

CLIMATE-SMART

Farmers to get four more stress-tolerant rice seeds
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A PERSONAL WISH LIST

Shahedul Anam Khan hopes for more civility in political discourse
PAGE 14

CHAVEZ "CONSCIOUS"

His deputy said he was in a complex situation after cancer surgery
PAGE 7



Stop them, right now

HC again asks Rajuk to stop all activities of illegal housing schemes; stays effectiveness of Ashiyani City's DoE certificate
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday once again directed Rajuk to immediately stop all activities of unauthorised housing projects including their filling of land, advertisements, and selling plots in and around Dhaka.

In response to a writ petition, the court ordered the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha to stop such activities of Ashiyani City, a housing project, which had a conditional and partial approval from the housing ministry to develop land in Holan and Ashkona near Uttara in the capital.

Ashiyani City is one of 78 private housing projects in and around Dhaka city which were declared illegal by
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RELATED STORY IN STAR BUSINESS



Since the beginning of winter, residents of parts of the capital, including Khilgaon, Bashabo, Mirpur, Gendaria, Peyarabagh, Kamrangirchar and parts of Dhanmondi have been suffering from acute gas crisis. The Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd blames a 10-12 percent gas consumption increase during the winter which has created a supply and demand shortfall. The photo was taken from a home in Rasulpur in Kamrangirchar.
PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The Daily Star OPINION SURVEY

The Daily Star publishes its opinion survey on the government's four-year performance tomorrow. This is the sixth in the series with the first one done when the AL-led government reached its 100 days. The subsequent surveys were conducted at the completion of one year, one and a half years, two years, and three years.

AL RECASTS PRESIDUM MKA dropped

Nasim, Lenin included; full ALCWC announced

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The ruling Awami League has brought a major change in its presidium by dropping three influential figures -- Home Minister Muiyuddin Khan Alamgir, Labour Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju and advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun.

Former Home Minister and central committee member Mohammad Nasim and party's outgoing Publicity
SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

BSF kills 2 more

Home minister for probe

STAR REPORT

Indian Border Security Force shot two Bangladeshi cattle traders dead near a border area in Chapainawabganj and held two others in Joypurhat yesterday.

Hours after the incidents, Home Minister MK Alamgir said the government would investigate whether the BSF had broken its agreement with Border Guard Bangladesh that the two forces would
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Trapped in a hell for 4 days

Gangrape comes to light after 3 weeks; 4 rapists, their female aide remanded in Tangail

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

For four days she was raped not by one, not by two but by four brutes. Brutes they are, they not only raped the 15-year-old schoolgirl. They also took the obscene photos and videos on their video cameras. On the fifth day, they left her by the rail line in Tangail, a village away from her home. Her brother recovered her from there, unconscious.

The girl has lost her mental balance, say doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she is undergoing treatment. She screams at the sight of any unknown man.

THE ACCUSED



Moni Gada Shajahan Harun Bithi

remand yesterday.

Ironically, the abetter is a young woman, Bithi Akter, who befriended the victim just a month before handing her over to the culprits.

THE TRAP

Bithi, 18, and the victim became friends in November last year when the two took a tailoring course in the
SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

The gangrape took place between December 6 and 10 last year in Madhupur of Tangail. The four violators and their abetter were arrested on December 31 and were all placed on police

Delhi lawyers refuse to defend gang rape accused

AFP, New Delhi

Lawyers at a Delhi court hearing the case of the fatal gang-rape which has shocked the nation said yesterday they would refuse to defend the men accused of taking part in the assault and murder.

Hearings are expected to begin today at the Saket district court in south New Delhi, where police will formally present a 1,000-page charge sheet against the six-person gang.
"We have decided that
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Fakhrul gets 6-month HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted six months' ad interim bail to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in two cases filed for torching a car and blasting cocktails during the opposition's countrywide roadblock on December 9 last year.

ENVIRONMENT OF DHAKA CITY Lot of promises, very few steps

TAWFIQUE ALI

Environmental degradation in the capital over the last four years has made the city less habitable for people.

Unplanned urbanisation, destruction of rivers and wetlands and absence of effective mass transport system contributed to further deterioration in the city's ambience.

According to Global Liveability Survey 2012, Dhaka is the worst liveable city among 140 in the world in terms of stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

Assuming office in 2009, the Awami League-led grand alliance government had pledged to ensure planned development of the capital and prevent environmental degradation. But very little has so far been done to honour its pledge.

In January 2010, the government embarked on a much-hyped Buriganga river clean-up drive to remove garbage including non-biodegradable polythene and sewage from the riverbed with a target of excavating nearly three lakh cubic metres of sludge.

The move soon flopped as it made no difference except for wasting
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4 YEARS OF
AWAMI LEAGUE
GOVERNMENT

Graft main hurdle to progress

Says Gallup survey on Bangladesh; shows living standards improving

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Large population and corruption are the main obstacles to Bangladesh's economic progress, according to a survey of Gallup, a Washington-based opinion poll surveyor.

In the survey, 60 percent of the respondents identified population and 56 percent saw corruption as major barriers to the country's economic advancement. Poorly qualified population, crime and lack of security were the other factors inhibiting the progress, said Gallup.

A major portion of the respondents think the economy performs either "only fair" or "good", and it's getting better with the improvement in their living standards, said the recently published "Insights South Asia -- Bangladesh Survey 2012".

Thirty-eight percent rated their current economic condition as "only fair" and 37 percent as "good". Twenty percent termed it "poor" and only 3 percent rated it "excellent."

Gallup in collaboration with South Asia Democratic Forum conducted the survey through 1,000 face-to-face interviews on 13 broad issues in Bangladesh's six divisions.
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