24 activists of Islami

Chhatri Sangstha held

Police picked up 24 activists of Islami Chhatri Sangstha, the

female student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, from a flat in

The law enforcers detained the activists while they were hold-

ing a meeting in a flat in Dakkhin Goran area around 6:30pm,

Ashrafuzzaman, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan

The arrestees are students of different universities and

colleges in Dhaka. They were arrested on suspicion of plan-

ning to carry out subversive activities, said an official of

they were discussing the holy Quran ahead of Ramadan,

said Sheikh Mohammad Kamruzzaman, operation officer

In preliminary interrogation, the arrestees claimed that

Police (DMP), Motijheel division, told The Daily Star.

capital's Khilgaon area yesterday evening.

OIC hails

FROM PAGE 3 Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia yesterday.

According to a foreign ministry press release, the OIC chief particularly commended Bangladesh's success in women's empowerment.

Earlier in the day, the foreign minister attended a luncheon hosted by Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Md Shahidul Islam. It was also attended by the assistant secretary general and other officials of the OIC General Secretariat.

AH Mahmood reached Jeddah yesterday to attend the two-day 41st session of OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), which concludes today.

PM wants

FROM PAGE 5 being hosted. The theme this time is "Technical and Vocational Education for facing the challenge of the 21st century".

Mentioning that education is the only tool that can free the country from poverty, Hasina said the country's education system is being reformed so that the future generation could receive its standard form.

Citing examples, she mentioned introduction of semester and GPA system and upgrading the educational curriculum to international standards after assuming office in 1996.

Referring Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's resolve to turn Bangladesh into the East's Switzerland, Hasina said the country can only be built that way if due importance is given to education.

She further said her government is changing the education system of Bangladesh so that primary education includes up to class VIII.

7kg of gold seized at Dhaka airport

Four arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Custom officials arrested four people and seized 7kg of gold at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday. On information custom officials found 60 gold bars

searching the bodies of Jabed and Kanchan, passengers of a Biman Bangladesh Airlines' flight that landed around 9:00am. They also arrested two other passengers of the flight --

Shagor and Ahmed -- suspecting their involvement with gold smuggling.

Govt obstructing

FROM PAGE 3

system of "politician-criminal nexus" was prevailing in the local level.

These two ruling systems are major barriers for establishing good governance, he said. Local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed said cities and

municipalities were being run by underworld leaders.

If we look at Narayanganj, Feni, Laxmipur, we can realise that the trend is rising, he said. Architect Mobasser Hossain said criminals and godfathers were destroying rivers that were considered as the lifeline for cities.

In the roundtable, findings of a study on "Urban land use and Social Space in Narayanganj" were presented that said industrialisation and residential structures in the city and its adjacent areas was expanded in unplanned manner.

It results wastages of land and sharply reduced social spaces like parks, playgrounds and walkways.

In between 1998 and 2009, agricultural land reduced from 19 percent to 3 percent in city, the report said.

BIGD Executive Director Dr Sultan Hafiz Rahman chaired the programme.

HC starts hearing

FROM PAGE 3

Mohammad Ali yesterday told the HC that the government has to issue a gazette notification for appointing a judge to run a special court.

But the government issued a gazette on May 8 on the appointment of Bashudev Roy as the judge of the special court after his court framed charges against Khaleda, which is illegal, he said.

Since the appointment of Bashudev Roy is illegal, his orders and proceedings are also illegal, the lawyer added.

The court of Bashudev Roy is set today for recording statements of witnesses of the cases.

M Asaduzzaman, a lawyer for Khaleda, said they will pray to the trial court [of Bashudev] today to adjourn the proceedings of the cases, saying that the petitions are pending with the HC.

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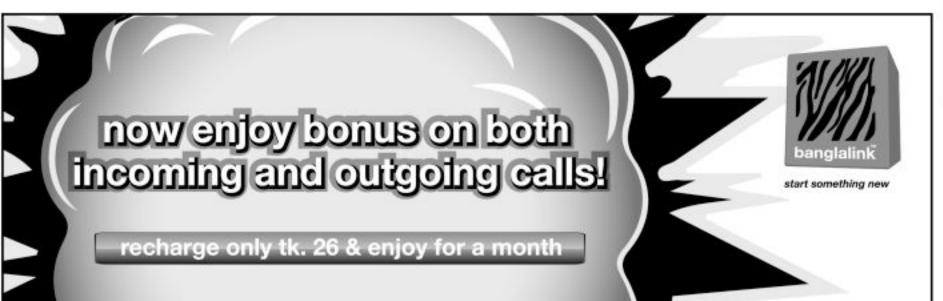
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Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, right, and Bishwo Shahitto Kendro Founder Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed hand out leaflets in the capital's Gulistan yesterday to promote mass awareness for preventing road accidents.

Male dominance crippling

Chapainawabganj sadar upazila.

Farida Yasmin, member of Purnimagati union parishad, Sirajganj, said decisions taken in ward and monthly meetings were often bypassed and replaced by the chairman's own decisions.

