

### DSCC pulls down 30 hoardings with English ads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) pulled down about 30 hoardings with advertisements in English or mixed languages from Shahbagh to Matshay Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

DSCC started the drive in compliance with a High Court order that made

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### Man killed for extra-marital affair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday hours after he was stabbed allegedly for his extra-marital affair.

The deceased, Md Shaheen, 30, was a labourer.

Khilgaon police said Shaheen was involved with a married woman, Ratna,

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**Badura Fishery Port, the largest fishery port in southern part of the country, at Sadar upazila in Pirojpur takes a deserted look these days in the absence of fish supply there. District fishery officials have said the Bay of Bengal and tributaries adjacent to the district are running short of fish stock due to the impact of climate change, as the country had experienced baking heat in recent past, forcing the aquatic creatures to go deep in the sea. Inset, hybrid Pangas are the only fish available in the market. The photo was taken on Wednesday.**

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

### Ctg fruit traders protest anti-formalin drives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fruit traders in Chittagong city yesterday alleged that they are being harassed by the administration in the name of anti-formalin drive and demanded that no fruit be destroyed without any laboratory test.

Fruit traders in the capital have been protesting the ongoing anti-adulteration drive of law enforcers using

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### Brac Annual Report 2013 launched

CITY DESK

Annual Report 2013 of Brac was launched in Brac Centre in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday.

Brac Vice Chairperson and Interim ED Dr Mushtaque R Chowdhury mentioned that over Tk 12,114 crore was disbursed among 42 lakh borrowers, 91,300 ultra-poor households in 37 districts and

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### Prevention should start in families

Says Sultana Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women suffer violence in their families more than anywhere else; therefore, prevention of such heinous crime must start in the families first, said human rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday.

She made the observation while chairing the annual meeting of a social campaign alliance fashioned Amrai Pari (We Can) at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

In most cases, oppressed women are so disempowered, both socially and economically, that they simply cannot assert their human and legal rights, said Sultana, also chairperson of the decade-old alliance for prevention of domestic violence against women.

She added that the "We Can" slogan had itself expressed a determination.

Ayesha Khanam, president of the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said women had to endure violence for centuries.

It has been a battle against historical, philosophical, political and social adversities, she said.

Representatives of the alliance from different districts took part in the meeting for strategic plan and formation of a new executive committee.

Weekly Ananya Editor Tasmima Hossain and alliance

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### Syndicate busted

9 held including 2 sub-registrar office staff; cops found links with politically influential persons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police busted a gang of nine people, including two sub-registrar office peons, in the capital's Mirpur allegedly for land grabbing through producing fake land record documents.

They also recovered 17 land record books and 200 seals named after government officials from their possession.

Police first arrested deed writer Mehedi Hassan and his two cohorts -- Tuku and Obaidur Rahman and recovered 14 original land record books -- each consisting 300 pages, and three such books of around 500 pages from Mehedi's house in Mirpur-2 on June 20. Police also seized 200 seals from their possession.

Following their confessional statement, police on different dates arrested two peons Ali Ahmed and Abdus Sobhan of Tejgaon sub-registrar office and another deed writer Jalal Ahmed and Hari Krishna Sarkar, Nogen Sarkar and Topan Roy in this connection.

During interrogation, Mehedi claimed two land traders--Imrul Hassan and Mostafizur Rahman--gave him the record books a month ago, Imtiaz Hossain, deputy commissioner of Mirpur Division of Police told a press briefing in the capital yesterday.

"They told me that they paid around Tk 2 lakh for each book to the arrested peons," the police official quoted Mehedi as saying. Imrul and Mostafizur are on the run.

The seized land record books are of the Tejgaon sub-registrar office, said DC Imtiaz.

He said police had found connections of some politically influential persons and unscrupulous land traders with this criminal act but declined to disclose their names for the sake of investigation.

Lands of different parts in Dhaka district have been recorded in the books, added the police official.

At least three pages in a book are found fake, which show their selected persons as

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### Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gauri Bala Roy, mother of deputy attorney general Biswojit Roy, died due to old age complications in her residence in Rajbari yesterday. She was 80.

She left behind seven daughters and two sons.

She was cremated at Ramdia crematory ground in Rajbari.

### Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the third death anniversary of Shafiqur Rahman, a pioneer of the movement to promote classical music in the country.

A programme was organised yesterday in the Pathchakra room of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro to pay him tribute.

### Adequate representation in JS underscored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for representation of persons with disabilities in parliament and in committees of the local government level.

