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 A must for service delivery, sustainable democracy
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DEFAULTED LOANS RISE
 The amount climbs 11.68pc in the first quarter this year
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SHAH RUKH IN HOT WATER
 The Bollywood star faces lifetime ban from Mumbai's main cricket stadium
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In the same boat, with frustration

Ignored AL allies unwilling to share govt's failures

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Upset at the Awami League's unilateral decisions on crucial issues, the other components of the AL-led ruling alliance are unwilling to take the blame for the government's failure on different fronts.

Senior leaders of the other components have already started criticising the government for its controversial decisions and failure in tackling some issues. The government may face more flak from them in the coming days if the ruling party does not change its attitude, say the leaders.

The picture at the grassroots level is grimmer than that in the centre. Grassroots leaders of the combine's key components -- Jatiya Party, Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal -- are irate over what they say is big-brother attitude of local AL leaders.

Leaders of the components are now having discussions to find ways to overcome the situation.

Talking to The Daily Star, they observed that the situation would have been different had the AL worked together with its partners.

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Khairul Kabir Khokan, BNP Narsingdi district unit president, being arrested in front of the party central office at Nayapaltan in the capital during hartal hours yesterday. He was later shown arrested in a blast case filed on April 29 and sent to jail.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Another relaxed hartal

BNP leader Khokan held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led alliance observed its countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal in a rather relaxed way yesterday.

A large number of motorised vehicles were seen plying Dhaka streets during the hartal and not too many pickets.

However, there were a few stray incidents of violence between the law enforcers and pro-hartal activists in the capital and a few other places in the country.

The BNP central office was cordoned off during the hartal hours. Law enforcers did not allow anyone to enter or exit the office.

Police picked up

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Anwar given JU reins

New VC puts peaceful campus on top of his to-do list; appointment comes soon after his controversial predecessor resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir has finally stepped down as vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, ending a months-long standoff and unrest on the campus.

Soon after his resignation, President Zillur Rahman appointed Prof Anwar Hossain, professor of biochemistry at Dhaka University, as the new vice-chancellor of JU.

JU teachers and students, who



Prof Anwar Hossain



Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir

ment of teachers, described his departure as a "victory of good over evil".

Many teachers and students were seen embracing each other and distributing sweetmeats in the evening celebrating the departure.

Bangabhaban sources told The Daily Star that Prof Shariff tendered his resignation to the president, also chancellor of JU, after a meeting at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon.

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JU rejoinder, our reply

Jahangirnagar University has sent a rejoinder to a news item published in The Daily Star headlined "JU caught in a VC-ious web" on May 10.

About the VC, the rejoinder says Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir was a meritorious student of chemistry of the university and has brightened the nation's image by achieving successful results in different exams of the university.

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Oil found in two old gas fields

3D seismic survey points to oil prospects in Titas field too

SHARIER KHAN

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Ltd (Bapex) has determined, through a seismic survey, presence of around 150 million barrels of oil in old gas fields of Kailashtila and Haripur in Sylhet.

No less than 40 percent of this small reserve could be commercially produced,

said Bapex Managing Director Mortuza Ahmad Faruque.

This implies that around 700 barrels a day could be produced from the two fields under Sylhet Gas Field Company Ltd.

Roughly, seven barrels equal to a tonne. If the potential was explored, the government could produce around 35,000 tonnes of oil a year from these fields and

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Shun path of destruction

PM asks opposition, pledges next JS polls on time

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the main opposition BNP to pursue the path of democracy, leaving behind its "destructive" way of politics.

"We've tolerated much but don't you think this is because of our weakness, not at all," she told

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Curious drama on river continues

River custodian willing to evict grabbers, shipping minister unwilling

TAWFIQUE ALI

The shipping ministry has been playing a dubious role in demolishing two "unauthorised" concrete jetties of Shah Cement factory in Munshiganj for the last two days while the inland water transport authority has taken a defiant stance about carrying on with the legal action.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan on May 15 directed Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Authority (BIWTA) to arrange hurriedly an eviction drive to demolish the jetties, built through encroaching on the river Shitalakkhya, the following day, said official sources.

As BIWTA mobilised an elaborate eviction team on Wednesday along with half a dozen high officials led by a joint secretary on four high-powered ships, the minister sat in "negotiations" with the company

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Business awards today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star and DHL Express, the world's leading logistic company, will today honour the country's best businesses and the people most successful.

The "Bangladesh Business Awards" will be conferred in five categories -- outstanding woman in business, enterprise of the year, businessperson of the year, best financial institution



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The Nigerian woman, inset, had swallowed 36 hard capsules containing cocaine to be smuggled into the country. She was arrested at a Banani hotel in the capital after she told the hotelier what she had done and that she was not feeling well.



PHOTO: STAR

It is hard to believe that this man using his shirt as a pillow has been a teacher for 29 years. He arrived in Dhaka from Manda upazila of Naogaon to take part in the teachers' demonstration demanding regularisation of their jobs. Unable to properly provide for his family back home or afford a hotel room for himself, the 60-year-old has been staying at the Central Shaheed Minar under the open sky for the last four days. He has become sick as well.

