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ROAD ACCIDENT

Rowdy protest over killing of student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aggrieved students of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in the capital yesterday vandalised at least 30 vehicles after a fellow student was killed in a road accident near the university.

The dead, Ali Ahmed Alif, 20, was a first year student at faculty of agriculture. Hailing from Bancharampur of Brahmanbaria, he used to live in the capital's Bhatara area.

A bus hit Alif from behind soon after he got down from it on Agargaon Notun Rasta around 8:45am, Abdul Quayum, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Critically injured Alif was taken to Pangu hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

As the news spread on the campus, around 200-250 students took to the streets with sticks and bricks around 11:30am, said witnesses.

They then vandalised the vehicles on Mirpur road and another road near passport office at Agargaon.

The body of Alif was sent to his village home in Bancharampur after his namaz-e-janaza was held on the university playground around 12:30pm.



Ali Ahmed Alif

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Students of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University agitate in the capital's Agargaon area yesterday after a fellow student was killed by a bus. Inset, the inconsolable mother of the victim, first-year student Alif.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Ex-ETV journo held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday arrested a former journalist of private channel Ekushe Television from the capital's Shahbagh in a sedition case.

Detective Branch of police held Kanak Sarwar, ex-senior reporter of ETV, around 2:00pm following a confessional statement of the detained ETV chairman in the case, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

On January 8, a sedition case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station against ETV Chairman Abdus Salam and BNP leader Tarique Rahman in connection with a "false, fabricated and instigating" speech of the BNP leader aired on ETV on January 5.

Salam was held from near the ETV office in

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Correction

In our report published yesterday under the headline "Rental power co faces \$23m fine", we inadvertently mentioned that rental power company Precision Energy was facing a fine for using excessive fuel. The firm runs a gas-fired plant and has not faced any such fine. We regret the error.

ACC to revive 2 cases against Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has moved to revive two more corruption cases pending against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan yesterday prayed to the High Court for the hearing on a rule it issued in 2008 over the legality of filing Niko corruption case against Khaleda.

The bench of Justice Md Moinul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan fixed today for inclusion of the rule in its hearing list.

In response to the lawyer's another prayer, the same bench yesterday included in its hearing list another rule issued in 2008 over the legality of Barapukuria coalmine corruption case against the BNP chief.

On February 4, the HC had included in its hearing list two rules regarding the legality of Gatco graft case filed against the former prime minister.

The ACC filed the Niko graft case with Tejgaon Police Station on December 9, 2007. It accused Khaleda and several others

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Foreign power linked to hartal violence

Matia tells Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury in the House yesterday linked foreign power to the ongoing violence and the hartals and blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

"Connections of foreign power to the ongoing violence are being clear to people day by day," she said while taking part in a thanksgiving motion on the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

TAKING SSC, HSC EXAMS

70pc attendance must for students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students who attend 70 percent classes will be eligible to sit for public examinations like SSC and HSC even if they failed in the test exams.

The education ministry yesterday sent a circular in this regard to all schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutions, directing the authorities concerned to comply with it.

Education institutions hold test examinations for students to get qualified for public examinations like Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC).

The ministry took the decision as it said some institutions barred students

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KONKA TELEVISION
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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 4

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5-15	12-45	4-30	6-05	7-30

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

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A drone built for collecting farm data is in operation at Jainkathi of Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

MONITORING FARMLAND

Drones used for first time in Bangladesh

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

For the first time in the country, agriculturalists have started using drones to monitor farmlands in the southern districts of Barisal and Patuakhali.

The radio-controlled unmanned aerial vehicles or UAVs, equipped with a set of high-end cameras, take high resolution photos of the soil and crops, said Dr Ziauddin Ahmed, geographic information systems and remote sensing scientist of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT).

"Using the images taken by the octocopters, scientists can rapidly assess the condition of crops on a large scale without going through the tedious and time-consuming manual sampling," he said.

"Issues like crop growth, nutrient deficiency and water abundance, disease attacks and insect infestation

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

2 Bangladeshis, 2 Indians killed in Saudi Arabia

2 Pakistanis arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in Saudi Arabia has arrested two Pakistani nationals in Riyadh on Monday allegedly for murdering two Bangladeshis and two Indians.

Asad Jan, 24, and Adam Khan, 22, have allegedly confessed to the killings after being arrested by the Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation in the Saudi capital, reported Saudi Gazette.

The murdered Bangladeshis were taxi drivers, in their 30s and 40s, it added.

"We have noticed the report in the newspaper. We don't have available information about the Bangladeshi victims. But we are working with the Saudi police in this regard," Sarwar Alam, counselor at the Labour Wing of Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

The killers said they lured their first victim, an Indian, to a deserted area where he was choked and later stabbed. They said they killed the Indian man for sleeping with a Sri Lankan woman, the ex-girlfriend of one of the murderers, according to the Saudi Gazette report.

They dumped the body behind a warehouse and parked the victim's car behind a shopping centre in Riyadh's Al-Fouthah District.

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with UGC Chairman AK Azad Chowdhury that all universities should continue their academic activities?

Yes (45%)
No (55%)

TOTAL VOTES: 364

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government should immediately set up checkpoints on Indian border to check swine flu?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

Donations drying up for ISIS: US spy chief

AFP, New York

Donations to Islamic State jihadists have dramatically declined in the wake of brutal executions by the group that have shocked public opinion in the Middle East, the chief of US intelligence has said.

"I think there is change afoot in the Mideast," said James Clapper, director of national intelligence, referring to perceptions of the ISIS group in the region.

"It's not going to occur overnight. But I think these brutalities, publicized brutalities by ISIL (ISIS), beheadings, immolation and the like, have really had a galvanizing effect even in the Mideast,"

Clapper said at an event in New York organized by the Council on Foreign Relations on Monday.

As a result, donations to the extremists in Islamic countries were dropping off, according to Clapper.

"There's been a big decline," he said.

But he added that private donations accounted for "less than one percent" of the group's income, with most of its revenue coming from bank robberies, extortion and oil smuggling in areas under ISIS control.

The United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and other Sunni-led states have long been accused

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

The lost city of Monkey God

MAIL ONLINE

A team hunting for the legendary "lost city" of Ciudad Blanca in Honduras has made a dramatic discovery of untouched ruins deep in the jungle that are thought to be thousands of years old, according to National Geographic.

Researchers believe the complex of plazas, mounds, a pyramid and dozens of artefacts belong to a civilisation which was blooming thousands of years ago and then vanished without a trace.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

