



Garbage, grass, and water hyacinths mar the edge of the Buriganga river at Sadarghat Launch Terminal, the largest in the country, besmirching its status, and contributing to the fatal pollution of the river which is known as the lifeline of the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENMUL HAQ

# NEWS IN brief

## Shooting wounds two in Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Unidentified miscreants shot and injured two persons on Buribazar road of Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday afternoon.

Raja Miah, 66, a retired army officer, with bullet wounds in a leg was admitted to Savar CMH while Md Yunus Pramanik, 26, a local grocery shop owner, with wounds in the head, was admitted to Enam Medical College and Hospital. Quoting locals, Ashulia police said some three youths on a motorbike shot Raja Miah.

## President wants eye camps in rural areas

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged ophthalmologists to organise regular eye camps in remote areas to ensure eye treatment for the helpless and the poor people.

"Patients of rural areas are deprived of health care as most of the specialist physicians stay in urban areas," he said while addressing the fifth annual conference of Bangladesh Community Ophthalmological Society (Bcos) at a hotel in the capital.

Health Minister Mohammad Nasim spoke as the special guest while Bcos President Professor Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed was in the chair.

## DUMCJAA induction on Saturday

UNB, Dhaka

Induction ceremony of the newly formed executive committee of Dhaka University Mass Communication and Journalism Alumni Association (DUMCJAA) will be held on Saturday.

The programme will be held in Prof Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of the social science faculty building on the campus with Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique as the chief guest.

All DUMCJAA members are requested to attend the programme.

## Put higher taxes on tobacco products

Demand activists ahead of upcoming budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-tobacco campaigners yesterday demanded higher taxes on tobacco goods in the next fiscal year, saying it would help reduce the number of tobacco users on one hand and save the government a lot of public health expenditure on the other.

"Tobacco products are the cheapest in Bangladesh. Compared to other products the 'real price' of tobacco has been decreasing over the last few years. As the 'real income' of people is increasing, they are being able to consume more tobacco," said eminent economist Abul Barakat.

The number of tobacco users in Bangladesh is also the highest in the world, he told a press conference at the capital's Best Western La Vinci Hotel, organised by Human Development Research Centre and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK).

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## Torture by Subhan left two disabled for life

One victim's brother testifies at war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan, along with his cohorts and the Pakistani army, tortured his brother and one of his brother's colleagues inside an army camp in Pabna during the Liberation War, leaving them disabled for life.

Riaz Uddin Mandol, half-brother of one of the victims, Joyenuddin Pramanik alias Jharu Miah, of Arankhola village in Iswardi, Pabna, said although his brother and his colleague were released later, both had been tortured so much that they lost their ability to work. The two were whipped and bayoneted, he said.

The ninth witness in Subhan's case also told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Subhan, his accomplices, and the Pakistani army looted many houses including theirs in the village before burning them

down.

Earlier, Ashraf Uddin Miah, son of the other victim, Alauddin Miah, who worked in the Ansar force with Joyenuddin, testified that Subhan along with Razakars and Biharies picked up his father and Joyenuddin.

Subhan, a nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat, faces nine charges including genocide in Pabna during the Liberation War. He, however, pleaded not guilty before court.

Riaz said he himself had worked in the Ansar with the two others in 1971.

In the middle of first Bangla month Baishakh, Subhan with the Pakistani army and Biharies had come to Alauddin's house and searched for him and his arms, said 72-year-old Riaz.

As they did not find him, Biharies, as directed by Subhan, looted his house and set fire to another house, said Riaz, adding

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## Putul made WHO adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saima Wazed Hossain, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been appointed in the World Health Organization (WHO) advisory panel on mental health as its expert adviser.



Prime Minister's Special Assistant Mahbul Hoque Shakil confirmed it to The Daily Star.

Saima known as Putul in Bangladesh, who also advocates for New York-based Autism Speaks, will serve in the 25-member experts' panel for four years, he added. He said the panel would directly advise the WHO chief without any remuneration.

Putul is the chair of the National Advisory Committee on Autism, meant to raise awareness about the developmental disorder in Bangladesh and South Asia.

## Ershad slams AL, BNP

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The next day, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir termed Hasina's rule "the era of formalin" and said the government was spreading not only formalin but also poisons everywhere, destroying society, politics and the economy.

