

**NEWS** IN *brief*

**9 Jamaat-Shibir activists held in Ctg**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
Nine Jamaat-Shibir activists were arrested in Chittagong yesterday in different cases. Kabir Ahmed, 37; Mohammad Abdullah, 40; and Ayub Ali, 35, were arrested in Satkania over vandalism, arson, and attack on police last year. In Lohagara, Altaf Miah, 45, Rehana Akter, 42, Shahana Akter, 36, Gias Uddin, 35, Chemon Ara Begam, 35, and Mohammad Ehsan, 24, were held over vandalism and arson attack in the upazila's Chunati area.

**4.2kg gold seized at Dhaka airport**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Customs officials recovered 36 gold bars worth Tk 2 crore and weighing 4.2kg from a flight of Flydubai Airlines at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday morning. On information, custom officials conducted a drive inside the aircraft after its passengers got down and found the bars from a toilet and under a seat. None was arrested in this connection.

**Trained youths get Tk 387.98 crore microcredit: Biren**

BSS, Dhaka  
State Minister for Youth and Sports Biren Sikder yesterday said the government has distributed Tk 387.98 crore as micro-credit to trained youths through Department of Youth Development during its last tenure to make them self-employed. He said this while replying to a tabled question from treasury bench member AFM Bahauddin Nasim in the parliament. The ceiling of the micro-credit has also been increased, he added.

**Child dies in city wall collapse**

BSS, Dhaka  
A nine-year old girl died when an under-construction wall of Fayedabad BCT Evergreen School collapsed on her in Dakkhinkhan area in Dhaka yesterday morning. Rakiba, 9, daughter of Mohammad Ripon and a kindergarten student of the school, was returning home at 10:00am.

**IUB research project participants get certificates**

CITY DESK  
Public and private university students have carried out an eight-month special research project on "Role of Film and Journalism in Establishing World Peace", arranged by the University of California-San Diego and Independent University, Bangladesh. Students from the media and communication department of IUB, and the journalism departments of Chittagong University, Rajshahi University and American International University Bangladesh conducted the research, says a press release. IUB Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman, in a programme held on the campus Thursday, distributed certificates among the IUB participants. UCSD representative Walid Sherjai congratulated the students.

ABSENCE OF TRANSPLANT FACILITY  
**Ctg fails to cater to two lakh kidney patients**

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg  
Even with over 2 lakh people in greater Chittagong suffering from chronic renal failure, the gradual loss of kidney function, the region has no facilities for kidney transplant, its final treatment. According to Bangladesh Kidney Foundation statistics, around 20 lakh people in the region suffer from different kidney related diseases and among them 2 lakh suffer from chronic renal failure. Furthermore, 20,000 patients of kidney failure need regular dialysis, which is only affordable for 10 percent of the patients. Ultimately, patients of kidney failure have no option but to go for kidney transplant, said Dr MA Kashem, general secretary of Bangladesh Kidney Foundation, Chittagong district unit. However, Chittagong Medical

**KEY POINTS**

- 20,000 need dialysis
- Only 85 patients get it at CMCH
- Dialysis cost high at pvt hospitals
- Transplant final treatment
- 40 transplants possible at CMCH a year if facility available

post for a surgeon for such transplants. Until kidney transplantation is managed, patients need dialysis thrice a week for survival, an expensive treatment that few people can afford. In government hospitals, the approximate cost for dialysis is Tk 4,500 per month. Besides, CMCH has only nine haemodialysis machines, and so the hospital cannot cater to most of the patients. Aside from CMCH, only six clinics in Chittagong have dialysis machines. Dr Kashem, also an associate professor at CMCH's nephrology department, said there are many patients in the waiting list for dialysis at CMCH. He said many patients are forced to go without treatment as they cannot avail themselves of treatment at CMCH either for

College Hospital (CMCH), the only tertiary-level public hospital in greater Chittagong, has neither the facilities required for kidney transplant nor a

ADVERTISEMENTS IN ENGLISH  
**Drive soon to remove signboards, billboards**

Syed Ashraf tells parliament  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The city corporations will start eviction drive very soon to remove signboards, billboards and banners that contain advertisements in English language or in mixed languages, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam told parliament yesterday. Process is on to identify the signboards, billboards and banners, said Ashraf, replying to lawmakers' queries. In a scripted reply, the minister said, the Dhaka South City Corporation has already issued public notice in two national dailies, asking advertisers to remove such signboards, billboards or banners within three days. In The Daily Janakantha, the public notice was published on June 9 and the following day the notice was published in The Daily Star. The HC on May 28 ordered the information secretary to take measures to stop publishing advertisements in electronic and print media in English language in a month unless there are any unavoidable circumstances. The HC directed both the home and the information secretaries to submit a report before it by July 1 after complying with its orders. Replying to a query of independent lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim, Ashraf said that the outstanding municipal tax of Dhaka South City Corporation was Tk 60.52 crore while that of Dhaka North City Corporation was Tk 135.91 crore.



