

BCL man fined for slapping leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Jagannath University's disciplinary committee has decided to fine an activist of the university unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League for slapping the organisation's president in January. Vice Chancellor of JnU Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday told The Daily Star that Saiful Islam would be fined Tk 1,000 for slapping BCL, JnU unit president Shariful Islam. The matter would be placed before the university syndicate today for approval, he added. On January 31, Shariful had allegedly first slapped Saiful for not greeting (salaam) him on the campus. Saiful then retaliated by slapping Shariful. Afterwards, Shariful's accomplices beat Saiful up, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Attacks on adivasis getting more vicious

Say rights activists protesting recent assault on Khasis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The attacks on the indigenous population have become more vicious than ever before while the state takes no steps to protect them, 11 human rights organisations said yesterday. The main reason behind the violence is to evict them and grab their ancestral lands where they have been living for centuries, they added. The rights groups said these at a human chain they formed in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club to protest the recent assault on Khasis in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila. Alleged land grabbers from neighbouring Nahar Teat Estate attacked Nahar Punjee-1, a Khasi village, on May 30, leaving 20 people of the indigenous group injured. Addressing the event, Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said the indigenous people should be given the rights to their land.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN
Since Bangladesh is a signatory to the ILO Convention-107 that recognises indigenous communities' rights to the land they traditionally use, it should act accordingly, he said. The activists also demanded immediate arrests of the attackers of the Sreemangal Khasis and a separate land commission for plain land indigenous communities. The other organisers are Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, Adivasi Poribesh Rakkha Andolon, Ain o Salish Kenrdra, Association for Land Reform and Development, BLAST, IED, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PADMA BRIDGE Work starts this month defeating conspiracies: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that her government would start the construction of the 6.15km Padma bridge this month with the country's own resources "defeating all conspiracies." "The bridge would be open for completion of construction by 2018. We won't brag anyone for assistance... We will even try to complete the construction before the stipulated time [of four years]," said the premier, replying to lawmakers' queries. In a written statement, Hasina said her government already had awarded the construction work of the bridge to China Major Bridge Engineering Company Ltd. "The Chinese company submitted a Tk 12,133 crore bid for constructing the 6.15km bridge," she said. She said, "Many conspiracies were hatched to undermine her government politically over the Padma bridge issue." The premier alleged that the World Bank cancelled its proposed loan without any reason and for one person. The premier said her government laid the foundation stone of the bridge in 2001 but the BNP-led government stopped the work. They even tried to change the bridge's SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

EKRAM MURDER

Prime accused sent to jail

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni
A Feni court yesterday sent Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury alias Minar Chowdhury, prime accused in the murder of Fulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque, to jail after rejecting bail and remand prayers. Senior Judicial Magistrate Khairul Amin passed the order after hearing a five-day remand prayer by police and a bail petition submitted by the defence. Earlier, a seven-day remand prayer was rejected. Mahtab, president of BNP, Fulgazi upazila unit was arrested in the capital's Kachukhet area on May 27. Ekram, who was also president of Fulgazi upazila Awami League, was shot and burned alive in his car in broad daylight on May 20. Afterwards, a murder case was filed against Minar and 35 unnamed others.

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION Nasim wants more for health care

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Health budget in the next fiscal year would be about Tk 11,000 crore, which is nearly Tk 2,000 crore more than that of current fiscal year, said Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday. "This is not enough. Health budget should be more, because we need to build more infrastructure, more beds in the hospitals to provide better health care," he said. The minister was addressing a press conference in the secretariat to inform about the outcomes from his attending the General Health Assembly in Geneva during May 19-24. Nasim earlier had told various meetings and seminars that he would bargain with the finance minister for increasing the health budget. But, allocation of the health budget compared to the national budget of 2014-15 would be less than 4.5 percent, which is now 4.27 percent. On his achievements in Geneva, he said the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted a Dhaka-sponsored resolution on neuro-developmental disorders. "As a result, it has become mandatory for SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Fire breaks out at JS building

Guts one room; massive accident averted
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday narrowly escaped a massive inferno thanks to a "fire watcher" quickly detecting smoke. The fire which broke out at the office of the personal secretary of Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed on the third floor burnt all furniture, documents and electrical equipment into ashes. None was there when the fire watcher noticed smoke coming out from Room 433 around 8:20am, said a top security official of the nine-storey parliament building. He suspected that an electric short circuit caused the fire, which also burnt the carpet of Room 434 and caused melting of a computer monitor in the room above Room 433. Fire fighters reached the scene in ten minutes and put out the blaze in another ten minutes. Two separate enquiry committees were formed to identify the cause of the fire, said sources. Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury visited the scene.

