

SABITA CHAKMA'S KILLING
Int'l CHT
commission
demands
justice
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission yesterday condemned the killing of indigenous woman Sabita Chakma and demanded justice in this regard.
Expressing grave concern over what it termed "continued impunity in the cases of violence against indigenous women in CHT," it pressed for immediate measures to stop such violation of human rights.
On February 15, Sabita, 30, was allegedly murdered
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CPB urges govt
to update,
implement
rent act
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday urged the government to update and implement the Premises Rent Control Act 1991 to stop the rapid hike of house rents in the capital.
People belonging to the lower income bracket who are an overwhelming majority in the city are struggling to make ends meet as costs of transportation, electricity and everyday essentials are soaring in the absence of any controlling mechanism, the party leaders added.
"Dhaka is stuck. Only a
SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

ACC GRILLING
Ex-minister's
APS fails to
show sources
of income
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immediate past state minister for religion affairs Shahjahan Mia's assistant private secretary (APS) failed to show the sources of income of his wealth before the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday.
ACC deputy director Ahsan Ali yesterday grilled APS Sumendra Lal Chandra Soilen at its headquarters in the capital over the allegation that Soilen amassed property worth around Tk 50 crore abusing the influence of his post.
During the grilling,
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Farmers at
human chain
say they won't
cultivate BT
Brinjal
OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

Farmers at a human chain in Gazipur yesterday said they will not cultivate the genetically modified BT Brinjal, and also discourage others from growing the crop.
Nayakrishi Andolon and Anti-Bt Brinjal Gonomorcha organised the human chain in front of the Gazipur deputy commissioner's office demanding withdrawal of the modified brinjal.
"A variety of crop which is not eaten by pests must be harmful for humans,"
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LAND DISPUTE

Language martyr Barkat's family complains about grabbing effort

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The family of Shaheed Barkat, a Language Movement martyr, submitted a written complaint to the deputy commissioner of Gazipur yesterday alleging that a ward councillor of the city has been harassing them over their land given to them by the government.
Shaheed Barkat's nephew Ain Uddin Barkat said Md Safar Ali, councillor of ward-18, filed a case with the land office concerned saying they were not the real owners of the land. In 1981, the then government allocated 0.68 acres of land in Kacharibari under Naljami Mauja in Gazipur to Hazi Hasina Bibi, mother of Shaheed Barkat, said Ain Uddin.
On April 21, 1982, Hasina Bibi died and according to the government decision she was buried in the land, he said,
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Quasem took Ranjit Das to torture camp in 1971

Victim's son tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that he learnt from his mother that Al-Badr men led by Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali took his father, Ranjit Das, to the Dalim Hotel torture camp during the Liberation War.
His father was tortured to death at the hotel in Chittagong city along with their neighbour Tuntu Sen, said Shibu Das, 46, quoting his mother. He testified as the fifth prosecution witness (PW) at the three-member tribunal headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan.
Ranjit ran a teashop and a business of old bottles.
Shibu, who works at a metal workshop, said he was about three years old when his father was killed and could not even remember the face of his father.
In his short deposition, he also said

Dalim Hotel was a den of Al-Badr in 1971 where many innocent people were tortured and killed.
Al-Badr, notorious auxiliary force to the Pakistani army, looted valuables of Hindus and torched their houses.
Following the testimony, defence counsel Mizanul Islam completed cross-examining the witness. The defence also completed cross-examining the fourth prosecution witness, Sunil Kanti Bardhan, who testified Monday against Quasem.
The proceeding was adjourned until today.
Meanwhile, Quasem's son and counsel Barrister Mir Ahmad Binquasemson filed an application seeking a "suitable" vehicle for the transportation of his father, citing his health condition.
The tribunal is due to pass an order regarding this on February 20.
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23 more students go to 2nd round

