

JCD LEADER'S 'DISAPPEARANCE' Mother claims detectives picked her son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mother of a pro-BNP student body leader, who has been missing since December 6, yesterday alleged that law enforcers picked her son on that night.

Hasina Begum claimed that detectives took her son Tariqul Islam Jhantu, 28, joint secretary of Tejgaon College Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal unit, into a white microbus around 10:30pm on December 6 from Mollartek, near their residence, under Dakkhinkhan.

"Since then we don't know his whereabouts despite repeatedly contacting different police stations and Detective Branch [of police] office," she told a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The family filed a general diary with Dakkhinkhan Police Station on December 9.

Assistant Commissioner (media wing) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Abu Yusuf, however, said they did not receive any claim against such disappearance till yesterday.

"If my son is a criminal, then why they are not placing him before court?" asked Hasina. She sought interventions of the prime minister, home minister and police chief in this regard.

Jhantu's younger brother Saiful Islam Mithun said they assumed that Jhantu's involvement in the opposition party politics might be the reason behind his disappearance.

Jhantu is a master's student of accounting at Tejgaon College.

Anti-liberation forces in 'war against state'

Freedom fighters tell press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The anti-liberation forces have launched a "war against the state" by creating anarchy and violence against the public, said freedom fighters yesterday.

The forces are killing general people as an expression of their hatred against the country itself and the ongoing war crimes tribunals, they added.

They said these at a press conference of Sector Commanders Forum, Bijoy 4:31 Mancha, and Muktiyuddher Chetona Bastobayon Mancha at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The organisations announced that they would hold an array of cultural programmes to celebrate Victory Day on December 16.

"Our principal aim is to rekindle the spirit of Liberation War amongst the youth so that they can resist the anti-liberation forces," said Dr Sarwar Ali, trustee of Liberation War Museum.

On war criminal Quader Mollah, he said, "The country will be free from a black spot by giving the maximum punishment to him. However, as law abiding citizens we believe

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



From left, Basudeb Achariya, joint secretary to the CHT affairs ministry; Mesbah Kamal, Dhaka University; Mike Robson, country representative, Food and Agriculture Organization; Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, secretary to the ministry; Dr Ranjit Kumar Biswas, secretary to the social welfare ministry; and anthropologist Prof Prashanta Tripura at a discussion organised in the capital's Cirdap auditorium by the CHT affairs ministry in observance of International Mountain Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Raise awareness about unplanned dev in CHT

Speakers urge at International Mountain Day discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for raising awareness among people about the risks of unplanned development and overpopulation in the hills of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) area, the most economically marginalised area in the country.

The discussion was organised on International Mountain Day (IMD) observed for the first time in the country yesterday.

The speakers urged the government to stop migration of people from plain lands, as it will increase the vulnerabilities of the hills. The biodiversity of the hills are already threatened, while more and more

people are moving to the CHT introducing cultivation of plain lands, which will make the region even more vulnerable, they said.

Extraction of resources from the hills for the wellbeing of the plain land people has been going on since the British era without considering its ecological balance, the speakers said.

Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, secretary to the CHT affairs ministry, chaired the session in the capital's Cirdap auditorium while Joint Secretary Basudeb Achariya delivered the welcome speech.

It was discussed that Bangladesh is collaborating with seven other countries of the Himalayan and Hindukush regions, both

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

PRIMARY TERMINAL EXAMS Bangla, English question papers leaked in 4 dists

Discloses Nahid citing probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The question papers of English and Bangla in primary terminal examinations under four districts were leaked out, disclosed Primary and Mass Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday citing its probe report.

"Around 80 percent questions of English and 50 percent questions of Bangla got matched with the leaked question papers in Dhaka, Khulna, Satkhira and Dinajpur," he told a press briefing at his secretariat.

Nahid said the ministry will not cancel the examinations of English and Bangla subjects for the "partial leak" in the districts. He, however, said divisional and departmental actions would be taken against the people involved in the leak.

He said they will take special care in evaluating English answer sheets to save students from any difficulties.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Baroness Warsi due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

British Senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Baroness Warsi arrive here today for a brief visit to express British government's concern about rising violence and discuss the upcoming parliamentary polls.

She will arrive early this morning and will depart tonight, according to official sources.

Baroness Warsi will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP leader Khaleda Zia, said a late night press release of the British High Commission yesterday.

Ahead of her visit, Baroness Warsi expressed deep concern over reports of plans to execute convicted

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Drivers and owners of taxis bring out a procession before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting the government decision to take off the streets those three-wheelers and taxis whose 11-year-lifespan ends on December 31.



PHOTO: STAR

DECISION TO WITHDRAW 11YR OLD AUTO-RICKSHAWS

Owners, workers threaten strike in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CNG-run auto-rickshaw owners and workers yesterday threatened a three-day strike in the capital from December 22 if the government does not withdraw by December 19 its decision to take the 11-year-old three-wheelers and taxis off the roads.

Introducing the vehicles in 2002 to replace petrol-run ones, the government had perceived their lifespan to be 11 years and accordingly plans to withdraw 5,500 vehicles on December 31.

