

# Daulatdia Ghat may get swept away anytime

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

The Daulatdia berthing point in Rajbari may get swept away anytime due to erosion by the Padma, which is going to eventually cause a disruption of Paturia-Daulatdia ferry service. Necessary steps are needed immediately, said officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC). During a visit yesterday, this correspondent found Pontoon No-3 at Daulatdia under water. Due to the rise in water level, erosion, and a lack of maintenance of an approach road connecting the ferry-berthing point at Daulatdia, it becomes a tough job to keep the ferry service normal, said Abdus Sattar, a manager (marine), BIWTC. Shafiqul Islam, a manager (commerce) of BIWTC, said the water has increased by four feet in the river in the last three days. Pontoon No-4 at Daulatdia remained dysfunctional for 16 hours on Friday as it went under water, he said, adding, Pontoon No-3 and 4 are under serious threat of erosion. Portions of land between Pontoon No-2 and 3 and on the eastern side of the Pontoon No-4 already went into the river, he said. Pontoon No-5 at Paturia berthing point is also under the threat, he added. Bangladesh Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Roads and Highways Department (RHD) SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A pontoon partially under water at Daulatdia as water continues to rise in the Padma. Pontoon no. 3 and 4 of the ferry ghat in Rajbari have already sunk, while the bank is at the risk of collapse anytime. The Paturia-Daulatdia is a major river route connecting Dhaka and its surrounding districts with the country's south-west. The photo was taken yesterday.



## VANDALISM, ARSON CASES HC stays trial of Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the trial proceedings against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in two separate cases of vandalism and arson cases. The court also issued two separate rules asking the government to explain why the proceedings of the cases against Khaleda should not be scrapped.

The HC bench of Justice Md Miftah Uddin Choudhury and Justice ANM Bashir Ullah came up with the order and rules after hearing two separate petitions filed by Khaleda seeking stay of trial proceedings of the cases. Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzaman Kabir told The Daily Star that the government would move appeals before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for staying the HC orders.

The cases were filed with Darussalam Police Station on January 29 and February 4 in 2015 during anti-government agitation enforced by BNP-led alliance. Trial courts later took cognisance of the charges of the cases after police submitted charge sheets to the court, he said. Khaleda recently filed two petitions with the HC challenging the legality of the trial proceedings of the cases. Earlier, the HC stayed trial proceedings against Khaleda in seven other cases including a sedition case. Advocate AJ Mohammad Ali, Barrister AM Mahub Uddin Khokon and Barrister Shanjid Siddique appeared for Khaleda. SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## DIPAN MURDER

### DB asked to submit probe report June 7

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the 16th time asked the Detective Branch of police (DB) to submit on June 7 the probe report of the case filed over the killing of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan in October 2015. Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nabi passed the order after Fazlur Rahman, a DB inspector and the investigation officer, failed to submit any probe report yesterday. Earlier on April 4, the same court asked the detectives to submit the probe report by yesterday. Dipan, 43, publisher of SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## COLLEGE ADMISSION STARTS TOMORROW Students worried at limited seats, possible complexities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 14.31 lakh students and their parents have begun worrying as the admission to the colleges begins tomorrow through submission of applications via online or SMS. This time, education boards will select one college for each of the admission seekers on the basis of his/her choice of institution and results of SSC examinations. Like previous years, there will be no admission test, according to the admission guideline to eleventh standard for 2017-18 academic session. A student can apply up to 10 institutions, of which one would be given to him or her on merit, said the guideline issued yesterday. The students will have the option to migrate to another college subject to vacancies. The admission seekers and parents are worried over getting admitted to their first choice of institutions due to limited seats. The education ministry officials said there will be no crisis of seats in the colleges across the country. "I'll keep my fingers crossed and hope that I would be able to get enrolled at a college of my preference," said Niloy Ahmed, an admission seeker. Some 14,31,722 students passed this year's SSC examination under 10 education boards. Of them, 1,04,761 students got GPA-5. The students and their parents fear of any possible complexities in the admission process like the one in 2015 when the government first introduced the online admission to all colleges. But due to a lack of preparation on the government's part and technical glitches, the entire system turned out to be a nightmare for more than 11 lakh applicants and their parents. The major problem that the students faced was the wrong selection of colleges made by the boards. However, the officials at Dhaka Education Board said learning lessons from SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## 9th wage board for journalists soon: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 9th wage board for journalists will be announced soon, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu told parliament yesterday. In reply to a supplementary question, the minister said, "A process for constitution of the 9th wage board for journalists and employees working in the media has already started with Justice Nizamul Haque as its head." Inu also said the names of representatives of the journalists and employees have been received, but that of the newspaper owners' representatives are yet to come. He said the owners are being reminded by the government to send the names. He hoped that the names would come soon.

