

RMG owner denied bail in graft case
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday in a corruption case denied bail to Aminul Islam, owner of garment factory, Phantom Apparels Ltd that was housed in Rana Plaza of Savar.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Savar Model Police Station on June 15 last year against Aminul and 16 others on the charge of corruption in establishing the factory in the floors of Rana Plaza violating the Bangladesh National Building Code.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told the court that there are specific allegations against Aminul of establishing the factory in Rana Plaza that collapsed on April 24, 2013 killing 1,135 people.

RMG factories cannot be established in any "commercial building" as per the law, said the ACC lawyer adding that Aminul cannot avoid responsibility of the deaths. Aminul's lawyer AM Aminuddin told The Daily Star that he would move his client's bail petition to another HC bench.

20 students of Ghashful School get uniforms
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Helpful Hands Foundation (HHF), a UK based organisation, on Saturday distributed uniforms among 20 students of Ghashful School, an institution run by Organisation for Social Work (OSW) and International Child Development Foundation for underprivileged children.

At the programme, prizes were given to the winners of a painting competition held on Thursday marking the Independence Day. HHF founding Chairman Ashiqur Rahman and OSW President Muhammad Didarul Alam attended the event.



Clockwise from top left, supporters of mayoral aspirants in the Chittagong City Corporation polls gather before the office of the returning officer in the city on the last day for submission of nomination papers yesterday. BNP-backed mayoral aspirant M Manjur Alam Manju submits his application. Awami League-backed mayoral aspirant AJM Nasir Uddin also submits application forms. Mayoral aspirant to Dhaka North City Corporation Anisul Haque hands over his forms. Sons of BNP leader Abdul Awal Mintoo on their father's behalf give forms. Mayoral aspirant to Dhaka South City Corporation Sayeed Khokon submits nomination papers. Representatives of Mirza Abbas file the papers on the BNP leader's behalf. Wife of BNP leader Abdus Salam submits the papers on his behalf.



CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2015
DEMOCRACY IN THE AIR?



Sand-laden barge hits trawler in Shitalakkhya killing woman
OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A woman was killed when a sand-laden barge hit a trawler carrying 20-25 passengers in the river Shitalakkhya in Narayanganj Bandar area yesterday.

Shilpi Akter, 25, of Sonargaon upazila was a worker of a hosiery factory.

Police said when the trawler started sinking after being hit around 10:30am Shilpi, panic-stricken, jumped off the vessel and got her clothes entangled with the engine which dismembered her body.

However, other passengers managed to swim ashore. Police seized the barge.

11 shops gutted
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fire gutted 11 shops at Noyahat Bazar in Patiya upazila of Chittagong on Saturday night.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit of a shop around 10:30pm, said fire service officials. Firefighters doused the fire around 11:30pm and estimated the damage at Tk 7 lakh.

Lack of

FROM PAGE 3
Hazrat Ali, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension, said they lack manpower to assist farmers and fruit growers.

He said the department has one officer for every 10,000 growers.

Kamaruzzaman, chief scientific officer of Soil Resources Development Institute in Rajshahi, said the soil has been losing nutrients and organic matter due to excessive use of chemicals.

Dr Alim Uddin, chief scientific officer at Fruit Research Centre, among others, spoke.

Nasim blames negligence of sanitary

FROM PAGE 3
ministry, the food ministry passes it on to the agriculture ministry. That is how things are operated," he said.

He urged the ministries' senior officials to build strong coordination to monitor field level officials to ensure safe food and implement the idea of "one health".

"One health" is a coordinated approach of the health, environment and forests, food and agriculture ministries to address threats of emerging infectious diseases originating from animals like the Nipah virus, avian influenza and Ebola, said the conference organisers.

The inauguration of the three-day 8th One Health Bangladesh Conference was held at Raowa Convention Hall.

Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) organised it with support from the health ministry, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), Unicef, USAID, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh; and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dennis Carroll, director, Global Health Security and Development, Bureau for Global Health, USAID, said the speed with which emergent diseases can surface and spread raises serious public health, economic and global security and development concerns.

"When we fail to have in place multi-sectoral core competencies for prevention, early detection and control, even a limited spillover of a novel pathogen from animals into humans

can quickly spread and have global consequences," he said.

IEDCR Director Prof Mahmudur Rahman said like the world's other parts, Bangladesh was also popularising the "one health movement", primarily coordinating the health, fisheries and livestock and the environment and forests ministries.

