HALL-MARK SCAM

Take punitive action against perpetrators

Urges Hanif; Suranjit assures of steps STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanifyesterday demanded that the government arrests and takes punitive measures against the persons involved in the Hall-Mark scam no matter how "powerful" those persons may be.

Meanwhile, Minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta said the government would not hesitate to take all sorts of action, including criminal proceedings, against people involved in the Hall-Mark scam after investigation.

Previously, a Bangladesh Bank investigation found that the

Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch of Sonali Bank had lent Hall-Mark Group and five other companies Tk 3,547 crore between 2010 and May this year on forged documents. Of the loan, Hall-Mark Group alone took Tk 2,686.14 crore.

Addressing a discussion in the capital's Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, Mahbubul said, "I will ask Bangladesh Bank and Sonali Bank to take punitive measures against the persons involved in the scam along with the owners of Hall-Mark after arresting them."

Mahbubul, also a special assistant to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, held main opposition BNP responsible for the recent crisis in Buet.

"We have information that BNP instigated the Buetcrisis," he said. About corruption allegations made by BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir against the government, the AL leader said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was a corrupt person as she whitened black money by giving fines.

In his address at a discussion, Suranjit said, "The prime

minister took a strict stance against the scam and is determined to refund the swindled money to the state exchequer." The discussion was organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, a pro-liberation cultural platform, marking Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy's 120th birth anniversary in the Central

Public Library auditorium in the capital's Shahbagh. The veteran parliamentarian said Finance Minister AMA Muhith set "a shining example of democracy" by apologising for his recent remarks on the scam.

"Through his simple confession, the finance minister enriched the country's democracy. It could be an example to others," said Suranjit.

Facing criticism both in and outside parliament, Muhith on Thursday made an apology for his remarks on the Sonali Bank loan scam that the money swindled by Hall-Mark Group was a paltry amount.

Suranjit also alleged that the opposition party was trying to take benefits out of the much-talked-about scam.

Addressing the programme, Industries Minister Dilip Barua alleged that a vested quarter was trying to create anarchy in the country over the Grameen Bank issue and urged people to unite to tackle the conspiracy.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, Krishak League Vice-President MA Karim and Janata Bank Director Balaram Poddar spoke at the programme with the jote General Secretary Arun Sarkar Rana in the chair.

US diplomat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

lauds BDAWL

United States Ambassador-

at-Large for Global Women's

Issues Melanne S Verveer

yesterday commended

Bangladesh Alliance for

Women Leadership

(BDAWL) for championing

women's leadership in

Bangladesh which would

reduce the prevailing gender

She was addressing an

open discussion organised

by BDAWL at the launching

of its office in the capital's

BDAWL Executive

Director Nasim Firdaus,

Bangladesh's lawmakers

Rumana Mahmood and

Rowshan Jahan Sathi, US

Ambassador to Bangladesh

Dan W Mozena, BDAWL

Chairperson Barrister

Rabiya Bhuiyan, Treasurer

Tahmina Rehman and Prof

Ishrat Shamim also spoke at

5 held with

phensidyl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

arrested five drug traffickers

including an employee of

recovered 2,500 bottles of

phensidyl from their posses-

Thursday evening.

Rahman, 38.

sion in Paltan of the capital on

Arrestees are Senior

Technician of BTCL at

Kaliganj in Jhenaidah

Mohammad Fakrul Islam, 40,

Ilias Hossain, 40, Tawhidul

Islam alias Sumon, 45,

Masum, 42 and Matiar

Commissioner of DB Mashiur

Rahman said acting on a tip

off his team conducted a raid

in front Eastern Plus

Shopping Complex and

caught three of the detained

with 2,000 bottles of Phensidyl

They arrested the other

two -- Masum and Motiar--

with the remaining bottles

at around 7:15pm.

from an adjacent lane.

Additional Deputy

the programme.

gap in society.

Gulshan.