## Judges must be free from worries

### Justice Muhammad Imman Ali tells seminar on judicial independence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Judges must be free from all worries to ensure justice and the maintenance of the rule of law, Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, said yesterday. "I would venture to suggest that independence of a judge is the sine qua non of any justice delivery system. Equally important is the public perception that the judiciary is independent," he said, while speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of a three-day seminar on judicial independence held in the capital. The Supreme Court of Bangladesh, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association jointly organised the seminar at the Supreme Court conference room participated by some 40 lower court judges of the country. Justice Imman Ali said truly independent judiciary is one that has full autonomy in the decision-making process, subject only to the bounds prescribed by the law and the constitution. "An impartial judge is one who sees only the evidence SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Wearing sashes with awareness slogans, four Girls-in-Rover talking to pedestrians about women empowerment and the importance of maternal and child health at the capital's Farmgate. The four make up the first all-girl team of Bangladesh Scouts, Dhaka District Rover. The team yesterday set out on a five-day 150km trip, during which they will raise awareness about women's issues. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## MOULVIBAZAR WAR CRIMES

### Four indicted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-1 yesterday framed two charges against four Moulvibazar men for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War, 1971. The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque also fixed July 4 for starting the trial with the opening statement of the prosecution and recording the testimony of the prosecution witness. The accused are Akmal Ali Talukder, 76, Abdun Nur Talukder alias Lal Miah, 62, Anis Miah, 76, and Abdul Musabbir Miah, 64, of Rajnagar upazila. Akmal is in jail since November 26, 2015 while the rest are on the run. On May 31 last year, the prosecution pressed the charges against the four for their alleged involvement in two incidents. One of which involved looting of and arson attacks on 132 houses, killing of 59 people and rape of six women of Panchgaon village in the upazila between May 7 and 8. Another incident involved looting of and arson attacks on four houses and abduction and killing of two people of SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

## Against all odds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Her name is Rabeya Khatun. Not only the 15-year-old had to worry about preparing for this year's SSC examination, but also had to fight against her family who wanted to get her married off due to hardship. But defying all adversities, Rabeya went on studying. She also supported her family by tutoring others. Her determination and hard work paid off. She achieved GPA-5 in this year's SSC from Nabarun High School in Muktagacha upazila of Mymensingh. Her father Jalal Uddin is a construction worker of Paratongi Uttarpara in Muktagacha municipal area and her mother Rezia Khatun worked as a house help to support the five member family. "The family tried to marry her off several times. But she protested and continued her study," said headteacher Enamul Haque. He said in December last year, the family fixed her marriage again. "But when she informed us, we stopped it. Due to poverty and unable to pay for her schooling, the family took the decision." Later, the school authorities paid for her fees, he informed. "We also spoke to her parents and persuaded them not to marry her off at such an early age." "After seeing the SSC results, my family became elated," said Rabeya. She said she had to struggle a lot to reach this stage.



Rabeya Khatun

## N'GANJ 7-MURDER

### HC gets verdict, case documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The paper books of the sensational Narayanganj seven-murder cases reached the High Court yesterday from the Bangladesh Government Press for hearing the death reference and appeal of the case. On completion of the relevant procedure, the file regarding the case will be placed before the chief justice next week. Then Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha may assign a HC bench for hearing the death reference and appeal of the case. Additional Registrar of the High Court Sabbir Faiz told The Daily Star yesterday. The paper books have been prepared on priority basis as per instruction from the chief justice so that the death reference and appeals of the case are settled quickly. A paper book contains all the details of a case, trial proceedings, statements, evidence, verdicts and other documents. The book is necessary for the HC to hear and dispose of a death reference or an appeal. The HC received the death reference of the case from the trial court on January 22. If a lower court sentences any person to death, its judgement is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence. The case documents and the judgement reach as death reference to the HC from the lower court in seven days after the verdict is pronounced. Earlier on January 16, the District and Sessions Judge's Court in Narayanganj found 35 people, including 25 former Rab officials and expelled ruling Awami League man Nur Hossain, guilty of abduction and murder of seven people and destroying evidence in April 2014. The court handed down death penalty to 26 people, including 16 former Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) men, and jailed nine others for various terms.

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