

NEWS IN brief

CNG filling stations' owners postpone nationwide strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
CNG filling stations' owners postponed their non-stop nationwide strike till August 24 following the government's assurance to consider their five-point demand. The strike, which was scheduled to begin at 6:00am today, was announced on May 24 to realise their demands including enhancing station owners' commission margin to Tk 2.98 from Tk 0.12 on the sale of per cubic metre of CNG and coordination between the price of CNG and electricity.

Selim Osman accused of breaching poll code

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj
Independent candidate SM Akram yesterday accused Jatiya Party contestant Selim Osman of violating the electoral code of conduct in the Narayanganj-5 by-election scheduled for June 26. Talking to reporters, Akram said that during a visit to a local madrasa on Thursday, Selim promised to donate computers and air-coolers and provide money for sending seven students to perform hajj. Selim denied the allegations.

Badruddoza terms new budget illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday termed the budget and finance minister's placing of it before the National Parliament "illegal." This government is not elected by the people, the parliament too is not legal, thus the government has no right to place a budget, he said in a statement. People did not cast their votes in January 5 polls, 154 candidates elected unopposed, while others received only 10 percent vote, he added.

Four outsiders held from DU Jagannath Hall

DU CORRESPONDENT
Police yesterday detained four outsiders raiding two buildings of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University on information that many of them were residing there for years and selling drugs regularly. Police, however, could not recover anything as information of the raid was leaked out earlier. It was the fourth raid in the dormitory in six months still outsiders are residing there under the shelter of Bangladesh Chhatra League, hall sources said.

Boy dies from electrocution while hoisting favourite world cup colours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj
A boy died after being electrocuted while hoisting an Argentine flag, ahead of world cup football match, at Gopalpur in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj last night. The deceased, Shihab Hossain, 12, son of Mukter Hossain, was a class VI student. Witnesses said Shihab was electrocuted after he climbed up a mango tree to tie the flag to a nearby bamboo which was wet and electrified as it touched an electric cable.

HSF distributes summer fruits among disadvantaged children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Human Safety Foundation, a development organisation, hosted an art competition for underprivileged children and distributed summer fruits among the participants at Dhaka University yesterday. About a hundred kids from in and around the campus areas, who are enrolled in HSF's four open air schools, joined the programme at TSC. Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique gave out prizes to 12 top performers in the drawing contest judged by cartoonist Ahsan Habib.



BRICKS OF DESTRUCTION

Anti-clockwise from top, the owner of a banana plantation points at the dried wilted leaves of a plant in Haryan of Rajshahi's Poba upazila on Thursday, which is the direct result of the heat and toxic fumes produced by nearby brick kilns. A man holds out a bunch of partly damaged mangoes. Drying leaves replacing the lush green of a neighbouring sugarcane field. A dying chilli seedling, destroyed at the head, in a whole dying chilli plantation, the earth of which also cracked due to dryness from the heat emanated from the kilns. A plethora of unlicensed brick kilns have cropped up in many areas of Rajshahi occupying arable lands, completely ignoring the fallout of the illegal onslaught.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD MASUD



INDO-BANGLA RIVERS Ratify UN convention to bargain for due rights

Environmental activists urge govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Environmentalists yesterday urged the government to ratify the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, which can be used to fight for securing the nation's water-sharing rights from neighbours. The convention, expected to become a law on August 17 this year, contains provisions helpful for Bangladesh, which is situated at the downstream of the rivers that mostly originated in India and China, they said. The activists raised the demand at a meeting, "Movement for Ratification of UN Convention on International Watercourses", organised by 12 environmental activism organisations at the capital's Jatiya Press Club. Asif Nazrul, professor of law at Dhaka University, highlighted some provisions of the convention, including the "principle of prior notification" and "no-harm principle", which require a nation to inform, and if necessary, refrain from a project if it harms the nations which share the international watercourses. He said that though both the water resource minister during BNP's regime and a caretaker government adviser understood the law's importance, none could get the convention ratified. Bangladesh is among the 106 countries