Garbage fills the Dhunir Pool stretch of Chaktai Khal in Chalkbazar, obstructing its natural flow and adding to waterlogging of Chittagong city during rain. The authorities spend crores of taka dredging different canals of the port city every year but caring little to free this important one from waste. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BSF detains 5 Bangladeshis Govt activities Hands over couple, daughter to Burimari police

METRO DESK

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday held five Bangladeshis including three of a family in Khalisha Kotal border area in Kurigram and Lalakhal border of Sylhet while three Bangladeshis returned home after languishing in Indian jail for three years on Thursday afternoon.

Our Kurigram correspondent reports, Rajia Begum, 48, of Phulmati village, her daughter Aduri Begum, 22, and grandson Shetu, 2, were held in Khalisha Kotal border area.

According to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources, human traffickers demanded Tk 3,000 per person to take the three to India. BSF men caught the three alleging they had entered India illegally.

Hearing the news, BGB negotiated a flag meeting, which might be held tomorrow

[today], said Major Ikbal, deputy commander of 45 BGB Battalion in Kurigram. In Sylhet, Shahabuddin, 35, of Borobond

village and Ebad, 32, of Churkhai village were

detained, said our Sylhet correspondent. While returning from their relatives house on bordering Bagchhara village, the

two were caught near sub pillar 6. BSF members alleged that the two had been held for smuggling in timber, said BGB sources. BGB said they had already con-

tacted BSF to look into the matter. Meanwhile, Indian Immigration police handed over Bangladeshi day labourer Fazlul Haque, 38, his wife Shefali Begum, 30, and daughter Shilpi Khatun, 11, to Burimari immigration police.

After being caught by the Indian BSF for entering India illegally, the trio had been in Dinhata jail since September 11 of 2009.

anti-people Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

www.ulab.edu.bd

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said activities of the government are against the people and the country's sovereignty.

"We have to understand why Buet students stopped attending classes. Why problems have surfaced over medical college admission. These are being created to make the country ineffective and void of leadership and talent," he said. He called upon the leaders and activists of the 18-party

alliance to get united to face the ongoing crisis created by the government. Fakhrul was addressing a discussion on "Padma bridge,

government's corruption, and caretaker government' organised by National People's Party (NPP) at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Fakhrul said the government had deceived the people through amending the constitution. On one hand, they retain Islam as state religion and on the other, they keep secularism in the constitution, fooling the devoted Muslims, he added.

Claiming that the government has also created economic and social crisis in the country, he said Grameen Bank gave women economic emancipation and brought life into the rural economy. "Through conspiracy, the government has broken down Grameen Bank and micro-finance system, exposing rural economy to danger."

Through the 2009 BDR mutiny, in which 57 army officers were killed, the country's existence and its border have been threatened, he said.

Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu, chairman of NPP, presided over the discussion.

SOCIAL DEV FACTORS Bangladesh better than some Indian states

Reports The Hindu BSS, New Delhi

Considering the remarkable development, especially on social dimensions, compared to some "richer" states of India, Bangladesh is very much in the news these days in India, reported The Hindu vesterday.

It said, "We seem to have failed to notice the striking developmental success that Bangladesh has had in the last few decades, compared with some high-profile Indian states." The report stated that

Bangladesh is considerably "poorer" than India going by GDP alone - its GDP per capita in 2010 was only US \$1,585, roughly half of India's (US \$3,419). But how is Bangladesh doing on social dimensions?

The infant mortality rate and the under-five mortality rate in Bangladesh is better than 13 large Indian states, including Gujarat, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

The proportion of underweight children is also lower in Bangladesh compared to six Indian states. Bangladesh's Total Fertility

Rate, children born per woman, is 2.2 (nearly the "replacement rate") and lower than that of 10 large Indian states, including Gujarat (2.5) and Haryana (2.3). In access to improved

sanitation, Bangladesh does better than every large Indian state other than Kerala, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal, it said. The public health expendi-

ture as a proportion of the GDP in Bangladesh has been much higher than in India until a few years ago, the report mentioned.

One of the major reasons has been social mobilisation at the local level, such as through women's self-help groups, which has led to increased public awareness and greater accountability in service delivery, it added.

Income Tax Day 7 Days to go...



