

NEWS IN brief

Security beefed up in Ctg on Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Law enforcers have taken tight security measures around the Chittagong city marking today's Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police Additional Commissioner Banaj Kumar Majumder told The Daily Star that around 2,200 police personnel would be deployed at the programme venues.

A joint team of police and Rapid Action Battalion started keeping vigil from 2:00pm yesterday at the main venues, including DC Hill and Shilpakala Academy premises.

Auto-rickshaw driver found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An auto-rickshaw driver was found with his throat slit in the capital's Turag yesterday morning.

On information, Turag police recovered the body of Mofizul Islam, 32, from Switch Gate area but did not find the vehicle. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Mofizul's cell phone was switched off since Saturday 10:30pm, said police, quoting deceased's wife, Nurun Nahar. Nahar filed a case in this regard.

National debate begins May 16

CITY DESK

A two-day 8th "NDF BD National Debate Festival-2014" will begin at Bangla Academy Auditorium in the capital on May 16.

National Debate Federation Bangladesh will organise the event. School, college, and university levels students can take part in it, says a press release.

For registration, one has to call 01711541566, 01716588708, 01735861869 and 01754343333, and mail at shoab.dmo@gmail.com or visit www.ndf-bd.com.

Aga Khan Council delegation meets foreign minister Mahmood

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A three-member delegation from the Aga Khan Council for Bangladesh called on Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali at his office in the capital yesterday.

The delegation, headed by Altaf Ramzi, vice president of the council, handed over a letter from Prince Aga Khan congratulating Mahmood for assuming the ministry's charge.

Mahmood assured the delegation of cooperation to enact the Protocol of Cooperation signed between the government and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in last September.

Photo exhibition begins at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two-day photo exhibition titled "Colours of Life: Bangladesh", organised by Jahangirnagar University Photographic Society (JUPS), began yesterday in Zahir Raihan auditorium on the campus on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh.

JU Vice-chancellor Prof Farzana Islam inaugurated the programme while JU Treasurer Abul Khayer and Prof Manjurul Hoque, dean of law and justice faculty, were also present. JUPS President MHR Habib presided over the function. A total of 100 photographs have been selected from across the country for the exhibition that will continue from 9:00am to 8:00pm.

Death anniversary of 5 persons of a family tomorrow



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 43rd death anniversary of five members of a family will be observed tomorrow.

The deceased are Engineer Fazlur Rahman, his wife Hosne Akhter, an NGO trainer, and their three sons Mostafizur Rahman Moznu, Hasinur Rahman Hiron and Azizur Rahman Babu, said a press release.

They were brutally killed by the Pakistani occupation army and its collaborators at their Saidpur Railway Government residence in Nilphamari on this day in 1971 for their involvement in the liberation movement.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held and foods will be distributed among the destitute. Their friends and relatives are requested to attend the programme.



The biggest banyan tree in Asia, according to a BBC survey of 1984, is still standing tall even after about 300 years in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah. Although the main part of the tree died, it managed to continue existing through spreading its 52 branches that now occupy over four hectares of land. Starting its journey from the wall of a well, the banyan, which is under threat now, can be a hot tourist spot if it is maintained properly.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

**UPGRADING CMC TO UNIVERSITY
Cops warn protesters to stop movement**

Raid their houses, alleges employee oikya parishad; 2-hour work abstention for 3 days starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Protesting nurses and staff of Chittagong Medical College Hospital have alleged that the CMCH authority sent police to the houses of some of their leaders to warn them of staying away from the ongoing movement.

"Police raided the houses of seven of our leaders on Saturday night without any allegation," said Ratan Kumar Nath, a joint convener of the CMCH Karmakarta Karmachari Sangram Oikya Parishad.

"Police ransacked their houses, and threatened them to stop the movement or else sedition charges will be brought against them," he said.

The Oikya Parishad, consisting of nurses

and third and fourth class employees, have been observing a one-hour work abstention from 11:00am to 12:00 noon since April 9, protesting the government's decision to upgrade the Chittagong Medical College to a medical university.

They fear that if the hospital goes under an autonomous body from government's authority, their jobs will be at stake.

Romena Akther, president of Oikya Parishad, said they would observe a two-hour work abstention from 11:00am to 1:00pm for three days from tomorrow, protesting the police harassment.

She said upgrading CMC to a university

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Milk Vita to feed 2,000 kids free milk for 1yr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

FAO funded pasteurisation plant set up in Satkhira in this regard

The state-run dairy firm Milk Vita in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is going to feed 2,000 poor schoolchildren milk free of cost for a year in Satkhira to alleviate child malnourishment.

