



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STAR WEEKEND

BAISHAKH UTSAV

Five-day music fest begins tomorrow at Bengal Shilpalaya for Nababarsha celebration

PAGE 10

'MASS AMNESTY IMMINENT'

Suu Kyi vows to press for release of political prisoners in Myanmar

PAGE 8

TONU MURDER

Rights boss doubts first autopsy

RAFIUL ISLAM

The National Human Rights Commission will seek prime minister's interference if the second autopsy on Sohagi Jahan Tonu turns out to be as shoddy as the first one, its chairman said.

"We are waiting for the second autopsy report. If it is a cooked-up one like the first one, we will write to the highest authority, the prime minister, and seek her directives for a proper investigation," NHRC Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

The first autopsy did not find any sign of rape on the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



Children sort out watermelons dumped into the Buriganga river at Badamtali Ghat in Old Dhaka. Thousands of the delicious fruit reach the ghat from across the country every day, and the discarded ones are thrown into the river. However, some of them are collected and supplied to the street vendors who make juice or slices out of them to sell.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BUS RAPID TRANSIT IN DHAKA

50pc cost hike for delayed start

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The country's first-ever fast bus lane designed to run from Dhaka airport to Gazipur will be at least 50 percent costlier with the construction expected to begin in June, four years after the government took up the project.

In 2012, the expenditure on the 20km route was estimated at Tk 2,040 crore, which has gone up by at least Tk 1,000 crore, according to project officials.

This is excluding the payment for consultancy for the extended period, staff salaries and other expenditures. Including all these, the final project cost would stand between Tk 3,500-4,000 crore, a project official said.

A lack of experience and inadequate knowledge about such infrastructure are the reasons behind the delay, according to officials from the Road Transport and Highways Division, the Bridges Division and the Local Government Engineering Department that are tasked with implementing the project.

In the last four years, prices of materials have increased by at least 30 percent, which is why more money is needed to complete the work, Project Director Afil Uddin told The Daily Star late last month before he was transferred.

Although the authorities are facing numerous challenges to implement

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Their worst fear comes true

Say slain secular activist's dear ones; despite threats, Nazim chose to keep writing; UN, EU, Amnesty condemn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Friends and well-wishers of slain secular activist Nazim Uddin Samad had conveyed to him their concern over his safety, but he chose to continue his writing rather than stay silent.

A Facebook conversation between Nazim and one Azharul Islam on March 31 last year shows that the latter wrote to Nazim, "I am concerned about your safety. Be a little cautious. You know what is happening around..."

In response, Nazim wrote, "I am also scared... scared of untimely death. But what can I do, sir? Perhaps it is better to die than to live with your head down." He posted a smiley symbol at the end of his message.

Nazim, a law student at Jagannath University, was shot and hacked to death by unidentified assailants on the capital's Hrishikesh Das Lane on Wednesday night for what his friends and family believe was criticising fundamentalism.

His elder brother Shamimuddin, who lives in London, told BBC Bangla Service that they were worried about

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Cameron profited from father's fund

Amid Panama scandal, UK PM admits; Putin rejects allegations; American executives named

AGENCIES

David Cameron has admitted he did have a profitable stake in his father's offshore investment fund, before selling it for around £30,000 before he became prime minister.

The admission comes five days after a huge cache of documents were leaked -- dubbed the Panama Papers -- detailing the tax affairs of thousands of individuals of worldwide.

The leak has exposed financial arrangements of public figures including friends of Russian President Vladimir Putin, relatives of the prime ministers of Iceland and Pakistan, and the president of Ukraine.

In his reaction, President Putin has denied "any element of corruption" over the Panama Papers leaks, saying his opponents are trying to destabilise Russia.

Putin was speaking for the first time since the leak.

The papers revealed a number of offshore companies owned by close associates of Putin.

The UK prime minister's father, Ian Cameron, who passed away in 2010, was exposed as running a fund under the name of Blairmore Holdings in the papers.

MORE ON PAGE 9

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

TOP QUOTE

"In spite of the recent pause in the assassination of online activists, this attack demonstrates that this new killing is clearly part of a growing trend which undermines the freedom of expression and opinion in Bangladesh."

UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN BANGLADESH
ROBERT D WATKINS
ON THE KILLING OF SECULAR ACTIVIST NAZIM UDDIN

The largest elevator company of the country

Maan Bangladesh
Proudly Introduces
World Renowned German Brand

SCHNEIDER
Lifts & Escalators

30 Years of Experience

24/7 Prompt Service

We are serving customers with state of the art elevators and services. Please visit our showroom for seeing the quality, choosing the best products and believing in our strength.

We Sale

- Passenger Elevators
- Panoramic Elevators
- Car Elevators
- Cargo Elevators
- Bed Elevators
- Escalators
- Travelators

MAAN BANGLADESH LTD.

Corporate Head Office & Show Room: Firoz Tower (3rd Floor), 152/3-B, Bir Uttam Kazi Nuruzzaman Sarak (Panthapath), Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh, Tel: 9143020-21, 9143816, 8144758, 9139937 Fax: Ext. 132, E-mail: maandraw@bdcom.net, maan@bdcom.net, Web: www.maanbd.com

Hot line: 01711541393, 01711683520, 01819225591, 01715785624, 01730705009

Registered Office: Tel: 58617909, 58610868, 58615542, Fax: 880-2-9668925
Chittagong Office: Tel: 031-639546, 0171-1127293, 01716-6407927
Sylhet Office: Tel: 01711541393, 01711683520, 01819225591, 01729074357
Khulna Office: Tel: 01711541393, 01711683520, 01819225591, 01730705042

* Special Note: Our valued clients are being assured of our continued AFTER SALES & MAINTENANCE SERVICE of LG, SIGMA, HYUNDAI brand Lifts / Escalators as usual with total support of spares from huge stock in our (Maan BD) warehouse

IN MEMORY OF MR. HUMAYUN ZAHIR

(Founder Chairman - Ananta Group)
Founder Director - United Commercial Bank Ltd. & Janata Insurance Ltd.)
on his 23rd death anniversary

Mr Humayun Zahir was an entrepreneur and social change maker who was admired by all. He was an enthusiastic and charismatic leader who in only 45 years of his life created a legacy that continues to grow and excel.

He founded Ananta Group which currently employs over 25,000 people, in the apparel, textile, real estate and financial sector. He was one of the Founder Directors of United Commercial Bank Ltd., Janata Insurance Ltd., and was also District Governor of Lions Club District 315A and the Chairman of Lions Foundation. He was also the Founder Chairman of Dhaka Mahila College and of many other social organizations. We honour him specially today on his death anniversary and pray for eternal peace and salvation of his soul.

- All members of Ananta Group Family.

ANANTA

ধুলো ময়লাব দ্বি শেষ!

BERGER
Trusted Worldwide

7 YEARS WARRANTY

Weather Cool ANTI DIRTY

puRNAVA
inspired by happiness

We are online now

For home delivery, visit **e.purnava.com**

puRNAVA LIMITED
A subsidiary of **RENATA LIMITED**

(88) 01844 054599