

## NEWS IN *brief*

### Aman, Dulu admitted to hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Joint Secretary General Amanullah Aman was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital with chest pain yesterday.

Aman had been at Dhaka Central Jail after being detained at BNP headquarters in the capital's Nayapltan on March 11 for his alleged involvement in assaults on police and cocktail blasts near the central office.

Meanwhile, the central jail authorities admitted Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, a former state minister, to the BSMMU hospital with heart, kidney and liver complications. Dulu was sent to the jail from Natore General Hospital around 4:45pm.

### Hartal stalls Dhaka-Ctg highway expansion work: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The development work of expanding Dhaka-Chittagong highway into four lanes is being hindered due to hartals and political unrest in the country, said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

He told this while talking to journalists after inaugurating "Bituminous Work of Contract-9" under the project at Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong around 10:30am.

Sitakunda Upazila Parishad Chairman Abdullah Al Baker Bhuiyan, Mirsarai Upazila Parishad Chairman Md Gias Uddin and Additional Project Director Swapan Kumar Nath were also present at



### Death anniversary of 5 martyrs of a family tomorrow

METRO DESK

The 42nd death anniversary of five members of a family will be observed tomorrow.

The deceased are Engineer Fazlur Rahman, his wife Hosne Akhtar and their three sons Mostafizur Rahman Moznu, Hasinur Rahman Hiron and Azizur Rahman Babu, said a press release.

They were brutally killed by the Pakistani occupation army and its collaborators at their Railway Government residence in Saidpur of Nilphamari on this day during the Liberation War in 1971 for their involvement in the liberation movement.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held and foods will be distributed among the destitute.

Their friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed souls.



Artists of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University give the finishing touches to a sculpture which will join others in today's Mongol Shobha Jatra, a procession brought out by the faculty's students and teachers marking Pahela Baishakh every year, from the faculty at 9:00am.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## HACKING OF BUET STUDENT Peers boycott classes

### Demand arrest of attackers

DU CORRESPONDENT

The students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) boycotted classes and demonstrated on the campus yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the attackers of their fellow, Arif Raihan Dwip, who has been fighting for life since a cleaver attack on April 9.

In a memorandum to the vice chancellor, they demanded that the university authorities bear the expenses of Dwip's treatment, remove the security officials if they are found guilty of negligence, run a high-profile investigation into the attack, and enhance campus security.

No-one has been arrested yet in connection with the attack on Dwip, said Chalkbazar police, although a case was filed on April 10.

The Buet authorities assured the protesters of taking necessary steps to meet their demands.

Speaking at a news conference at his office, Buet Registrar Prof AKM Masud said the university alumni, teachers and students would bear the expenditure of Dwip's treatment and the VC would

request the home minister for the culprits' arrest in the shortest time possible.

He also said the authorities had decided to remove the security-in-charge and would install surveillance cameras in the campus and dormitories for tightened security.

An unidentified man hacked Dwip, a third year student of mechanical engineering, at Nazrul Islam Hall in broad daylight on April 9. With wounds in the head, back and left eye, he is being treated in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the capital's Square Hospital.

Protesting the attack, the Buet students locked up the main gate of the Buet campus on April 9 and locked up the new academic building yesterday. They also paraded the streets on the campus starting from the Buet Shaheed Minar yesterday.

Students claimed that Dwip, a Bangladesh Chhatra League activist, was attacked by Islami Chhatra Shibir activists as he played a prominent role in identifying 18 Shibir men in the past three months.

## Capital set to celebrate Pahela Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pahela Baishakh, the most popular and secular festivals for Banglaees worldwide welcoming the Bangla New Year, will be celebrated in the capital today through lively pageants, leaving behind the past's gloom and pledging to uphold the nation's cultural heritage.

At 6:15am, with the first light appearing in the sky, Chhayanaut will begin its flagship *Borshoboron* programme in the capital's Ramna Batamul with recitations and rendition of songs by *Panchokobi*, and patriotic and movement songs.

Celebrations would remain incomplete without the Mongol Shobha Jatra, a colorful procession brought out by students and teachers of Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts.

This year the procession, themed "Rajakar Mukto Bangladesh, Muktijuddho Onihshesh" in line with the Shahbagh youths, will start from the faculty at 9:00am.

