



CAPTIVATING SHAFIN

The audience at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre were captivated by the performance

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FACTORY SAFETY

EU diplomats call for real action from Bangladesh

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TWEETING HILLARY

She describes herself as a "pantsuit aficionado", among many more, on the social site

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Anti-terror bill passed amid BNP walkout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament last night passed the Anti-terrorism (amendment) Bill, 2013 amid a boycott by the BNP-led opposition lawmakers, who termed it a "black law" aimed at intensifying government repression of the opposition.

Piloted by Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, the bill was passed by voice vote to "effectively curb terrorism through inter-state cooperation" and giving the central bank the authority to freeze suspicious accounts without court orders.

The present government had enacted the law first in

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No big name except Abul

WB hands Muhith its final report on Padma graft conspiracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In its final report, the World Bank's external panel has mentioned only the name of ex-communications minister Syed Abul Hossain as a high-profile corruption suspect in the Padma bridge project.

The panel expressed dissatisfaction at Abul's exclusion from the First Information Report filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission, and said the ACC was not probing the Padma bridge corruption allegations in a free and fair manner.

However, the panel did not mention the names of any other high-profile individuals as corruption suspects in or outside the government.

The names of high-profile persons surfaced as corruption suspects at different times, and the main opposition

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Formalin in fruits

Study finds chemical in almost all seasonal fruits at city shops

HELEMUL ALAM

A study has found excessive formalin in seasonal fruits like mango, litchi and blackberry sold at shops in different areas of the capital. Even shops with signboards reading "chemical-free fruits" sell fruits soaked in formalin.

Save the Environment Movement (SEM) revealed the findings of the study through a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, after running formalin tests on fruits from shops in 26 areas on June 1-10.

It found that around 94 percent of the mangoes and 100 percent blackberries and litchis are formalin-tainted, thanks to fewer mobile court drives lacking police support this year.

Formalin, a 37 percent water solution of formaldehyde, is poisonous and can cause cancer. Traders use this chemical as a preservative and to make fruits and vegetables look fresh for longer periods.

SEM Secretary Abdus Sobhan said 115 samples of mangoes, litchis and blackberries had been collected from nearly 40 shops.

The organisation has traced 10 shops that display

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TODAY'S RALLY DMP allows BNP, but not on street

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday gave permission to the main opposition BNP to hold its rally today at Suhrawardy Uddyan, instead of the party's headquarters in Nayapaltan.

The permission comes hours after Home Minister MK Alamgir in parliament advised the BNP to hold the rally inside its office building or any auditorium or place surrounded by walls, instead of on the street.

On Monday, the BNP announced its decision to hold the rally in front of its Nayapaltan office to press

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CITY CORPORATION ELECTION 2013

Religion card used against AL favourites

Jamaat, Hefajat flout code of conduct for BNP-backed candidates

WASIM BIN HABIB

Use of religion by some Islamist parties and organisations in electioneering for BNP-backed mayoral candidates in the June 15 polls to four city corporations has taken a turn for the worse.

They have been carrying out the smear campaign to portray the Awami League-led government as "anti-Islamic" and to urge voters not to vote for AL-backed mayoral aspirants to "save Islam".

When the electoral campaign began

towards the end of last month, local leaders and workers of Jamaat-e-Islami, Hefajat-e-Islam and some other Islamist parties and organisations started openly using people's religious sentiment to gain political mileage in favour of candidates backed by the BNP-led 18-party alliance in the elections in Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet city corporations, according to locals.

Following complaints, the returning officers issued warnings not to hurt people's religious sentiment in electioneering. These

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TAZREEN GARMENT TRAGEDY

Negligence unpardonable

Home probe suggests trial of owner

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A government body to probe last year's devastating fire at Tazreen Fashions Ltd in Ashulia has found "unpardonable neglect" on the part of the owner but said the incident might have been "subversive".

The fire at Tazreen in Ashulia on



Delwar Hossain

November 24 last year killed at least 112 people and injured many others.

The committee, formed by the home ministry, recommended that Md Delwar Hossain, owner of the factory, be tried under Section 304 (A) of the Penal Code, which

hands down only five years' imprison-

ment as maximum punishment.

Delwar, the managing director of the garment factory, ruled out his responsibility in connection with the fire and claimed he was innocent. He told The Daily Star that law enforcers had not arrested him as there were no specific charges against him.

Some of the security workers were

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