

Remove 30pc unipoles now, rest in 2 years

Outdoor Advertising Owners Association demands at human chain

Outdoor Advertising Owners Association yesterday demanded that the city corporations remove 30 percent of unipoles now and the rest in the next two years instead of in an arbitrary manner in one go. Addressing a human chain they formed in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, the association leaders also demanded that a coordination committee be formed comprising all stakeholders to prepare a comprehensive guideline on billboards. This proposal has been sent to the city corporations while a memorandum to the LGRD and cooperatives minister. On Monday, the association leaders at a press conference said neither of the city corporations had followed rules while giving approval to hundreds of billboards, leading to today's dirty look of the capital city.



Bablu Roy, 50, seated in the wheelchair, who was maimed in law enforcers' firing in the Phulbari coalmine project movement nine years ago, leads a procession in Dinajpur town yesterday. The National Committee for Protection of Oil-Gas and Mineral Resources, Electricity Sector and Ports organised the march in memory of the people killed and injured during a street demonstration against the project on August 26, 2006. On that day, police and now-defunct Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) opened fire on the agitating locals and protest organisers, leaving at least three persons dead and 70 others wounded.

Govt trying to obstruct BNP reform

Allege party leaders referring to filing of cases against Khaleda, Tarique

The government is filing cases and charges against BNP chief Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman to obstruct reform in the organisation, party leaders alleged yesterday. "We denounce the government's move. We call upon the administration to shun its vengeful and vindictive attitude," said BNP spokesman Asaduzzaman Ripon. Addressing journalists at the Nayapaltan office, he said pressing charges against the BNP chief and Senior Vice Chairman Tarique in "false cases" was tantamount to attacking the political etiquette. The BNP leader pointed to Tuesday's filing of a charge sheet in Gazipur against Tarique and 31 other BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami men in an arson case filed in January. Ripon said the charges were imaginary, false and fabricated, and the government filed those only to satisfy its vengeful instincts; there was not an iota of truth in the charges. The government is also suing Khaleda Zia, making her the mastermind, he said in a statement. Separately, BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan said the ruling Awami League always sued BNP men, whenever the party tried to reform itself. He made the comment at a discussion at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, organised to mark the 26th founding anniversary of the Jatiyabadi Muktijoddha Dal. He demanded a stop to suing of the party people and release of those detained. Referring to the High Court's ban on publishing and airing of Tarique's statement and speech in media,

Consumers still feel unsafe about food

Seminar told

Nearly two years into passage of the Food Safety Act 2013 and six months into formation of the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA), consumers are still anxious about food adulteration in the country, said speakers yesterday. Many consumers, agricultural scientists, rights activists, and policy planners, at a seminar, demanded that the BFSA inform the public about its progress in enforcing the act which came into force amidst a huge public outcry over widespread food adulteration. Bangladesh Agricultural Research

Council (Barc) and Bangladesh Safe Agro-Foods Efforts (BSAFE Foundation), a non-government organisation, jointly organised the seminar in the capital's Barc auditorium to discuss people's expectations from the BFSA. Referring to the overuse of chemicals in pineapples and bananas, former food minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, who was instrumental in piloting the food safety act, said people need to know why BFSA is taking such a long time to enforce the law. At the seminar, UN Food and

Agriculture Organization's Chief Technical Advisor in Bangladesh John Ryder, however, said six more months might be needed to make the food safety authorities fully operational and in the meantime Ireland's food safety authorities were providing support to strengthen the BFSA. BSAFE Foundation President Dr M Zainal Abedin mentioned that no representative from BFSA attended the seminar even though they were invited. "But BSFA assured us of considering recommendations made in this seminar," he added.

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Punish culprits of Phulbari firing

Social, political and cultural organisations demand observing 'Phulbari Day', also implementation of six-point agreement

Different social, political and cultural organisations yesterday observed the 9th anniversary of "Phulbari Day", paying tributes to the three persons killed and some 70 others injured in Dinajpur's Phulbari when police and Bangladesh Rifles opened fire on protests against open-pit coal mining. The National Committee for Protection of Oil-Gas and Mineral Resource, Electricity Sector and Ports organised a rally at the base of Central Shaheed Minar in the capital where the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Ganatantrik Bam Morcha and Bangladesh