Nahid for more science students to advance nation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday emphasised expansion of science education among students for the advancement of the nation. He said the next generation should be provided with science education of global standards that links knowledge and skills with practical life. The minister was speaking as chief guest at the concluding and prize giving ceremony of "BFF-Samakal 2nd National School Science Debate 2014", jointly organised by Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF) and the daily Samakal in the Dhaka Residential Model School and College auditorium. Citing different initiatives of the government, Nahid said the trend among children taking science education has been rising since 2010. He lauded the organisers of the debate programme, and said such extra-curricular activities help students widen

ATTACK ON STAFF 50 BU students sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
The authorities of Barisal University yesterday lodged a case against 50 students, including four by name, for ransacking the registrar's office and injuring four staff on Thursday. Shakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said BU Estate Officer Saiduzzaman, in his case, accused Aqib Javed Khan, Reza Sharif, Enamul Moni, Al-Mamun and around 46 others unnamed students. On Thursday, a group from the agitating students, who are demonstrating to realise their various academic facilities,

Chittagong sees culinary battle

CITY DESK
Rupchanda-Star Lifestyle Super Chef 2014, reached Chittagong yesterday to hunt for the best culinary experts in the region. The contest is being organised by Rupchanda, the flagship brand of Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited, and Star Lifestyle, a weekly publication of The Daily Star. A total of 136 participants showed off their culinary skills in the regional round of the competition held at K Square, GEC Circle in the city. Among them, four have been chosen to participate in the final round which will be held in the capital. Registrations for auditions in Dhaka are still open. Interested individuals can call 0961277888 for more information. The regional round in Dhaka will be held on June 21. Food connoisseurs Shawkat Osman and Shaheda Yeasmin, Jinat Azam, president of Ladies' Club, Chittagong Daisy Moudud, senior sub-editor at The Daily Purbakone, and Rowshan Ara Begum, food critic, comprised the panel of judges.



Food connoisseur and Rupchanda-Star Lifestyle Super Chef judge Shaheda Yeasmin talking to a contestant during the penultimate regional round of the cooking competition in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop
Institute of Water Modelling in collaboration with Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Water Resources Planning Organisation and the European Union has organised a workshop on "Global Earth Observation for Integrated Water Resources"; Venue: BWDB conference room; Time: 1:45pm.

Lecture programme
Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Dhaka University in collaboration with Department of Peace and Conflict Studies Foundation Day Trust, Dhaka University and Oxfam Bangladesh has arranged lecture programme on the occasion of the department's 15th anniversary; Venue: Senate Bhaban; Time: 11:00am.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Guests with economics students of Dhaka University who were awarded scholarships at a simple ceremony in the Social Sciences Faculty auditorium on Wednesday. Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association gave the scholarships to 71 students. Hossain Zillur Rahman, president of DUEA; Prof Fariduddin Ahmed, general secretary and dean of the Social Sciences Faculty; Prof MA Taslim, chairman of the department; Ambassador Liaquat Ali Choudhury; Prof Abu Ahmed; and Md Iftekhar Hossain were present on the occasion, among others. This year, a total of 121 students received the scholarships worth around Tk 30 lakh.

JCD LEADER MURDER IN SYLHET BCL chief of medical college unit held

He among 10 suspended; City BNP withdraws today's half-day hartal; Nasim cancels yesterday's hospital visit
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College unit's Bangladesh Chhatra League President Soumen Dey at the city's railway station last night over killing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Towhidul Islam. Mohammad Rahamat Ullah, additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said he tried to go to Dhaka by a train to avert arrest. Earlier, the college authorities suspended 10 BCL men, including Soumen, for their alleged involvement in the murder. Following the suspension, the city BNP withdrew its half-day hartal which was called for today protesting the killing, said the city BNP President MA Haque. The nine other suspended are the BCL unit's General

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