



## TRI-NATION MUSIC FEST

LRB, Kailash Kher and Ali Azmat  
rock Dhaka army stadium

PAGE 9

## COMMON RIVER ISSUE

Is the Joint Rivers Commission  
working the way it should?

PAGE 6

## FOR INDIA'S FUTURE

A letter signed by Rushdie among others  
warns against the rise of Modi

PAGE 8

CHEMICALS STORAGE, SALES

# Old Dhaka still not safe

ZYMA ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

About four years into the Nimtoli fire tragedy, the old part of the capital that boasts thriving chemical markets is still at risk of fire accidents.

Chemical warehouses and stores, mostly located in residential complexes, are seen aplenty in Armanitola, Nabab Katra, Bangshal, Sat Rowza, Siddique Bazar, Babubazar and Mitford areas of Old Dhaka.

The issue has come to the fore again following the death of four people in a blaze at a chemical shop in the city's Tejgaon area on Thursday.

In 2010, at least 123 people were killed in a chemical inferno at Nimtoli in Old Dhaka, causing a public outcry to relocate chemical warehouses and stores from the area.

Things have changed for the better in Nimtoli since then, but not in other parts of Old Dhaka.

Flammable chemicals are stored on the ground floor of many residential buildings, blurring the difference between residential and industrial spaces.

This goes on while the government sits on its decision to relocate chemical warehouses from residential areas.

In April 2011, the government decided to shift all chemical warehouses from residential areas to industrial zones in Keraniganj or Kamrangir Char.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Flammable chemicals are still stored and sold from the ground floor of buildings in Old Dhaka. Apparently, the Nimtoli inferno taught people no lesson. The photos were taken near Mitford Hospital in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO:  
RASHED SHUMON



# Remittances to rebound

Says new report of WB

ARUN DEVNATH, from Washington

Inward remittances to Bangladesh may see "some rebound" in the coming years, bucking the slowing trend, as the inflow into South Asia is forecast to grow 22.5 percent to \$136 billion in 2016 from last year, the World Bank said in a new report.

Migrants from developing countries are expected to send \$436 billion in remittances to their home countries this year -- an increase of 7.8 percent over the 2013 volume -- despite more deportations from some host countries, according to the Migration and Development Brief released in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## PM terms BNP 'illegal party'

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday termed BNP an "illegal party" founded by a military ruler who had grabbed power illegally.

"It's unfortunate for the people of Bangladesh that they have to hear theories from those who have been illegal," she told the newly elected upazila parishad representatives at Gono Bhavan.

The higher court has declared illegal the



SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Fish trader now a surgeon!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Imagine a man who had the educational qualification of passing class-VIII drilling into your bone with a tool meant for making a hole in walls so that you can hang a photo frame there.

People do not have nightmares this bad but this had been going on at a clinic in Mohammadpur in the capital for four months.

"Surgeon" Ratan Krishna Majumdar, 43, was a fish trader just five years ago. His assistant and "anaesthesiologist" in the operating theatre Babul Chandra Paik, 42, actually had passed his SSC exams but studied no further.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Movement at 'right time'

Khaleda to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chief Khaleda Zia has called upon Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to sit for a dialogue on holding a parliamentary election immediately under a non-party administration.

Otherwise, the government would be responsible for the consequences, she said.

"The BNP does not run on anyone's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



## 2 UPDF men shot dead in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Khagrachhari

Two activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) were shot dead by unknown criminals in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are Naton Kumar Chakma, 45, of Panchhari upazila of the district, and Protulmoy Chakma, 30, of Rangamati district.

Quoting locals, police said the attackers sprayed bullets on Naton and Protulmoy while they were sitting at a tea stall at Baraitali around 8:30am, killing them on the spot.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# Gonojagoron Mancha feud reaches peak

Rivals 'relieve' Imran of spokesperson post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of pro-Awami League activists at a press conference under the banner of Gonojagoron Mancha yesterday "relieved" Imran H Sarkar of his duties as spokesperson of the platform campaigning for maximum punishment of war criminals.

The conference was held right at the place where the media cell of the Mancha used to sit -- in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh.

Unlike other Mancha programmes, it was not attended by Imran H Sarkar.

A statement read out at the press conference said a five-member panel will soon be



Imran H Sarkar

announced and it will speak on behalf of the platform. Any statement of Imran will no longer be regarded as Mancha's.

Without naming Imran, the statement read that decisions made by a certain person caused rifts inside the platform.

"Gonojagoron Mancha's mandate is not to organise political programmes or make comments indiscriminately. It does not go with the spirit of the platform. However, we were surprised to see a few persons doing these things," it read.

The statement was read out by Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, a cultural activist who

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



The Rakhine people in their *jalkeli utsab*, a festival in which they splash water on each other. Bangladesh Rakhine Students Association organised the festival at Katalganj Nabapandit Bouddha Bihar of Chittagong yesterday to celebrate the Bangla New Year.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

**BASHUNDHARA CEMENT**  
CONSTRUCTION BONDS

**57.3%  
MORE STRONG**

BUET STANDARD : 3620 PSI  
BASHUNDHARA CEMENT ACHIEVED  
**5700 PSI ON AVERAGE\***

09612123456  
\*according to the BUET Test Report for last 13 months.