NEWS_{IN} brief

Newspaper holiday on June 24

UNB, Dhaka

The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) will observe holiday on June 24 (Monday) on the occasion of holy Shab-e-Barat.

In accordance with the decision of the executive committee of Noab, no newspaper will be published on June 25 (Tuesday), said a Noab press release.

University student drowns in pool

DU CORRESPONDENT

A student of American International University-Bangladesh yesterday drowned in Dhaka University's pool after he jumped from a one-meter high diving board during a swimming lesson.

The deceased is Fahim Shahriar Chowdhury, 21. Blood was coming out of his mouth when witnesses brought him out of the pool. He was declared dead at

Businessman 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A businessman allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his house in the capital's Shanti Nagar yesterday morning.

Arif Ali Robin, 37, was an owner of a car showroom. Paltan Police recovered the hanging body from Robin's bedroom.

Deceased's father said Robin had been depressed for five years due to his divorce.

Man held with 45 lakh Indian rupees at Shahjalal International Airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials detained a man with 45 lakh Indian rupees on charge of carrying the currency illegally at Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

The detained is Mohammad Sajjad Hossain,

He landed in Bangladesh around 5:00pm, said Customs Superintendent Humayun Hafiz.

They held him acting on prior information, he

Sajjad has been taken to Airport Police Station.

Man dies as train runs him over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died as a train ran him over near Malibagh rail crossing in the capital yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nabiullah Nabi, 35, of Banasree, by his stepbrother Jahangir Alam, said railway police.

Jahangir claimed that Nabi was a shares investor. Dhaka Railway Police Officer-in-Charge Abdul Mazid said he might commit suicide.

He took money from many people in the name of investment, he added.

Quader Mollah's Punishment Govt appeal for death penalty lawful

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam tells SC on 17th day of hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government lawfully sought death penalty on all six crimes-against-humanity charges against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah, even on the one he had been acquitted by the trial court, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told the Supreme Court yesterday.

There is no legal bar on moving the appeal under the amended International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 and challenging the acquittal as the amendment was brought with retrospective effect, a condition protected by the constitution, he added.

Mahbubey Alam was placing arguments on the 17th day of the SC's Appellate Division hearing on the government appeal.

On February 5, the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-2 jailed Mollah for life after finding him guilty of five wartime criminal offences.

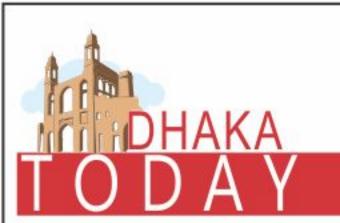
The ICT-2 acquitted Mollah from the charge of killing in the villages of Khanbari and Ghatarchar, now Shaheed Nagar of Keraniganj, as it was not proven.

As per the charge, Mollah along with his 60 to 70 accomplices went to the villages and caught two unarmed freedom fighters from the house of Mozaffar Ahmed Khan on November 25, 1971.

Freedom fighters Osman Gani and Golam Mostafa were brutally murdered by charging bayonet in broad daylight.

A systematic attack and indiscriminate shooting by Mollah and his gang killed hundreds of unarmed villagers that day. Among them, 24 were named in the charge.

Earlier, Mollah's lawyer Abdur Razzaq questioned the legality of appealing for death sentence in the charge.



Wreath placing

Saajher Maya Trust will place wreaths on the grave of poet Sufia Kamal marking her 102nd birth anniversary; Venue: Azimpur Graveyard; Time: 9:00am.

Competition Bangladesh Astronomical Association will organise a competition on making model rockets marking the 50th anniversary of the flight of the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova; Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture; Time: 4:00pm.

Programme

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will organise a programme marking poet Sufia Kamal's 102nd birth anniversary; Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Time:



She asked the authorities concerned to take

initiatives to train elderly women of a family,

including grandmothers, about safe birth so

that they could help pregnant women of their

ing tirelessly to create awareness about mater

nal health, safe delivery and nutrition in all

Hasina said the government has been work-

The present government, she said, has

The government also introduced "Maternal

She said various indices relating to infant

increased the maternity leave to six months to

enable a mother to breastfeed and give extra

Health Voucher Scheme" to help the poor get

healthcare services during pregnancy, delivery

and maternal health have improved signifi-

cantly following effective measures of the

care to her newborn child for a longer time.

and post-delivery period, she added.

own family and that of the neighbours.

spheres of the society.

