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HOME OF DESIRE

Rubana Huq muses on Meena Alexander's poetry

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THE RENAISSANCE VOICE

The musical magic of legendary singer-composer Kamal Das Gupta

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'LOTS OF LOVE'

David Cameron signed text to ex-Murdoch aide Rebekah Brooks

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Buriganga in peril

Faulty demarcation flouting HC order creates scope for grabbing the river's foreshore

TAWFIQUE ALI

The government itself now seems poised to make the Buriganga a leaner stream by squeezing its shorelines in violation of a High Court order.

Earlier, in April last year, the Turag river suffered a similar fate as Gazipur district administration demarcated it by excluding the foreshores.

Dhaka district administration and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) started demarcation of the Buriganga and part of the Turag and Balu rivers from Keraniganj in December last as per cadastral survey (CS) records.

They are doing the job on the basis of the revised survey (RS) records that exclude foreshores recovered from illegal occupation a decade ago. They are even ignoring the legal definition of river foreshore, said competent sources.

The authorities have also disregarded a government committee's recommendation for a fresh survey to identify the foreshores before starting the demarcation work.

They will set up 6,000 pillars along 99-kilometre long river stretch from Fatullah to Ashulia at a cost of Tk 15 crore.

Pillars have already been set up along the lean water flow of the Buriganga stretching from Sinnirtek towards National Botanical Garden and Birulia. Concrete pillars have been installed in Ramchandrapur and Ashulia also, virtually turning the river into a canal.

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The authorities have demarcated the Buriganga in Birulia and Sinnirtek, inset, in Dhaka excluding the foreshore of the river. The act ignores a government committee suggestion for a fresh survey of the foreshores and violates a High Court order to maintain the natural course of the river.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Cases aimed at barring BNP leaders from polls

Alleges Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government was filing cases against the top opposition leaders "to keep them away from the next parliamentary elections".

"The government won't be successful in implementing the conspiracy. The countrymen as well as the world community have raised their voices for a non-party neutral government to make the next elections participatory," he said while addressing a joint meeting of city unit leaders of

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ROAD ACCIDENTS

AL leader, 2 journos among 15 killed

PM orders arrest of drivers



Iftekhar Hossain Shamim
Sylhet AL leader



Bibhas Chandra Saha
Journalist



Shahiduzzaman Titu
Photojournalist

STAR REPORT

Fifteen people including Awami League's Sylhet district unit senior vice-president Iftekhar Hossain Shamim and two journalists were killed in road accidents in Sylhet, Dhaka and Gaibandha yesterday.

Eight people, including Iftekhar Hossain Shamim, were killed and 30 oth-

ers injured when a truck collided head on with an intercity bus on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Teromile of Osmaninagar, some 22km away from Sylhet city, yesterday morning.

Shamim's wife and daughter were also injured.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 20

Danger lurks on roads

M RAHMAN

Wild driving inspired by poor enforcement of traffic rules and soft penalty have made the highways across the country and the streets of the capital death traps.

Fifteen people died in road accidents across the country yesterday alone.

Last year, the number of road casualty in the country was 2,467 while the number of the vehicles involved was 12,226.

Of them, 1,063 were buses and 801 trucks, according to the Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

The ARI has analysed the data on road accidents of 13 years (1998-2010)

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Big promise, small pay

Employers in UAE pay Bangladeshi workers much less than amount mentioned in job contracts

PORIMOL PALMA

Before leaving for the United Arab Emirates in early 2008, Shakil Hossain signed a job contract that offered him a monthly wage of 1,200 dirham (1 dirham equivalent to Tk 22). It was quite lucrative for the plumber although he had to spend Tk 2.5 lakh for the job in Dubai that he believed would change his fate.

But his dream was shattered as soon as he joined the job. Shakil's employer -- a construction company -- asked him to submit to it documents of his job contract and sign a new one that cut his wage to 550 dirham a month.

"The company asked me to return home if I did not sign a new contract. It was an unexpected shock for me," said Shakil, 30, of Nawabganj, Dhaka. Having no alternative, he signed it. He left the job after a year since he could save little out of his wage.

Shakil is one of the many Bangladeshi and other

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YUNUS, MICROCREDIT Ministers' comments draw flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The comments made by two ministers criticising Prof Muhammad Yunus and microcredit had no merit and they only reflected their inferiority complex, said political analysts and civil society members yesterday.

