



A dozen tall, slender Gagan Shirish trees neatly lining the Paris Road on Rajshahi University campus were flattened by a storm Thursday night. *Inset*, a previous view of the road with its green canopy before the nor'easter ripped through the university at 90km an hour.

PHOTO: STAR, WEB



NEWS IN brief

Youth beaten to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A mob beat a youth to death suspecting that he was a thief in the capital's Uttara area early yesterday.
The deceased, Suzon Mia, 19, was a restaurant employee.
An under construction building's security guard Abul Kashem's son Nazrul caught him at the building after a ceiling fan had been stolen from there on Thursday, said Uttara Paschim police Officer-in-Charge Rafiqul Islam.
Later, locals gave him a good beating killing him instantly, he said. Police detained Kashem and his wife Ambia while Nazrul fled, he added.

Swechhasebak League man's body found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Police recovered the hanging body of an Awami Swechhasebak League activist from an under-construction building near his Purkayostha Para village residence under Osmaninagar upazila in Sylhet Thursday afternoon.
Arjun Bhowmik, 20, who was missing since Sunday, might have committed suicide, Family said.
Police sent the body to MAG Osmani Medical College for an autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed.

Zainal wins Chand Sultana Award

CITY DESK
Zainal Abedin, a rickshaws puller, has won Chand Sultana Award-2013 for his social activities.
State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki as chief guest handed over the award at Dhaka Ahsania Mission auditorium in the capital's Dhanmondi on Wednesday, says a press release.
The award initiated by DAM consists of cash Tk 1 lakh, a crest, a certificate and a set of books and training materials published by late Chand Sultana, a social worker.
DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam was also present.

Youths protest felling of roadside trees in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
More than two hundred youths yesterday protested the mindless destruction of greenery in the name of beautification and development in the capital's Mirpur area.
At a human chain arranged by Shobujpata, an organisation campaigning for expanding greenery, the speakers said around 500 roadside trees had indiscriminately been chopped in the last several months at different areas in Mirpur, but no new trees had so far been planted there.
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Storm wreaks havoc on RU greenery

Topples 300 trees; 2 die in Rajshahi city
RU CORRESPONDENT
Two people were killed and 20 others injured in a nor'easter in Rajshahi city Thursday night, while at least 300 trees, including 12 large ones on the both sides of the Paris Road at Rajshahi University, were uprooted.
Around 100 houses, 50 shops, 500 trees and a huge amount of crops were destroyed in the district in the 20-minute storm, said witnesses.
The diseased were Abu Taher, 65, Shamser Ali, 60, of Tika Para Faridpur in Charghat of Rajshahi.
The injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.
The storm attacked the city at 9:00pm with 80 to 90km speed per hour, said Rajshahi Met Office.
The electricity supply to the city's most of the areas, including the university, has been suspended as the nor'easter flattened many electric poles.
With destroying the 300 trees, including the 12 Gagon Shirish, the RU campus has lost its natural beauty.
A portion of the boundary walls of RU vice-chancellor's SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Lightning kills 8 in dists

CITY DESK
Eight people were killed and another was injured by lightning in Lalmonirhat, Sunamganj, Chittagong and Panchagarh on Thursday and yesterday.
Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reports, four farmers died in lightning while they were working at crop fields in Aditmari and Hatibandha upazilas Thursday noon.
In Aditmari, Ashwini Roy, 55, was hit by lightning at Tiperbazar, said Aditmari police Officer-in-Charge Aslam Iqbal.
In Hatibandha, Lutfar Rahman, 27, Bishnu Chandra, 44, and Jaynal Miah, 40, were struck by lightning at Dhubni, Nawdabash and Sheikhundar villages respectively, said Hatibandha police OC Anwar Hossain.
Meanwhile, Jahangir Hossain, 43, a tax officer at Patgram municipality, died of heart attack following the sound of lightning at Sahebndanga in Patgram upazila Thursday noon, confirmed Dr Ahsan Ali Babu, acting civil surgeon.
Our staff correspondent from Sylhet adds, two persons were killed by lightning at paddy fields in Dakshin Sunamganj upazila of Sunamganj yesterday.
During the incidents, Ashikur Rsahman, 12, was harvesting paddy at Jamlabaj; and Tajul Islam, 25, was working at Chikarkandi village.
Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, labourer Md Shajahan, 22, son of Basher Ali of Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar, was killed as thunderbolt struck him while he was working at Shutki Palli at Ichha Nagar in Chittagong city yesterday.
Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds, farmer Abu Bakkar Siddique, 35, son of Chan Mia, was killed and another injured by lightning while they were irrigating a paddy field at Mareya Kolonipara in Boda upazila of Panchagarh Thursday afternoon.
Injured Azhar Ali, 325, son of Hossain Ali, was undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Militants' prison escape Decision on 8 arrestees' remand Sunday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
A Mymensingh court will hear Sunday a prayer of police that sought to remand the eight men arrested over the snatching of three JMB militants from a prison van in Trishal upazila two months ago.
Rapid Action Battalion arrested the eight from different areas recently and paraded them before the media in Dhaka on Wednesday.
The arrestees were Kamal Hossain alias Sabuj and his cousin Abu Bakar Siddique Swapan, both coaching centre tutors; Elias Uddin, Islami Bank official; Morshed Alam and his brother Sohel Rana, two overseas job seekers; Yusuf Ali Sohagh, a homeopathy medical student; and Bashir Uddin and Anwar Hossain, two recruiting agents.
All but Anwar, a resident of Naogaon, hail from Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh.
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48 teachers join training