A contestant of the fourth session, "Regional Specialty", of the third round of Rupchanda-Star Lifestyle Amateur Chef Cook-Off describes her dish to Shawkat Osman, judge of the session, at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

reduce maternal mortality

UNB, Dhaka

preneurs.

babies.

per thousand by 2015.

Auditorium in the capital.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday

emphasised bringing down maternal and

infant mortality rate to the desired level

through participation and coordinated

efforts of the government and private entre-

She expressed her firm belief that

Bangladesh will certainly achieve the

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

including reduction of maternal mortality to

134 per one lakh while child mortality to 20

distribution ceremony, marking the Safe

Motherhood Day 2013, at Osmani Memorial

The prime minister was addressing a prize

She requested all to take extra care of preg-

nant mothers to ensure the birth of healthy

PHOTO: STAR

PM for public-private role to Dhaka, Kuwait agree Eight of a fraudster gang to boost relations held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AMATEUR CHEF COOK-OFF

Rokeya, Farhana

last two finalists

Rupchanda-Star Lifestyle Amateur

Chef Cook-Off were decided yes-

sessions of the third round at The

Rokeya Begum, a housewife, was

adjudged the winner of the fourth

session, "Regional Specialty", for her

"brinjal kalia" while Farhana Faruk

Naz, another housewife, was

her "chicken barfi".

adjudged the winner in the fifth

session, "Creative Cooking", with

Shawkat Osman, a noted business-

and a regular recipe columnist for

many recipe books and is an avid

promoter of Bangladeshi cuisine.

sessions of the third round will

Tabassum Hashib (Dessert),

The winner of each of the five

meet today in the final at the same

The previous finalists are Raisa

Tanzeela Amin Aureen (Appetiser)

and Reema Islam (Main Course).

Star Lifestyle. He has published

man, food writer, food show anchor

The judge of the two sessions was

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

yesterday.

The last two finalists of the

terday in the fourth and fifth

Daily Star Centre in the capital

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested eight members of a gang that used to swindle people by arranging marriage with their female members in

the capital. Of the arrestees, four were women.

Rab-1 Operation Officer ASP Monjur Morshed said they conducted a drive in a flat in Uttara around 11:30pm, and arrested the people with the photocopy of a US passport, 13 cellphones and different

ornaments. The gang used to publish advertisements in different dailies offering that the suitors will get opportunities of migrating

to the US, he said. After the marriage, the gang used to swindle big amount of money from the so-called spouses in the name of preparing documents for the couples' migra-

tion to the county, he said. Later, the female members used to leave their so-

called husbands, he added. 30 unauthorised passport brokers

held, jailed STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested 30 people, including four females, at Agargaon passport office in the capital yesterday noon for unauthor-

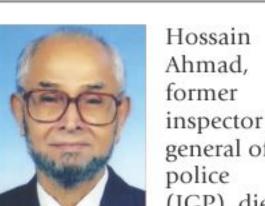
ised passport brokering. All the arrested, who confessed to the crime, were also sentenced to one-month imprisonment by Rab's Executive Magistrate

Mohammad Anisur Rahman. Rab-2 Commanding Officer (CO) Lt Col MM Anisur Rahman said, "They offer to help uneducated people to fill up forms and then extract money from them. Sometimes they promise to issue passports within three days in exchange for more money."

They even deceive people by giving the people fake passports, he added.

The CO said they suggested the passport office authorities to open an information cell so that people did not get deceived by the unauthorised brokers.

Obituary STAFF CORRESPONDENT



general of police (IGP), died of old age complications at his residence in the capi-

tal's Bailey road on Tuesday night. He was 84. He left behind two sons and two daughters to

mourn his death, said a press release. He will be buried at

Mirpur martyred intellectuals' graveyard tomorrow following his namaz-ejanaza at Rajarbagh Police Lines mosque.

present government. Mentioning the introduction of emergency mother care facilities in the country, the prime Earlier, the prime minister distributed able development partner for Bangladesh. minister said the government is also trying to prizes among some persons for their excelprocure helicopters for emergency shifting of lence in imparting comprehensive emergency mothers with complications during child obstetric care. Some 49 persons from seven disasters, she added. delivery from remote areas. divisions received the prize this year.

