

NEWS IN *brief*

**Syed Shamsul Haq, Faruq Mainuddin win literary award**

**METRO DESK**  
Two books titled 'Jaleshwareer Dinpotri' of versatile writer Syed Shamsul Haq and 'Ananya Jibanananda' of Faruq Mainuddin have been selected for the IFIC Bank Literary Award 2011. Each of the writers will receive a cheque of Tk 5 lakh, a crest and a certificate, says a press release. The awards will formally be handed over to the

**Sagufta Housing fined Tk 22 lakh**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined Sagufta Housing Ltd Tk 22 lakh for expanding its housing project by filling up low-lying land violating the environment conservation act in the capital's Pallabi area. The DoE Director (enforcement) Mohammed Munir Chowdhury fined the company and directed it to stop the project activities until receiving Environment Clearance Certificate, said a press release. The DoE in 2010, issued Site Clearance Certificate (SCC) to the company permitting their project activities within 56 acres of land. But the company has

**3 held with firearm, bullets**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**  
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) seized a double-barrel gun with four cartridges and arrested three persons in this connection from Rangunia upazila in Chittagong yesterday. On information, the Rab team conducted a drive in Khailmughal area and arrested Nur Nabi, 40, Jashim Uddin, 21, and Mahmudul Karim, 26, all hailing from Shahidnagar village of the upazila, said Rab officials. The gun and cartridges were seized from their possession.

**Train kills one in Sirajganj**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj**  
An unidentified person was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound train at Mulibari Rail crossing in Sirajganj upazila early yesterday. Coming from Khulna, the Sundarban Express ran over the victim at Mulibari. On information, police recovered the body and sent it for an autopsy. A case was filed in this connection.

**IUB, Mott MacDonald sign MoU**

**METRO DESK**  
A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and Mott MacDonald Bangladesh, a diverse management, engineering and development consultancy, on the permanent campus of the university in the capital yesterday aiming to co-operate in the development of Internship Programme. The interns are to be selected twice a year following a strict process of evaluation and screening, says a press release. Mott MacDonald will recruit selected students for a period of 3 months (renewable) with a scope to hire as contracted staff.

**Training on negotiation skills**

**METRO DESK**  
Training programmes on negotiation were held at Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (Biac) on June 27 and July 3. Techniques and skills for negotiation were taught in the programmes, said a press release. Dr Toufiq Ali, chief executive of Biac, conducted



A train passes by almost touching the makeshift houses of a slum situated beside Gandaria Railway Station in the old part of the capital. Thousands of people dwell here risking their lives every day. PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

**Dhaka elected member of CDM Board**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Bangladesh has been elected an executive committee member of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman, coordinator of Bangladesh Climate Change Negotiation Committee, will represent Bangladesh in the inter-government board meeting, said a PID handout. The meeting of the board is now going on in Germany.

**Beware of unrest created in name of Islam: PM**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all including the religious leaders to remain alert so that none could create any unrest, terrorism and extremism in the country in the name of Islam. "We will have to uphold the spirit of Islam at any cost as it is the religion of peace, harmony and tolerance," she said addressing a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital. The function marked the distribution of books including the Holy Quran among the students of mosque-based children and mass education programme of the Islamic Foundation. Hasina said the mosque-based children and mass education programme is a big project of the government to create employment for Imams and spread the light of education among the hapless poor people. The Prime Minister alleged that the previous BNP-Jamaat alliance government had suspended the programme, but soon after taking office, her government resumed the five-year programme and allocated Tk 643.55 crore to it. Under the programme, education is being provided in Bangla, English, mathematics and moral education at the pre-primary stage along with the learning of Holy Quran. Due to the steps of the government,

employment has been created for 40,000 Imams and ulema (Islamic scholars) as well as 5,800 pious women. She said the government has made religious and moral education mandatory at pre-primary and primary levels under the national education policy 2010. "We have also taken initiatives to create the posts of religious teachers in all primary schools of the country," Hasina added. Chaired by State Minister for Religious Affairs Advocate Shahjahan Mia, the function was also addressed, among others, by Religious Affairs Secretary Quazi Habibul Awal and Director General of Islamic Foundation Shamim Mohammad Afzal. Relatives of 19 Bangladeshis jobseekers allegedly trafficked to and then jailed in Tanzania last year staged a sit-in in front of the capital's Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) yesterday demanding their repatriation. Illegal brokers had promised the victims jobs in South Africa in exchange for huge sums of money, they said. But the men were taken to Uganda and Kenya and finally abandoned in Tanzania. The East African country had jailed them for not being able to produce any travel documents, they added. "During our sit-in in Kakrail, a BMET official named Selim Reza arrived and told us to submit an application over our demands. We complied," said Amran Fakir, father of one victim, Mohammad Russel of Gazipur. In early May, BMET had said if the relatives could provide the Tk 89,000 needed to repatriate each of the victims, they could bring these men home. "We hope the bureau is considering the repatriation at its own cost," said Amran. At a press conference on May 31, Larburu Khatun, mother of one victim, Biltu Miah, said a local broker, Shahabuddin, in collusion with a recruiting agency, Raj Overseas, took Tk 9 lakh from her son to send him to South Africa.



