



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

LIFE style

GRAMMY AWARDS 2014

Dance duo Daft Punk takes top prizes including Album of the Year

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'FEELING VERY GOOD'

Valerie on India trip tries to shrug off furore over split from French president

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PM takes the helm

Decides to do the trouble-shooting in all major projects

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she herself would oversee major projects of different ministries on a weekly basis and work as a troubleshooter to speed up their implementation.

The government has already decided to fast-track six mega schemes -- Padma bridge, deep-sea port, metro rail, Rampal and Rooppur plants and LNG terminal.

To expedite other major projects, Hasina asked all the ministries to prioritise tasks which she herself will monitor regularly.

According to several ministers, this engagement of the prime minister aims at carrying out visible development work to win over the people in the wake of the criticism over the one-sided January 5 polls.

Speaking at a weekly cabinet meeting, Hasina asked Communications Minister Obaidul Quader about the progress of the 200km Dhaka-Chittagong and 87km Dhaka-Mymensingh four-lane projects.

December last year was the deadline for the two projects, the implementation of which is vital for the country's economy. The Dhaka-Chittagong highway especially is seen as the lifeline of exports.

The prime minister asked the ministry to finish the tasks quickly to ease public sufferings, said meeting sources.

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Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali smokes on the stage of a programme at the BGB Public School & College in Sylhet city yesterday. Not only did he set a bad example by smoking in front of hundreds of young children, parents and teachers, he also violated the law on smoking in public, a punishable offence.

PHOTO: STAR

HC clears way for Ctg arms haul verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a trial court to deliver verdict in the sensational 10-truck arms haul cases by rejecting four petitions of the accused.

The accused had prayed to the HC to allow them to cross-examine the first investigation officer of the two cases and transfer the cases to a new court.

A Chittagong court is scheduled to announce the judgement in the two cases

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KIBRIA MURDERERS NOT UNMASKED YET

Wife waits, in vain still

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine long years have passed but justice still eludes Asma Kibria. Her hopes for seeing punished the mastermind behind the killing of her husband Shah AMS Kibria, Awami League leader and former finance minister, seem to be fading away.

She is frustrated that there has been no significant progress in the Kibria murder case though her husband's party, the AL, has been in power for more than five years.

"His [Kibria] party has come to power again. At first, [when the AL came to power in 2008] we thought that the trial would be held for sure. But we were disappointed," Asma said in an interview with Channel 24, a private TV station, yesterday.

Kibria's family observed his ninth death anniversary yesterday with a sense of frustration at the long delay in getting justice.



Asma Kibria

"They [the AL] are in power for the second consecutive term. Let's see whether they do anything ... they can do it [complete the trial] if they want. But I don't know whether they will or not," Asma said.

"Till now, we have not seen any signs that make us hopeful," she said.

The day after the grenade attack, Abdul Mazid Khan, organising secretary of Habiganj district AL, filed two cases -- one for murder and the other under the Explosive Substances Act -- with Habiganj Sadar

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BNP leaders stuck in cases

HC asks govt not to harass 3 leaders, lower courts reject bail pleas of 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government not to harass or show three BNP leaders including its Vice-chairman Sadeque Hossain Khoka arrested in any other cases "without due process of law".

Two other party leaders are its Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed and Golam Akbor Khandakar, organising secretary of Chittagong BNP unit.

The HC order implies that police cannot harass or arrest the leaders in connection with any cases if there is no specific

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Kids not for welcoming ministers

Govt warns schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday asked primary schools across the country not to line up their students on the streets to welcome any public representative.

The primary and mass education ministry issued a circular warning school headmasters and governing bodies of legal action for violation of the order.

The government order came in the wake of a media outcry over the recent incidents of queuing up of students on

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PHOTO: STAR

Sabuj Mia pulls while his wife Lalbhanu Begum holds the plough on the 10 decimals of land lent to them by an NGO. Even with no cattle to pull the plough, this ultra poor farmer of monga-prone Gaibandha is happy.

No point in complaining

Together, they create happiness out of nothing

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

How much do we really need to be happy?

"A table, a chair, a bowl of fruit and a violin; what else does a man need to be happy?" - this was all that Albert Einstein thought one would require for one's happiness.

If Einstein seemed to have asked for too much, then just look at Gaibandha's Sabuj Mia who pulls a plough while his wife holds steady the handle of the ploughshare furrowing the hard surface of a little piece



POSITIVE BANGLADESH

of land. And yet he feels he is happy.

Sabuj, for whom managing three square meals for his four-member family a day is a colossal challenge, cannot afford a pair of bullocks and thus, he and his wife have to go through this awfully strenuous ordeal for their livelihood. And yet they have no complaint.

"Why should I complain? I am on working on my land. It is better than selling my labour to others," said Sabuj Mia standing on the aisle of his 10-decimal piece

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BANK LOOTED THRU' TUNNEL

Culprits at it for 2 years

Central bank moves to beef up vault security

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

The tin-roofed house from where a tunnel was dug to break into the Sonali Bank vault may have been rented out solely for the burglary purpose.

The two-room house was given to one Sohel two years ago, but it bore no vestiges of daily living. Instead, it is full with earth removed to make the underground passage.

Police yesterday detained the owner of the house for interrogation.



Meanwhile, police have no lead to catch the robbers yet, a whole day after the discovery of the bank robbery. The burglars had made off with Tk 16.4 crore.

CID Inspector Md Shahjahan said, "We found a used cap and a mask from which we will be able to trace out DNA profiles of the robbers. We also found

some cloths, spades, electric wires, electric saw blades etc."

The robbery took place at the bank's main branch in Kishoreganj located on Isa Khan Road, Rathkhola.

Anwar Hossain Khan, superintendent of Kishoreganj police, said: "We have found that while renting the house Sohel had told the house owner that he was there for work. He never specified what sort of work though."

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Shirin set to be elected unopposed

Could become Speaker again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury is set to be elected uncontested from Rangpur-6 constituency vacated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The Rangpur-6 election is scheduled for February 20 but Shirin, being the lone candidate there, could become elected if the Election Commission validates her candidacy scrutinising her nomination papers today.

Talking to The Daily

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Dr. Col. M M Ali
1916-2014

Renowned surgeon Dr. Col. M M Ali passed away in the early hours of 25th of January, 2014 (Inna'llah e inna elahе rajeun). His family would like to thank all relatives, friends and well wishers for their prayers and support

Qul Khwani will be held at the family residence at Sector-3, Uttara
Today the 28th of January 2014, after Magreb prayers
For contact: 8912084, 01711592484