

DHAKA COLLEGE CLASH
BCL suspends
19 activists
 DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday suspended 19 of its leaders and activists following a factional clash at Dhaka College that left three injured on Saturday evening.

BCL central committee came up with the organisational step at an emergency meeting, according to a press release issued yesterday.

SM Jakir Hossain, BCL central committee general secretary, told The Daily Star, "We have suspended our 19 activists as they were found guilty of the crime as per our investigation. We also asked the law enforcement agency to take legal action against the culprits."

The suspended leaders and activists are BCL Dhaka College unit convener Noor Alam Bhuiyan Raju; four joint conveners - Hiron Bhuiyan, Shahjahan Bhuiyan Shamim, Saleh Ahmed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Farmer Jamal Uddin busy tending his Hyacinth Bean field. His is a story of success. Jamal has already been known as a 'successful' farmer in Sylhet and has inspired many others towards engaging in cultivating the profitable winter vegetable. He said he has sold beans worth Tk 3 lakh last year on his 40 bighas of land and eyeing more profit this year. Locally known as 'Faras' or 'Jhar Shim', the vegetable is quite popular in the area and often being exported to various countries after drying them in the sun. The fields of Gowainghat, Zakiganj, Beanibazar, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and many other areas turn green during this time when many farmers remain busy nursing these vegetable patches. The photo was taken at Lakherpar Math of Jaflong Union in Gowainghat upazila on Saturday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

Gaibandha
Santals among
71 get HC bail
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to 71 people, most of whom are Santals of Gobindaganj in Gaibandha, for six weeks in four cases filed before the clash on November 6 last year.

The order came after hearing eight bail petitions filed by the accused in connection with the cases filed in July, August and September last year.

Petitioners' lawyer Advocate Abu Obaidur Rahman said the Rangpur Sugar Mill authorities and police filed the four cases against 71 petitioners, most of whom are Santals, on different charges including illegally constructing houses and besieging a police camp.

On November 6 last year, police along with the mill staff reportedly clashed with the ethnic minorities during a drive to evict them from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BNP extends
support to
Rampal hartal
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday extended its support to a half-day hartal called by the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports for January 26 demanding cancellation of the Rampal power plant project near the Sundarbans.

BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed announced it at a press conference at Nayapalton party office in the capital.

The national committee on November 26 said they will enforce the half-day shutdown in Dhaka if the government does not scrap the Rampal project.

In 2009, Bangladesh and India signed a deal to set up

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

RULES ON HEALTH WARNING

Most tobacco companies
don't comply fully: Survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 92 percent of tobacco producers do not fully comply with the government rules of printing Graphical Health Warning (GHW) on tobacco packets or containers, according to a non-government survey.

This non-compliance is a major barrier in achieving the government's goals of building public awareness against tobacco use, said the study.

Six anti-tobacco campaigners conducted the survey in November last year. The findings were shared at a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The organisations are Progga, National Heart Foundation, Association for Community Development, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Shimantik, and Ipsha.

The survey was conducted at 120 tobacco-selling shops in eight divisional cities from November 16 to 23 last year.

The indicators include printing GHW on at least 50 percent of the packets or containers; printing GHW on both sides of the packets or containers; printing only government approved image and message as GHW; updating the GHW image every three months; following government approved ratio in printing GHW image and warning texts and others.

It was found that over 92 percent of tobacco producers do not comply with all the indicators in picturing GHW; rather they partially follow the rules.

Besides, 19.2 percent of tobacco products do not have any GHW on the packets or containers, said Hasan

Shariat, an official of Progga, while presenting the findings.

The study recommended strict monitoring, law enforcement and mobile court drives to implement the rules.

Addressing the function, National Professor Brig Gen (ret) Abdul Malek, also founder of National Heart Foundation, stressed the need for launching a social movement to control tobacco use.

Coordinator of National Tobacco Control Cell Muhammad Ruhul Quddus said the government was planning to formulate a policy for discouraging tobacco cultivation in farmlands.

The authorities concerned are conducting mobile court drives on a regular basis to enforce the rules that make

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Meeting to ease
BSMMU 'tension'
disrupts services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Healthcare services at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) were disrupted again yesterday as the university administration kept all the chairmen and senior professors of the university busy in a meeting for two and a half hours.

BSMMU VC Prof Kamrul Hasan Khan held the meeting at the university's Milton Hall at 10:00am to discuss way outs of the past three day's tensions between the two factions of the university doctors.