They launched the programme at a ceremony on Saturday to feed the children of 10 primary schools at Tala upazila in Satkhira, said a press release.

On the launching day, they distributed pasteurised packaged milk among 450 schoolchildren at the ceremony at Tala Bazar Model Government Primary School in the presence of local officials, elite and civil society representatives.

With its Corporate Social Responsibility fund, the Milk Vita will have to spend Tk 76 lakh to run the programme, Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, managing director of Milk Vita, told the Daily Star.

The well-off of the society should come forward to expand the programme and make it a success, he added.

A modern milk pasteurisation plant funded by the FAO

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Man shot dead over arms, drug trading

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A man was shot dead by his cousin and his friend in Rajshahi city early yesterday following a dispute among them over drug and firearm trading.

The victim, Md Likhon Ali, 20, was declared dead at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital around 5:00am, said Khan M Erfan, officer-in-charge of Rajpara Police Station.

Likhon was shot thrice; one bullet pierced his lower abdomen, one his chest and the other his right hand, said Subrata Ranjan Sarker,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Road crashes kill 11 University student dies in capital

CITY DESK

Road accidents killed 11 people and injured 35 others in seven districts Saturday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, Shahin Ferdous, 21, a student of private Daffodil International University, died as a car ran him over while he was crossing Mirpur Road in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday afternoon.

His fellows blocked the road. But police dispersed them.

Our Noakhali correspondent reports, three CNG-run auto-rickshaw passengers were killed and two others injured as a tractor rammed the auto-rickshaw at Charkakra in Companyganj early yesterday.

The deceased were Alamgir, 38, Habib, 30, and Harun, 32.

The auto-rickshaw driver Manik and another passenger Anwar were admitted to a clinic.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, Shahidullah Manik was killed and two others were injured as a covered van hit a minibus at Sitakunda's Jora Amtal yesterday.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent adds, Idon Miah, 28, and Rukon Miah, 32, were killed and eight others injured as a truck plunged into a roadside ditch at Sadar upazila's Nazirabad Saturday night.

The injured were taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports, Nikbor, 55, and Nasir, 52, were killed and 20 others injured when a bus fell

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A helicopter, a remote-controlled mini helicopter used to obtain aerial pictures or motion images using video, still or motion film cameras, in operation experimentally on the premises of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University yesterday. NHK, a Japanese TV channel, brought the device to shoot photographs of today's Pahela Baishakh procession to be brought out by the students of the faculty. The TV channel has already been working on a documentary on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

PHOTO: STAR



People walk past a power transformer on the footpath beside Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital, putting themselves at risk of accident anytime. The transformer was set up on an emergency basis after one atop the electric poles had gone out of order around 20 days ago. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**ASSAULT ON TEACHER
CU fine arts students want punishment of culprits**

CU CORRESPONDENT

Students of the Institute of Fine Arts of Chittagong University at a human chain on the campus yesterday demanded punishment of alleged assaulters of their teacher.

Moinul Islam, a fourth year student, said they will keep demonstrating until the authorities and police take steps in this regard.

Assistant Professor Kazal Deb Nath alleged that Tanvir Sorowar Rana, a former student of the institute, beat him up on the institute premises on Thursday night after an altercation. However, Rana denied the allegation.

Mozena for smooth democratic process

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Dan Mozena yesterday underlined the importance of smooth democratic process in Bangladesh, and said the United States did not believe that there was any room for perpetrating violence in the system.

Mozena, who called on Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali at the State Guesthouse Padma in the capital, acknowledged that the Bangladesh government had made huge progress in revamping the RMG industry in the last one year after the collapse of Rana Plaza.

The success of the government initiatives largely depends on a positive response from the industry, he added, according to a foreign ministry press release.

They discussed the upcoming annual Security Dialogue between Bangladesh and the US scheduled to be held on April 22, and TICFA Council meeting on April 28 in Dhaka.

The US envoy reiterated that the bilateral relationship between Dhaka and Washington was progressing, and said the US valued its relations with Bangladesh.

Mentioning that Bangladeshi people are very enterprising, Mozena briefed the foreign minister on his initiatives to take a number of Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to various places in the US which included a visit to Wall Street.

He also briefed the minister about his activities of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Students encouraged to think positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of young leaders at a programme yesterday inspired and encouraged the students of a university to think positive, and create innovative ideas for bringing change in the society.

They shared their experiences at a programme titled 'Unleashing Youth' at Brac University auditorium in the capital. The Business and Economic Forum (BEF), a forum of the students of Brac, organised the event.

More than hundreds of students of Brac University were present.

Korvi Rakshand, founder of Jaggo Foundation, inspired the young participants to come forward for

SEE PAGE 4 COL