the occasion of celebration of 40 years of independence of Bangladesh.

Ambassador and Head of the delegation of the EU William Hanna, Ambassador of Netherlands Alphons Hennekens, German Ambassador Holger Michael Danish Ambassador Sven Olling, Swedish Ambassador Anneli Lindahl Kenny, Italian Amabssador Giorgio Gugliemino, Spanish Ambassador Luis Tjeda Chacon, British High Michel Trinquier.

Lake Shore Hotel organised on the occasion of the European Day yesterday as well as "Bangladesh and the European Union 40 Years of

'OCCUPYING' BANGLA COLLEGE LAND

AL MP Aslamul to face court May 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday summoned ruling Awami League lawmaker Aslamul Haque to appear before it on May 16 to explain his role over the allegation occupying a fourbigha land of Government Bangla College at Mirpur in the capital.

In response to a writ petition, the court directed the deputy commissioner of Dhaka to conduct a survey over the land through forming an expert committee and to submit a report along with relevant papers before it by May 16.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim passed the order following the writ petition filed by advocate Manzill Murshid on behalf of the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

Murshid filed the petition yesterday on the basis of a report published in Bangla daily Bangladesh Pratidin on May 5 stating that the possession of four bighas of land of the college is under possession of Aslam, AL lawmaker from Dhaka-14 constituency.

He prayed to the court to pass necessary order to recover the land of the government college from illegal possession. The HC also issued a rule upon the government to explain

in two weeks why its failure to protect the land should not be declared illegal. In the rule, the court asked the government to explain

Secretaries to the ministries of land, home affairs and education, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, DC of Dhaka, officer in charge of Mirpur Police Station and

Aslamul Haque were made respondent to the rule. Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain represented

Commissioner Robert Gibson and French Ambassador A GD was filed with Tangail Police Station on April 21 in why it should not be directed to recover the land from the They jointly launched the possession of Aslam. book at a press conference at

the government.