Addressing a press conference in Dhaka Reporters Unity, Dhaka City CNG Owners Association President Barkat Ullah Vulu also demanded that the lifespan be increased to 15 years.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology experts had recommended, through a report on November 13 upon Bangladesh Road Transport Authority's request, that the vehicles can run for up to 15 years, as accepted in India which exports the vehicles.

Osman Ali, member secretary of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Malik-Sramik Oikya Parishad, said lives of around 5,000 owners and 11,000 workers were at stake.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Taxicab Owners' Welfare Association also held a protest rally before Jatiya Press Club.

JU admission tests postponed indefinitely

VC extends leave; besiegement of admin building continues

JU CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests for honours programmes under the 2013-14 session at Jahangirnagar University, which were scheduled for December 17-29, were postponed indefinitely yesterday.

Muhammad Ali, deputy registrar (education), said it was an administrative decision but declined to clarify the reasons of the postponement.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain, who went on a five-day "sick leave" on December 5, extended his

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Disfigured body found

Konda union parishad chairman's family claims it's his

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday evening recovered a tied up body, disfigured from burns and allegedly of a Union Parishad chairman who went missing on Tuesday night, from a straw field in South Keraniganj, adjacent

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Youth dies hit by train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth died after a train hit him at Amtoli in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday afternoon.

Fazle Rabbi Khan Sony, 25, an Information Technology official of Banglalink, resident of Kallyanpur, was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A Kamalapur-bound train hit Sony as he was walking along the rail tracks with his earphones on, said a pedestrian Mominur Rahman who took him to the hospital.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

BLOCKADE, HARTAL VANDALISM Ambulances being attacked in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Despite being declared out of the purview of hartals and blockades, ambulances have not only been barred from plying by the BNP-Jamaat-led 18-party alliance activists during their recent picketing but also vandalised.

According to Chittagong Ambulance Owners' Cooperative Association, 20 ambulances have been vandalised in the district since the beginning of the demonstrations on November 26.

Consequently, ambulance owners and drivers have become reluctant to transport neither the sick nor the dead. Even if they do agree, they tend to charge exorbitant fares.

One such victim, Shahidul Islam, told The Daily Star that he had initially failed to hire an ambulance to take his sick father from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) to their Chakaria residence in Cox's Bazar recently.

"Drivers do not want to travel long distances... Some of them agreed after my repeated request but demanded an abnormally high fare," he said.

Mahin Uddin, driver of an ambulance parked outside CMCH, told The Daily Star that such attacks were a new phenomenon.

"The parties declare that ambulances are out of the purview of blockades and hartals but their activists do not abide by this decision," he said.

Another driver, Abdul Jalil, said his ambulance was vandalised at Odhunagar in Chittagong's Amirabad on way to Moheshkhali upazila from CMCH with a dead body.

"I earned Tk 8,000 from that trip but had to pay Tk 10,000 to get a new window glass," he said. The ambulance association General Secretary Mohammad Akhteruzaman said their business had totally collapsed due to the vandalism.

"Three of my ambulances have been vandalised, at

Butterfly fair at JU tomorrow

JU CORRESPONDENT

A daylong butterfly fair will be held in Zahir Raihan auditorium of Jahangirnagar University tomorrow to attach importance to butterflies in maintaining ecological balance.

In collaboration with Jiban O Prokriti Foundation, JU zoology department is organising the fair with the slogan "Urley Akashey Projapoti, Prokriti Pai Notun Goti",

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Man 'tortured to death by wife'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was tortured to death by his wife in the capital, alleged his family.

Jahangir Alam, 30, died at General Hospital on Elephant Road early yesterday. Being informed by locals, his brother Tusher Ahmed and some more relatives rushed him to the hospital at 8:00pm on Tuesday.

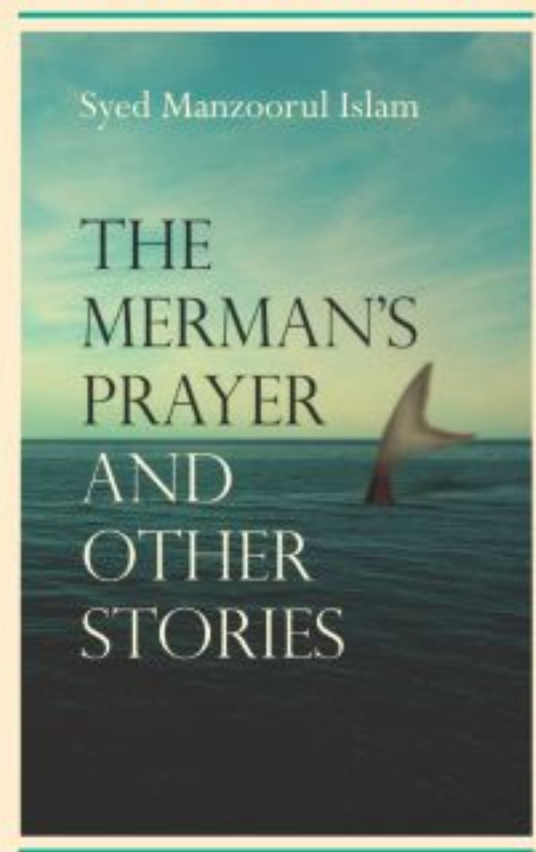
Tusher said Jahangir used to live in his in-laws' house in Khilgaon's Nasirabad. Jahangir's wife along with a man, with whom she used to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



