Schools

FROM PAGE 20 with the prime minister by May 31.

"We will lock all nongovernment primary schools from June 16," said Aminul Islam Chowdhury, chairman of Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers' Oikya Parishad (Bangladesh Besarkari Prathomik Shikkhok Oikya Parishad) yesterday.

He made the announcement while concluding their four-day agitation programme movement at the Central Shaheed Minar to press home their demand.

The teachers also demanded compensation for the family of their colleague Azizur Rahman, who died as a result of injuries he sustained on Tuesday during the clash with police at Shahbagh in the capital.

"More than four lakh students across the country are going to miss their classes for which the government will be held responsible," he

On May 15, at least 10 nongovernment primary school teachers were injured as police charged batons on them while they were marching towards the Prime Minister's office to submit a memorandum.

Plot winners

FROM PAGE 20

of slapping such "fees", as Rajuk has not yet handed over the plots which was supposed to be done by 2009, added the aggrieved plot winner.

Akhter Hussain Bhuiyan member (estate) of Rajuk Board, claimed they are collecting the 12 percent amount as per rules. "It was mistakenly not

mentioned in the final allotment letter," he said, adding, 'This mistake continued for five years since 2007.

"It was also a mistake not to issue a formal letter, but we will do so if anyone asks for it," he added.

Rajuk used to collect interest on installments till 2006, but now it is called fees, he

A plot winner however still has to pay interest if an installment is paid later than the deadline.

Akhter initially said they started collecting the fees when Rajuk's finance department had asked for it on the plea that plot winners taking installment facility should pay

However, Tapan Kumar Das, member (finance), said they are not even aware of the issue. It is the estate department that determines pay-

able amount, he added. Later, Akhter claimed they did it following a decision of

the Rajuk board taken in March. On the delay in possession

handover, Akhter said the pace of development works slowed down due to various reasons including cancellation of a deal with contractors for their failure to meet the deadline.

Rajuk has so far handed over nearly 3,000 of total 8,200 plots in the extended Uttara residential town scheme, he added.

Insiders say roughly onefourth of the total plot winners are estimated to have paid the plot price at a time.

plot has to pay around Tk

72,000 as "fess", while the

amount is Tk 32,500 for a

does not pay any interest on

hundreds of crores of taka it

collects as deposits from

applicants for housing plots

time to time though they keep

Truck driver

Kishoreganj Judicia

Magistrate Mohammad Ali

Ahsan convicted Mustafa

According to prosecu-

tion, in June 17, 1993, a

goods laden truck driven by

Mustafa rammed a rickshaw

carrying three people on the

Kishoreganj-Mymensingh

highway in Katabaria area in

Shah Abdus Salam and

Md Nuruzzaman died in the

accident. The third passen-

ger in the rickshaw was

Advocate Shah Azizul

Huq, public prosecutor of

Station the following day.

It may be noted that Rajuk

five katha each.

three-katha plot.

the money for years.

FROM PAGE 20

Mia, 38.

the upazila.

Shahidul Islam.

One-third of the rest of the plots are estimated to be of

The winner of a five-katha

any question on the VC's academic qualification nor his professional career.

Anyone will still notice the marks of chopping down hundreds of useful trees including mango, pine, rain tree, mahogany, segun, korai,

These are all well known as eco-friendly trees. How can cutting matured trees and planting saplings be comparable to prove the JU authori-

The rejoinder did not say anything why migratory birds this year avoided JU lakes. Many teachers and students told The Daily Star the present administration's ecounfriendly activities are

Kishoreganj and the younger brother of victim Abdus Salam, filed a murder case with Kishoreganj Police

Oil found

OIL RESERVE		
Field	total reserve (million barrels)	producible (minimum)
Kailashtila	110	44
Haripur	44	17

FROM PAGE 1

save a small yet important import cost.

Bangladesh currently imports around 7 million tonnes of oil at a very high rate worth several billion dollars, putting heavy inflationary pressure on the economy.

Besides, the threedimensional seismic survey conducted last year also pinpointed some new small gas reserves in both these fields that could be tapped into.

A report on this analysis was submitted to Petrobangla Wednesday. The Petrobangla would make it public early nextweek.

According to the Bapex managing director, the oil of Kailashtila field is light in nature, which is easily extractable, while the Haripur's oil is heavier. Kailashtila's reserve, spread in five to six layers, was almost three times of that in Haripur.