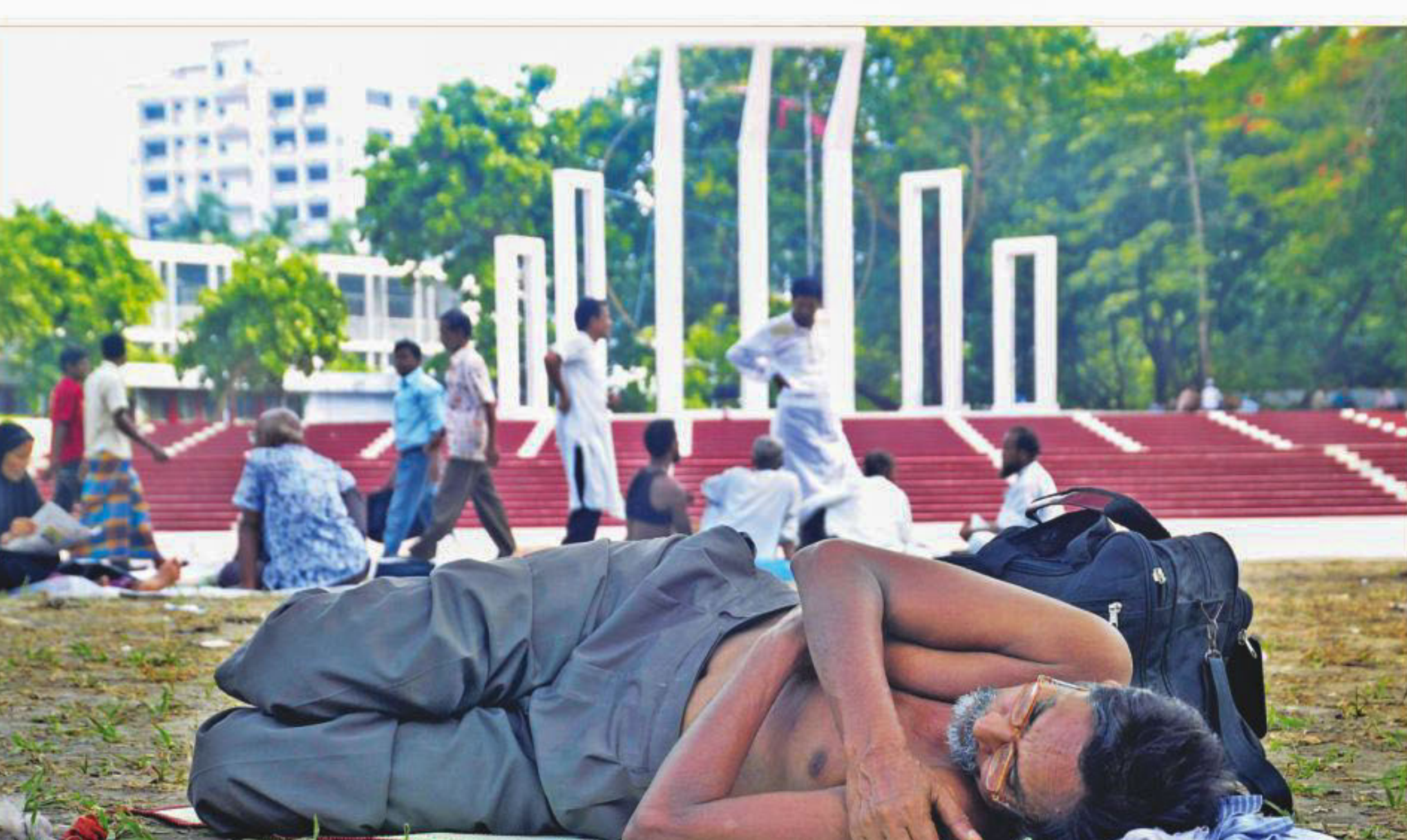


PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TAKA-WHITENING SCOPE

Top business body against amnesty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry yesterday opposed amnesty for black money that is legalised with a flat tax.

"Scope for whitening black money is injustice to honest taxpayers," said FBCCI President AK Azad at a consultative committee meeting of the National Board of Revenue.

He, however, said the government will have to impose "appropriate penalty" if it wants at all to allow people to legalise black money.

"We have learnt that a proposal will be placed to the government for allowing

people to legalise undisclosed money with a flat tax. Such scope in the budget will discourage honest taxpayers. It will not be a good example," said Azad.

His remarks come three weeks before Finance Minister AMA Muhith places a Tk 189,000 crore budget proposal for the fiscal year 2012-13.

Muhith told the meeting that he would not comment on black money.

He, however, said, "We will not cut facilities in the stock market. We will not disturb it in the next fiscal year."

Now, anyone can invest undisclosed money in the share market after paying a 10 percent tax.

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