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Is this how we respect a poet?

Dustbin in front of Jibanananda Das Memorial Library shows authorities' apathy

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, from Barisal

The ugly sight of a dustbin with spilling garbage strikes visitors, just near the entrance to Poet Jibanananda Das Memorial Library and Auditorium in Barisal.

The memorial is only a small portion of the house where the acclaimed poet of the last century grew up and lived his youth until he moved to Kolkata in 1930. The rest of the poet's residence in the city's Munshi Garage area was turned into government establishments.

The authorities' apathy is vivid even in preserving the last remaining legacy of the poet in Bangladesh.

While the entire house should have been restored in his memory and honour, it now seems to be going into oblivion.

"We have seen changes of mayors and commissioners but the dustbin has been there though locals have repeatedly demanded its removal," said Waliur Rahman, a businessman living in the neighbourhood.

"What a way to honour the poet!" he added with a hint of sarcasm.

The memorial was set up in February 2010. The dustbin stood there even before as the Barisal City Corporation installed it in 2007.

It is shameful that people throw waste and garbage every day "almost into the house of the poet" who is famous for the collection of poems, Ruposhi Bangla.

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Two waste management workers taking away garbage dumped near the entrance to Poet Jibanananda Das Memorial Library and Auditorium in Barisal. Locals have long been demanding the removal of the permanent skip but the authorities seem reluctant.

Tortured over trivial matters

Children again fall victim to madness

MINHAJ UDDIN from Chittagong and HABIBUR RAHMAN from Pirojpur

Physical assaults on children continue across the country despite protests by child rights activists, laws against corporal punishment and a wide coverage against such torture in the mass media.

A video clip came to The Daily Star yesterday that shows a middle-aged man brutally beating up a child in broad daylight in front of a crowd, mostly children.

Digging into the incident, it was found that the victim, a 16-year-old boy named Md Minhaj, had consumed a bottle of cold drinks from a shop in Chittagong city's Patenga area but could not pay for it.

Consequently, shop owner Md Ishak, 40, made the boy pay the price by assaulting him.

According to locals, Minhaj, son of Saleh Ahmed

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'PLOT TO KILL JOY' Mahmudur remanded for 5 days

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Amar Desh Editor Mahmudur Rahman on five-day remand for interrogation in connection with an alleged plot "to kidnap and kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy".

Hassan Arafat, assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch of police and investigation officer of the case tied to the

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Fuel price cut won't benefit passengers

No plan to reduce transport fare

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Bus operators are reluctant to reduce fares despite a cut in fuel prices.

In the past, whenever the government increased fuel prices, bus operators launched bids to hike fares, and even bargained with the government to press home their demand.

However, bus owners are now making excuses for not reducing fares and preparing to bargain with the government regarding this.

A fare re-fixing committee comprising government officials, transport owners, workers and other

stakeholders would make a decision about whether to reduce the fare or not.

The price of diesel and kerosene has been reduced to Tk 65 from Tk 68 a litre, octane to Tk 89 from Tk 99 and petrol to Tk 86 from Tk 96.

Almost all the buses on long-haul routes are run by diesel, while most of the buses in Dhaka and Chittagong metropolises are run by CNG, said transport operators.

Passenger fare has been increased nine times since 1990 due to fuel price hike, according to officials of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Hackers compromised SWIFT software

Says UK defence contractor; SWIFT says its platform at BB not impacted

STAR REPORT

The cyber criminals who stole \$81 million from Bangladesh Bank probably hacked into software from the SWIFT financial platform that is at the heart of the global financial system, British defence contractor BAE Systems said yesterday.

However, global financial messaging services provider SWIFT suggested its platform at the BB was not impacted.

The BAE has published its findings on its official website.

The British company believed it discovered the malware that the hackers used to manipulate SWIFT client software known as Alliance Access.

The BAE research shows that the SWIFT software on the bank computers was probably compromised in order to erase records of illicit transfers, according to Reuters.



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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-20 12-45 4-45 6-29 8-00
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-00 6-34 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Activists of left-leaning student organisations stop a motorbike and a rickshaw at Shahbagh intersection in the capital during their countrywide half-day strike demanding arrest of the killers of Sohagi Jahan Tonu.

TONU MURDER Students block roads during half-day hartal

STAR REPORT

Students blocked roads, brought out processions and held rallies as a half-day hartal was enforced yesterday across the country, protesting the government's "failure" to arrest the killers of Sohagi Jahan Tonu.

Progressive Students' Alliance and Anti-Imperialist Students' Union, two major alliances of 11 left-leaning student bodies, who called the nationwide strike from 6:00am to 12:00 noon, blocked Dhaka's key intersection Shahbagh yesterday.

Demanding trial of all murders, forced disappearances and rapes, including the killing of Tonu, around 200 protesters brought out a procession and held a rally at Shahbagh.

Pro-hartal activists blockaded Dhaka-Aricha highway in front of

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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British astronaut runs marathon in space

AFP, London

British astronaut Tim Peake ran a marathon in space in record time on Sunday, strapped into a treadmill on the International Space Station as thousands ran the London Marathon below.

Peake opened the race by counting down in a video message as runners waited at the start line in the British capital.

He then joined them 400 kilometres above earth on a simultaneous feat on board the space station, wearing weights on his body to counter the

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত বিমান যাত্রী সাধারণের সার্বিক নিরাপত্তার স্বার্থে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে ব্যবহারযোগ্য সামগ্রী ছাড়া কোন প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য বহন করার ব্যাপারে নিরুৎসাহিত করা হলো। এ বিষয়ে আপনাদের সবার সহযোগীতা একান্ত কাম্য।

বাংলাদেশ বেসামরিক বিমান চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষ

নথি নং: সিএবি/পিআর-১৫৬/২০১৬/৭২৫ তারিখ: ২১/০৪/২০১৬খ্রিঃ

23 die eating sweets

AFP, Lahore

At least 23 people have died and dozens of others fell ill in central Pakistan after eating sweets which police suspect were tainted with pesticides, officials said yesterday.

Umar Hayat, a resident of the Karor Lal Esan area in Punjab province, bought the baked confectionery on April 17 to distribute among friends and family after the

birth of his grandson.

But their celebrations turned out to be short-lived when ten people died on the same day.

"The death toll from consumption of the sweets has now risen to 23, and 52 people are still being treated at various hospitals," local police official Munir Ahmed told AFP yesterday.

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