

# NEWS IN brief

## TCB to sell onion for Tk 47 per kg from today

UNB, Dhaka

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) will start selling onion in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country from today for Tk 47 per kilogram. The first consignment of 100 metric tonnes of onion has already arrived in Dhaka from India, TCB spokesman Humayun Kabir told the news agency last night. In Dhaka city, he said, the onion will be sold in 35 trucks. The TCB is also planning to import onion from Myanmar, he added.

## Tk 8,000 minimum wage for RMG workers demanded

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the government amended the Bangladesh labour law only to serve interests of the owners. Economist Prof Anu Mohammad said garment workers must be provided Tk 8,000 as minimum wage considering the present situation. Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra (GSTUK) organised the roundtable in the capital. President of Bangladesh Trade Union Centre Shahidullah Chowdhury and labour leader Taslima Akhter Lima also addressed the event with GSTUK president Montu Gosh in the chair.

## Aim In Life signs deal with IEEE

CITY DESK

Aim In Life, a career portal, has signed an agreement with a New York-based global technology innovation entity the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Under the agreement, the career portal will oversee the services of IEEE and ensure its quality in all universities, engineering and medical colleges and technical institutions as its Bangladesh partner, says a press release. The portal CEO M Shoeb Chowdhury, and IEEE Director Jean Jennings were present at the signing ceremony at World Trade Centre in Bangalore recently.

## Man stabbed to death in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Unidentified assailants stabbed a man to death at his Tantipara residence in Sylhet city yesterday. The deceased Mazharul Islam alias Sohel Miah, 35, of Jamalganj upazila in Sunamganj, worked at a firm which sends job seekers abroad. The incident might have occurred any time in the morning, said Kotwali police Officer-in-Charge Ahmed Nasir Uddin.



Hindus take part in a colourful procession brought out from Palashi intersection in the capital yesterday celebrating Janmashtami, which marks the birth of the Hindu god Krishna.

PHOTO: STAR

## PUBLIC SERVANTS Govt plans permanent pay commission: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has a plan to form a permanent pay commission to increase salaries and allowances of the government officials and employees regularly considering the inflation. Hasina was addressing a function after inaugurating the newly-built 150-bed government employees' hospital at Fulbaria in the capital. The Department of Housing and Public Works implemented the project at a cost of Tk 46.76 crore.

The prime minister said if voted to power again, her government would ensure services to the common people in future through decentralisation.

She, however, reminded that the government officials and employees have much more responsibility in this regard and asked them to discharge their duties sincerely towards ensuring overall welfare and development of the country.

Emphasising continuity of the democratic process and economic emancipation, Hasina said the public servants would have to work with utmost sincerity to this end.

She mentioned that her government works with the mentality of serving people. Many works still remained incomplete, she said, expressing her strong resolve to complete those if they assume office again.

Expressing that the government's efforts towards ensuring welfare of the government employees would continue, the prime minister said the newly-built hospital, having the foundation of 16-storey, has now been primarily built to four-storey.

The government has a plan to turn this

into a medical college with 300-bed hospital alongside introduction of different departments, she said.

Hasina said the government is positively considering the demands of the government officials and employees of the secretariat and deputy commissioner's offices at field-level. "So far, many of their demands have been implemented and the government is sincerely working to implement their other logical demands." In this connection, she said that work on the formulation of the Public Service Bill, 2013 is at the final stage to make public administration more efficient, dynamic and time befitting.

Highlighting various efforts and successes of the government in the health sector, the prime minister said a project is awaiting approval for constructing multi-storey buildings for the government officials at Azimpur and Motijheel government colonies while the construction work of 10-storey residential buildings for the officials is going on in Mohammadpur and Segunbagicha in the capital.

Besides, she said, the construction work for building some 488 flats is going on in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar for the officials and employees of the Parliament Secretariat.

The government has also undertaken a Tk 267.73 crore project to build a 30-storey building at Dilkusha in the capital to create a permanent source of income for the Bangladesh Employees Welfare Board, she said.

The prime minister alleged that while Hefajat-e Islam was holding rally on May 5, the unruly BNP-Jamaat and Hefajat activists damaged 53 buses kept at the bus depot of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## BRRRI'S RECENT SUCCESS Scientists demand govt incentives

STAR REPORT

Scientists at the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRRI), priding on their recent success in creating several high yielding rice varieties including a zinc-enriched one, yesterday demanded special incentives from the government.

