

NEWSIN brief

Eight arrested with 1.6kg gold at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed Police Battalion arrested eight people with 16 gold bars, worth Tk 80 lakh and weighing 1.6kg, in separate drives from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday and Saturday.

Of them Alauddin Bapary, Jasimuddin, Sajed Ali, Nahid Al Mamun, Saiful Islam, Jasim Uddin and Oli Ullah were the passengers of a Tiger Airlines-flight while Liton was the passenger of a Singapore Airlines-flight.

The bars were found searching their bodies.

DU suspends 102 students for cheating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday suspended and fined as many as 102 students last night on the charge of cheating while attending different examinations in the last three months.

Acting Proctor Prof Amzad Ali said the university syndicate, at its meeting, took the decision following recommendations from different disciplinary boards.

The students are from the DU and various colleges, including medical, under the university.

RMG workers demonstrate for arrears in Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Around 100 workers of a readymade garment factory at Kaichabari of Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital, demonstrated in front of the factory yesterday demanding their due salaries of March and April.

The workers of Eon Apparels said the factory had remained closed since May 20, alleging that the authorities had promised to pay the salaries yesterday, but did not do so.

When contacted, owner Zahan Akter Shima said she would give the salaries and reopened the factory soon.

Nordic alumni assoc launched

CITY DESK

A voluntary organisation, Nordic Alumni Association of Bangladesh (NAAB), was launched at Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR,B on Saturday.

The inaugural ceremony was attended, among others, by Hanne Fugl Eskjaer, Danish ambassador; and Anneli Lindahl Kenny, Swedish ambassador; as chief guests, says a press release.

The representatives from the Royal Norwegian Embassy were also present.

M Manzurur Rahman, secretary general, Nordic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bangladesh was the guest of honour.

Aga Khan Education Service hosts silver jubilee education conference

CITY DESK

To mark the 25th Anniversary of The Aga Khan School, Dhaka (AKSD), Aga Khan Education Service, Bangladesh (AKESB) organised an education conference in the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area on Saturday.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, BRAC founder and chairperson; Sheila Manji, AKESB acting CEO Nimet Rener, Director of Education, Social Welfare Department of Aga Khan Development Network, were present among others.

Nazruls' birthday celebrated at IUB

CITY DESK

Kazi Nazrul Islam-Abbasuddin Ahmed Research and Study Centre of Independent University, Bangladesh celebrated National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 153rd birth anniversary on IUB Bashundhara campus in Dhaka yesterday.

The research centre also launched IUB journal on Nazrul-Abbasuddin and honoured Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman, who has recently been given India's Padma Bhushan award, says a press release.