The tension has been prevailing as the VC reportedly assaulted Pro-VC [Academic] Prof ASM Zakaria Swapan on Thursday over publication of a report on nurses' recruitment in a Bangla-language daily recently.

Many doctors joined the meeting keeping their patients and academic affairs at bay, meetingsources told The Daily Star.

At the meeting both the VC and Pro-VC traded blames. VC termed the pro-VC "criminal and goon" while the pro-VC termed the VC "corrupt", they added.

Pointing out different corruption allegations against the VC, the pro-VC urged all the professors to protest from their

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Police Week
begins today
132 cops to be awarded
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid festivity, a five-day Police Week 2017 begins today at Rajarbagh Police Lines ground in the capital with a promise to combat militancy and drug.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the programme, according to a press release of police headquarters.

Like previous year, Shamsunnahar, police superintendent of Chandpur, will lead the parade.

She will also get the President Police Medal (PPM-service) for her outstanding contribution to controlling violence against women and children, child marriage and narcotics abuse in Chandpur since last year.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PM for extracurricular
activities in schools

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the schools to give equal importance to extracurricular activities like sports, music, cultural events in schools alongside education to flourish the genius of the children.

The premier also urged the teachers and guardians to be attentive towards children for keeping them away from terrorism, militancy and drug.

She was distributing prizes among the winners of the 46th National School and Madrasa Winter Sports Competition at the capital's Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday morning.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presided over the function.

Primarily around 2.5 lakh students from 16,101 primary schools and 7,611 madrasas took part in 60 events of the competition organised by the Ministry of Education. Out of them, 808 students including 344 girls from 184 educational institutions competed in four groups at national level held from January 16 to 21.

Sports competitions were being arranged



Prime minister distributes prizes. PHOTO: BSS

Dhaka will
continue to
foster regional
cooperation

FM tells outgoing Saarc secretary general
 DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali has said Bangladesh always attaches high importance to the ethos of Saarc and will continue to play a constructive role in fostering regional cooperation for betterment of the millions of people of this region.

He told this when outgoing Secretary General of Saarc Arjun Bahadur Thapa called on him at the foreign ministry yesterday.

During the meeting, the foreign minister congratulated the secretary general on successful completion of his tenure and appreciated his valuable contribution to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Medical waste originating from hospitals being dumped in front of Dhaka Medical College without any safety measures violating environmental rules and laws. Such unsafe practice can hasten the spread of some serious infectious virus and other noxious diseases. The photo was taken Thursday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Samajtantrik Chhatra Front brings out a procession at TSC of Dhaka University yesterday, urging the government to republish the textbooks having communal and conservative contents.

PHOTO: STAR

Civil servants should
enhance performance

Gowher Rizvi tells regional confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People will lose trust in the government if quality of public service deteriorates, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi said yesterday, calling upon civil servants to improve their performance.

"If trust in our government is lost, the door will be open for the populists and the dictators and so forth," he said, and described such a situation as "dangerous".

People evaluate a government through the services, the political scientist told a regional conference, "Government Performance Management System (GPMS)", at the capital's Sonargaon hotel yesterday.

The cabinet division, Brac Institute of Governance and Development, and Brac University organised the event in association with The World Bank.

Rizvi said the Bangladesh government was committed to improving quality of services, and introducing GPMS in 2015 was part of that goal.

Since 2015, the secretary of every ministry has been signing an Annual Performance



Speakers at the regional conference.

PHOTO: STAR

Agreement (APA) with the cabinet secretary, in which the ministry sets targets for a year and rates the performance at the yearend. Its objectives include improving overall performance, transparency, accountability and effective use of resources.

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury said the role of civil servants was crucial in social transformation. "They can be heroes in their communities if they work seriously," he added.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

DSCC to remove
illegal structures
from Beribadh,
recover canal

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) will carry out an eviction drive in phases to recover the Nandipara Trimohoni canal in the capital on February 6.

Besides, the DSCC also plans to conduct eviction drives on both sides of Beribadh (embankment) on Babubazar to Rayerbazaar Sikder Medical College to remove illegal structures on February 9, DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon announced at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting attended by Dhaka District Administration, Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) and other representatives concerned, he said.

Briefing reporters, the DSCC mayor said Nandipara Trimohoni canal will be recovered as part of the prime

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1