



NEW HOME FOR INMATES

Hasina for developing jails as correction centres as she opens the Keraniganj prison

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SAFETY NET SCHEMES

Development campaigners call for increased allocations

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PANAMA PAPERS FALLOUT

David Cameron releases tax summary as pressures mount

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Cylinder blast rips apart car

Two hurt at Ctg CNG filling station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were hurt when the gas cylinder of a car exploded at a CNG filling station at Khulshi in Chittagong yesterday. The injured are Ismail Hossain Yousuf, 30, an employee of the station, and Bokhtear Uddin, 25, the driver of another car. They were being treated at a nearby hospital with minor injuries. Witness Rajesh Das told The Daily Star that the accident happened around 1:45pm when the car was refueling. "There was a loud bang and smoke engulfed the entire area. Then I saw the car which had completely been destroyed," said Rajesh who was waiting for his turn to refuel. He said the faces and shoulders of the two victims were hit by flying debris from the blast. The explosion also caused some

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A car after its gas cylinder exploded at a CNG filling station in Khulshi area of Chittagong yesterday. Two people were hurt after being hit by flying debris from the blast. The incident happened when the car, which had a "faulty" cylinder, was refueling. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Making most of Facebook

Students, job-seekers now cashing in on social media connections

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

While most of us are content with maintaining social connections, even the very casual ones, with Facebook and catching up on what friends have been up to, looking at their holiday photos or photos of their children, some have been using Facebook for study materials and getting jobs. One such person is Mahsin Alam, a student of Rajshahi University. He has found Facebook to be helpful in finding study materials and planning his career path. The networking site keeps him updated on the job market even though he lives in a remote place in northern part of Bangladesh. Use of Facebook began in Bangladesh in 2006. Now the social networking site has 1.8 crore users in Bangladesh. Of them, most are young generation. The site has support for community groups with discussion boards, sharing links, videos and photos, and a public comment space, but it has hardly ever been used for productive purposes by many in Bangladesh.

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AL doesn't own Olama League or its demand

Says Hanif

The Awami League does not own the Olama League's demand for a ban on Pahela Baishakh celebrations, say two central leaders of the ruling party. The party has already requested the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police to take stern action against the Olama League for "misusing its name", said AL's Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday. "We don't own the organisation [Olama League]. Awami League does not believe in religious bigotry," Hanif told The Daily Star. Terming the Bangla New Year festival haram (forbidden in Islam), the Olama League made the demand from a human chain in the capital on Saturday.

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Govt tries to dispel Banshkhali fear

PM says imaginary talks cost some lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has extended its full support for the coal-fired power plant to be set up in Banshkhali of Chittagong amid growing protests over the project and last week's clashes that left at least four people killed and scores more injured. "There is no problem in setting up the plant in Banshkhali. The government has full support for it," said Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, energy adviser to the prime minister, at a media briefing at Bidyut Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also spoke in favour of coal-based power plants. "Some people in this country have some bizarre imaginations...I don't know how this crosses their minds, but some lives have been lost unnecessarily for such imaginary talks...I've no idea what's the motive behind this," she said, pointing to the Banshkhali incident, reports UNB. The PM made the comment while inaugurating the newly-constructed Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj yesterday. She said a section of people these days held protests in the name of protecting the environment when the government wanted to produce more

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TOP QUOTE

"Bangladesh cannot graduate into a middle-income country, keeping children involved in hazardous work."

STATE MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS
MEHER AFROZE CHUMKI
AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL

FIRE, EXPLOSIONS AT INDIAN TEMPLE
More than 100 killed

AGENCIES

A fire and explosions during a fireworks display to mark the start of the local Hindu new year killed over 100 people and injured more than 380 at a temple in India's southern Kerala state yesterday. Thousands of devotees had packed into the Puttingal Devi temple, about 70 km from the state capital Thiruvananthapuram

in the coastal district of Kollam, to watch the display that started at midnight and went on four hours, Reuters reported. The blaze started when a cracker fell onto a shed where the fireworks were stored, sparking a string of powerful explosions that blew the roof of the administrative block of the temple and caused another building to collapse, residents said.

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