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
A total of 48 English teachers from 25 schools from Khulna, Bagerhat and Jessore districts participated in a daylong English language skills enhancement training at Hotel Castle Salam in Khulna City Friday morning.
The Daily Star and Robi Axiata Limited are jointly organising the training as a part of the "English in Schools" programme that is being held to promote English learning among secondary schools across the country.
The teachers will be given different tools and techniques of delivering lessons on the language to students, as well as shown how to motivate the pupils.
A team of X-cel, an institute of interactive English learning, also participated as the trainers.
The trainers asked the teachers to encourage students to read the "English in Schools" page of The Daily Star published every Monday.
On the other hand, participants urged the trainers to add contents that are relevant to the academic curriculum to the page.
Mafuzul Bari Chowdhury, training consultant; Shireen Hasan, developer of the page, English in Schools; and Shiwa Forkan, assistant page developer; conducted the training while SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



From left, Shiwa Forkan, assistant page developer of English in Schools; Shireen Hasan, the page developer; and Mafuzul Bari Chowdhury, training consultant, along with participants at a daylong English training workshop jointly organised by The Daily Star and Robi Axiata Ltd at Hotel Castle Salam in Khulna city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Abduction spree raises concern

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black badges yesterday and will continue to do it till May 8, Khandaker Mahub Hossain, vice-chairman of Bar Council, told a press conference at Bar Council auditorium.
He said lawyers would hold a meeting at the Jatiya Press Club tomorrow (today) and would hoist black flags and hold silent rallies on the bar association premises across the country on May 4 (tomorrow), demonstrations on May 5, human chains on May 6, protest rallies on May 7, and token hungerstrikes on May 8.
Bar Council members AM Mahub Uddin Khokon and Sanaullah Mian, among others, were present at the press conference.
Expressing "grave concern" over the recovery of seven dead bodies from the Shitalakya river in Narayanganj recently, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a rights body, in a statement yesterday said, "As per ASK statistics based on media reports, 54 people across the country have been abducted by alleged law enforcers in the last four months."
"Of the 54, only 8 persons came back alive, while dead bodies of 15 have been recovered. Still there is no clue of others".
The recurrence of such abduction indicates the deterioration of law and order, triggering a sense of insecurity and panic among the people, the statement added.
"The state's failure in taking any measures against the perpetrators has given rise to a culture of impunity," it said.
Protesting the alarming rise of abductions and killings, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, an alliance of cultural organisations, in a statement yesterday announced that it would start a black-flag procession from the Teachers and Students Centre of Dhaka University around 5:00pm today.



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Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Prof Shakhawat Ali Khan, Prime Minister's Media Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, ICT Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, journalist Ajit Kumar Sarkar with others at a publication ceremony of a book titled "Digital Bangladesh Swapnapuroner Abhijatra" written by Ajit Kumar. The ceremony was held at Jatiya Press Club on Tuesday. PHOTO: PID

Two arrested with 1.57kg of gold at Sylhet airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Custom officials detained two passengers of BG-036, flight from Saudi Arabia, for illegally carrying 1.57kg of gold at Sylhet Osmani International Airport Thursday evening.
However, seven other passengers of the flight, who brought 1.85kg of gold were released on payment of duties, informed Omar Mobin, assistant commissioner of airport customs.