

# NEWSIN brief

## Khaleda addresses N'ganj rally today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia today is scheduled to give fresh directives regarding the anti-government movement through a rally the party's district unit will organise in Narayanganj's Kachpur Balur Math from 3:00pm. Expected to reach the venue by noon, Khaleda will make a fresh announcement to save people and country from the misrule, oppression, abductions and killings, BNP Joint Secretary Amanullah Aman told a press conference at the venue yesterday.

## Dhaka gives drinking water to Male

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh provided 1 lakh liters of drinking water and five desalination plants to the Maldives after a navy ship "BNS Somudro Joy" with those had reached Male Thursday, said a foreign ministry press release. Dhaka sent the assistance after the lone desalination plant in the Maldives had gone out of order, leading to an extensive water crisis. Those were handed over to Maldivian authorities by Bangladesh High Commissioner in Male Rear Admiral Abdul Awal at a ceremony.

## Koica alumni night held in Dhaka

CITY DESK

Korea International Cooperation Agency, and Korea Bangladesh Alumni Association held "Koica Alumni Night 2014" at Lakeshore Hotel in the capital on Thursday. Lee Yun-young, Korean ambassador to Bangladesh; Pema Choden, Bhutanese ambassador in Dhaka; Kim Bok-Hee, resident representative of Koica Bangladesh office; and Monzur Hossain, president of KBAA and senior secretary of the LGRD ministry were present on the occasion, says a press release.

## Pubali Bank helps rape victim

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Pubali Bank Ltd gave a cheque for Tk 50,000 to a rape victim in Rangpur city yesterday. On November 6, the 14-year-old girl, then JSC examinee, was raped allegedly by one Ekramul Haque, 22, at her house in Pirganj upazila while she was studying for the next day's exam. As part of CSR, PBL donated the money at its "Branch Managers Conference-2014" in a city hotel. Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, CEO of the bank, handed over the cheque.

## Book fair begins in Ctg today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An eight-day long "Bangabandhu Book Fair and Bijoy Utsab" will begin on the DC Hill premises in Chittagong city today. Bangabandhu Book Fair and Bijoy Utsab Celebration Council is going to organise the fair with an aim to inspire the new generation in reading books. Around 30 publishers from around the country are expected to take part in the fair, said organisers at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

## 2 robbers held with firearms in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested two members of a robbery gang and seized seven firearms, including a rifle, and 35 cartridges from their possession in West Mohora area of Chandaon in Chittagong city early yesterday. Police arrested Mahbubur Rahman, 35, of Lohagara, and Salima Khatun 22, of Banshkhali, while they were planning a robbery but the gang leader, Jakir Hossain, who is Salima's husband, and six others managed to flee, police said.

## Burglary at bank foiled, 1 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A burglar was arrested when he was breaking the vault of state-owned Agrani Bank, Daulatpur branch, with a hammer and a chisel in Kushtia on Thursday night. Chhoton Ali, 35, entered the bank by breaking seven locks of the collapsible gate and three locks of the main wooden door, said Daulatpur police who also recovered a bottle of acid from him. Hearing a noise, a night guard at the Bazar area Amej Ali swiftly closed the wooden door confining Chhoton inside and shouted for help.

## Protection for Sundarbans sought

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Biggan Andolon Mancha, an organisation that promotes science especially among kids in Barisal city, formed a human chain before Aswani Kumar Hall, demanding that the Sundarbans be protected from the recent oil spill. Activists of the mancha said life and biodiversity of the mangrove forest, which is indeed a world heritage, is now under threat. The Sundarbans always saves us from natural disasters, they added. Manisha Chakrabarty, adviser of the mancha, also spoke.



4



3



2



1



5

## UTTER NEGLECT TO PUBLIC SAFETY

1) With a total disregard to public sufferings and safety, the authorities have piled construction materials of Mouchak-Moghbazar flyover on the Rampura DIT road, leaving only narrow strips on the two extreme sides, on which hardly one vehicle could move along. This is not only causing debilitating traffic jams frequently but making the journey risky. 2) A full view of the road's current condition. 3) To make matters worse, large excavations like this one remain without safety fences when vehicles are edging past close by. 4) In the meantime, due to the construction work, sewerage lines were broken, overflowing the road, only to multiply the sufferings. 5) A motorcycle moving along a deep hole left unguarded on the slippery road. The authorities wake up occasionally to these dangers after media reports, but only to forget everything a few days later. The photos were taken near Malibagh Supermarket yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## More judges, courts needed: Chief Justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday stressed the need for appointing adequate number of judges and manpower and increasing the number of courts in order to reduce the huge backlog of cases. "The huge backlog of cases, which has taken place due to filing of scores of cases beyond the accommodation of courts of the country, is a major hurdle to getting justice by the people," he said. The Supreme Court took different steps to reduce the backlog and disposal delay, he told as chief guest the 17th founding anniversary of Jatiya Samannita Unnayan Foundation (JSUF), a socio-economic development organisation, in the capital's Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh. "The opportunity for the judges to get involved in social works is very limited. But judges are always engaged with the welfare of the society and the state through ensuring

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Muggers attack tourists in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Muggers attacked a group of about six tourists and took away cash and other valuables from them near Ham Ham Waterfall in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar on Thursday night. Three were admitted to the upazila health complex. Hospital sources said the victims along with a guide were returning from the Ham Ham Waterfall, when five muggers took away cash and other valuables, including mobile phones and cameras, at gunpoint and attacked them when they resisted the miscreants, said police.