"The government has just provided incentives to scientists at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR). I think BRRRI scientists deserve that too," said BRRRI Director General Dr Md Syedul Islam.

He was speaking at a press briefing on BRRRI's Gazipur campus organised to formally announce Monday's release of four new rice varieties including biologically fortified (biofortified) hi-zinc rice, reports our correspondent from Gazipur.

The cabinet on Monday gave the final approval to a draft bill that seeks to increase the retirement age of the BCSIR scientists from 59 years to 67 years. It drew flak from over 1,700 government agri-scientists who have long been promised of special incentives but got none till date.

Addressing the briefing, the BRRRI DG informed that the seeds of the hi-zinc rice would be ready for farmers to cultivate in the next Aman season.

A decade-long research by Bangladeshi scientists has culminated in the release of the world's first zinc-enriched rice variety, capable of fighting diarrhoea and pneumonia-induced childhood deaths and stunting.

The National Seed Board (NSB) on Monday approved the release of the hi-zinc rice-- Brrri Dhan-62--which is also the most early-maturing variety ever released for Aman season.

The BRRRI breeders developed the hi-zinc rice with support from HarvestPlus, a global biofortification mission launched in 2004 under Washington-based global agro-science coordination body Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

India lags behind as Bangladeshi breeders have succeeded in developing two hi-zinc rice varieties--one for Aman season and the other for Boro.

The NSB also approved release of three other BRRRI rice varieties--salt-tolerant BRRRI Dhan-61 and early maturing BRRRI Dhan-59 and 60. The latter two can be reaped 10 to 12 days earlier than the country's best performing Boro rice variety--BRRRI Dhan-29, said BRRRI scientists at the briefing.

## Janmashtami celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's Hindu community yesterday celebrated Janmashtami, a religious festival marking the birth of Lord Krishna, with religious fervour.

Different religious and socio-cultural organisations arranged various programmes including prayer to Lord Krishna, discussions, songs praising Krishna and cultural functions.

In the capital, thousands of people, some dressed as Lord Krishna, Krishna's father Basudev, mother Deboki, brother Balaram and maternal uncle Kongsha, on foot and on over 100 trucks joined the traditional Janmashtami procession.

Brought out from Palashi intersection near Dhakeshwari National Temple, the procession, part of a three-day programme organised by Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee, paraded different roads amid stringent security before ending at Bahadur Shah Park.

Sector Commander Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta Biruttam inaugurated the procession, attended by Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haque Tuku and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

### DHAKA TODAY

**Meeting**  
Samajik-Sanskritik Oikyajote Bangladesh will organise a meeting on rule of law; Venue: Public Library, Shahbagh; Time: 5:00pm.

**Discussion**  
Mujib Sena Oikya League will hold a discussion on demanding speedy trial of the perpetrators who launched a grenade attack on an Awami League rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

**Discussion**  
Bangabandhu Parishad will hold a discussion marking National Mourning

## Appeal for help

CU CORRESPONDENT



Eight-month-old Nirban Dey, son of Piplu Kumar Dey and Tumpa

Chowdhury, has been suffering from chronic liver failure since his birth on January 20, say doctors.

After seven months of treatment, he was taken to India where doctors suggested for transplanting his liver that would cost approximately Tk 25 lakh.

Piplu Kumar, a bank employee, said his wife was fit to donate liver to their baby but his family was

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## BRTC depot managers 'illegally' allowing counters in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Two of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation's (BRTC) regional depot managers have allowed ticket counters to be set up though the head office in Dhaka is the sole authority to approve such establishments.

Moreover, passenger are alleging that the there was no coordination among the managers in Noakhali, Comilla and Sylhet with respect to the timetables of the inter-district buses.

The managers can only recommend where counters can be placed and that must be approved by the deputy general manager (DGM) (operations), BRTC Sylhet Depot Manager Nure Alam told The Daily Star recently.

