

Urging the opposition to sit in a dialogue, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has said a caretaker government framework cannot be worked out by issuing threats from the streets.

"Hammering out an interim polls-time system requires the consent of both the parties. Discard the destructive activities and sit in talks. Then there'll be a solution," he said while talking to journalists at a local Circuit House in Kushtia yesterday.

Claiming that there are conditions even in democracy for doing politics, the minister said political activities in the capital have been suspended in the wake of the deteriorating situation.

Terming Jamaat-e-Islami a "terrorist outfit", he said they unleashed terror and destructive activities whenever they got permission for rallies.

60 girls, five children return from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Sixty Bangladeshi girls and five children returned home on Thursday night after serving 2 years in Indian jail.

Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Benapole check post police immigration, said the girls were trafficked to India through the Jessore border.

They hail from Khulna, Barisal and Narail districts, he added.

Indian police had arrested them from Mumbai and Delhi on charge of living there illegally.

Later, the Indian government decided to repatriate them after exchange of letters between the two governments.



Thick cloud shrouds the capital in darkness around 3:30pm yesterday. It was followed by heavy rains and incessant drizzle. The city dwellers have been undergoing sufferings for inclement weather for the last couple of days. The photo was taken at Purana Paltan.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Bangladesh is leader in promoting global peace

Says Mozena

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Dan W. Mozena yesterday said Bangladesh was the leader in the world in promoting global peace.

The country is in fact number-1 in the world in terms of sending troops to peace keeping operations to promote global peace, he told the inauguration of a 10-day Art Exhibition on "Peace" at the Gallery Cosmos-2 at New DOHS in the capital's Mohakhali.

Referring to the recent unrest in the country, including the burning of Holy Quran early this month, Mozena said, "Look around you. They [the paintings] are just shouting out for peace. What could be more timely than this exhibit?"

A total of 30 paintings by Afrozaa Jamil Konka, Bipasha Hayat, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Mohammad Iqbal, Pijush Kanti, and Rebeka Sultana are being exhibited at the gallery, which will remain open from 11:00am to 7:00pm every day until June 2.

Prof Abul Barq Alvi, dean of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Waliur Rahman, former secretary; and Dr Md Enamur Rahman, chairman of Enam Medical College and Hospital, visited the gallery.

Mahila parishad wants safety for RMG workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday expressed concern over the ongoing instabilities in the garment industry following some unexpected incidents and demanded safety for the garment workers.

Mentioning female workers' contributions to the country's economy, they also criticised the communal and fundamentalist groups for opposing the rights of women, said a press release.

They were addressing the inauguration of a two-day long meeting of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

Maleka Banu, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said the women of the country came out of their houses to lead their families, turn the wheels of the economy and contribute to the country's growth.

But the fundamentalist groups are opposing the national women policy, education policy, and trying to rewind what the country has achieved through the 13-point demand of Hefajat-e Islam, she added.

Ayesha Khanom, chairperson of the organisation, spoke among others.

## Groundwater use concern in northern region: Study

UNB, Dhaka

Although Bangladesh achieved sustainable progress in increasing foodgrain production, groundwater use for irrigation is a matter of growing concern in northern Bangladesh, says a recent study.

The country's food security is highly dependent on irrigational inputs with groundwater being the main component for food production.

The study, "Sustainability of groundwater use for irrigation in the northwestern Bangladesh", conducted with financial support from the National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP), identified key impediments to sustainable groundwater use for irrigation.

These include overexploitation of groundwater faster than it can be recharged, installation of excess tubewells, declining river water levels and wetlands, low rainfall in dry periods, increasing irrigation costs and defects in irrigation management.

Principal Investigator Dr Nepal Chandra Dey and co-investigators Dr Sujit Kumar Bala, Dr AKM Saiful Islam and Dr Abdur Rashid of Brac jointly conducted the study, covering five districts -- Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Pabna, Rangpur and Bogra.

NFPCSP is being implemented by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the food ministry with financial support from European Union and USAID.

Groundwater use should be ecology-friendly and based on sound policy formulation on recharging groundwater through water conservation, and implemented through community participation, all of which was absent, it said.

The study reveals that about 73 percent farmers were well aware that groundwater levels were dropping while 53 percent complained that they were not getting enough during irrigation periods. Over 88 percent farmers were well aware of excessive extraction.

It suggested reducing Boro rice production and increase winter crop production to help preserve groundwater at optimum levels.

It stressed formation of an independent Groundwater Directorate or Water Regularity Authority to establish water resources governance and management.

"If the present trend of groundwater extraction continues, the water level will decline and water pumps will be non-functional for lack of water," Principal Investigator Dr Nepal told the news agency.

## Celebrating Nazrul's 114th Birth Anniversary Three-day programme begins in Trishal today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Mymensingh District Administration and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University will organise separate three-day programmes in Trishal upazila from today celebrating the 114th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Born in Churulia village of West Bengal's Bardwan district, India on May 25, 1899, Nazrul stayed for about a year in Trishal's Darirampur and studied at Darirampur High School.

