



FIX NAZRUL MEMORIALS

Renovation of the memorial centres is needed to attract more visitors

PAGE 11

CUSTODIAN NEEDED

None was assigned to the upkeep of Hatirjheel's civic amenities

PAGE 2

LYDIA BOOKS BOOKER

Shortest short story writer accepts the £60,000 honour

PAGE 9

Dhaka deluged in downpour

6-hr rain exposes poor state of drainage system; 4 die in wall collapse, electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just a few hours of torrential rain pushed much of the capital to ankle to waist-deep water, causing immense sufferings to the city dwellers yesterday.

Two pedestrians died of electrocution when they stepped on a snapped electric cable in the waterlogged street at Bangsal in the old town.

In Uttara, a mother and her five-month-old baby died in their sleep when a wall collapsed on their tin-built house in the morning, presumably due to heavy rain.

Inadequate drainage system and its poor management, filling up of canals and conversion of canals into box culverts are the main reasons for waterlogging, experts and officials have said.

"The existing drainage system can carry rainwater up to 15 millimeters per hour if the sewerage system is not clogged with waste. But there will be waterlogging if it rains more than that," said an official of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

The Met office said it rained 70mm in six hours yesterday morning and on Wednesday night, which is about 12mm per hour.

Beginning early Thursday, the downpour continued for several hours and soon submerged most of the city streets and alleyways.

The manholes or potholes added to the sufferings as vehicles and pedestrians stumbled on them or fell over.

People living in shanties are the worst sufferers.

Minara Begum of Gendaria could not cook till yesterday afternoon as her house had gone under waist-deep water. Her gas stoves in the kitchen were submerged.

"We still do not know whether we can cook at night," her son, Rhidoy, told The Daily Star in the evening.

The woes of Sushanta Roy and others who live in a multi-storey building at Paribagh are greater.

The building's water reservoir was connected with the sewage line and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

People and rickshaws plough through knee-deep water on Nazimuddin Road in Old Dhaka after rain submerged the area yesterday.

QUOTA-FREE ACCESS EU warns of withdrawal

STAR REPORT

The European Parliament in a resolution yesterday said Bangladesh's duty and quota-free access to the EU market can be withdrawn in the event of serious and systematic violations of the principles set out in different human rights conventions.

Members of European Parliament (MEPs) called on the European Commission to investigate the country's compliance with these conventions.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Govt plans to filter internet contents

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The government is going to install a filter for sensitive content at the internet gateways of the country which would hamper free flow of information.

The filter would be effective for all data passing through gateways and sites like Facebook, Twitter and different blogs. Even news websites could be affected.

At a conference at Dubai in December, the International

Telecommunication Union, which operates under the United Nations, proposed a global system that would allow state control over the internet. Democratic countries opposed the idea.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission intends to use a software and hardware based solution touted as "Internet Safety Solution".

The BTRC even called for expressions of interest from international

SEE PAGE 12 COL 7

Khaleda warns of resisting polls without non-party govt

BNP waits on talks move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night warned of resisting the next general polls if the government "turned down the majority people's demand" for a non-party election-time government.

"We want to state clearly that we will not let any election take place without a non-party caretaker government. You [the government] will see how the election is resisted if you go for polls by forcibly ignoring the demand," Khaleda said at a views exchange meeting with Buddhist leaders at her Gulshan office.

The programme was organised to mark Buddha Purnima amid the presence of pro-BNP Buddhist leaders and BNP stalwarts.

Meanwhile, the BNP has again urged the government to have talks with it

SEE PAGE 12 COL 7

BNP readies for Tarique's return

RASHIDUL HASAN

With the present government's tenure nearing an end, BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman has been giving out signs of a return to the country as well as politics to energise a party facing hard times. That is what party insiders would have the country know.

Sources close to Tarique, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, say Tarique has already given signals of his return to party activities through convening the BNP UK chapter's meeting in East London last Monday.

The BNP high command, especially the BNP chief, is lobbying at various international levels, among which are the EU, US and Canada, to put pressure on the ruling Awami League not to harass Tarique on his return to the country.

During her meeting with the head of delegation of the EU, the high commissioner of Canada and the ambassadors of Germany and Japan last Sunday, Khaleda Zia raised the issue and sought their

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Bring Tarique back for trial

14-party asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alleging that Tarique Rahman has repeatedly been conspiring from London to topple the government, the Awami League-led 14-party combine yesterday demanded the government bring him back and try him in different cases now at the trial stage.

It also demanded the formation of a commission to find out all the persons involved in delivering the death penalty to Col Abu Taher and punishment to those if found alive.

The demands came up at a meeting of the alliance at the political office of AL President Sheikh Hasina in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Suranjit Sengupta, advisory council member of AL, chaired the meeting. Briefing newsmen after the meeting, AL presidium member Mohammad Nasim said BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman had left the country for treatment on a "bond" that he would not

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



A child sleeps beside its mother in a shanty made up of long polythene sheets on a footpath in the capital's Motijheel yesterday amid intermittent rain that caused water stagnation on the road.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Shamim Reza

DEATH IN N'GANJ COP CUSTODY Family doubts fair probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two members of the three-man committee formed to probe Shamim Reza's death allegedly from torture were involved in interrogating the youth, allege his family members.

They say Shamim was interrogated by Narayanganj Superintendent of Police Syed Nurul Islam, Additional SP (crime) Ashrafuzzaman and assistant SP (B-circle)

Uttam Prasad on May 14, the day he was arrested in a murder case.

And he was forced to make a confessional statement before a court on May 20 about his involvement in the April 20 murder of four people at Sonargaon upazila in Naryanganj.

Following his death at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in police custody on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5
SEE EDITORIAL

Sydney International School
.....A bridge to the future

Limited Seats. Last Date of Enrolment 30 June 2013

House # 08, Road # 09, Block # J, Baridhara 01760292452, 01760292451, 02-9898324-5

ADMISSION OPEN
2013-14 SESSION (Playgroup onwards)

- > Australian Curriculum at Primary level, approved by NSW Board of Studies.
- > Australian Principal, Coordinator teacher, Australian text books and resources.
- > Inquiry and Activity based learning.
- > Will offer Cambridge (IGCSE & A' levels)
- > Credit transfer to Australia at any point.
- > Open Day on Saturday the 22nd June 2013 from 11:00am to 3:30pm
- > We will be running SUMMER SCHOOL in July'13, open to all.

www.sisedu.info