JANUARY 5 GENERAL POLLS JP, Islami Front yet to file spending report

Rafur Rabbi files appeal against cancellation of his N'ganj-5 by-poll candidacy; Barisal-5 by-poll now June 15
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Jatiya Party and Bangladesh Islami Front have not yet submitted their expenditure statements for the January 5 general polls, although the deadline set by the Election Commission passed yesterday. Jesmin Tuli, joint secretary of the EC Secretariat, told The Daily Star that Jatiya Party has not communicated with the EC in this regard, while Islami Front had informally informed the EC that they did not spend any money for the election. Contacted, Sirazul Islam, acting secretary of the EC Secretariat, said they will take action against the political parties that did not submit expenditure statements. Each political party contesting in the national election has to submit expenditure statement to the EC within 90 days of the end of the election. If a party fails to comply, the commission will issue a warning notice directing the party to submit the statement within the next 30 days. If the party still does not submit the statement, the EC may extend the deadline by 15 more days with a Tk 10,000 fine. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

theSTAR'S 18TH ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of The Star magazine's 18th anniversary we offer our readers a 64-page anniversary special. In the cover story 'Of Apples and Ideas' 22 leaders in their field share their vision for Bangladesh's future. They include visionaries like Dr Muhammad Yunus, Sir Fazle Abed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Professor Anisuzzaman and many more thought leaders. A special story on the new generation of politicians highlights their thoughts on how to make Bangladesh more modern and prosperous. 'The Dawn of the New' analyses the inspiring new wave in mainstream music. '18 Days that Shook Bangladesh' identifies eighteen events that have changed our history forever. Finally we have a few of our most talked about columns talking about Bangladesh's image, the generation gap and how to measure self worth. Don't miss this thought-provoking, exciting, issue.

PM, LAW MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON JUDICIARY Khandker Mahbub draws SC's attention

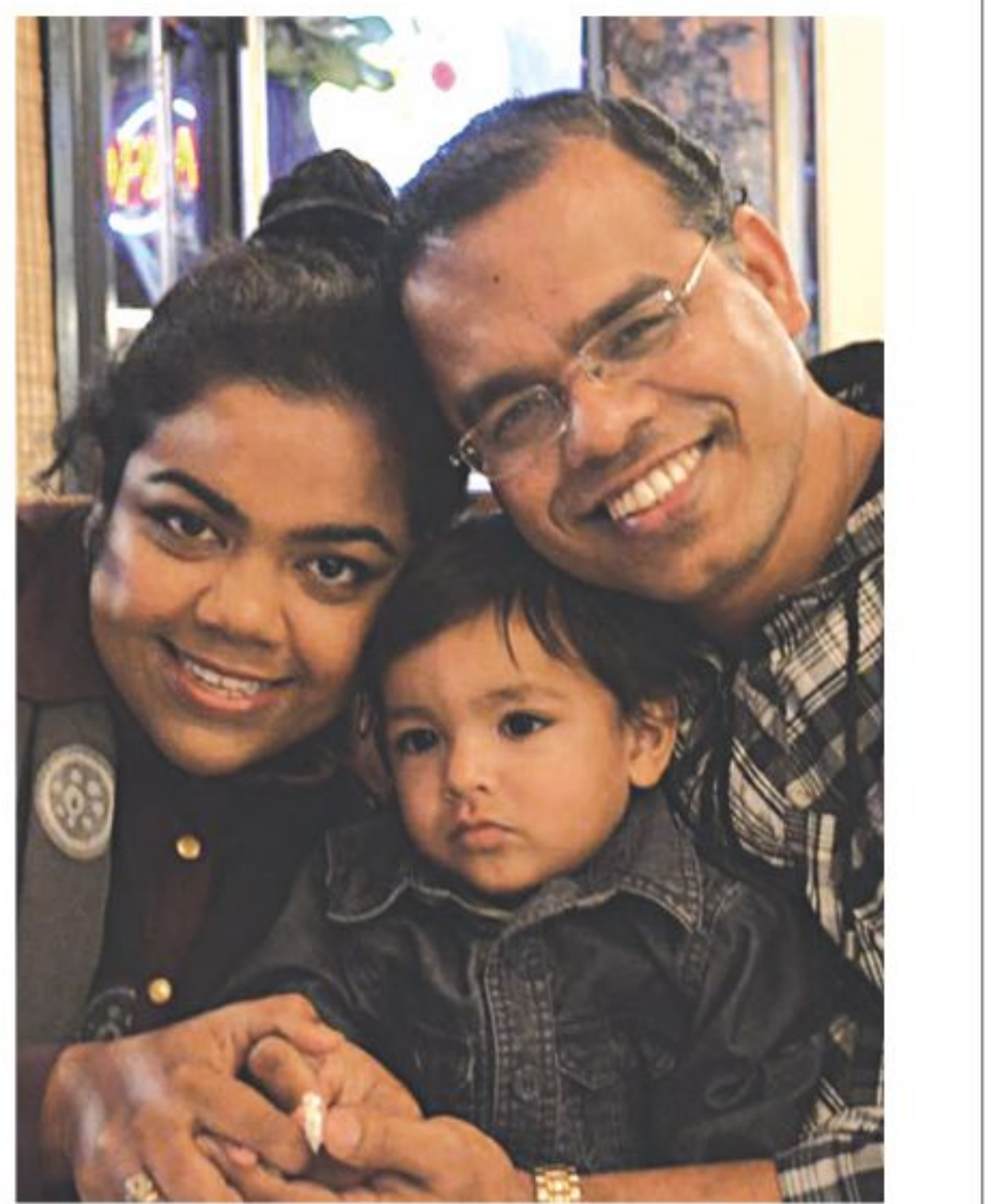
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court Bar Association president yesterday sought the Appellate and High Court Divisions' orders on the prime minister and law minister's recent comments about the judiciary, saying their remarks had undermined SC's supremacy. Khandker Mahbub Hossain prayed for the orders showing two reports of The Daily Star which contained the comments. Both the divisions of the Supreme Court received the reports, but did not pass any order. About HC's order on the arrest of three ex-Rab officials over the seven murders in Narayanganj, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday said, "When we are still investigating...how come a High Court bench orders the arrest of the three?" On the other hand, Law Minister Anisul Huq on Monday cautioned against "judicial anarchy" and said judicial activism should not cross its boundary. When Mahbub presented the reports to the Appellate Division, the chief justice asked him to go to the "proper court". Then he went to the HC bench, which ordered the government on May 11 to arrest the three ex-Rab officials. The attorney general opposed Mahbub's move, terming it politically motivated.