The idea is to ensure better surveillance of diseases and take preventive action well ahead of time, he said.

Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Dr Shelina Afroza, Health Secretary Syed Monjurul Islam, Chief Conservator of Forests Yunus Ali, FAO Representative in Bangladesh Mike Robson and One Health Coordinator Dr Nitish C Debnath and WHO Representative Dr N Paranietharan also spoke.

3 youths

FROM PAGE 3
fake identities, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Iftekhar Alam told The Daily Star.

Police in three groups spaced some 20 yards apart had set up the check-post in Kathalbaria area in Rajshahi city on a road leading to Rajshahi court area.

Dodging the first two groups, they pushed to the ground a constable in the third group blocking their path and "one appeared to be bringing out firearms from a bag", prompting police to fire the two shots around 6:30pm, said Iftekhar.

UC Berkeley first opens Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3
Subir Chowdhury is a quality-management strategist and the CEO of ASI Consulting Group and his foundation provided US \$1 million for the centre.

The centre is currently screening applications from scholars willing to work in Bangladesh as part of their studies.

Independent University, Bangladesh in Dhaka will host two research interns, one to investigate garment-industry safety and the other to examine the role of women in business.

Dhaka's Technohaven, a software and system-integration company, will host the

third intern for designing a web or mobile application.

Caitlin Cook, one of the centre's two inaugural fellows, worked at a top health research centre on, what she calls, "a public health crisis that knows no borders". With researchers at ICDDR, B, she gathered data on antibiotic-resistant produce-borne bacteria.

Berkeley's Bangladesh Studies Centre is also developing an exchange programme for faculty and students of UC Berkeley and Brac University in Dhaka as well as a summer study-abroad programme at the Asian

Gender equality must for democracy

FROM PAGE 3
about women's development," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJE.

"The most fundamental thing we need to be aware of is that you cannot build a healthy society on the basis of discrimina-

tion," said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

AIM Golam Kibria, additional secretary to the ministry of women and children affairs, said, "In Bangladesh we cannot yet sing the song of equality between men and women."



Villagers in Patuakhali's Boloikanthi seek urgent government measures to save their homes before all of it disappears from the map due to river erosion. The photo was taken on Saturday.

Defence

FROM PAGE 4
TRIBUNAL-2
Abdul Hamid Mallik, the 13th prosecution witness, said he had heard about Forkan's role from Shanti Kabiraj, Chan Miah, Habibur Rahman and others immediately after Deben Doctor and Bivarani were murdered in their house in Subidkhali Bazar on August 12, 1971.

Shanti, Chan and Habibur as witnesses had testified to the incident.

Hamid said Forkan forced three Hindu men to convert to Islam on August 15 and two days later he and his associates raped a Hindu girl before shooting her dead.

The 59-year-old had filed a case against Forkan in 2009 with a Mirzaganj's court in Patuakhali in connection with the crimes.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam adjourned proceedings until today, when Hamid will face cross-examination.

Forkan, an alleged Razakar from Mirzaganj, denies the five charges including murders and rapes committed in the southern district in 1971.

Plan Int'l condemns

FROM PAGE 3
The non-government organisation had to suspend its works of the local office for security reasons. The agency has been working in Bangladesh since 1994.

With full confidence in the government's investigation into the attack, the NGO hoped that the authorities concerned will take necessary action against the attackers, the release added.

Project Manager Rakibul Bahar, one of the injured in the attack, filed a case with Hatibandha Police Station accusing one Swadhin Akhi of Barakhata and around 14-15 unnamed persons.

Officer-in-Charge Abdul Matin said Barakhata Union Jubo League General Secretary Nuruzzaman, also a contractor for implementing a project funded by the NGO in Barakhata and Fakirpara unions, might have been involved in the attack as the organisation suspended the project over an allegation of corruption against him.

Contacted, Nuruzzaman denied all the allegations.

Boy beaten to death

FROM PAGE 4
leaving him injured.

Locals admitted Al Amin to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

Officer-in-charge of Darussalam Police Station Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that they arrested the five aged between nine and 12 years. They were sent to the National Juvenile Development Centre, Tongi, Gazipur after they were produced before its juvenile court, he said.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy. A murder case has been filed.

30 RU students fall

FROM PAGE 4
was being served in an unhygienic environment at the hall. Contacted, Hall Provost Prof Dilruba Akhter Banu denied the allegation and said the students ate outside at different food stalls and became sick. "Quality food is being served at the hall," she added.