STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Police last evening arrested the driver of a bus rented by Rajshahi Government College following an accident in which three students were killed and 50 others injured Sunday.

Abdur Razzak, 42, of the city's Meherchandi, was held in Katakhali Bazar area, said Ifte Khair Alam, an assistant commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

The bus plunged into a roadside ditch after the vehicle and a passenger bus had collided head-on on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at Rajshahi city's Katakhali.

Since then, the college students have been demonstrating in the city demanding capital punishment for the drivers of both the vehicles.

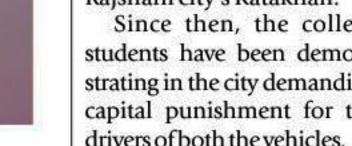


PHOTO:

BSS

A case was filed against two drivers with Motihar Police Station on that day.

# Equal rights for females must for development

Says PM adding no girl will remain uneducated; awards Prof Mamtaz, Golap Banu with Begum Rokeya Padak

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for establishing equal rights of males and females, saying that no society could advance if half of the society is left behind in the process of development. She made the call while inaugurating Begum Rokeya Day

and distributing Begum Rokeya Padak-2014 in Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital. The prime minister handed over Begum Rokeya medals to Prof Mamtaz Begum, chairperson of Jatiya Mohila

Sangstha, and social worker Golap Banu, founder of Baridhara Mohila Samabaya Samity in Dhaka, for their contribution in spreading female education, establishing women's rights and socio-economic development of the helpless and poor women.

She expressed her firm optimism that no girl would be deprived of education as her government has taken various steps for ensuring female education to materialise the dream of Begum Rokeya. "I hope that by the grace of Allah, no such a situation in the country will exist in future that any girl will be left out from education. Every girl would be educated," she said.

Hasina said Begum Rokeya had a dream that the SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

NEWS<sub>IN</sub> brief

Court to decide on Forkan's war

crimes charge framing Dec 18

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 will decide on

December 18 whether it will frame charges against

The three-member tribunal fixed the date after

hearing charges brought against the alleged Razakar

charges, including mass killing, murder, rape, arson

and forced religious conversion, against Forkan and

Woman commits suicide in capital

A woman allegedly committed suicide yesterday by

Kulsum Akter, 28, locked herself inside her room

hanging herself from a ceiling fan in their Turag

after her husband, Hossen Mia, who is a mason,

Hossen broke open the door and took her to

Uttara Adhunik Hospital where doctors declared

Korean investors donate furniture

Aiming to improve the educational environment of

local communities, Korean Investors Association in

Bangladesh (KIAB) with the support of the Korean

Embassy donated students' desks and chairs,

whiteboards and drinking facility in the school.

in a school and quarreled therefore, said police.

refused to give her money to enroll their two children

residence in the capital over a family feud.

the tribunal took the charges into cognisance on

On November 17, the prosecution pressed the eight

Forkan Mallik for his alleged involvement in war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

yesterday.

December 2.

her dead.

CITY DESK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

to Savar school

crimes committed in Patuakhali.



Begum Rokeya commemoration discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just as Begum Rokeya has shown, women should fight all barriers be it traditional or religious values or harassment to get themselves educated, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The importance of education in setting women free from seclusion of staying at home was discussed at a programme at the senate bhaban of Dhaka University.

Before the discussion, a paper titled "Situating Rokeya" was presented by Perween Hasan, vice chancellor of Central Women's University.

Her presentation was a part of a series of lectures organised by DU's women and gender studies department on Begum Rokeya Day, commemorating the 134th birth anniversary and the 82nd death anni-

versary of pioneering feminist writer, social reformer, educationist and philosopher Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain. The day was observed all over the country

as well as in the subcontinent through dif-

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents Begum Rokeya Padak to Golap Banu, founder of Baridhara Mohila Samabaya

Samity in Dhaka, for her contributions to spreading female education, establishing women's rights and socio-economic

ferent programmes, rallies and seminars. Hasan read excerpts from Bangla novels, including Anwara and Abdullah, newspaper clippings and journals from the early 1900s to depict the society in which Rokeya boldly

voiced her opinion about women's rights. Most of the writings depicted an ideal educated woman as someone who remains at home, shows unquestioned devotion towards her husband, cooks, reproduces

and takes care of children. Tania Haque, chairman of the women and gender studies department, said, "In her [Rokeya] era, it was considered a sin for SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 8yr-old girl raped by neighbour in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A first-grader was allegedly raped by a neighbour at Muslimnagar in the capital's Matuail yesterday afternoon.

