



SUBAL DUTTA TALKS TO STAR
The veteran violinist tells of the deprivations
Bangladesh Betar artistes suffer
PAGE 10

BUSINESSES AT RISK
Higher bank interest rates
slow their growth
PAGE B1

SYRIA CONFLICT
UN observer chief leaves Syrian
capital as new envoy is "scared"
PAGE 7

Current nets 'stay legal'

Banned since 2002 but exists to date as 49 lawsuits await verdict

INAM AHMED and SOHEL PARVEZ

Despite a ban for almost a decade, the use of current nets in open water bodies continues unabated, destroying the juvenile fish and depleting the overall fish stocks.

Yet, the government can do little, as its restrictions on the production, trade and use of such fishnets remain stayed by the High Court.

The HC issued several stay orders in response to 56 petitions filed by the producers and traders of current nets after the government placed the curbs back in 2002.

Of the petitions, 49 are still awaiting verdict.

Fisheries experts want quick disposal of the petitions. They suggest that the higher court ask independent analysts for sharing knowledge on the impact of the use of current nets, which are made of monofilament synthetic nylon fibre of different mesh sizes.

The Protection and Conservation of Fish Act, 1950, which was amended in September 2002, says: "No person shall manufacture, fabricate, import, market, store,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Fishermen free their catch from a monofilament synthetic nylon net, widely known as current jal, on Teknaf sea beach. Even very young fishes cannot slip from this small-mesh net, which fishermen throughout the country use despite a ban. Inset, people fishing with current jal in Kapati Lake, Rangamati.



FILE PHOTO

PADMA BRIDGE LOAN REVIVAL Mashhur not going yet

The adviser denies graft allegation; Muhith says letter to WB ready, not sending for a 'hitch' in it

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Prime minister's Adviser Mashhur Rahman has denied any involvement in the alleged corruption in the Padma bridge project, and said the government has not yet asked him to resign in its efforts to revive the World Bank financing for the project.

Talking with The Daily Star over the phone yesterday, the PM's economic affairs adviser said if there were corruption allegations against

him over the project, both the government and the WB could make those public.

Finance ministry officials said Mashhur's removal is the last hurdle for the government to convince the global lender to revive its \$1.2 billion loan that it had cancelled in June. And it must be done by this



Mashhur Rahman

week.

The WB gave a clear signal to the government that it would withdraw the loan cancellation if the government implemented its three conditions, including the removal of former communication minister Syed Abul Hossain and adviser Mashhur

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Bus kills boy, leaves family in trauma

Drags father for 20 yards in front of mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bus ran over and killed a three-and-a-half-year-old boy and dragged his father for around 20 yards at Banani in the capital yesterday.

The boy, Mohammad Arafat, died on the spot as the wheels of the bus crushed his head.

The bus went over a leg of his father Mohammad Shahjahan Sheikh, 38, a carpenter by profession.

The accident happened right before his

wife and the other son.

Shahjahan was taken to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) and was having treatment there.

As of 7:00pm, he was not told that his son had died and The Daily Star correspondent refrained from asking him about his son.

Sub-Inspector Ariful Islam of Banani Police Station, who was on duty nearby at the time of the accident, told The Daily

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Yunus slated by 51 noted citizens

BSS, Dhaka

Expressing concern over a recent statement of Prof Muhammad Yunus, 51 eminent citizens yesterday said that after losing the legal battle, the Nobel laureate has been putting pressure on the country through "super power" and donor agencies, exploiting his personal relations with them.

"Such unexpected pressure is tantamount to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

DR NITAI MURDER

Five suspects arrested

DB claims the physician was killed for resisting burglars



Four of the five suspects held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers in last two days arrested five suspects in the killing of Dr Narayan Chandra Dutta alias Nitai.

Four of them -- Peda Mashud, 25, Saidul, 37, Pichhi Kalam, 26, and Faisal, 30, -- were arrested by Detective Branch (DB) personnel from the capital's Mohakhali Sattola Slum and Kamrangirchar area, while members of Rapid Action Battalion picked up Kamrul Islam alias Kamal, 30, from Rajarbagh.

Narayan was stabbed to death at his quarters in the compound of National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital (NIDCH) in Mohakhali early on Thursday.

Police also seized two bloodstained

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Due to poor security measures, anyone anytime can enter Infectious Diseases Hospital at the capital's Mohakhali. Outsiders, many from nearby slums, were crowding the hospital complex as the photo was taken yesterday. The situation is same at other hospitals in the area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Hospital inside crime hub

SHUDIPTA SHARMA

Lack of adequate security facility has turned the compound of the National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital (NIDCH) in the capital's Mohakhali area into a haven for criminals.

Activities like robbery, mugging, stealing, extortion and drug trading have been almost regular incidents here for long.

NIDCH sources said at least 1,500 outsiders including many criminals live illegally in the compound renting houses in the quarters meant

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

GAZIPUR-4 BY-POLLS AL ticket goes to Tajuddin's daughter

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Awami League has nominated Simeen Hussain Rimi, daughter of the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad and elder sister of former state minister for home Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj, for contesting the Gazipur-4 (Kapasia) by-election slated for September 30.

The parliamentary board of the ruling party gave the nomination at a meeting at the Gono Bhaban last night, party General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam told journalists.

Earlier in the afternoon, Prime Minister Sheikh

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



Simeen Hussain Rimi

Subscribe to **SMS EVENING NEWS**

Register at: **2222**

Day's roundup in your pocket

The Daily Star

For Registration: Go to message option on your mobile and type start<space>pm & send to 2222

Tariff: Tk. 1/SMS

thedailystar.net

**For Grameenphone subscribers REGISTRATION FREE