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MARCH 11 VIOLENCE HC bail for 6 opposition leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday granted six months' bail to six opposition leaders accused of attacking police on March 11 near BNP's central office in the capital's Naya Paltan.

They are Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque, BNP's joint secretary generals Amanullah Aman and Rizvi Ahmed, leaders of the main opposition Shahjahan and ZM Zahid Hossain and Jatiya Gonotantrik Party chief Shaiful Alam Pradhan.

However, all but Pradhan will not be freed at this moment since they did not get bail in another case filed against them on charges of blasting cock-tails.

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With the unbearable stench all around, Charles Depman, Asia regional coordinator of Waterkeeper Alliance, has to wear a gasmask as he takes a tour of the Buriganga near Basila yesterday. *Inset*, the dark Buriganga near Basila bridge.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Buriganga too much polluted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The water of the river Buriganga has turned into a mass of sludge, prompting visitors to wear masks to avoid intoxication while examining it.

The Asia Regional Coordinator of the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance Charles Depman visited the river Buriganga yesterday along with members of its local partner, Buriganga Riverkeeper, to assess the water condition of the lifeline of Dhaka.

"I have never seen such a polluted river, the water looks lifeless and toxic, emitting a strong stench in the area," Depman, who wore a gas mask to avoid intoxication from the river water, told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

Correction

In our story-- Tahmima among top 20 young British novelists -- Wednesday, the second paragraph from the last should have read:

Tahmima Anam is the daughter of Shaheen Anam, executive director of the Manusher Jonno Foundation and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

She is the granddaughter of late Akikunnessa Ahmed and Abul Mansur Ahmed, who was a writer, politician and journalist. We regret the inadvertent mistake.

Probe reports on 4 bloggers submitted

Charges brought against them under ICT Act; students, teachers call strike at DU for Apr 25

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police yesterday submitted probe reports against four bloggers under arrest, accusing them of hurting religious sentiments via social media.

Meanwhile, outraged by the government move to implicate the bloggers, students and teachers of Dhaka University yesterday announced a string

of programmes, demanding their unconditional release.

The four are Subrata Adhikari Shuvo, 24, a master's student of the Bangla department at DU; Russel Parvez, 36, a teacher at an English medium school; Mashir Rahman Biplob, 42; and Asif Mohiuddin, 28, an ex-student of American International University, Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

Nasim Osman
threatens
journalist

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narayanganj

Jatiya Party lawmaker Nasim Osman yesterday allegedly threatened a journalist to force him out of Narayanganj.

Halim Azad, president of Narayanganj Press Club and deputy chief reporter of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), made the allegation against the legislator (Narayanganj-5) at a press conference at

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Ctg port still reels from workers' strike

Unloading of imported goods hampered as negotiations with lighterage vessel owners fail

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

The stalemate over unloading and transportation of goods at Chittagong Port drags on as a majority of lighter vessel workers continued their indefinite strike yesterday.

Following directives from the shipping ministry, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) yesterday sent its vessel Banglar Mamata to the outer anchor-

age for unloading goods from the mother vessels anchored there.

Five more BSC vessels would be engaged in the job within a week to ease transportation of goods, BSC Managing Director Commodore Moqsudul Qader told The Daily Star.

The state-run organisation will also hire lighter vessels, he added.

On Tuesday, Shipping Minister

SEE PAGE 12 COL 7



No line, rod, hook nor bait are needed for fishing. An elderly fisherman and his cormorants are seen on the Lijiang River in Gulin.

Fishing Chinese style

MAIL ONLINE

Guided only by the flicker of their lanterns and the last light of a dimming sun, three cormorant fishermen drift silently across a Chinese lake, hoping to make a last catch for the day.

With its myriad shades of purples and blues, this stunning photograph provides a fiery and touching snapshot of a dying tradition, all but stamped out by big business.

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CREDIBLE NEXT POLLS
Arab nations for
dialogues with
govt, opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ambassadors of 10 Arab countries would talk to the government and the main opposition BNP so that a credible general election is held in Bangladesh, sources said.

As part of the initiative, they called on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night at her Gulshan office.