A portion of the Gulshan-Tejgaon link road lies in a dilapidated state with a big puddle in the centre, hampering the movement of vehicles on the road. The photo was taken at GMG intersection in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION 33 Bangladeshis arrested in UK**

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**  
Thirty three illegal workers from Bangladesh have been arrested in several enforcement operations on businesses across England and in North Wales in the last eight weeks. The illegal workers were arrested by UK Border Agency and police officers in Middlesex, Gloucestershire, Dorset, Worcester, Wales, Merseyside and Cornwall. The workers, including a number of students, had committed immigration offences, including entering the UK illegally, overstaying their visas and working illegally, said a British High Commission press release in Dhaka yesterday. The men had been working illegally in restaurants and takeaways. The UK Border Agency has been working to remove all 33 men from the country. "We will not tolerate illegal working, which undercuts wages and can exploit vulnerable workers. Foreign nationals who overstay their visas or otherwise abuse the UK's immigration rules should be in no doubt that they will be found, arrested and removed from the UK. "Employers who think they can undercut competitors by employing illegal workers are warned that they face heavy fines and possible prosecution," said a UK Border Agency spokesperson.

**6 injured in AL factional clash in Ctg**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**  
Six men and a woman were injured in a clash between two groups of supporters of Chittagong city unit Awami League (AL) in the port city yesterday. Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdul Latif of Khulshi Police Station said the two groups locked in to a clash around 12:30am in Lalkhan Bazaar Motijhorna area over establishing supremacy in the area. The supporters belonged to a Farid group, which is loyal to Chittagong city unit AL President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, and a Masum group, which is loyal to Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Md Afsarul Amin, also the unit's AL joint secretary, the OC said. On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. No case was filed in this regard. Locals said similar clashes took place between the two groups' men previously. Contacted, Chittagong city unit Jubo League Organising Secretary Farid Mahmood, who heads the Farid group, denied the involvement of his members in the incident.

**Kafco asks for immediate gas supply**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**  
The authorities of Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco) Limited yesterday urged the government to resume gas supply to its factory unit so that its fertiliser production, which was suspended for 165 days, could be resumed. They expressed this at a meeting with journalists at its factory office at Anwara upazila in Chittagong. Kafco Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Salahuddin Ahmad, said the company has been experiencing losses of about Tk 8 crore per day ever since the government decided to cut gas supply to the factory on January 5 to divert it to power plants. Keeping the factory idle for so long could damage the machineries, he said. The authorities urged for 40 million cubic feet of gas per day to immediately resume operations.

**RECRUITMENT TO RAILWAY 3 more officials quizzed**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday interrogated three more Bangladesh Railway (BR) East Zone officials for their alleged involvement in doctoring the tabulation sheet of the BR's recruitment examinations. The officials are SM Liakat Ali, additional chief engineer, Aman Ullah, legal aid (Law) officer at Chittagong South, and FM Mahiuddin, maintenance engineer. ACC's Deputy Director Abu Sayeed and two Assistant Directors Rashedur Reza and Majibur Rahman interrogated the BR officials from 11:00am to 3:00pm at its Shegunbagicha office in the capital. Sources at the ACC said some officials at BR's East Zone had allegedly doctored the numbers in the tabulation sheet to make a huge number of applicants fit for the posts by taking bribe from them last month. Earlier on Tuesday, the ACC interrogated 7 teachers of Chittagong College and 13 officials of BR in this connection. It also quizzed 9 teachers of Chittagong Muslim High School and 8 BR officials on Monday.

**CARMICHAEL COLLEGE Students protest transfer of principal**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur**  
The students of Carmichael College in Rangpur yesterday boycotted classes demanding withdrawal of the transfer order of the college's Principal Depokendra Nath Das. The students under the banner Sochetan Chhatra Samaj called the indefinite strike yesterday. The college's Bangladesh Chhatra League unit enforced the strike, said some students preferring anonymity. On May 16, Depokendra Nath Das was transferred to Government Azizul Haque College in Bogra. The order was withdrawn following an earlier strike called by the students of Carmichael College. However, on Tuesday Das was again ordered to be transferred to the same college.

**WEATHER TODAY**  
**Heavy rain likely**  
**UNB, Dhaka**  
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:17am.** Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Madaripur and lowest 25.3 degrees at Madaripur. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.1	25.4	80	78
Chittagong	33.4	25.4	83	83
Rajshahi	32.6	26.6	85	84
Rangpur	30.7	26.9	86	76
Khulna	32.4	27.0	84	90
Barisal	33.0	27.0	84	78