In fact, very few meetings are held at union parishads and municipalities compared to what are supposed to be held. A survey by Democracywatch showed that only 403 out of 11,622 meetings of the standing committees of unions actually took place in the last one year. Both male and female UP members pointed

out how husbands or male family members of female politicians and male UP members meddle in the public representatives' works and try to exercise their influence about distribution of social security programme cards.

Besides emphasising joint training of male and female UP members, local government experts and researchers said the rules of local government laws should be formed and implemented to solve these problems.

Human rights activist Sultana Kamal called for inclusion of non-communal and equality-based spirit of the liberation war in the training.

Besides Democracywatch, Khan Foundation, PRIP Trust, and Steps Towards Development with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation are carrying out a project called Aparajita since 2011 to train and empower women representatives at grassroots level.

Court to decide on trial

FROM PAGE 3

six others are also defendants in the case. Sonali Bank on October 2 of 2012 filed

the case with Artha Rin Adalat-1 against Tarique and others for defaulting on a loan amounting to Tk 5.49 crore.

The company had borrowed Tk 12.16 crore from the bank's principal office in Dhaka on October 16, 2001, said the case statement.

As the company failed to pay it off, the principal loan plus interest accumulated over the last 11 years has amounted to Tk 45.49 crore. Nazrul Islam, senior executive officer of

the bank's principal office, filed the case with Artha Rin Adalat-1, while Advocate Hosne Ara Begum moved the suit for recovery of the loan.

HC verdict on uncontested

January 5 general elections without a single vote cast. Yesterday, the bench of Justice Mirza Hussain

Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid

Alam Sarkar fixed today for delivering the judgment after concluding hearing arguments on the two petitions at the same time from the amici curiae (friends of court) and the counsels for the state, the EC and the petitioners.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DMP media centre.

of Khilgaon Police Station.

in khakis and brown dress in the village and around 20/25 brown-clad people entered their home and dragged his father and the three out.

Qaisar's aides killed

Earlier, a prosecution witness testified that Qaisar had formed the "Qaisar Bahini", an auxiliary force made up of collaborators, which wore brown uniform.

"I could identify Alauddin and Rawshan, who had also entered our house with the 20/25 men," said Renu, adding that when his father and the three others were taken to Jagadishpur camp, he, his mother and Majeda followed them. Majeda, however, said her father and three freedom

fighters were sleeping at Siraj's house on the night of the 12th of Ashwin, and they were taken to Jagadishpur camp the next day. Renu said at Jagadishpur camp, brown-clad people

and a man in white dress tortured the four and when he

inquired about the identity of the white-clad man, locals said it was Qaisar. "They [locals] also told me to go to Qaisar to get my father released. Then I went to him [Qaisar] and

"But he did not respond to our request; rather a man in khaki started beating us following his [Qaisar's] sig-

Then the four freedom fighters were taken to the Sonai River and queued up on the bridge, said Renu. "A

signal of white-clad Qaisar Shaheb." "As they fell on the ground, several brown-clad men kicked their bodies into the river," he said, adding that

After his testimony, Qaisar's lawyer Abdus Sobhan Tarafder completed cross-examining Renu.

Hannan Khan, coordinator of the war crimes investigation agency, testified as the first seizure list witness in the

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul

SCBA files review

a group of magistrates or judges, cause of suspicion must be specifically spelt out, said the Appellate Division.

In the review petition, the SCBA said the HC now expressed reluctance to hear anticipatory bail applications following the SC verdict, and as a result, innocent litigants were being victim of police harassment. The SCBA President Khandker Mahbub Hossain and

its Secretary AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon submitted the petition urging the Appellate Division to cancel some of the guidelines, so that the HC could give anticipatory bail to people in false and politically motivated

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Hasan Foez Siddique sent the review petition to the full bench and fixed July 10 for its hearing.

Budgetary allocation

FROM PAGE 5

dealing with disaster in our country is only 0.59 percent of the GDP, which sharply contradicts the national policy on disaster management sector, he said. Enhancing research facilities, developing infrastructures

for providing assistance to the affected people on emergency basis should be focused to ensure a good preparedness for tackling disaster, said Prof Maksud Kamal. Dhaka should also take measures to unite the countries,

which suffer the brunt of climate change, for placing demands to rich countries, he said.

Planning Minister Mustafa Kamal, former food minister Abdur Razzak, DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, among others, spoke.

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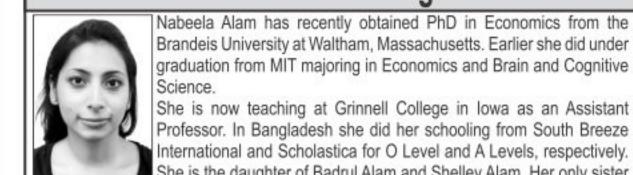
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requested him to release my father and the other detainees," he continued.

brown-clad man gunned them down them following the

later they searched for the bodies in vain and left for India.

Later, Nurul Islam, personal assistant of Abdul

Hassan adjourned the proceeding till today.

Academic achievement of Bangladeshi student