Sheikh Hasina hands over a prize to a woman for her excellence in imparting comgency obstetric care at a programme in 0smani Memorial Auditorium in the capital marking Safe **Motherhood Day** 2013.

PHOTO:

Fortified concrete columns must | Pankaj asks NHRC for collapse resistant buildings

Says president of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The concrete columns of buildings must be fortified to make high-rises resistant to collapse from earthquakes, said Dr Shamim Z Basunia, president of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in a seminar in the capital yesterday.

Technologies like ferrocement -- a cement and iron rod overlay-- can be used in to laminate the columns, said the experts present at the seminar held at the housing and public works ministry. "The column width must be made at least

12 inches wide. Even the American embassy building falls short by having only 10 inch wide columns, " stated Dr Basunia.

"Buildings with parking lots in ground floors are in a greater risk of collapse in the case of an earthquake because they are plagued by the 'soft storey' problem, where the lower floor is less stiff than the ones

above it," he added. Mohammad Abu Sadek, director of Housing and Building Research Institute, explained that a lack of adequate brick inlay can cause upper storeys to collapse on the ground floor.

In addition, nearly half of the buildings in Dhaka city will be affected if an earthquake measuring 6 on the Richter scale of a sufficient duration strikes the city, said Dr Basunia.

The seminar also discussed about implementing housing technologies which are resistant to other forms of natural disasters.

As examples of such technologies, Mubassher Hussain, president of Institute of Architects Bangladesh, mentioned floating houses for flood-prone areas, houses elevated on stilts for protection from tidal waves, and pre-manufactured houses which can be dismantled and moved to a different location, for areas which suffer from river erosion.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan stated that government organisations like Housing and Building Research Institute, which develops disaster-prone technologies, are some of the most neglected organisations.

Dr Khondokar Showkat Hossain, secretary of housing and public works, and Mohammad Kabir Ahmed Bhuiyan, chief engineer of public works department, among others, spoke at the seminar.

chief to resign

Claims he failed to protect rights of indigenous communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHCR) chairman should resign for failing to protect the rights of indigenous communities in Bandarban's Naikhyangchhari upazila, said Pankaj Bhattacharya, president of United National Awami Party, yesterday. "Chak and Mro families are being evicted and their human

rights are being violated but the commission has not taken visible steps," he said. Land grabbers evicted 14 families of Chak community with

repeated death threats from their ancestral homes at Chak Para at Badurjhiri of Naikhyangchhari on March 15. Seven more families were evicted from the same place three years ago. Addressing a press conference organised by a civic delega-

tion, which recently visited the areas, in the capital's Liberation War Museum, Pankaj urged the chairman to give a statement within today over steps taken to protect the rights of indigenous people. The delegation demanded that the families be provided secu-

rity to return to their lands and that the perpetrators be arrested. NHCR has turned into a "puppet institution" and is not

aware of people's rights being violated, said columnist Syed Abul Maksud, demanding reformation of the government's policy in dealing with indigenous issues.

Assistant Prof Razib Mir of Jagannath University read out a report based on the visit.

relations between the two countries and underlined the importance of developing investment in mutually benefi-

UNB, Dhaka

cial project areas including power, energy and infrastructure The agreement came in the first ever meeting of the Join Commission between Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and her Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-

Bangladesh and Kuwait have agreed to further strengthen

Sabah, who is also the deputy prime minister. The meeting was held in the Kuwaiti Foreign Office on Tuesday to intensify cooperation between Kuwait and Bangladesh in political, economic and cultural areas in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and con structive dialogue, said a foreign ministry release yesterday.

The two sides discussed further collaboration in the area of human resource development and labour mobility including establishing a training centre for labour in Bangladesh. The Kuwaiti side also welcomed the idea to increase the

number of trained and qualified Bangladeshi workforce to work in various sectors and activities Dipu Moni mentioned that Kuwait has been a depend

Kuwait always stood by the side of the people of Bangladesh during the hour of necessity including natural

> **Prime Minister** prehensive emer-