This building of No-3 Polytechnic Government Primary School in Barisal city has been abandoned for around two years after the Directorate of Primary Education declared it risky in 2013 due to its dilapidated condition. The students are being forced to take classes in the nearby polytechnic college hostel.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

## DILAPIDATED GOVT PRY SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN BARISAL 60,000 students at risk

SUSHANTO GHOSH, Barisal

At least 60,000 students are taking classes at 189 government primary schools out of the total 1,513 in Barisal district putting themselves at the risk of accidents any moment due to the poor condition of the buildings. These dilapidated structures mostly built during the last two decades have been in such conditions for around six years. But the Directorate of Primary Education, Barisal declared the buildings risky only this May. Locals alleged that low quality construction materials caused the early dilapidation. Towhidul Islam, the district primary education officer, said repair works started at 143 of the 189 schools in 1982. Under different projects, the Education Engineering Department first took the

responsibility and later handed the work over to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in 1994, he said. Now, the LGED is continuing the work under the three-year "Primary Education Development Project", which will end in June next year, he added. Around 40 percent to 60 percent of the work is completed and the rest is expected to be finished within the stipulated time, said Towhidul. In the meantime, because of accommodation crises, the students are compelled to attend classes in a number of vulnerable school buildings. This correspondent observed the conditions in recent visits to some schools in and outside the city. On November 15, four students of the city's Kawnia Government Municipal Primary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Save Suma Akhtar, Arif

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Suma Akhtar, 17, is suffering from blood cancer. Doctors said Suma can be cured if she is taken abroad for better treatment which will cost about Tk 15 to 20 lakh. However, her father, Harun-or-Roshid, an employee of a pharmacy shop, cannot afford to send his daughter abroad for treatment. Harun, who has lost his only son to blood cancer in 2011, is looking to the affluent and generous people of the society for financial assistance to save his daughter, also a class X student. Donations can be sent to Harun-or-Roshid, account number 21110158803, Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd, Pallabi branch. Harun can be contacted at 01762174404. **APPEAL FOR ARIF** Arif, an eight-year-old boy, of Alamnagar area in Rangpur city, is suffering from congenital cardiac disease (Rastelli type-B), reports our Rangpur correspondent. Doctors say he needs a surgery. His father Akram Hossain, a mechanic, has requested for financial help for the expensive surgery which can be sent to A/C No: 16121010016315, Prime Bank Ltd, Rangpur Branch, or through bkash account: 880-1725673187, which his also his cell phone number.



Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman inaugurates Lake City Concord School in the capital's Khilkhet, under the first ever township project of Concord Group recently. The group's Chairman SM Kamaluddin, Managing Director Farida Kamal and Deputy Managing Director Shahriar Kamal were also present.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## AL to celebrate 'victory day

FROM PAGE 3

"We have decided to go for a country-wide publicity campaign programme marking the victory day for democracy on January 5. We will project the government's success stories of last six years through posters, banners, billboards, processions and rallies," AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star. AL central leader and lawmaker Abdur Rahman said apart from highlighting the government's one-year success, they would also publicise BNP-Jamaat's "violence and killings" on and ahead of January 5. **AL JOINT MEETING** At a joint meeting with its different associated and city bodies, the AL yesterday decided that the party would celebrate January 5 at 300 electoral constituencies through processions and rallies.

Simultaneous processions and rallies would be held in all the constituencies in the capital at 3:30pm, decided the meeting chaired by AL presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury. The meeting thanked AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her bold leadership to hold the January 5 elections amidst international pressures and threats and boycott by the major political parties. It also expressed deep gratitude to those who had voted the AL to power amidst intimidation and threats by the BNP-Jamaat men. The meeting also chalked out elaborate programmes for Martyred Intellectuals Day tomorrow, Victory Day on December 16 and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Homecoming Day on January 10 next year. Briefing journalists after the meeting, Hanif said, "We will observe the day in a

befitting manner as the elections helped continue the democratic and constitutional process in the country." He also described January 5 as the "constitution protection day". "The democratic and constitutional process would have been hampered and the country would have fallen in a crisis and might have headed towards a civil war if the elections had not taken place," he observed. He said the country did not fall in any crisis as the election was held in the country under the leadership of the prime minister and there was continuation of democracy and development. On BNP's programmes the same day, he said they were not thinking about other parties' programmes. "We want to concentrate on our own programmes, not on of others," he added.

## 6th nat'l math Olympiad ends

DU CORRESPONDENT

The final round of the "Sixth National Undergraduate Mathematics Olympiad 2014" was held at Dhaka University yesterday. Some 60 people from six regions participated in the final round. Ten finalists were awarded with Tk 10,000, crests and certificates each while 50 others received certificates. DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique spoke at the event organised by Bangladesh Mathematical Society in association with Mujibur Rahman Foundation.