Bapex Managing Director Mortuza Ahmad Faruque notes, "In order to tap into this oil resource, the authorities first need to hire an oil expert as a consultant to guide the government on how to properly produce oil from the two fields.

"Bapex can drill the required wells in both these fields. But we will need a consultant to guide us on how to pump in water or what kind of compression should we use in producing the oil. Besides, we need to know how to tune the process plant to produce oil.

"The Sylhet Gas Field Company now needs to start working on preparing a proposal to tap into these resources.'

Meanwhile, Bapex is analysing results of another threedimensional seismic survey in Titas, the country's biggest and oldest producing gas field under the Bangladesh Gas

Field Company Ltd. The results of this survey would be available by August.

"So far, the signs of Titas' [new prospects] are very good. There are indications of oil and (new) gas," Faruque pointed out.

Bapex was set to drill its biggest prospect of gas in "Sunetra" field in Sunamganj Netrakona area in June. Based on studies, the company believes that this field might have two to three trillion cubic feet of gas. The preparation for this drilling took time due to difficulties in mobilising the rig and other heavy equipment through a rough road.

"But now we are all set for the operation," the managing director said.

Upon completion of the survey's analysis, Bapex said Kailashtila has 1.7 trillion cubic feet of recoverable reserve and the Haripur field 310 billion cubic feet. Bapex found a new gas zone in Haripur with the possibility of hitting another 223 billion cubic feet of gas.

Oil was first discovered in Haripur field back in the late 80's. The oil was thick and the authorities ran a drilling stamp test to pump out around 500 barrels of oil. But they used the technique applicable for gas production, not for oil production. Later the government considered the field commercially not viable and it was abandoned.

of the local octane demands.

FROM PAGE 1

well-known to everybody.

to do with the appointment process as the selection committee does the job," it adds on teachers' appointment.

The rejoinder also says the

it says the VC alone did not do anything in this matter and the admission rules were not relaxed for giving chance to anyone special under ward

damage to the image of honourable vice-chancellor and Jahangirnagar University," it reads.

OURREPLY

we categorically cited several examples of irregularities, but the rejoinder did not shed light on those.

The authorities allowed mum on this issue.

campus.

ties' eco-friendliness?

Using indigenous gas byproduct "condensate", the Sylhet Gas Field Company Ltd was already producing 3,000 tonnes of octane, petrol diesel and kerosene a day by

setting up a Fractionation Plant in Rashidpur. This translates into an annual production of more than one lakh tonnes of petroleum products, which covers most par

IU rejoinder

"After that his fame as a teacher of this university is

"The VC alone has nothing

present administration chopped down "a few unnecessary and eco-unfriendly" trees and has planted seven thousand different types of new plants that add to the university's beauty much

On ward quota admission, quota admission.

The rejoinder also says it's not fair to term teachersstudents movement [in favour of VC] as pro-VC Chhatra League.

"The news caused serious

The report neither raised

On teachers' recruitment

admission of 78 ward-quotaadmission seekers who had failed to get even pass marks in the intake tests in 2011-12 session. The rejoinder keeps

jhau and other species on the

responsible for this.

On pro-VC Chhatra

League leaders, we want to mention that we have a number of photographs that undoubtedly indicate to whom those BCL leaders are loval and every print and electronic media also termed those BCL leaders "pro-VC

group". We stand by our report.

Antibiotic

FROM PAGE 20

first to document serious heart risks -- up to a 2.5-fold higher chance of cardiovascular fatalities -- in the first five days of treatment compared to another or no antibiotic.

The comparison was based on an examination of patient records in the southern US state of Tennessee

from 1992 to 2006. Researchers at Vanderbilt University compared about 3,48,000 prescriptions of azithromycin to millions of records from people who were not treated with any antibiotics or who received amoxicillin, a similar medication that is considered hear

The analysis found there were 47 more deaths per million in those taking azithromycin compared to

those on amoxicillin. When researchers exam ined patients already at high risk for heart problems, the chance increased to 245 addi tional cardiovascular deaths per million in the azithromycin group com pared to the amoxicillin tak-

While the relative number of fatalities was low, researchers said the findings offer new information about possible dangers that doctors and patients should consider.

'We believe this study adds important information on the risk profile for azithromycin," said lead author Wayne Ray, professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University.

"For patients with elevated cardiovascular risk and infections for which there are alternative antibiotics, the cardiovascular effects of azithromycin may be an important clinical consider-

ation," Ray said. Azithromycin is a macrolide antibiotic that works by stopping the growth ofbacteria.

India works

FROM PAGE 20 Prabodh Panda.