The mangled remains of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw after it collided head-on with a human hauler, leaving its driver dead and three passengers injured, in Malibagh Chowdhurypara of the capital last night. (Story on Page 20)

Five killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in Dhaka, Magura, Noakhali and Narayanganj yesterday. Detective Branch of police

Our staff correspondent reports, day labourer Mohammad Shahin, 18, was killed as a bus hit him in the capital's Rampura area yesterday.

Bangladesh Police said the accident took place when Shahin was Telecommunication crossing a road near Rampura flyover around 8:30am. Company Ltd (BTCL) and

Our Magura correspondent reports, a motorcyclist was killed and his co-rider was critically injured in a road accident on Magura-Jessore highway in front of Magura Textile Mills yesterday. Police said the accident took place when a bus hit the

motorcycle killing Koushik Ahmed Khan, 20, on the spot and injuring Monirul Islam, 24. Our Noakhali correspondent reports, a man was killed and two others were injured in a road accident at Joyag bazar

The deceased was Dulal Mia, 50, and the injured were Ibrahim Khalil, 36, and Sahadat Hossain, 34.

of Sonaimuri upazila in Noakhali yesterday.

they died on the way.

Police said the accident took place when truck hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw from behind killing Dulal on the spot. Our Narayanganj correspondent reports, a couple was

killed as their private car plunged into the DND canal beside Dhaka-Narayanganj link road in Siddhirganj upazila of Narayanganj yesterday. The victims were Miraj Hossain, 30, and his wife Ripa, 25.

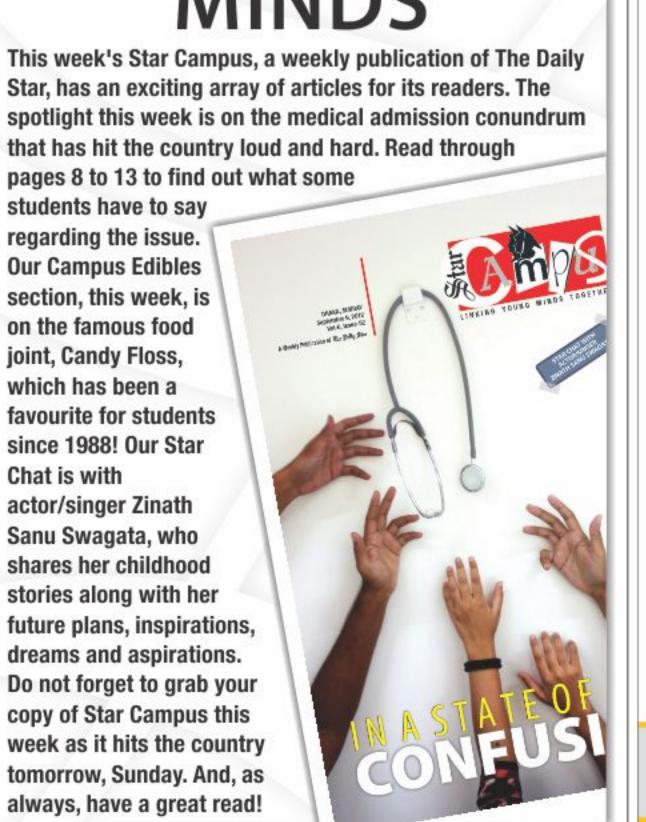
Police said the accident took place when Miraj was giving her wife a driving lesson around 6:30am. Locals rescued them by breaking open the rear glass of the

car, and rushed them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital but



that has hit the country loud and hard. Read through pages 8 to 13 to find out what some

students have to say regarding the issue. **Our Campus Edibles** section, this week, is on the famous food joint, Candy Floss, which has been a favourite for students since 1988! Our Star Chat is with actor/singer Zinath Sanu Swagata, who shares her childhood stories along with her future plans, inspirations, dreams and aspirations. Do not forget to grab your copy of Star Campus this week as it hits the country



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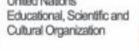
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the only media department among

private universities in Bangladesh

which recruited a head of department

from abroad- first from Australia and

then from the Philippines. The

department also has highest number

of foreign faculty members. MSJ

department provides its students with

most modern media lab, internet lab

and other facilities required for 21st





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