The officials of diplomatic missions of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Iraq, Libya, Palestine and Morocco had a two-hour-long meeting with the opposition leader.

BNP Vice-Chairman Shamsher M Chowdhury told reporters after the meeting that a wide range of issues, including the trials of war criminals, were discussed.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 12



Judge holds
himself in
contempt

AP, Michigan

A Michigan judge whose smartphone disrupted a hearing in his own court-room has held himself in contempt and paid \$25 for

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

JOBS IN MALAYSIA First batch to fly April 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first batch of around 200 Bangladeshi workers will fly to Malaysia on April 25 for plantation jobs, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday.

"We have got a list of around 200 workers from the Malaysian government from among the names of 10,000 workers submitted to them," he said.

The minister was talking to reporters at his ministry after awarding commercially important person (CIP) card to 13 non-resident Bangladeshis for their contribution to the country's economy.

Urging people not to be misguided and deceived by any propaganda, the minister alleged some quarters were spreading propaganda against the government that it would not be able to send workers to Malaysia.

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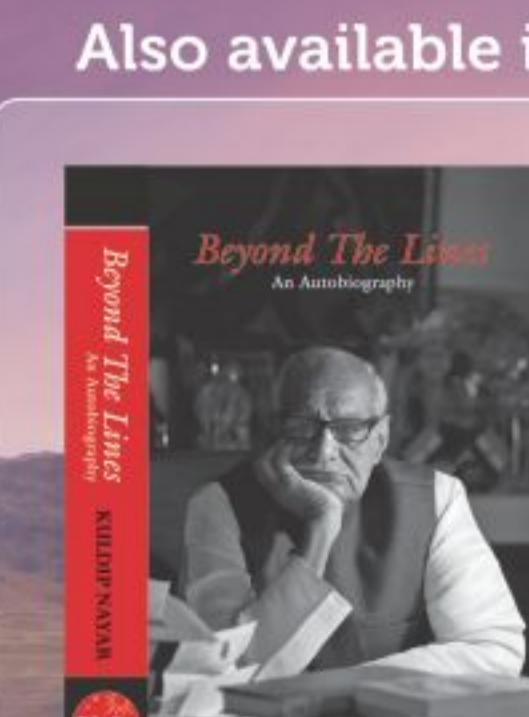
The Daily Star
Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you think Bangladesh will be benefited from the two sub-regional alliances through producing and sharing electricity from trans-boundary rivers in the region?
Yes (50%)
No (50%)
TOTAL VOTES: 288
TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam that the main opposition BNP refrained from calling hartal in fear of losing public support?
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING April 18
Azan Jamaat 4:35 5:10
Zohr 12:45 1:15
Asr 4:45 5:00
Maghrin 6:24 6:28
Esha 7:45 8:15
Source: Islamic Foundation

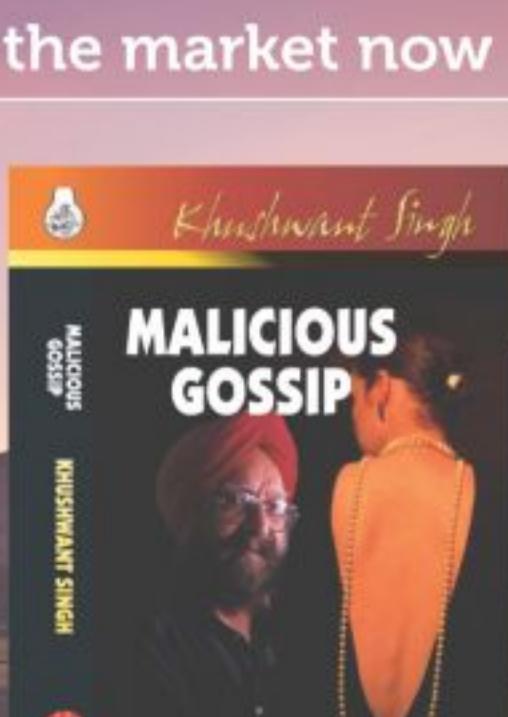
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