The protocol and the agreement, signed during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh in September last year, are subject to ratification by Indian Parliament in order to implement the 1974 Indira-Mujib pact on land boundary. "The ratification, there-

fore, necessitates an amendment of the Constitution. Necessary preparations to place a draft amendment bill before Parliament are underway," Krishna said, adding these would "enter into force on the date of exchange of Instruments of Ratification" and facilitate the exchange of the enclaves.

India's Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee had said earlier this month in Dhaka that ruling Congress-led UPA lacks two-thirds majority in Parliament that is required to amend the Constitution.

after Panda had raised the issue in Lok Sabha earlier this month asking the government to take urgent steps to exchange the enclaves and provide much-needed relief to thousands of people living in these areas.

Panda had said 37,100 Indians were living in these enclaves and 14,200 Bangladeshis living here, as per the latest census carried out jointly by both countries.

"These large number of people of both countries are deprived of political rights and do not enjoy social facilities that are necessary for development of individuals in a free society," he said.

The Indian enclaves in Bangladesh were spread over 17,149 acres of land while Bangladeshi enclaves in India were located on 7,110 acres, Panda said observing that the problem had remained unresolved even after the Indira-Mujib Agreement or during the transfer of Teen Bigha.

Business FROM PAGE 1 and lifetime achievement.

The award steps into its 12th year today. It was inaugurated in 2000 to show appreciation and generate public recognition for com-

panies and business people. This year, the awards will be handed out to six winners at a gala ceremony in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel of the capital in the evening. The country's top businesspeople, civil society members, cooperative executives, academics and government high-ups are expected to join the cere-

mony. The previous winners consider the awards as the country's premier business recognition, since the recipients are chosen through a rigorous selection process by a team of experts who are well-known for their integ-

rity and acumen. "The DHL-Daily Star Bangladesh Business Award is the most desired recognition in the country. This is not only the recognition of your performance excellence and effort to set new standards, but also a responsibility to sustain delivery of the brand promise," said Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of Eastern Bank Ltd that won the Best Financial

Institution award last year. "The core value edition is in the way we look at things now. We are more conscious about the quality of our products and services. This has made us self-conscious and adopt customer-centric value proposition," said Iftekhar.

Morshed Alam, chairman of Bengal Plastic Industries, said, "When I saw the names in the adjudicator panel, I started believing that my honesty, integrity and diligence will help me achieve the milestone.

Bengal Plastic Industries won the Enterprise of the Year award in 2008. Morshed Alam also said

that winning the award had inspired him to do better in his business. "Of course when I got the

award, it was a new beginning for me. It has exaggerated my enthusiasm. Since the winning I have been planning how to boost the economy and take our country to a significant height in the world," he said.

First Chinese collection

FROM PAGE 20

Though several works of Tagore, who is the most widely translated foreign author in Chinese after Shakespeare, were already published, this is the first time that his songs were translated to enable widely spectrum of common public here to understand and appreciate his nuanced poetry.

The Select Collection of Rabindranath Tagore, translated by a Chinese Bengali specialist Bai Kaiyuan, was launched at the Central Conservatory of Music here today with recital of his songs in both Bengali and Mandarin by Chinese students. Bai studied Bengali in Bangladesh and worked in

cal scores for the songs. Besides touring India Krishna's letter came extensively, Liu also took part in musical concerts

China Radio International.

Noted Chinese musician Liu

Yuening transcribed musi-

musicians like Mandolin Srinivas.

The translated songs, which included India's national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana', covered subjects like prayers, nature, patriotism, Rainbow, celebrations, reunions and love. Terming it as an impres-

sive endeavour by the two Chinese, Indian Ambassador to China S Jaishankar said keeping up with Tagore's popularity, a joint production of Tagore's play Chitrangada was enacted at Lanzhou University, recently which was a first such venture in China. Jaishankar said the Shanghai Consulate of India

and Shanghai Municipal Archives also brought a publication on Tagore's visit the Bengali section of the to China in 1924 and 1929 during which he visited Shanghai and several other cities and widely interacted with top Chinese personalities of that time.

along with famous Indian Chen Ziming, the President Chen said.

of the World Music Society of Chinese Musicians Association, said his poetry

city

covered various occasions and emotions in life and two of them were selected as national anthems of India and Bangladesh. Tagore visited China and delivered many speeches,

making contributions to

cultural exchanges between China and India. However, his achievements in music have been little known in China until China National Radio started airing them since 1949 after formation of

Peoples Republic of China,

he said. "There had been many publications of Tagore's literary works but hardly any musical works and it is the first grand celebration for his achievements in music, which reflected Chinese people's admiration for Tagore and the everdeepening friendship Praising Tagore's songs, between China and India,"

Curious drama

FROM PAGE 1

owners and suspended the drive later in the day.