In observance of Chaitra Sangkranti, the Bangla calendar's last day, and Pahela Baishakh, Surer Dhara and Channel i began celebrations titled "Hajar-o Konthe Koti Bangali'r Borsho Boron" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre from midday yesterday and the programme is set to continue till noon today.

Geetshudha will organise a musical programme at Sampan Restaurant, Dhanmondi 27 at 6:30am while Sargam Lalitkala Academy will organise another, "Esho Hey Baishakh", at Suchana Community Centre in Mohammadpur Ring Road at 8:00am.

Wrishij Shilpi Goshthi will hold a programme, "Jago Nobo Anonday" at the venue adjacent to Suhrawardy Udyan.

## 12 best school, college level talents selected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 12 students emerged as the best talents in a nationwide competition among students of secondary and higher secondary levels yesterday.

The education ministry organised the first-ever competition, "Creative talent hunt competition-2013", which kicked off on March 11 at the upazila level.

Students from class VI to class XII of schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutions competed in four areas-- language and literature, science, mathematics and computer, and Bangladesh studies.

The winners of the upazilas took part in district and divisional levels. Finally 96 students from eight divisions, three drawn from each subject at each level, took part in the grand finale, which took place at Dhaka Residential Model College yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will give Tk 1 lakh and a certificate to each of the 12 winners on April 23.

## ASSAULT ON JU TEACHER Colleagues demand expulsion of BCL leader

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (Juta) yesterday demanded expulsion, within April 18, of a Bangladesh Chhatra League JU unit leader who assaulted a university lecturer on April 6.

They also urged to reform the probe body that was formed to investigate into the incident and remove the JU proctorial body as it failed to ensure security of teachers.

On the night of April 6, after hearing news that JU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Afsar Ahmed sustained injuries at Shahbagh, some JU Gonojagoron Mancha activists attacked Hefajat-e Islam men who were leaving the capital after their long march.

Amid the skirmish, some BCL men had an altercation with university teachers who came to diffuse the situation. During the argument, Md Nurul Houqe, lecturer of economics department and also JU syndicate member, was allegedly attacked by Rajib Ahmed Rasel, general secretary of JU unit of pro-Awami League BCL.

According to teachers of the association, on the same night, in a meeting with representatives of teachers led by Prof Ajit Kumar Majumdar, president of Juta, JU VC Prof Anwar Hossain gave assurance of taking actions, including expulsion of Rasel.

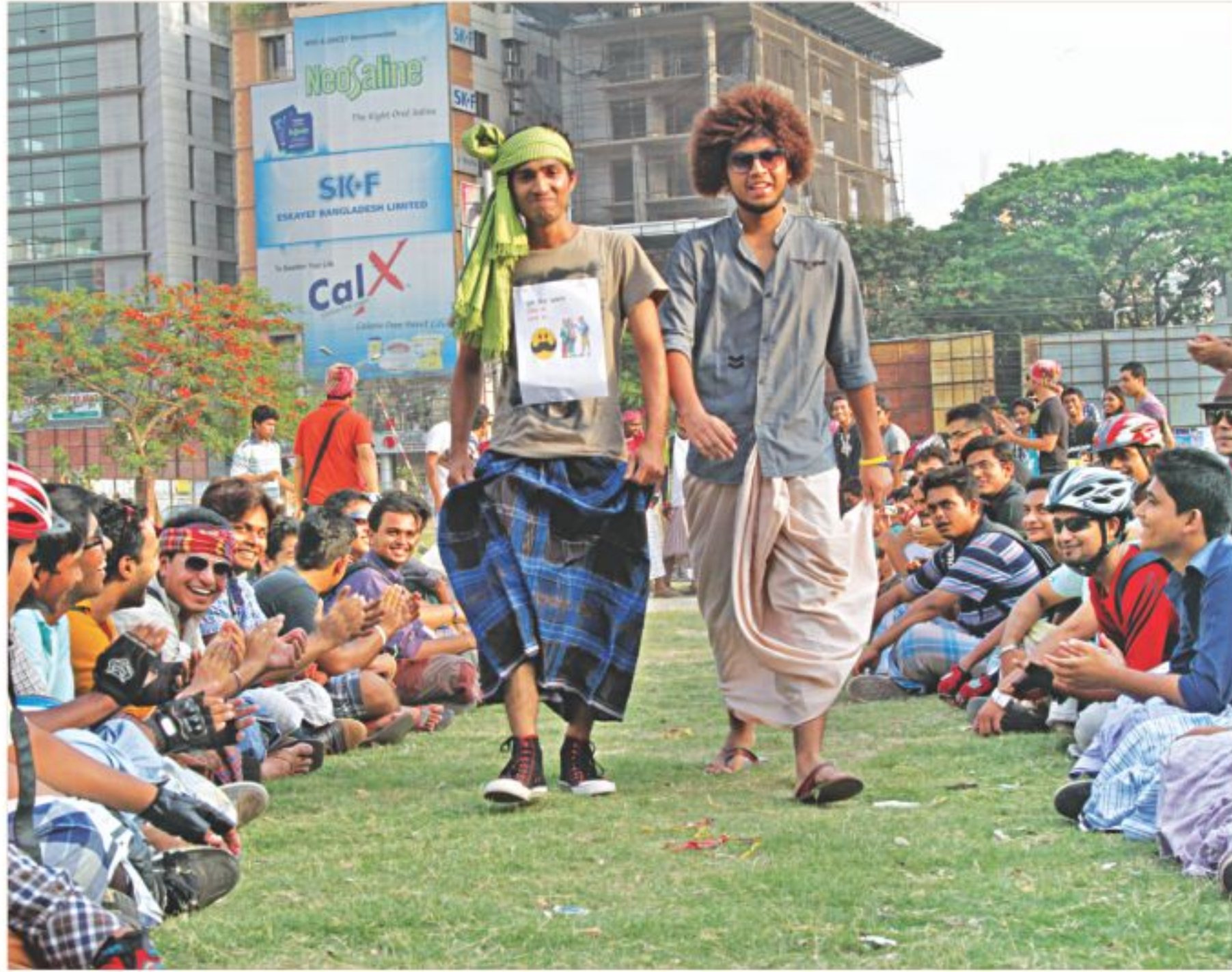
But the VC withdrew his decision after being pressurised by BCL activists, they added.