To Know is to Prevent

Born with heart defect? It need not continue any longer.....

"Ladies and gentlemen, please fasten your seat belt", as the aircraft started landing the voice of the air hostess brought back Farhana to present time, from her deep thoughts. She was thinking to herself, in just a time span of one month, how her life has changed from despair to hope!

Farhana Akhter, a lively spontaneous woman aged 33 years, is living with her husband for last six years in the city of Auckland at New Zealand. Farhana's days were full with fun and play with Razeen, her two years old growing son, a bundle of energy. But occasionally, she wasn't being able to cope with her playful child. She started getting tired even with little work and was having sudden palpitation and breathlessness. She felt lifeless without any energy to do anything, as extreme weakness was engulfing her everyday. Her husband took her to Auckland City Hospital. After necessary tests, the doctor told her that she has holes in her heart wall, not one but six! The doctor further told them she was born with this heart defect called Atrial Septal Defect which does not always produce symptoms till a certain age. She was advised cardiac surgery for repair of these holes; they said the surgery would cost them 40 thousand New Zealand Dollar which is equivalent to 39 lac 80 thousand Bangladeshi Taka! As if their whole world crashed in pieces, from where they will get so much money! He started contacting hospitals in Singapore, Thailand and India asking about hospital quality, doctor skill and also cost of surgery. While talking over phone, in one such desperate night, Farhana's family members from Dhaka suggested them to do Farhana's surgery in an International Standard hospital in Bangladesh.



Farhana looked at her husband and son sitting by her in the aircraft and thanked the Almighty for giving her back her life! One proud and happy woman she is, proud of her country Bangladesh, where doctors in an World Standard hospital with International Accreditation, has operated and cured her at such an affordable cost!

Anyone born with heart defects should not suffer anymore with it any longer. Why waste valuable time going abroad spending so much money when you can avail International Standard treatment in a hospital in your own country? Do not feel despair when hope is beckoning from somewhere near you!

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For further queries or feedback call Dr. Nafiz Ahmed at 01713240314 (everyday 9am to 5pm) or write back to us at 2know2prevent@apollodhaka.com
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