The ministry held the negotiations excluding the chairman of BIWTA, the agency directly concerned with the issue.

Shipping Secretary Md Abdul Mannan Howlader instructed the eviction team to "go slow" and in the evening asked them to pull back. Apparently enraged by

the situation, Shamsuddoha Khondkar, chairman of BIWTA, disagreed with the ministerial position and ordered the eviction team to stay back onboard until the eviction was carried out. But, by that time, the magistrate and the police force deployed for the operation had left the scene.

So, they sat idle in the middle of the river overnight and the following day, yesterday, in Muktarpur near Modanganj launch terminal at public expense doing nothing. A group of employees' union leaders joined the team on board at night.

However, the team leader, Md Zillur Rahman, a joint secretary and member of BIWTA, left for Dhaka on Wednesday evening after a day-long wait.

'Incidents of this kind are unprecedented," said an official requesting ano-

Meanwhile, all the top officials gave contradictory versions on why the scheduled drive had been suspended and the team still stayed back. The shipping secretary

requested this correspon-

dent not to run news

reports on the differing roles of the ministry and the BIWTA. Zillur Rahman said the drive had been suspended "as police left the place" to maintain law and order

following the arrest of oppo-

sition leaders. About the team's remaining in position yesterday, he said, "Our chairman asked us to stay, as we came here with a vow to roll back the encroachment to save the river in line with a 2009 High Court verdict." "We still do not know

what was negotiated with

the Shah Cement authori-

ties," he said, "The ministry

did not inform us of the decision taken.' Secretary Mannan Howlader said, "We definitely informed the chairman of a suspension of the drive, referring to the minister's negotiations with Shah

Asked whether the BIWTA chairman's position was in defiance of the ministry, Howlader said, "One has to defy sometimes and you should understand what is happening."

Asked why the chairman

had not been included in the negotiations, he said, "It was not a formal one."

Enquired about the justification of holding talks immediately after launching the eviction drive, Howlader said, "I cannot tell you everything in advance due to strategic

man said the eviction was aimed at freeing the river of encroachment following the High Court order, the secretary said that it was enforced to realise Tk 26 crores due from the company since 2004 as Landing and Shipment Charge (LSC) for using the river foreshores.

the river foreshores.

Shipping Minister

Regarding the contradictory positions of the secretary and the BIWTA chairman, he said, "I do not know who said what."

Kamal were injured when

police charged truncheons

on the procession at

were injured when police

tried to prevent hartal sup-

ports from burning tyres on

Meanwhile, 10 activists

Mondalpara.

district.

Another relaxed hartal

FROM PAGE 1 around 30 pickets in front of the party's central office in

Nayapaltan yesterday. The arrested pickets include Khairul Kabir Khokan, BNP Narsingdi district unit president, who was arrested in front of the BNP central office around 9:00am. Mizanur Rahman Minu, joint secretary general of BNP, was slightly injured as he got involved in a scuffle with law enforcers who were trying to get Khokan into a

police van. Khokan was later sent to jail after he was shown arrested in a blast case filed with Paltan Police Station

on April 29. Dhaka Metropolitan Police claimed that 19 people were arrested in the city during the hartal hours. In Chittagong, neither

picketing nor any untoward

Yesterday a few home-

incidents were seen.

with arson.

Station.

The alliance had called the hartal the day before demanding the return of BNP leader Ilias Ali, who has been missing since the wee hours of April 18, and release of the alliance's even though train and top leaders sent to jail by a launch services were nor-Dhaka court on mal. Wednesday in connection

ments, most shops and On Wednesday, 33 opposition leaders, including shopping malls on thor-BNP acting secretary genoughfares remained closed. eral Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, were sent to jail in an arson case filed on April 29 with Tejgaon Police

Police detained seven Sunday.