A former autocratic ruler, Ershad, said, "I will control the use of formalin within a week if I can come to power."

"The two major political parties are the curse for the people of the country. The people want to get rid of the two parties."

Referring to the recent killing, abduction and forced disappearance, the JP chief asked, "Is this a democratic and civilised society?"

"The country is on the verge of destruction. There is no democracy, no rule of law in the country."

About the recent violent crimes and the use of formalin in food items, Ershad said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina could control those if she really wanted.

He observed that the recent law and order situation was terrible, and said nobody's life was secure in the country at present.

Referring to the arms licences of Nur Hossain, the prime accused in the seven murders case in Narayanganj, Ershad said why the government issued licences to criminals like Nur.

He alleged that the ruling party men were involved in the recent killings and forced disappearances. But there is no step against these, said Ershad, also special envoy to the prime minister.

## NOT COMPLETING KARNAPHULI DREDGING JS body to recommend legal action against Malaysian firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The parliamentary standing committee on the shipping ministry will recommend the ministry to take legal action against a Malaysian firm for not completing its task of capital dredging the river Karnaphuli on time.

Maj (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam, president of the committee, said the company should be blacklisted so that it cannot take part in the development project in future.

He was talking to reporters yesterday after visiting the dredging site. The lawmaker said an investigation would be carried out regarding why the task was not completed, and a decision would be taken following the investigation.

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) on April 28, 2011 signed an agreement with Malaysian Maritime and Dredging Corporation to implement a Tk 229.54 crore project titled "Capital Dredging and Bank Protection Work with jetty facilities

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## TRANSPORT WORKERS' ATTACK ON BARISAL UNIVERSITY

# Students return to classes

Negotiations with transport owners, university authorities lead to the decision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Students of Barisal University have decided to return to classes and take their exams following negotiations with transport owners and university authorities at a meeting yesterday.

The students had been boycotting all academic activities since Saturday to press home a six-point demand.

The demands are: punishment for transport workers, who attacked and injured some students on May 29; immediate construction of students' dormitories and their boundary walls; construction of speed bumps in front of the university's permanent campus; with-

drawal of resignation letters of five assistant proctors; a fixed session fee of Tk 3,000 per student and announcement of the university's student election union.

HM Zahirul, convener of Sadharon Chhatra Parishad, an organisation representing general students, said they decided to postpone their agitation programme after a tri-party meeting among students' representatives, university authorities and transport owners yesterday afternoon.

The transport owners assured students of providing them with a reserved bus that will ply between the city and the permanent campus, introducing half-ticket price for the

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Tangled utility cables hanging dangerously on Bir Uttam AK Kandker Sarak in the capital's Mohakhali almost touching the heads of the passers-by. Repeated publications of such pictures in the media have so far failed to wake the authorities up to put the cables in the right place. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR



Followers of slain Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque block Feni-Parshuram road by burning tyres, twigs and dried leaves and putting logs, not in picture, during a daylong hartal across the upazila yesterday. The ruling Awami League enforced the shutdown protesting the death of Ekram, a party leader, who was shot inside his SUV before being burnt alive by the factional rivals in Feni town on May 20.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## Probe body for suspending

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Dr Shafiqul and Abu Sufian, a staff of ZH Sikder Women's Medical College Hospital, beat up the journalist at the hospital in the capital's Dhanmondi when the reporter went there to verify allegations that Dr Shafiqul was working at the private hospital as a full-timer despite being an assistant professor at Chittagong Medical College.

## Mastermind of Madaripur

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planned the murder and hired six professional killers for Tk 3 lakh. Earlier, Shahinur Begum, wife of Bashar, alleged that Shahin killed her husband because Bashar, a former Jamaat-e-Islami activist, joined the AL and supported Shahin's political enemy Delwar Kazi, another AL leader, at Saltha.



**Fair**  
Daffodil International University and Janabigan Foundation are organising "Daffodil-Janabigan Udvabon Mela-2014"; Venue: university auditorium, Dhanmondi; Time: 9:30am.

**Discussion**  
Poribesh Bachao Andolon has organised a discussion on "Climate Change: Environment of Dhaka City"; Venue: Poba office, Kalabagan; Time: 11:00am.

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