The administration's programme, to be held at Darirampur Nazrul Mancha, includes rallies, meetings, congregation of poets, staging of drama and dance and a "Nazrul fair".

Performances of the country's eminent artists and cultural groups from greater Mymensingh and Dhaka will be held from 5:00pm to 10:00pm every day.

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir will inaugurate the celebrations as chief guest and the university Vice-Chancellor Prof Khondakar Ashraf Hossain will present a "Nazrul Speech" with Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner Muskim Billah Faruqui in the chair.

It will be attended by lawmakers Motiur Rahman, Abdus Salam and Reza Ali as special guests and State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mozibur Rahman Fakir.

Next day, Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddique will be chief guest and State Minister for Social Welfare Promode Mankin will be special guest while Nazrul researcher Prof Shantanu Kaiser will deliver a "Nazrul Speech" with Dhaka Divisional Commissioner AN Shamsuddin Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

On the concluding day, the prime minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi will attend as chief guest while Dr Hayat Mamud will deliver a lecture on Nazrul.

The university's programmes will be inaugurated on the campus by Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddique as chief guest while the university Treasurer Prof Md Abul Bashar will deliver the welcome speech with VC Prof Khondakar in the chair.

Prof Abul Barakat and Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan and Deputy Director Dr Tapon Bagchi will be present.



A Nagalingam tree (Cannonball) in full bloom at Ramna Park in the capital yesterday. The colourful flowers cover the tree throughout the entire rainy season.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Chironjib Chakma, a founder of Bain Textile, a handloom industry for indigenous people, died of brain haemorrhage in a Dhaka hospital on Wednesday. He was 78.

He left his wife Monjulika Chakma, a son, two daughters and a host of relatives.

He was cremated at Asambasti Cremation ground in Rangamati town yesterday.

His weekly funeral will be held at the town's Ananda Vihara.

Chironjib and his wife founded the textile in 1976.

Monjulika got The Daily Star and DHL business award for her contributions to handloom industry in the region.

ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED

## DOM-INNO

Creating Inspiration.. ....

To know detail by SMS go to create message and type\* dom area malibag Type "dom" space "area" space "area name" from the list

send message to **7464**

\*regular sms charge applicable

House\_36  
Road\_13, Banani  
Dhaka\_1213

9820073, 9820082  
9820079, 9820080

01817-146233, 01817-143325  
01811-445349, 01847-052354  
01819-261011, 01847-052350  
01817-031197, 01833-168295  
01819-230946, 01817-295665

sales@dominno-bd.com

www.dominno-bd.com

gulshan dhanmondi

baridhara mohakhali dohs

niketon easkaton

bashundhara lalmatia

rampura kalabagan

moghbazar west dhanmondi

malibagh indira road

chamelibagh rajabazar

momenbagh iqbal road

khilgaon sir syed road

naya paltan zigatola

arambagh green road

tikatuli shukrabad

uttara shukrabad

mirpur nakhalpara

The Daily Star

LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW

## LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has some exciting articles for the readers. The Spotlight is about the positive usage of Social Media and how it can be used as a tool to make some drastic changes in the society. The Campus Edibles reviews a beloved restaurant in the heart of Lalmatia-Kutumbari. Shariqa Habib is back with her Travel Diaries, talking about her recent study-trip to Ghana. The Star Chat is with Film Maker Humayun Sadhu, where he shares stories from his childhood and talks about his inspirations and future plans. Do not forget to grab your copy of Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!

শেল্টেক্ মে ফেয়ার ২০১৩ উপলক্ষে

Attractive Price-এ

২৫% ছাড়ে\*

Luxury Apartments বিক্রয়!!!

<b>Sheltech Afzal Neer</b> BANANI Size : 1780 sft.	<b>Sheltech Krishnachura</b> BANANI 1685 sft.
<b>Sheltech Venus</b> GULSHAN 1555 sft.	<b>Sheltech Shafique's Tower</b> DHANMONDI 1630 sft.

১০-৩১ মে ২০১৩ (সকাল ৯:০০-সন্ধ্যা ৭:০০)

শেল্টেক্ টাওয়ার (শেল্টেক্ লাইড্জ) ৫৫ বীর উত্তম কাজী নুরুজ্জামান সড়ক (পশ্চিম পাছপথ), ঢাকা-১২০৫

শেল্টেক্ Since 1988

০১৭১৩-০৯১৭০৮, ০১৭১৩-০৯১৭০৯, ০১৭১৩-০৯১৭০৫  
০১৭১৩-০৯১৭১০, ০১৭১৩-০৯১৭১৩, ০১৭১৩-০৯১৭২৪  
০১৭১৩-০৯১৭৪৭, ০১৭১৩-০৯১৭৪৯, ০১৭১৩-০৯১৭০৮

\* গ্রাহকজা পেমেন্টে