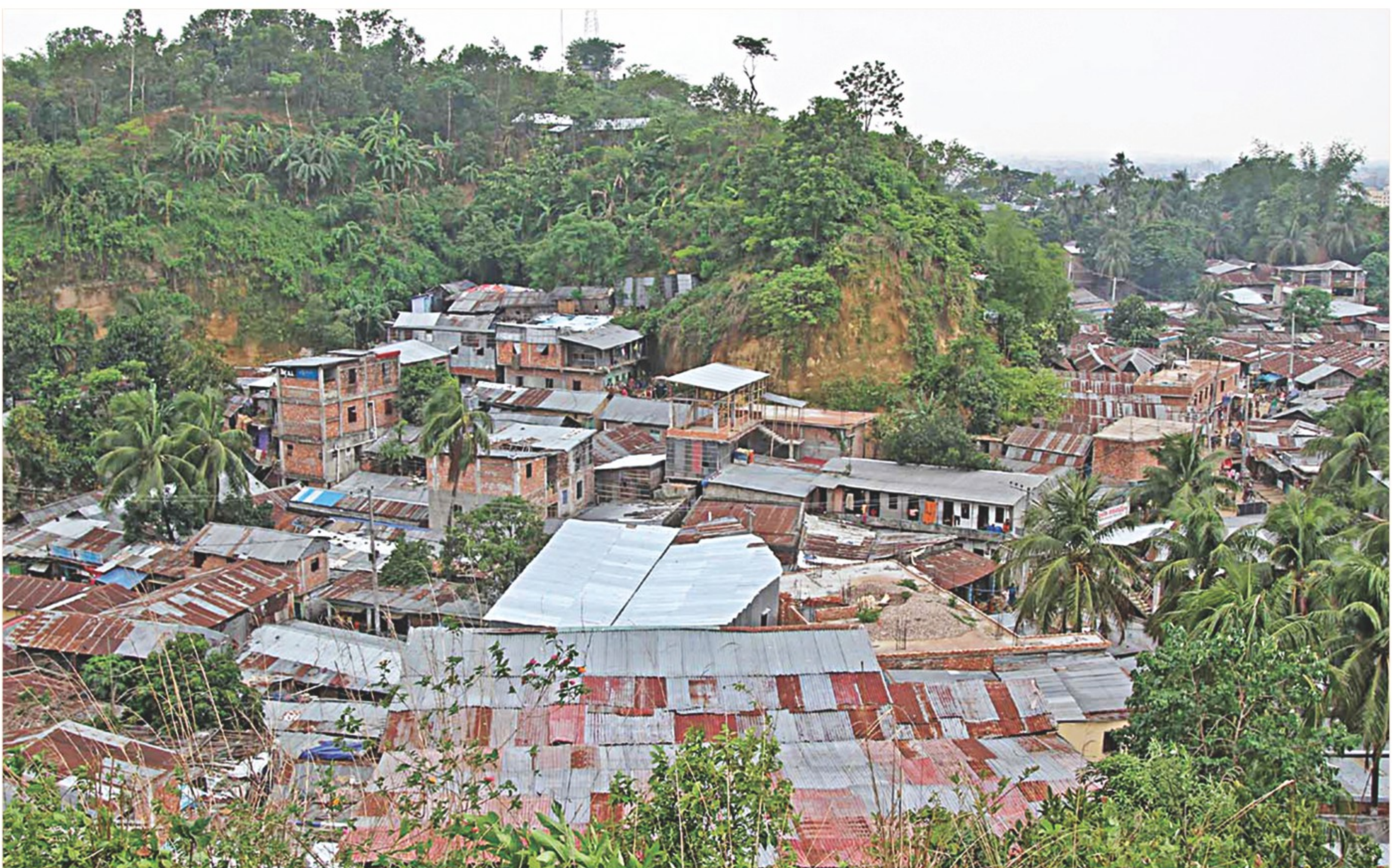


Seminar
International Growth Centre (IGC) and Brac Institute will organise a dissemination seminar on "Reducing Vulnerability: The Export Diversification Challenge in Bangladesh"; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 10:00am.

Workshop
Traidcraft Exchange will organise a dissemination workshop on golden fibre project; Venue: The Daily Star; Time: 9:00am.

Discussion
Nazmul Karim Study Centre will

arrange a discussion on Prof Nazmul Karim's perception on society; Venue: RC Mazumder Auditorium; Time: 11:00am.



People living on hill slopes in Chittagong city prefer to risk their lives instead of paying heed to the government's request to move to places which are safe from land slides during the monsoon. However, the administration does not even bother to monitor their shifting. The photo was taken in Lalkhan Bazar Motijhorna area on Saturday. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

5 YRS INTO CYCLONE AILA 4m suffering from acute drinking water crisis

Speakers at a seminar slam govt for inaction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around four million people in the coastal region are suffering from acute drinking water crisis due to a lack of government's initiative even after five years since the cyclone Aila hit the Bangladesh coast, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

Sixty four upazilas in 11 coastal districts were inundated by saline water for months, which has increased the salinity level in the soil and water, they said, adding that unplanned saline water shrimp cultivation had worsened the situation.

But the government has not made any special allocations for the Aila-affected areas to combat the drinking water crisis, they said.

They made the observation at a seminar titled "Revisiting Aila: Cry for Safe Wash (water & sanitation)" jointly organised by NGO Forum and the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) at the conference room of DPHE.

Prof Dr Abdullah Harun Chowdhury, faculty of environmental science department of Khulna University, in his keynote speech, said the present salinity level of the soil and water of this region was ranging from 7.6 to 15.9 ppt (parts per thousand), while the tolerable level for human is just 0.4 to 1.8 ppt.

The trend of salinity is increasing every year, he said.

The vegetation in the Koyra, one of the Aila-hit areas, was 31 percent in 2008, which came down to nine percent in 2011.

There used to be several kinds of plants in the Aila-hit area including Bot, Kathbadam, Simul, Shaora, Sonalu, Chatim, Jalibet, Kao, Botijam, but all those species have become very rare after the cyclone.

His study also showed that around 45 percent people from South Betkashi and 25 percent of total population of Moharajpur union under Koyra upazila had migrated

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ACCOUNTABILITY OF LAW ENFORCERS Constitutional changes, indemnity laws created culture of impunity

Sara Hossain tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The culture of impunity has found a strong footing in our legal system through different amendments of the original 1972 constitution and enactment of laws to protect human rights violators, said Barrister Sara Hossain at a seminar yesterday.

Among other laws, Hossain highlighted the Special Powers Act, and even the Chittagong Hill Tracts treaty that gave protection to those who violated human rights to curb the insurgency in the hills.

However, Hossain said that because of such laws and articles victims often could not seek redress even at the apex court.

She was speaking at a day-long programme on "Strengthening Police Accountability in Bangladesh: Challenges and Strategies" at the CIRDAP auditorium jointly organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Bangladesh and the India-based Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI).

Referring to a writ petition filed by Dr Kamal Hossain about the role NHRC played with regards to the seven murders

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INDIA'S RIVER LINKING PROJECT Speaker urged to request Modi to stop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two environmental organisations have urged Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury to request the India's prime minister-elect Narendra Modi for not to implement the Indian inter-river linking project.

If the project is implemented, the environment, eco-system and economy of Bangladesh will be severely affected, said a joint statement of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) and Jatiya Nodi Rakkha Andolon yesterday.

"So, we demand that the speaker will request the India's prime minister in their first meeting to refrain from implementing the project citing its adverse impact and concern of Bangladeshi people," the statement said.

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MUKTIJODDHA COUNCIL HC stays polls for 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for six months the process for holding elections to central, district and upazila units of Muktiyoddha Central Command Council (MCCC), scheduled to be held on June 4.

The court also issued a rule upon the government and MCCC to explain why the schedule for holding the elections to MCCC's units and appointment of its administrator should not be declared illegal, Deputy Attorney General Motaheer Hossain Saju told The Daily Star.

The court came up with the order and rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Kabir Ahmed Khan, a freedom fighter, challenging the legality of the election schedule and the appointment of its administrator, he said.

Kabir, in his petition, said the government had appointed the administrator for MCCC on December 8 last year, who declared the schedule for holding the elections to central, district and upazila units of MCCC on June 4.

According to the National Freedom Fighter Command Council Act, 2002, and a previous HC directive, elections to all the units of MCCC cannot be held in a same day.



The National Garment Workers Federation brings out a red-flag procession in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, protesting the recent abduction of labour leader Moniruzzaman Monir and his subsequent release after brutal torture. The workers' association alleges that miscreants hired by some garment factory owners kidnapped him on May 21. PHOTO: STAR



Family members of Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam lay a wreath at his grave on Dhaka University campus in the capital yesterday marking his birthday. PHOTO: STAR

PHOTO: STAR

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