However, in a press conference on April 8, the BCL leader denied the allegation and claimed that they had resolved the issue with the teachers.

The teachers will hold a meeting on April 21 if their demand is not met.

Meanwhile, JU unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal announced, at a press conference, a two-day strike on the campus from April 15 in protest of an attack on their leader by JU BCL.

On Monday, some BCL JU unit activists including vice-president Sirajul Islam Sumon attacked joint general secretary of JCD JU unit Rezaul Karim Raju with sharp knives and iron rods.



Lungi marchers stage a fashion show on the capital's Banani playground before they tried to head towards Baridhara yesterday to protest a ban on lungi clad rickshaw-pullers in Baridhara. Mobilised through Facebook, around 600 students and young professionals, including some women, and about 200 cyclists gathered at the playground, dressed up in the traditional Bangalee outfit there, and then tried to march to Baridhara. But police stopped them at the gate of the playground though the protesters said they would have peacefully paraded the Baridhara streets.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Drain cleaner go missing in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A worker went missing while cleaning a drain in Hazaribagh area of the capital yesterday.

The victim is Abul Kalam, a resident of capital's Mugda area.

Police said a strong current of water pulled the victim away when five workers, including Kalam, were cleaning a Wasa drain around 4:00 pm.

Quoting Kalam's co-workers, Hazaribagh police said after the worker reached the bottom of the vertically accumulated waste through top-down extraction, the current broke free, pulling him away.

Divers of the Fire Service and Civil Defence could not find the victim till 7:45pm yesterday.

## Inclusion of debates in school syllabus sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extra-curricular activities like debate should be included in the syllabus of every school, speakers said yesterday at the grand finale of a debate competition in the capital.

Instead of instilling the habit of rote learning, educational institutes should focus on the ideal of holistic education that focuses on mental skill and cultural development of students, they added.

The grand finale of the debate competition titled "Bitorko Bikash" was organised by Brac, ATN Bangla and Debate for Democracy at Osmani Memorial Hall.

In order to bring about a revolution in education, there is a need to change the established ways of teaching, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

The government will work to include debates as a part of the education syllabus to further nurture students' intellectual prowess, he said.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, spoke among others.

More than 40,000 deprived students of 8,000 private secondary schools and 10,000 teachers from 2,000 schools took part in this yearlong debate competition which began in January 2012.

Kaliganj Karimuddin Public Pilot High School won the debate competition while teachers of Tularampur Secondary School of Narail won the teachers' debate.