The head office is the sole authority with respect to allowing counters, he said, adding that persons interested in running the counters on commission have to apply with the DGM and get an approval.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## 6 including ETV engineer killed in road accidents

CITY DESK

Road accidents killed six people and injured 17 others in Dhaka, Chittagong, Comilla, and Lalmonirhat yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, an engineer of private television channel Ekushey TV died as Farmgate-bound bus hit him while he was crossing the road at Karwan Bazar in the capital last night.

The deceased was KM Alimuzzaman, 30, a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Residents of 7 villages

FROM PAGE 5

"I've heard for the last 15 years that a concrete bridge would be built there, but haven't seen any effort to date," he told The Daily Star.

The Nanaia-Nanaiar Char bridge is just 200 metres from the Dhaka-Sylhet bypass, said Naser Ahmed, a retired government employee. If it is turned into a concrete bridge, thousands of villagers will see a new way of communication, he added.

As the shaky bridges are unfit for use by the motorised vehicles, even rickshaws, villagers trading with the suburban areas have to walk long distances carrying their loads on shoulders or head. In some cases, accidents occur when the bridges are damaged. Six months ago, a teacher of Kaliganj-Narun High School got injured after

the 30-foot high Nanaia-Nanaiar Char bridge partly collapsed with his motorcycle, said Naser.

Sreepur Upazila Engineer Abdur Razzak said the local lawmaker usually got the bridge projects approved after locals applied for these based on demand and necessity.

Sreepur Upazila Parishad Chairman Iqbal Hossain Sabuj said he had applied to the disaster management and relief ministry three times for replacing the Marta-Martar Char bridge with a concrete one, but never got any response.

In this regard, the local lawmaker advocate Rahmat Ali said he would take necessary steps if locals placed the demand, informing him of the due importance of the bridges.

## Common guideline

FROM PAGE 5

On sensitive cases, a media advisory can help news managers be more careful so that reports do not contribute to children's vulnerability, they added.

Journalists have to be mindful of the consequences of the story. Reporters, news editors and the last gatekeepers have to apply their conscience and sense of fair judgment before publishing/airing a report, they said.

Media houses, except for a few, have no specific code of ethics of their own, the roundtable participants observed, adding that such a code or guideline was very important.

Syed Ishtiaque Reza, director, News, Ekattor TV, moderated the roundtable. Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, editor-in-chief, Boishakhi

TV; Farid Hossain, bureau chief, AP Bangladesh; Inam Ahmed and Sharier Khan, deputy editors, The Daily Star; Quratul-Ain-Tahmina, adviser, News, and Shawkat Hossain Masum, news editor, Daily Prothom Alo; Arifa Sharmin, communication manager, Unicef Bangladesh; Rejoanul Haq, chief news editor, Maasranga TV; Zahid Nawaz Khan, news editor, Channel i; ZI Mamun, head of news, ATN Bangla; Pranab Shaha, editor output, ATN News; SM Akash, news editor, NTV; Asis Saikat, managing editor, Daily Ittefaq; Sukanta Gupta Alak, joint editor, Desh TV; and Hasibur Rahman, executive director, MRDI, participated in the discussion.

Expanding Horizons

# Daily Star Books

Shashi Tharoor's scintillating novel

# riot

Grab your copy through our HOME DELIVERY SERVICE or visit your nearby bookstore. To place your order over the phone, please call 8815941 or 01714161001 (from 9am to 6pm, except on Fridays). To place your order online, visit: [www.thedailystar.net/books](http://www.thedailystar.net/books)

**Cover Price: Tk 400**  
**Special offer: Tk 320**

**Also available in the market now**

<p>Vikram Seth's <b>FROM HEAVEN LAKE</b> Cover Price: Tk. 280 Special offer: Tk. 224</p>	<p>Kuldip Nayar's autobiography <b>Beyond The Lines</b> Cover Price: Tk. 600 Special offer: Tk. 480</p>	<p>Khushwant Singh's <b>MALICIOUS GOSSIP</b> Cover Price: Tk. 290 Special offer: Tk. 232</p>	<p>Dr. Rubaiul Murshed's <b>Have A Nice Day</b> Cover Price: Tk. 250 Special offer: Tk. 175</p>
<p><b>40 YEARS OF BANGLADESH WAY FORWARD</b> Cover Price: Tk. 750 Special offer: Tk. 562</p>			

**Upcoming Titles:** Kamila Shamsie's 'KARTOGRAPHY' | Medea Benjamin's 'Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control'