The 17-year-old neighbour, Shaon, lured the girl into his empty house about 20 yards off her residence around 3:00pm, said the victim's family members.

All in tears, the girl appeared before her mother around 5:30pm, and explained what happened. The eight-year-old was admitted to Dhaka Medical

College Hospital around 11:30pm. The family did not report the matter to police. The girl's mother said the residents of the area assured

her of settling the matter through arbitration. "We are getting her treated now. After her recovery, we will file a case if there is no arbitration," she told The Daily Star.

Shaon's family, who had been the girl's next door neighbour for a long time, moved to their new house six months ago, and it was known to the girl. Shaon worked as an assistant to a trucker.

Confronted by the victim's mother, the boy's family denied the allegations outright. The teenager allegedly fled after the crime. Kadamtoli Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdus Salam said they were aware of the matter and looking into it.

### DCC polls ploy to foil BNP movement Says Fakhrul; adds his party

will decide on participation in due time

After a long time, the gov-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ernment has announced to hold the overdue elections to the two Dhaka city corporations to foil BNP's movement and divert people's attention from the protest, party acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

He made the comments while talking to reporters at Labaid Specialised Hospital in the capital where he visited the ailing film director Chashi Nazrul Islam. Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina told Monday's SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



for investigative journalism-2014, standing from left, Abdul Al Mamun, HS Alauddin, Arup Roy, Sazzad Parvez, Salauddin **Tarek and Kamrul** Hassan Selim with guests, sitting in the front, at a ceremony at Drik Gallery in the capital yesterday.

**Award recipients** 

PHOTO:

# Gowher Rizvi for 'self-regulation' in journalism

He expresses his thoughts at a TIB ceremony for awarding three journos; anti-graft watchdog also awards five cartoonists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi urged journalists to practice self-regulation in their profession.

If the media does not maintain self-regulation, outsiders will try to regulate it which will create a problem for this sector, Rizvi said at a discussion on "Recent perspective of journalism in Bangladesh" and award giving ceremony for investigative journalism-2014 organised by the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

#### The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) ceremony of KIAB was held at Gazirchat Primary School in Savar yesterday. Teachers and students of the school; Leo Kim, Chairman of KIAB, and members of KIAB were present at the event.

Canadian envoy Heather Cruden

pays farewell calls on ministers

CITY DESK

High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh Heather Cruden paid farewell calls on Minister of Commerce, Tofail Ahmed; Minister of Road Transport and Bridges, Obaidul Quader; and Minister of Health, Mohammed Nasim yesterday.

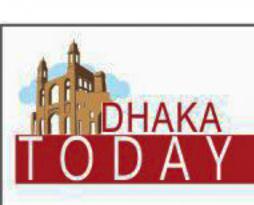
During her three-year eventful tenure in Bangladesh she enjoyed her time, said a press release yesterday. Her departure date has not been fixed yet.

## Rtv launches mobile app

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private satellite television channel, RTV, has introduced a mobile app, making its news and other programmes more accessible for the people.

Prime Minister's Information Affairs Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and State Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal inaugurated the app at a programme at the Bengal Multimedia Studio in the capital's Tejgaon on December 7.



### Discussion

Centre for Policy Dialogue will organise a discussion on "VAT and SD Act 2012: Concerns and Implementation Challenges." Venue: Six Seasons Hotel, Gulshan-2, Time: 3:00pm

### Seminar

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonnoy Parishad will organise a seminar on Humanity Rights Day. Venue: The Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium, Time: 3:00pm

## Bogra court scraps case against Ashraf

COMMENTS ON BISWAL

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Bogra court yesterday dismissed a defamation case against Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam for his "derogatory" remarks about US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal.

Jahangir Alam, a former leader of BNPbacked Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, had filed the case, saying Ashraf's comments had hurt him and the people of Bangladesh, and that it would damage the bilateral ties. He is a businessman of Bogra's Shariakandi upazila.

Recently, Ashraf called Biswal a "two-bit minister".

The court of Senior Judicial Magistrate-1 Abul Kalam Azad dismissed the lawsuit, four hours into its filing because it had no merit, said advocate Noresh Mukharjee, general secretary of Bogra district unit of Awami Ainjibi

Parishad.





খুলনা: ১৭ ডিসেম্বর | ঢাকা: ১৯ ডিসেম্বর