As long as one kilometre of this road has been left in this state in the capital's Mirpur 11<sup>1/2</sup> for more than two months, and people are suffering for this immensely because there is no vehicle to ride on the street at this moment and even talking a walk on it is difficult. As elsewhere in the city, the government authorities that did the excavation for development work have apparently dismissed the woes of people. The photo was taken in front of Pallabi Shopping Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

**My brother was killed in Subhan's presence**

Witness tells war crimes trial  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A prosecution witness yesterday testified how Pakistan army troops, accompanied by Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan, shot dead his brother, brother's wife and a cousin at Kulnia village in Pabna on May 11, 1971 during the Liberation War. The 13th witness, Abdul Matin, now 76, who saw the shootings from a nearby bush, testified at the three-member International Crimes Tribunal-2 chaired by Justice Obaidul Hassan. "On May 11, 1971, the Pakistan occupation army came to our village in eight or nine vehicles around 10:00am or 11:00am. Moulana Subhan came with them in a white car," the witness said, adding he saw all this as his house was located by the roadside. Matin said he knew Subhan as a Jamaat leader, as the man had taken part in the Jamaat's election campaign at different times before the war. On that fateful day, the army began to fire indiscriminately the moment they entered the village, making the inhabitants run for their lives. "I, my brother Somujuddin Pramanik, his wife Rahatun Nesa and other people hid in different bamboo bushes. The Pak army shot my brother, his wife and our neighbour Hasina. My brother and Hasina died on the spot," the septuagenarian witness said.

**Prioritise dev projects on public interest**

Ctg dialogue asks govt  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
Speakers at a citizens' dialogue in Chittagong city yesterday urged the government to prioritise the development projects on the basis of public interest. The dialogue on "Justification of Big Projects in People's Friendly Development in Chittagong" was held at Chittagong Press Club. Different civil society organisations including the Forum for Planned Chittagong, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela), Socheton Nagorik Committee, and Shushashoner Janyo Nagorik (SHUJAN) organised the event. The speakers said the current development projects were not being carried out in a planned way as some less important ones had been given priority. Subhash Barua, an engineer, said the government had constructed a flyover at the port city's Bahaddarhat intersection at a

**Ashraf urges Khaleda to make decent comments**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday urged BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to be decent while making political comments. "There will be competition in politics... But I hope, she [Khaleda] will be decent enough in using words," the minister said in reference to Khaleda's latest comment that Awami League President Sheikh Hasina is the "mother of all

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Seminar**  
Bangladesh Medical Research Council will organise a seminar on "Arsenic Activities, Research and Outcomes". Venue: BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali; Time: 3:30pm.

**Dialogue**  
Institute of Microfinance (InM) and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad will jointly organise a national dialogue on "Education Budget 2014". Venue: PKSF Bhaban, Agargaon; Time: 10:00am.

**The Folklore Summer School**  
The 10-day Folklore Summer School, Dhaka, organised by Bangla Academy, will be inaugurated. Venue: Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Auditorium, Bangla Academy; Time: 10:30am.

**Reopen state-owned silk factories**

Seminar demands  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi  
Experts at a seminar in Rajshahi yesterday underscored the need for immediate reopening of closed state-owned silk factories to save the country's silk heritage. They stressed the need for funding silk research, popularising newly developed technologies of silk cultivation, building a proper marketing system to encourage silk growers, and increasing annual silk production. The experts also recommended that tax on imported silk yarn be increased to ensure dependency on local raw silk. Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board (BSDB) and Bangladesh Sericulture Research and Training Institute (BSRTI) jointly organised the day-long seminar on "Bangladesh's silk industry: present condition and future prospects" at Nanking Darbar Hall in the city with BSDB Director General Swapan Chandra Pal in the chair. Speaking as the chief guest, Helaluddin Ahmed, divisional commissioner of Rajshahi, said silk would turn into one of the cash crops in the region if the recommendations were well-considered. Dr M Tajimul Haque, an adviser of BSRTI, presented the keynote paper. He described that the development of silk industries was greatly hindered in the 90s when the government withdrew all tariff on imported silk yarns and shut down silk factories for some internal reasons, leading to the fall of local production in the face of low cost China silk yarn. BSRTI Director Jamal Uddin Shah, Prof Selina Parween, Prof Mustafijur Rahman and silk industrialist Liakat Ali, among others, spoke. The speakers said the government should allocate agriculture loans to the silk growers so that they could produce silk without fear of losses. Despite having all required facilities, they said, the silk sector was lagging behind due to some faulty government policies. They also suggested appointing experienced officials in BSDB and BSRTI for proper functioning of the organisations.



President Abdul Hamid is greeted by Bolivian President Evo Morales at Santa Cruz in Bolivia. Hamid visited the Latin American country to attend the two-day Commemorative Summit of Group 77 and China, which started on Saturday.

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**Last date of Application: June 21, 2014**