The demands were made at a workshop on "Barrier Free Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities" jointly organised by the UK-based development organisation Sightsavers and two non-government organisations (NGO) -- the Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society (BVIPS) and the Assistance for Blind Children (ABC) -- at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

"Why can't we have at least one woman representative with disability among the 50 reserved seats for women in parliament," asked Information Commissioner Sadeka Halim, the chief guest of the programme. Referring to the lack of statistics on persons with disabilities, she said, "There is a politics with regard to the statistics. Families tend to hide children with disabilities to avoid social taboo, while it is also a policy of the state not to come up with actual data."

State wants to play down the number because the issue of budget is related to the statistics, she added.

She also inaugurated the launching of the website www.disabilitycampaignbd.com, which is a part of an inclusive project funded by European Union to generate public opinion in support of proportionate representation of persons with disabilities in parliament, their representation in

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Human rights activist Sultana Kamal speaks at the annual meeting of a social campaign alliance fashioned Amrai Pari (We Can) at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### Change rules to prevent

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Bangladesh's education system and the liberation war spirit in the capital's WVA Auditorium to mark the 20th death anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam, founder of the Nirmul Committee.

He said the postponement was a result of Jamaat's tactics to delay the war crimes trial and the prosecution's failure to convince the tribunal to deliver the verdict in the accused's absence. "We want to say that the prosecution has failed to convince the tribunal that the trial is being conducted under a special act instead of customary law."

Regarding the demand for Jamaat's trial as a party, he said there was no problem trying the party under the existing act,

unless there was any political consideration of the government.

Kabir cautioned, "More delay in trying Jamaat will be more threatening for the nation." He also said that if this government did not try Jamaat, no other government would do it.

Chairperson of Sector Commanders Forum Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of war crimes trials. "In the last six years, only one war criminal has been given punishment. It is not acceptable," he said.

Ekatturer Chatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday handed over Jahanar Imam Smriti Padak to Sector Commanders Forum and noted economist Prof Abul Barkat.

### BCL vandalises principal's

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The college unit BCL president, Shamsul Arefin Robin, and general secretary, Naimul Hasan Naim, led the attack, said the principal, Kabirul Islam. "The BCL men were demanding admission of their chosen students, but we can't deprive meritorious students," he said.

The admission process resumed after police intervention.

Talking to The Daily Star, the college

BCL president denied any vandalism. "We just protested, as the authorities were delaying to return the money of some students whose admission was cancelled."

On Monday, BCL men at another institution, Rajshahi Government College, vandalised the furniture of the auditorium over the same issue. The college principal filed a general diary with police following the attack.

### Spl healthcare essential

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Organisation for Migration (IOM) at a hotel in the capital. Azam E Sadat, deputy secretary of health and family welfare ministry, said the issue of human trafficking

should primarily be viewed from a humanitarian perspective.

Samir K Howlader, national programme officer (migration health) of IOM, presented a paper.

### Bangla reading proficiency

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and improvement of reading skill of early grade pupils should get priority in Bangla language.

The Room to Read is a global organisa-

tion that develops literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children, and supports girls to complete secondary school with the relevant life skills to succeed in school and beyond.

### BGB raises issues of border killing

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member delegation, also raised the issues of trespassing by Indians and drug and arms trafficking to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh stressed resolving any border related issues through discussions shunning

any atrocities on the border, according to the source.

BSF Inspector General Rajani Kanta Misra of South Bengal frontier led a 23-member delegation at the conference.

### Government agencies

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reduce the frustration of elected upazila parishad representatives significantly," it added.

Speaking at a discussion on the findings, State Minister for Finance MA Mannan assured that they would expedite the process to strengthen the parishads.

The report also emphasised training for upazila chairmen and vice-chairmen to make them aware of their legal authorities. "The law gives sufficient authority to the parishads. If they are informed and confident of their authorities, they will be able to thwart UNOs' move to dominate the parishad's discussion and decision-making," it said.

In his welcome address, Jerome Sayre, chief of party of the SDLG project, said the project had organised training in 600 local government units, including 100 upazilas, from 2011 to 2013 focusing on their decision-making, financial management, and service delivery.

At the open discussion, chairmen and vice-chairmen of some upazilas ripped into MPs and upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) for their interference in the upazila parishad activities.

Prof Khondker Mokaddem Hossain, team leader of the study, chaired the discussion, while Prof Zarina Rahman Khan spoke among others.



Vehicles move at a snail's pace on the narrow, battered Dhaka-Tangail highway in Ashulia outside the capital on Wednesday, as the large carters turn into puddles after the last few days of incessant rain, making the busy road even narrower. An 18km stretch of the highway from Abdullahpur to Baipail is in the same condition, but the authorities are yet to address the public suffering by repairing it or widening it into four lanes as proposed in a development scheme.

PHOTO: RASHAD AHMAD