



SPOTLIGHT FOR VICTIMS

How Boston Globe covered child abuse by Catholic priests?

SEE WIDE ANGEL

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

Roundtable discusses today's perception of beauty

PAGE 20



Vitamin A rice now a reality

Field trial shows high promise, people may get it by 2018

REAZ AHMAD

The first field trial of the Golden Rice in Bangladesh has yielded promising results, triggering prospect of the vitamin A-rich grain's release as early as 2018.

Two months after harvesting the Bangladeshi version of Golden Rice line, GR2E BRRI dhan29, scientists at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) found that rice grains retained 10 µg/g (micrograms/gram) beta carotene which is good enough to address vitamin-A deficiency (VAD).

Beta carotene, also known as pro-vitamin A, is a substance that the human body can convert to vitamin A.

With this development, a long wait is nearly over for rice breeders who have been trying since 1999 for a varietal development and release of Golden Rice, long being touted by the scientist fraternity as a key remedy to acute VAD problem.

According to the World Health Organization's global VAD database, one in every five pre-school children in Bangladesh is vitamin A-deficient. Among the pregnant women, 23.7 percent suffer from VAD.

BRRI scientists analysed the post-harvest data collected from the first field test conducted on GR2E BRRI dhan29 during the last Boro season (November 2015 - May 2016) and drew the conclusion just recently that the results are positive.

"Two months after harvest, we've found an average of over 10 µg/g beta

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON / AMRAN HOSSAIN

Hawkers and a Dhaka South City Corporation team during a clash at Gulistan around 3:00pm yesterday. The clash broke out after the city corporation launched a drive to remove illegal makeshift shops from the pavements and the underpass market area there. Inset, a hawker being beaten with a hockey stick after he went to his demolished shop. Story on page 2.



Music album, photo-book launched

A CORRESPONDENT

A music album and a photo-book from the winning entries of Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life were launched yesterday at the Westin Dhaka.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu attended the event as chief guest, while Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Abrar Anwar, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, were present along with many noted cultural personalities.

Celebrating Life, now in its 9th year, is a theme-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Insensitivity taints good gesture

Dinajpur rape victim's family details posted on Facebook to highlight DC's financial help; second culprit still on the run

STAR REPORT

With the five-year-old Dinajpur rape victim writhing in pain at a city hospital, some people's insensitivity to the issue and their callousness in revealing the identity of the victim and her family members have drawn flak from many.

While the girl, brutally tortured and raped nine days ago, is under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, a freelance photojournalist posted on his Facebook page a photograph of Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner giving financial help to the victim's grandfather.

Several local newspapers and online portals carried the photograph, mentioning the names of the victim and her family members.

This irked many people, who expressed displeasure on social media network and other platforms.

Meanwhile, Saiful Islam, 42, one of the two alleged rapists, was placed on a seven-day police remand, while law enforcers are still looking for the other alleged rapist.

Talking to The Daily Star, Marufa Begum, secretary of Dinajpur unit of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said the girl and her family members are now socially humiliated by the publication of the photograph on Thursday.

She criticised the Dinajpur newspapers for publishing the photograph, which showed DC Mir Khairul Alam handing over a cheque of Tk 10,000 to the grandfather of the rape victim.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Ghoshiakhali channel reopened

PM blasts green activists for not protesting its closure for 21 years

UNB, Dhaka

Taking a swipe at green activists for their silence about keeping the Mongla-Ghoshiakhali river channel inoperative for long 21 years, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said they were very much vocal against Rampal Power Plant.

"Environmentalists are now making a hue and cry although the power plant [at Rampal] is being set up 14 kilometres off the Sundarbans. But I never heard them uttering a word when the Ghoshiakhali channel was shut alongside closing down the access points of some 234 connecting canals and leasing them out for shrimp enclosures," she said.

The PM was addressing a function while inaugurating the re-excavated Mongla-Ghoshiakhali river channel alongside 11 new dredgers and 76 auxiliary vessels from the Gono Bhaban through videoconference.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Dead dolphins litter Kuakata



SOHRAB HOSSAIN with ANDREW EAGLE

At Kuakata Beach in Patuakhali is the tragic end of a beautiful story. Along the shoreline dozens of dolphin carcasses are in various stages of decay. For locals and tourists alike the stench overpower, makes beachfront enjoyment impossible. Beyond being an inconvenience, the dead dolphins demonstrate what can happen when wild creatures come into contact with human activity: when entangled in fishing nets, the air-breathing dolphins drown.

In Patuakhali, as in coastal areas across the country, fishing communities have inherited the knowledge of generations. They know the sea. Among them it wouldn't be easy to find one who rejoices in a dolphin's death. It's unsurprising.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Icons in ICT to be honoured today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star and Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services will honour four individuals and four organisations in recognition of their contribution to the country's ICT industry, now seen as the next big export sector after garment.

Finance Minister AMA Muhiith will hand out the awards as the chief guest at the Daily Star ICT Awards ceremony, to be held at the Le Meridien hotel in Dhaka today.

The programme will be organised in association with BRAC Bank and TtE Dhaka. Le Meridien Dhaka is the hospitality partner for the event, organisers said in a statement yesterday.

A total of 156 entries were made, from which the jury panel shortlisted 44

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



The Mirpur wicket was under cover on Thursday night due to rain and if this scenario prevails today, the opening day of the second Test between Bangladesh and England, it will be a big disappointment for fans.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

BD-ENG 2ND TEST Rain threatens opening day

SPORTS REPORTER

When the second Test between Bangladesh and England starts at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today, cricketers and fans alike will still be reeling from the hangover of that magnificent opening Chittagong Test that the visitors won by 22 runs after four days and 19 minutes of spills and thrills.

While the expectation would be for the home team to start in earnest after that near miss in what was their best-ever display in a five-day contest against a top team, the game in question however is set to partly be a victim of cyclone Kyant, whose activities in the Bay have already caused enough rainfall in Dhaka on Thursday and a

DOA MAHFIL



Late Amina Kaiser Ally

The doa Mahfil of Late Amina Kaiser Ally will be held at Gulshan Society Jame Masjid on Friday, 28 October 2016, after Asar Prayers.

Amina Kaiser Ally wife of Syed Kaiser Ally breathed her last on 25 October 2016. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for her departed soul.

Her Grieving Family