

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE



SHAH CEMENT

AWARDED

ASIA RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD 2015



+shahcementbd shahcementbd www.shahcement.com

UN wants Bangladesh on high-level panel on water

Ban Ki-moon phones Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon phoned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night and offered Bangladesh membership in a UN high-level panel on water, which is to be formed.

Hasina readily accepted it. Ban Ki-moon phoned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina around 8:00pm and said the United Nations is going to constitute a high-level panel on water," said PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim.

After exchanging greetings, he said, the UN chief

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

MP, ex-MP, 23 others sued for war crimes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A freedom fighter yesterday filed a case against 25 people including an incumbent and a former Jatiya Party lawmaker for their alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Abul Kalam, son of Abdul Aziz of Kanihari in Trishal and a regional organiser of the Liberation War, filed the case with the Cognisance Court No 3 of Senior Judicial Magistrate Mitful Islam.

The court sent the case documents to the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) candidates of Dhaka City College block the Mirpur Road on the side of their college for about seven hours from 1:30pm yesterday, demanding that their exam centre be changed. This led to long tailbacks and public sufferings. Bottom left, a police water cannon and bottom right, an elderly couple crossing the street on foot. After the incident, the college authorities suspended classes for an indefinite period.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Cops careless on duty

Finds police enquiry into tea-vendor Babul's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four policemen were present there when tea vendor Babul Matabbar was burnt to death last week at his roadside stall in the capital, according to the report of an enquiry committee.

Deputy Commissioner (Discipline) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Tutul Chakrabarty said he submitted the report yesterday to the DMP commissioner.

The report also cites police's negligence in discharging their duty, DMP media sources said.

Another two-member enquiry committee formed by DMP's Mirpur division told The Daily Star that its report was ready and would be submitted today. The committee is led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Masud Ahmed Khan.

Babul suffered ninety percent burns on February 3 as he fell on a kerosene stove after being pushed allegedly by a police informant. Some cops accompanied by the informant went to his stall at Gudara Ghat in Mirpur's Shah Ali area around 9:30pm on the day to pick him up, said the victim's wife, an witness to the incident.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Non-students rule new JCD committee

8 of central committee earlier reported as victims of enforced disappearance

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY and MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

The new central committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has at least five members who are alleged victims of enforced disappearances.

Another five such victims have been named in two unit committees of the BNP's student wing.

While one group of JCD leaders says this has been done with the hope that they would return alive, the other claims it was aimed at gaining political advantages.

There are barely any regular students in the 736-member full-fledged JCD committee, approved by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Saturday night, 15 months after its 151-member partial committee was announced in October 2014.

Then again, the committee allegedly had married

members -- something that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia earlier reportedly prohibited -- and people who were accused in criminal cases.

The JCD central committee, led by President Rajib Ahsan and General Secretary Akramul Hasan, has also approved committees for different educational institutions, including Dhaka University, Jagannath University and Jahangirnagar University.

The victims of forced disappearance who have been included in the central committee are assistant general secretaries Mahbub Hasan Sujan and Selim Reza, assistant organising secretaries Iftexhar Ahmed Dinar and Mofidul Islam Rashed, and executive member Kazi Farhad Hossain.

Aminul Islam Zakir has been made president and Tariqul Hasan Jhantu vice president of the JCD's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

PICKING UP POLLS CANDIDATES 14-party for consensus

Components demand severing ties with Pakistan

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

There could be conflict among candidates of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance in the upcoming union parishad elections if a consensus was not reached by partners, fears a number of alliance components.

Even though the AL had decided to take part in the polls independently, Workers Party General Secretary Fazley Hossain Badsha at a meeting of the alliance partners at the AL president's Dhanmondi office yesterday asked for the consensus, sources in the meeting said.

He said if consensus was not reached before the polls, candidates of the 14-party alliance could show their muscle power and that would benefit the BNP-led combine.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Zika virus fails to spoil carnival



BBC ONLINE

Millions of people across Brazil have joined the first day of the annual carnival festivities despite concerns about the outbreak of the Zika virus.

In Recife, the city most affected by the mosquito-borne disease, more than one million people in colourful costumes have been partying.

In Rio de Janeiro, huge crowds of revellers have filled the city centre to celebrate.

The virus has been linked to a surge of brain malformations in newborn babies.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Rescuers look through the rubble of a collapsed building in the southern Taiwanese city of Tainan yesterday. At least 31 people have been killed after a 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck the country on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

More pulled out alive from debris

Death toll in Taiwan quake rises to 31; 120 people still trapped

AFP, Tainan

Rescuers raced yesterday to free around 120 people buried under the rubble of an apartment complex felled by an earthquake in southern Taiwan that left 31 confirmed dead, as an investigation began into the collapse.

The death toll rose as emergency workers dug for survivors of the 6.4-magnitude quake that toppled the 16-storey complex of almost 100 homes in the city of Tainan on Saturday.

Officials said an investigation had been launched as questions were raised over the safety of the residential blocks in the complex. Tainan mayor William Lai said survivors and relatives had reported legal "violations" but gave no further detail.

"I've contacted judicial units and prosecutors have formally launched an investigation," said Lai.

"We've also commissioned three independent bodies to preserve evidence during the rescue so we can assist the residents if they want to file lawsuits in the future. We will hold the builder responsible if they have broken the law."

Local media reported the construction company that built the complex had gone out of business and also raised questions over the quality of the materials used.

Yueh Chin-sen, whose mother-in-law's family of eight is

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Govt resorts to repressive acts: BNP

STAR REPORT

The BNP yesterday accused the government of indulging in fascism.

"Murders, enforced disappearances and abductions have been rising sharply as the government has held on to power by force," said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, while speaking at the council of Sylhet city and district party units.

Speaking as chief guest at the programme, Fakhrul said the government had alienated itself from the people and that it had increasingly been resorting to repressive acts to consolidate power.

Accusing the government of stifling democracy, the BNP leader said, "The country is now in great danger. It's high time to save the country from this situation."

He called upon BNP leaders and activists to be united and increase the party's strength to restore democracy under the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1