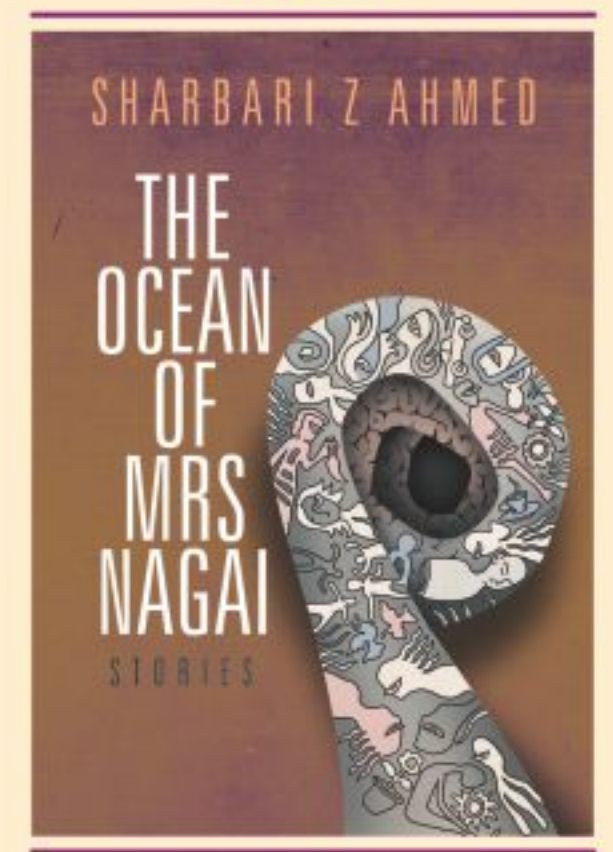
NEW ARRIVALS

Syed Manzoorul Islam's
**THE MERMAN'S PRAYER
AND OTHER STORIES**



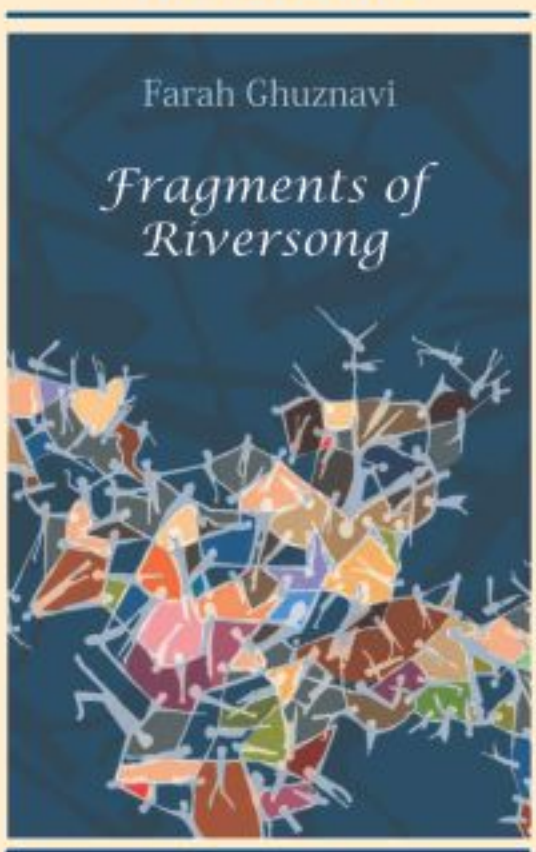
Cover Price: Tk. 500; Special offer: 400

Sharbari Z Ahmed's
**THE OCEAN OF MRS
NAGAI**



Cover Price: Tk. 300; Special offer: 240

Farah Ghuznavi's
**FRAGMENTS OF
RIVERSONG**



Cover Price: Tk. 300; Special offer: 240

Daily Star Books on FREE HOME DELIVERY SERVICE. To place your order over the phone, please call 8815941 or 01714161001 (from 9am to 6pm, except on Fridays). To place your order online please visit: www.thedailystar.net/books

Bookstores where our titles are available:

Aziz Super Market, Shahbag: Prothoma (9664825), Pathak Samabesh (01713-034440), Bidita (01911-166475); Gulshan: Words n pages (989-0832), Road no. 07; Dhanmondi: Gyankosh, Road no. 4 (862-3251); Book View (01711-520662), New Market; Omni Books, Road no. 27 (812-6433); Baily Road: Sagor Publishers (01716-544444); Banani: Aranya Crafts Ltd (988-2542); Old Airport: Book Worm (912-0387); Airport: Omni Books (890-1808); Farmgate: The Daily Star office (01711837719/812-4944); Chittagong: Batighor (01713-304344) and Prothoma (01711-649422), Jamal Khan Road.