Chhatra Union placed wreaths. They demanded complete implementation of the six-point agreement the then BNP government signed four days after the deaths, and bringing to book those responsible for the deaths. The committee Convener Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah said errant multinational companies were still active in the country under different names. Bangladesh Chhatra Federation and other left leaning organisations erected a temporary memorial in front of Ducsu and

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US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's office yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

USAID chief due tomorrow

Head of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Alfonso E Lenhardt, will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a four-day visit. During his stay in Dhaka, Ambassador Lenhardt will meet several ministers to discuss the ongoing partnership between the United States and Bangladesh towards achieving the goal of helping Bangladesh become a middle-income country by 2021. Lenhardt will also visit some of USAID's key development projects in Bangladesh's agriculture, nutrition, wildlife and environmental conservation, and labour sectors, according to a press release of the US embassy yesterday. Administrator Lenhardt leads USAID -- the primary US state agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realise their potential in over 100 countries worldwide.

Demarcate Buriganga second channel

HC asks government

The High Court yesterday directed the government to determine the second channel of the river Buriganga in Kamrangirchar and Hazaribagh areas through a survey and to set up pillars on its boundaries in 60 days. In response to a writ petition, the court asked the director general of the Department of Land Record and Survey to conduct the survey through a special committee and establish the pillars. It asked the inspector general of police, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, deputy commissioner of Dhaka, and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority to provide necessary assistance in

doing the job, petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star. He said the authorities identified the second channel of the Burignaga in Keraniganj after a survey and set up pillars on the boundary of the river there as per the HC's 2009 directives, but did not do it for the channel in Kamrangirchar and Hazaribagh. Manzill said this was informed at a task force meeting of the shipping ministry and therefore, he moved the petition yesterday before the HC. After hearing the petition, the HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque passed the order for protecting the river from encroachment and pollution, he added.



Obituary

Mukhtada Yaroq, also known as Laken, died of a cardiac arrest at United Hospital in the capital yesterday. He was 55. He was the son of late MG Murtaza, former president of Dhaka Club, and Begum Zainab Murtaza. He left behind his mother, his wife, a son, a daughter and two sisters to mourn his death. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Jumma prayers tomorrow.

Breastfeeding goes up by 40 percent

Claims Alive & Thrive programme

Interpersonal contact between healthcare workers and mothers have produced a large scale improvement in infant and young child feeding programme and in hand washing habits, said speakers at a seminar yesterday. Moreover, awareness created through communities and mass media facilitated the improvement, they added. Referring to a baseline and an endline survey conducted in 2010 and 2014 respectively in 50 upazilas where community-based Alive & Thrive programme was implemented by Brac, they said exclusive breastfeeding went up to 88 percent from 48, and the percentage of mothers washing hands before feeding young children improved from 23 percent to 31. They were addressing a dissemination seminar on Alive & Thrive programme, lessons learned and evaluation results on

infant and young children feeding practices in Bangladesh, held at Brac Centre Inn in the capital. "People in Bangladesh are very receptive," said Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, speaker in parliament, at the programme. Praising the programme, she urged NGOs and development organisations to team up with the government and use government networks to reach a larger community. Launched in 2009 in Bangladesh, Vietnam and Ethiopia with funding from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Canadian and Irish governments, Alive & Thrive used advocacy, interpersonal communication and community mobilisation, mass media and strategic data to improve breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices and to reduce stunting and anaemia in young children. Besides, Brac and other international

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STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend has an array of interesting articles for you. This week our spotlight is about the obsession with results par excellence and the pressure inflicted on students by society. There is also an article that highlights the negative attitude against the transgendered. Don't forget your copy of Star Weekend tomorrow, Friday!

FOR THE SAKE OF GPA 5

Amidst the rat-race of studies and careers, every year board examinees face immense pressure during exams, and even more so, before results come out. The dilemma that students face during this time has never been so wide-spread, than with themselves. It is generally understood that a child with good results belongs to a family with a high social status, and to prove just that, families invest all their efforts, hopes and dreams on their children. This added pressure on top of that of exams leads to an ill mental health of the children. This forces them to take any measure available, even if it necessitates forgetting moral values, to achieve the results required to please their families, and society itself. To read more on the adverse effects of society's obsession with good results, turn to page 8 and 9.

LIVING IN DENIAL

A 20-year-old student of a reputed university is reportedly facing allegations and discrimination in his school.

LAST OF ITS KIND

Talks about the journey of the famous footballer.