

Bar Council election now May 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The election to Bangladesh Bar Council has been deferred for a week due to anomalies in its voter list. Now the election will be held on May 27 instead of May 20. The council took the decision at a meeting on Tuesday night with Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, also its ex-officio chairman, in the chair. The council has found that around 1,000 lawyers' names have been registered in the voter list multiple times. The council authorities are trying to correct the voter list, AM Mahub Uddin Khokon, a BNP-backed executive member of the council, told The Daily Star. Meanwhile, 623 lawyers have appealed to the council to include their names in the voter list for a single time as their names have been registered multiple times.



Towards the end of Baishakh, the first month of summer, the country's national fruit, jackfruit, has started arriving in the wholesale market of the capital's Jatrabari. Watermelons are already on sale following an early harvest and a high yield. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

NEWS IN brief

Punish human traffickers, protect migrants: MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Expressing its concern about a steep increase in human trafficking by sea, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday demanded punishment for the culprits. In a statement, the organisation also demanded that the rescued workers be identified and necessary measures be taken regarding them. The statement cites a government estimate that in 2014 alone, 4.25 lakh workers went abroad legally, and remittances sent by the migrant workers are contributing to the national economy. MJF stated that human trafficking may affect the normal process of migration of Bangladeshi workers. In that case, lives and livelihoods of thousands of people will be threatened, it added. MJF is carrying out a programme about creating public awareness on safe migration in 16 upazilas across nine districts.

DU student drowns in pond

DU CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka University student drowned in a pond at Shahidullah Hall on the campus yesterday afternoon. MH Rahi of Kushtia was a second-year student of the physics department and a resident of Fazlul Haque Muslim Hall. He slipped from the stairs of the pond and drowned as he did not know how to swim, said AM Amzad, DU acting proctor. Doctors declared him dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meghna Group sends help for Nepal earthquake victims

CITY DESK
Meghna Group of Industries (MGI) donated 9,000 bottles of Fresh Drinking Water and 4,800kg of Fresh Flour for the Nepal earthquake victims on Tuesday, said a press release. MGI Director Tanveer Ahmed Mostafa handed over the water bottles and flour to Sushil K Lamsal, deputy chief of the Mission of Nepal to Bangladesh. Other high officials of Meghna Group were present at the event.

Physically Challenged Development Foundation launches website

CITY DESK
Physically Challenged Development Foundation (PDF) yesterday launched its official website for their signature event PDF Summer Challenge-2015 at The Daily Star Centre, says a press release. Singer Dilshad Elita Karim inaugurated the website through a ceremony. This community service based youth leadership programme engages students from 10th grade to Masters in a wide range of community activities and provide an orientation to disability rights. The website link is www.pdfbd.org/sc2015

Nor'westers, Moha disease affect Rajshahi, C'nawabganj dists' mango production

BSS, Rajshahi
Although the overall mango production is likely to be good in the northern region, the production in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts may be hampered by unfavourable weather this year. The farmers in the two districts are concerned as a large number of green mangoes have been torn from the trees by the recent nor'westers and hailstorms. The unfavourable weather follows the earlier attack by leaf hoppers which had caused many green mangoes to fall before ripening properly. Farmers told the news agency that the dropping of green mangoes would reduce production, particularly in the two districts.

Dr Alim Uddin, principal scientific officer of Fruit Research Station, agreed that the production of mangoes would be slightly less than expected, but not considerably because mango trees remain unaffected by bad weather in many other parts of the region. "Mango production will not be satisfactory in my area this year as almost 70 percent of the fruits fell from the trees before ripening," said Nurul Islam, a farmer from Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj. He said mango trees in his area had initially blossomed well, but many of the mangoes had become victims of the attack by leaf hoppers caused by sultry weather from March 15 to 30. "We are cursed with Moha this year," said Nurul. Horticulturists explained that Moha is a

kind of disease that appears in the form of mould on leaves. It happens especially when the mist shrouds the nature during summer nights, another change in the weather pattern. They said adequate rainfall could save mango trees from this kind of diseases. The mango growers of Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi are worried as the number of trees bearing fruits is inadequate. The farmer said they generally used insecticides once a season but they were forced to apply it three times this year, but there was no impact. Shariful Islam, a mango trader of Lalbag village in Godagari upazila, said mango production was likely to suffer a setback this year due to unfavourable weather.

