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CHÁVEZ'S HEALTH UPDATE

Venezuelan government announces the leader has "severe" respiratory infection
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Fuel price hike draws flak

BNP calls hartal for tomorrow; other parties, transport leaders vent anger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opposition, left-leaning political parties and transport owners protested the fuel price hike that became effective yesterday and the BNP-led 18-party alliance called a nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal tomorrow.

BNP leader Tariqul Islam yesterday said, "Ignoring the demands of the people, the government has stubbornly and unilaterally decided to hike fuel prices forcing us to call the dawn-to-dusk hartal for January 6 [Sunday]."

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the decision to call for hartal came from "madness" and that it could not have been a decision of a

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With the opening of the Hatirjheel-Begunbari streets, the capital seems to get a new attraction spot. The aesthetic greenery, bridges, serene waterfront, and wide walkways have brought the citizens some respite from the usual congestion, pollution and dirt. Even after dark, people are visiting and enjoying their time there.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Move on to protect killers

Alleges Bishwajit's father

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of slain Bishwajit yesterday dismissed the autopsy report as "untrue" and termed it a conspiracy to weaken the murder case.

"The postmortem report has made the case weak. Punishment of the culprits would be less if the report says there was no injury marks," Bishwajit's father Ananta Das told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

He claimed he saw marks of stabs all over his son's



Bishwajit

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NEW AL CENTRAL COMMITTEE Women leaders get less priority

Only 15pc of 73-member body are women

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The number of women in the ruling Awami League's newly formed central working committee has come down, instead of going up as stipulated in the Representation of the People Order (RPO), the law that regulates election.

The new ALCWC announced on Wednesday night has 11 female members, including party chief Sheikh Hasina and four presidium members -- Syeda Zohra Tajuddin,

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TANGAIL GANG RAPE: All accused admit role Says investigation officer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Bithi Akter Eva, the 18-year-old arrested for abetting the gang rape of a teenage girl in Madhupur, has admitted handing over the victim to the rapists.

Bithi and four other accused -- Nuruzzaman

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Another girl raped in Savar

Four people arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Savar police early yesterday arrested four youths including a female in connection with violating a college girl and keeping footage of the incident.

The arrestees are Rayhan, 20, a second-year student of Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology in the capital, Mohidur Rahman, 21, a first-year student of Savar College, Danesh, 32, neighbour of the victim, and the victim's friend Liza, 20.

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Picnic bus crash kills 6 in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

At least six people were killed and 15 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Chouddagram upazila in Comilla yesterday.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

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Governance left in disarray

Govt failed to take proper steps to curb graft, prevent party men from wrongdoings

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The way the Awami League-led grand alliance government has dealt with some major incidents and run the country in last four years demonstrates poor governance.

Its failure to take decisive actions against plunderers who embezzled thousands of crores of public money from the stock market and through the Sonali Bank-Hall-Mark loan scam also reduced public confidence in it.

Besides, detection of large-scale financial scams in some multilevel marketing companies, particularly the Destiny 2000 Ltd, has exposed a very weak financial sys-

4 YEARS OF AWAMI LEAGUE GOVERNMENT

tem in the country.

However, the government's actions against the Destiny 2000 Ltd deserve some kudos as the financial irregularities have been taking place for quite a long time.

But the way the government had sought to amend the company act empowering itself with sweeping authority to appoint an administrator to a private company drew huge flak.

It, however, retreated from the move to avert further criticism and protests from the business community and trade bodies.

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1st Anniversary In Memoriam
Samson H Chowdhury
who returned to the Lord on January 5, 2012

It's been a year since you've gone
Yet your presence lingers on
Be it today, tomorrow or any other day
Memories of you will always stay
We wipe our tears and not be sad
And remember the precious times we had

Dearly missed and fondly remembered by
Anita Chowdhury and loving family members

Countdown
373 ... 419 branches
branches are online
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