made bombs went off, and a opposition activists few incidents of vandalism including local pro-BNP and police detentions were Jubo Dal convener Maksudul Alam Khandker reported in different parts Khorshed. Ten people, of the capital. Three homemade bombs including BNP leader ATM

hartal activists vandalised a vehicle near Mirpur-10. Two battery-run threewheelers were also vandalised near Khilgaon Flyover around 9:30am. Police detained two people from the spot in this

went off at Mirpur-1 inter-

section around 7:30am

while two exploded at

Shahjahanpur intersection

around 10:40am. The pro-

connection. Four Shibir activists were detained at Pallima Community Centre in Khilgaon and five others were arrested in Jatrabari. However, a good number

three-wheelers were seen plying the city streets. Rickshaws were found dominating the thorough-No intercity or longdistance buses set out from the capital since morning

of minibuses and cars and a

large number of CNG-run

All educational institutions, business establish-

In Narayanganj, 20 prohartal activists were injured as police charged truncheons on a procession yesterday.

reasons." While the BIWTA chair-

Shamsuddoha Khondkar refused to talk yesterday but said the day before that Shah Cement Industries Ltd, a concern of Abul Khair Group, had built large jetties in the middle of the river but such landing facilities must be set up within

Shajahan Khan termed the move "a tactic to mount pressure" on the company that has so far made commitments several times over paying the dues but did not

keep its word.

sions. On 10 March, a large number of teachers and

Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sonargaon upazila of the the university while stu-A few central leaders, dents launched a fast-untoamong whom were Nazrul Islam Khan, Abdullah Al Noman, Zainul Abdin Shariff.

party central office during early hartal hours yesterday. After the daylong hartal BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan pro-VC and anti-VC factions at her Gono Bhaban in a press briefing at BNP central office said fresh residence in efforts to end agitation programmes the crisis. Following Prof Shariff's would be declared today [Friday] after consultation

Khaleda Zia. The party's incumbent and former lawmakers were scheduled to observe a symbolic hunger strike at 10:00am tomorrow at the Sangsad Bhaban complex, where Khaleda will also attend.

On Monday, the BNP standing committee and 18-party alliance in a meeting had decided to observe a mass hunger strike on Anwar FROM PAGE 1 Education Minister Nurul

Islam Nahid, University Grants Commission Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and the education secretary were also present. After the meeting, the

president expressed his

desire for appointing Prof

Anwar Hossain as JU vice-

chancellor and asked the

education minister to take steps to that end, the sources added. Contacted, Prof Anwar, also president of Dhaka University Teachers Association, told this correspondent his priority was to end the deadlock at the university and bring about a

peaceful atmosphere on the campus. "I think my new job is very important. My challenge is to bring about a peaceful academic atmosphere in the university," he

added. On the impasse, Prof Anwar said he would try to solve the matter in consultation with teachers, students and others involved with the university.

Asked about alleged

disturbances by a section of

Chhatra League leaders on the campus, he said, "I will evaluate the situation impartially and without considering anyone's political affiliation.' Meanwhile, agitating students and teachers thanked the prime minister

and the president for their

initiative to end the crisis by "forcing" Prof Shariff to go. Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Nasim Akhtar Hossain, convener of Shikkhak Samaj of JU, hoped that the new VC would fulfil their demand to ensure an academic environment on the

campus. Since his "political" appointment as VC in February 2009, Prof Shariff earned widespread criticism for his alleged involvement in anomalies in teachers' recruitment and patronising a group of Chhatra League leaders to put pres-

In addition, apart from indiscriminately chopping down trees over the last three years, Prof Shariff leased out the university lakes, compromising the beauty of the campus, teachers and students

alleged

sure on his dissidents.

appointed over 196 teachers, many of whom were less qualified and selected on political considerations. The authorities under his administration also allowed

the admission of 78 ward-

quota-admission seekers

who even failed to get the

During his tenure, he

pass marks in the 2011-12 session. Teachers and students started demanding his removal after the murder of Zubair Ahmed, a student of

the English department, by some BCL activists on Jan 9. It is alleged that those involved in the murder received Prof Shariff's blessings on many occa-

students of the university joined in force to gear up the movement. Under the banner of Shikkhak Samaj, agitating teachers enforced a strike in

death on April 24 demanding the ouster of Prof Farroque, Barkat Ullah On May 4, teachers post-Bulu, and Rehana Akhter poned their demonstration Ranu, managed to enter the on assurances from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that she would look into the matter. The day before, Hasina separately met the

resignation, Prof Rayhan with party Chairperson Rhine of the philosophy department of JU, said: "We will place to the new vicechancellor an eight-point demand, including for trial of Zubair killing, formation of a committee to probe criminal activities on the campus, stopping recruitment of under-qualified

teachers, stopping environmental degradation and holding elections for the posts of vice-chancellor, dean, senate and syndicate members."