The annual average mango production is about five lakh tonnes from over 45,000 hectares of land in eight districts under Rajshahi division including Chapainawabganj where mango grows on 22,000 hectares of land while it is about 8,500 hectares in Rajshahi. The unexpected sultry weather due to change in climate caused mangoes to drop prematurely, said agriculturist Dr Saifur Rahman. Most mango growers in the two mango producing districts have used pesticides and other chemicals at least 20 times for "protection and better yield". Excessive use of toxic chemicals in the country's mango producing zone is posing a serious threat to public health as well as to environment and wildlife.

Novera pioneer of modern sculpture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Novera Ahmed was the pioneer of modern sculpture in the country, speakers told a commemoration for the late artist organised by Bangla Academy yesterday. An exhibition hall in memory of the co-sculptor of Central Shaheed Minar was also inaugurated at Dr Muhammad Enamul Haq Bhaban on the academy premises. Chaired by eminent artist Hashem Khan, the academy's Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan, architects Rabiul Hussein and Shamsul Wares, Prof Sonia Nishat Amin of history, and cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar spoke on the artist's life and art. A documentary on her by Shibu Kumer Shil and an extract of an ongoing research by Rezaul Karim Sumon of Dhaka University's history department was also shown. Born in 1930, Novera came into the Dhaka art scene in the 60s as the first and only female sculptor. She later settled in Paris where she passed away on May 6. She was honoured with the Ekushey Padak in 1997.



Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan speaks at a programme the academy organised on its premises yesterday commemorating late sculptor Novera Ahmed.

PHOTO: STAR

সময়োপযোগী সঠিক সিদ্ধান্ত
ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং + Biology @ উদ্ভাস
অথবা
মেডিকেল + ভার্টিসি Math @ উন্মেষ
১৬ মে পর্যন্ত ৩০০০/- ছাড়!
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'BCL attack' leaves Chhatra
FROM PAGE 4
Shaheed Minar said when attacked, the protesters numbering 40-50 ran off to save themselves. Paplu said Saptashi took shelter in a public toilet but the attackers dragged him out and slammed his arms and legs with sticks. BCL leader Shahriar denied beating up anyone, but Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Suhel Ahmed said there was an attack and that additional police were deployed to avert clashes.

JU students
FROM PAGE 3
and five BCL activists. In DU, some 20 women were assaulted during the celebrations. Sunday's beating occurred when Bangladesh Chhatra Union tried to lay siege to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police headquarters demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the perpetrators.

Ifttekharuzzaman
FROM PAGE 3
special lifetime achievement award winner. Under Ifttekharuzzaman's leadership, TIB has established a countrywide network of over 6,500 anti-corruption platforms of volunteers. He dedicated the award to the platforms including the Committees of Concerned Citizens, and Youth Engagement and Support.

Destiny boss
FROM PAGE 4
The ACC on May 4 last year pressed charges against Rafiqui, Destiny 2000 President Lt Gen (retd) Harun-Ar-Rashid and 49 others in the cases filed in July 2012.

AL activists
FROM PAGE 4
Several hundred buses and trucks were seen stuck during the period of the barricade put in Moizzartek area of Patiyati. It was removed around 7:40pm by police.

DHAKA TODAY
Laptop Fair
Expo Maker will organise a three-day laptop fair. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 4:00pm.
Seminar
Bangladesh Bank and International Labour Organisation (ILO) will organise a seminar on price stability. Venue: Bangladesh Bank, 10:00am.

STAR WEEKEND
in other news...
With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend has an array of articles for your reading pleasure. This week's spotlight shows the age old methods and remarkable processes of how our post offices work. There is an article that talks about how BRACU was the first institution to address the need of midwifery in Bangladesh, and how they started a course on it. There is also a musing on the special little things that every mother does. Don't forget your copy of Star Weekend tomorrow, Friday!

THE DAAK GHOR TODAY
PHOTO: SAZIMAN HANIF APJ/STP

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