The authorities here should have celebrated the achievements of the Bangladeshi Nobel laureate, but they are instead ridiculing him, which is regrettable, they noted.

Finance Minister AMA Muhiith on Tuesday termed unwarranted the comment of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that the US does not endorse any action of the Bangladesh government

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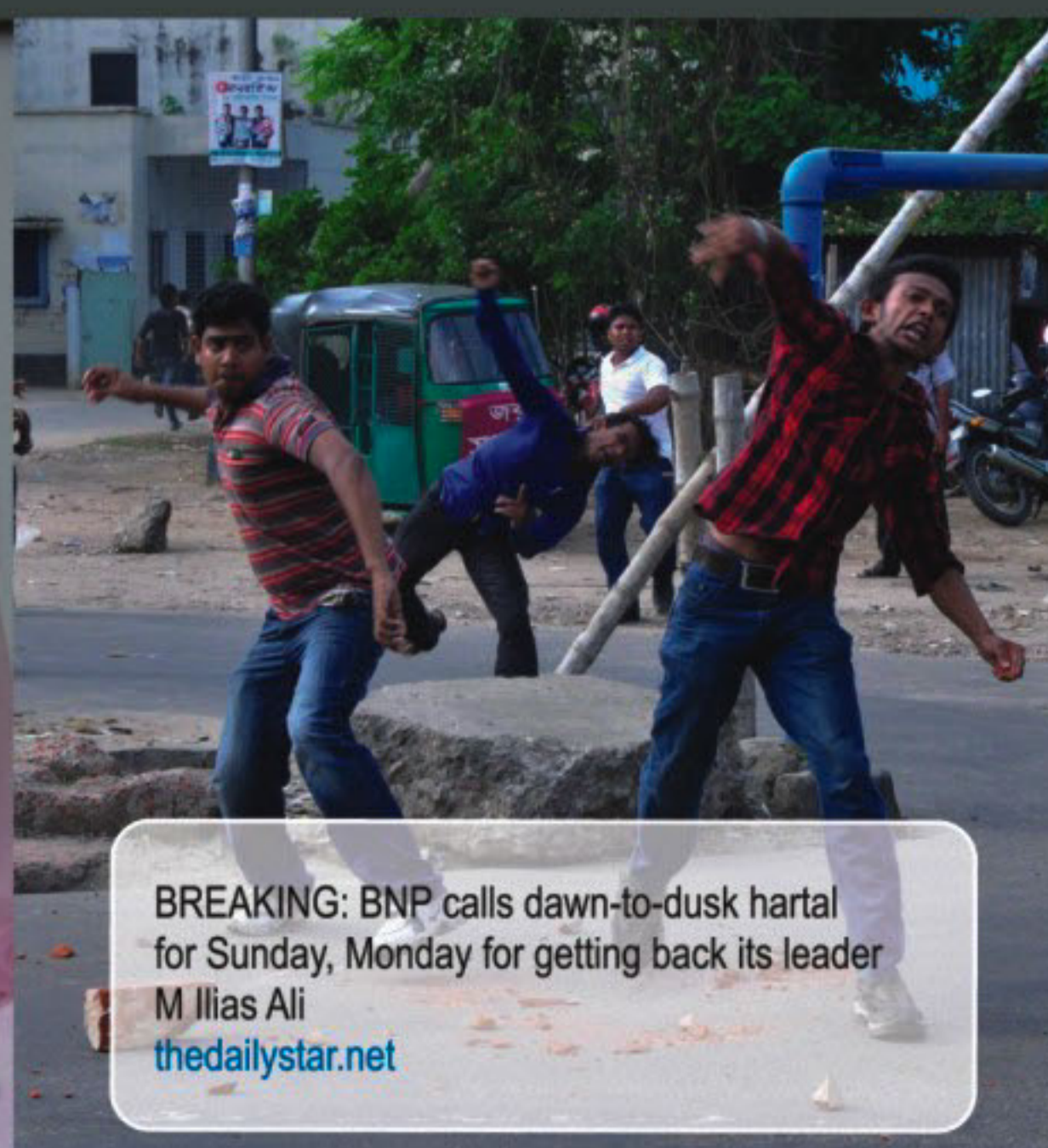
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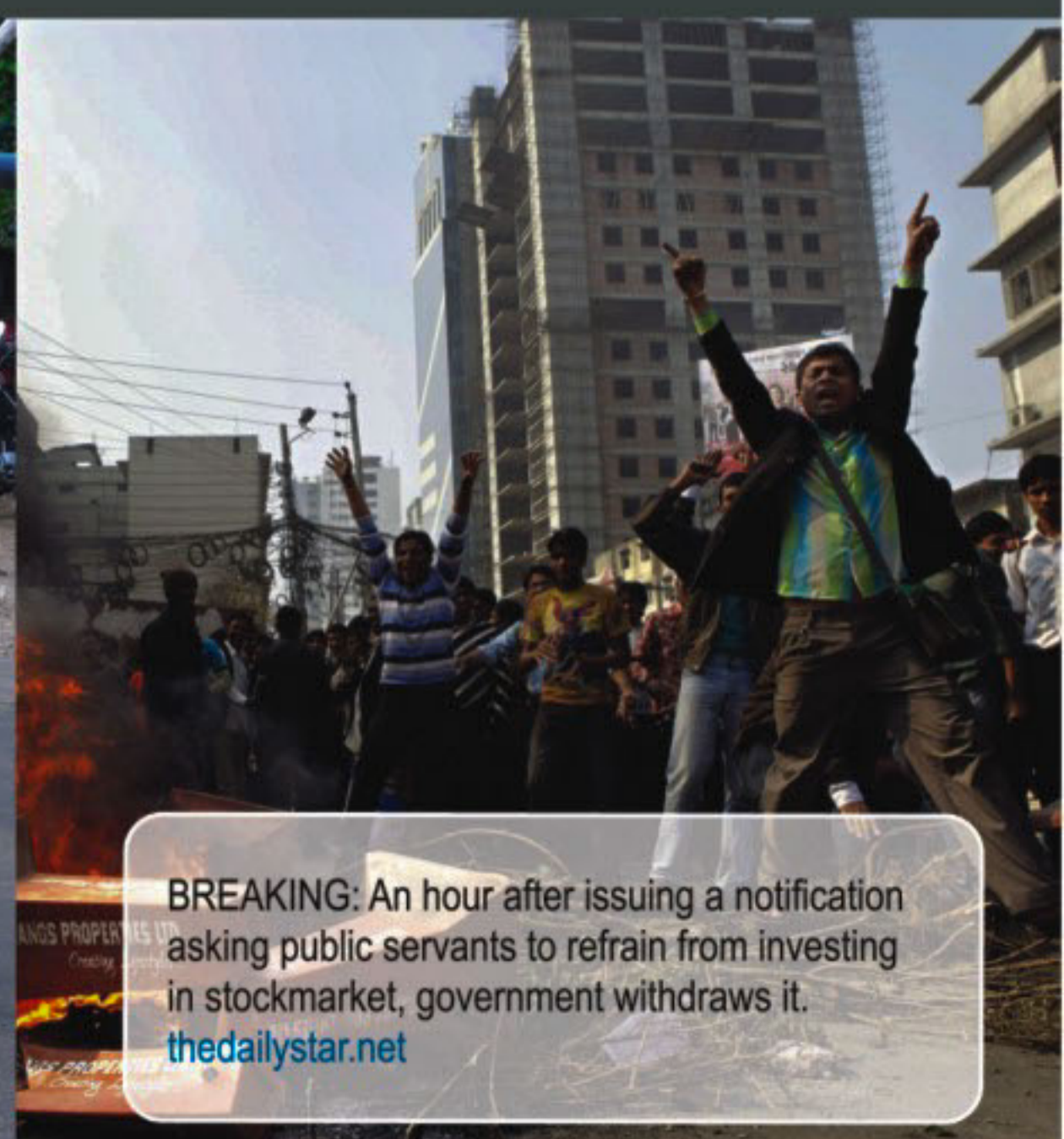
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BREAKING: Khaleda gives govt four more days to find out BNP leader Ilias Ali, threatens to go for tougher programme if govt fails to trace him.
thedailystar.net



BREAKING: BNP calls dawn-to-dusk hartal for Sunday, Monday for getting back its leader M Ilias Ali
thedailystar.net



BREAKING: An hour after issuing a notification asking public servants to refrain from investing in stockmarket, government withdraws it.
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