CITY DESK

A total of twenty-three students from five Dhaka schools were selected through an oral test for the second divisional round as the first round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee's third season, hosted by champs21.com and powered by Horlicks, continued yesterday.
The schools are Drexel International School, South Breeze School, Mastermind School, Hardco International School and St Gregory's High School.
Tasnuva Khan, an English language teacher from South Breeze School, said, "I think an event like Spelling Bee is very useful to make students interested in improving their lexical knowledge. Lack of good public speaking skill is a problem that many students in our country suffer from. With Spelling Bee they will feel more comfortable to step out of their comfort zones, and learning new words will also help improve their oratory."
The Spelling Bee team also toured 10 schools -- Jessore MP High School, Govt Girls High School, Zila High School,
SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Writers, visitors not happy with Suhrawardy Udyan arrangements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the decision of holding the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2014 in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan was welcomed, writers and visitors criticised some flaws that exist in the new arrangements.
Young poet Ferdaushi Queen was seen yesterday reading a book that she just bought while leaning against a bicycle parked in the middle of the fair. "It would have been nice if there were some sitting arrangements in this portion too as people like to browse through the new books before taking them home to read at leisure."
Meanwhile, violating the rules and regulations of the book fair, some stalls were seen selling books of other publications. Anya Prakash's books "Deyal" and "Lila Botir Mritytyu" were found in Iti Prakashan's stall. When contacted Iti's owner Md Zahir Dipti over the phone, he said those books were there without his knowledge. "I am on my way to the fair and will check why those books were kept in the stall," he added.
Regarding Nirbachita Prakashan's books in his stall, Dipti said that Nirbachita belonged to his elder brother. As the publication did not get a stall this year, his stall is selling their books.
Similarly, books on comedy character Mr Bean published by Adiganta Prakashan were being sold at Shoiili Prakashan. Shiru Bangali, owner of Shoiili, said he kept those books since he is a relative of Adiganta's owner.
Murshid Anwar, deputy director of the Department of Coordination & Public Relation of Bangla Academy, said, "A stall can keep books of other publications only if they are authorised distributor of the publishers. In that case the books will carry their names as distributors and they have to inform Bangla Academy."
Yesterday, 109 books arrived in the fair and publication ceremonies of 11 were held.



The premises of Central Shaheed Minar in the capital being painted to give it a facelift ahead of International Mother Language Day to be observed on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

Shahid Commissioner shown arrested in Atikullah murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former councillor of ward no-83 under Dhaka City Corporation Saidur Rahman Shahid was shown arrested in the Atikullah Chowdhury murder case yesterday.
Atikullah Chowdhury, 65, chairman of Kunda union parishad of South Keraniganj and a local Awami leader, was killed by a group of miscreants on December 10 last year.
Senior Judicial Magistrate Kazi Shahidul Islam granted the petition for showing Shahid alias Shahid Commissioner arrested in the case after Sub-Inspector Afzal Hussain of South Keraniganj Police Station, and also the investigation officer, submitted it.
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Road crashes kill four

CITY DESK

Four people were killed in separate road accidents in the country yesterday and Monday.
Our Chittagong correspondent reports, a newspaper hawker, Azizul Haque Shamim, 28, of Comilla, died after a car hit his bicycle at Dampara in Chittagong city yesterday.
Our Rangpur correspondent adds, Tahumul Islam, 45, of Badarganj upazila, was killed when his motorbike collided head-on with a truck at Nagerhat in the upazila on Monday.
Our Moulvibazar correspondent adds, Sabbir Ahmed, 28, of Sreemangal upazila, died after his motorbike hit an electric pole in College Road area of the upazila town yesterday.
Our Pabna correspondent reports, Anisur Rahman, 55, of Pabna Sadar upazila, was killed when a truck hit a human hauler carrying him in Gati area on Pabna-Ishwardi highway on Monday evening.
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Indigenous children should be taught in mother tongues

Says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children of indigenous communities should be taught in their respective mother tongues at primary level to reduce their drop-out rates, said a study of Research and Development Collective yesterday.
"Drop-out rates of indigenous and other minority communities are much higher than those of their Bangalee counterparts. Only multi-lingual education system can help reduce the rates," said Prof Mesbah Kalam of Dhaka University, leader of the team that carried out the study, at a publication ceremony of the study at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.
The study titled "Mapping of Multi-Lingual Education Programs in Bangladesh" recommended recruiting qualified teachers from minority communities to teach students of the respective communities and developing more textbooks.
SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

7 men robbed Sylhet jewellery shop

Police reveal after arresting four suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A seven-strong gang had plundered the jewellery shop of Nehar Market in Sylhet city five months ago, police said yesterday, after arresting four persons.
During the loot of 420 tolas of gold ornaments on September 4, the robbers blasted 10 crude bombs and shot dead a security guard.
Though police arrested and remanded two activists of Awami League's youth wing Jubo League and three workers of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal as suspects, they could not give any information.
On February 8, when police stopped a microbus on suspicion at Chouddagram in Comilla, several people on board fled and the driver, Masud Mia, was detained.
Masud later gave a confessional statement in a Comilla court, Sylhet Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star at his office.
Masud, a resident of Kolakopa in Bhola, said the gang rented his microbus from the capital's Uttara, and he was
SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

২০০০ এখন বাজারে

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