

# Act now to save banks from graft

## Speakers urge govt at a discussion

Noted citizens, including economists and former caretaker government advisers, yesterday urged the government to ensure punishment of perpetrators of crimes in the banking sector.

Or else, graft would destroy the sector, they said.

The banking sector is struggling because the boards of directors of banks are overtly politicised, banks lack honest officials, and above all the central bank itself has been exposed to vulnerabilities, they said at a discussion.

Socio-political platform Nagorik Oikya arranged the discussion on corruption at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said there was discipline in the banking sector and banks were running smoothly until 2009. The disorder that followed is an ominous sign, he said.

"Bringing politics into the board rooms and inside banks cannot be acceptable under any circumstances," he added.

He said there were good norms and regulations for the banking sector but those were not being properly followed.

Despite unravelling of several scams, the government did not take any visible steps, he said, urging that honest and dedicated bankers be given opportunities and the corrupt ones punished.

Noted economist Prof Anu Mohammad said corruption in banks has reached such a level that now people are nonchalant when they hear about Tk 100 or Tk 200 crore scams.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



A garbage truck goes under a partially-collapsed makeshift arch near Doyel Chattar on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. The part of the arch, erected in January ahead of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair, fell on Sunday night. Although the fair ended on February 28, the authorities were yet to remove the structure.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## SL take on Ind in tri-series opener today

MAZHAR UDDIN from Colombo

Sri Lankan cricket is looking to regain its pride and the Nidahas Trophy has emerged as the ideal platform to stage a turnaround as the country celebrates its 70th anniversary of independence and also Sri Lanka Cricket's 70th year when the hosts take on India in the tournament opener at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo today. The match is scheduled to start from 7:30 pm (Bangladesh time).

The third team in the tri-nation tournament is Bangladesh, and the Tigers will play their first match against India on Thursday.

The intensity among the officials of Sri Lanka Cricket yesterday, as they were busy putting the final touches to decorate the stadium

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



(1936-2018)

## Oral saline inventor no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anyone suffering from diarrhoea today knows oral rehydration solution (ORS) found in packets at any drug store is the panacea. Even if that is not available, people know they can make it at home -- mixing a fistful of sugar or molasses and three pinches of salt with half litre of water.

The simple solution has saved millions of lives worldwide, especially children at risk of contracting severely dehydrating, fatal diarrhoea. British medical journal The Lancet called ORS potentially the most important medical advance of the 20th century.

One, as a Bangladeshi, can be proud of the fact that one of the scientists who contributed to the development of ORS is a Bangladeshi. He is Dr Rafiqul Islam.

The former chief physician of icddr's Dhaka hospital breathed his last at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka yesterday morning. He had a heart attack last month and also had

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## QUOTA IN CIVIL SERVICE

# HC snubs plea for re-evaluation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition that sought re-evaluation and scrapping of the existing quota system in the civil service, as the writ petitioners are not affected by the system and it is a policy decision of the government.

The court passed the order saying that the petition was not acceptable for the two reasons.

Following the HC order, the quota system in government service will remain in force, petitioners' lawyer Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan told The Daily Star.

He said his clients would move an appeal before the Supreme Court's Appellate Division against the HC order.

The bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan came up with the order after hearing arguments from the writ petitioners' counsel and the deputy attorney general concerned.

During the hearing, Aklas prayed to the HC to issue a rule questioning the legality of the government decision to keep the quota system in government jobs.

He said grandchildren of the freedom fighters are easily getting jobs due to the quota system, but many brilliant students are being deprived of the jobs because of the system.

The quota system is discriminatory and a violation of the constitution, he said, mentioning that a student of Dhaka University took his life as he failed to get a government job "due to the system".

The court said the three writ petitioners include two journalists and a university student, but they were not aggrieved for the quota system as they did not apply for any government job.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder opposed the petition, citing two decisions of the Appellate Division that had ruled that keeping the quota system in the service is the policy decision of the government.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



## Oscars show salutes #MeToo movement

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Women filmmakers and artists of colour celebrated a year of diversity at the 90th Academy Awards on Sunday, saluting the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment and urging under-represented artists to seize the momentum.

A segment dedicated to the issues was narrated by Ashley Judd, Salma Hayek and Annabella Sciorra, three of the dozens of women who have accused Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein of sexual misconduct, helping touch off the #MeToo movement.

Weinstein has denied having non-consensual sex with anyone.

The women described 2017, which included blockbuster and critically acclaimed films that were not centred on white men - from female-led action movie "Wonder Woman" to racial satire "Get Out" - as a move toward a more inclusive film industry.

"The changes we are witnessing are being driven by the powerful sound of new voices, of different voices, of our

MORE ON PAGE 9

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Protests rage on countrywide

PM visits Zafar Iqbal; IGP says the attacker self-radicalised

"The rise of militancy and fundamentalism is the outcome of religion-based politics. Forming strategic alliances with religion-based political parties for votes and reconciling with them only encourages these forces."

RASHED KHAN MENON  
PRESIDENT, WORKERS PARTY OF BANGLADESH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protests and condemnations continued to pour in yesterday over the attack on Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, an eminent writer and a professor at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST).

People across the country held human chains and rallies, observed work stoppage and organised cultural programmes protesting the attack and demanding exemplary punishment to all those involved.

Prof Iqbal was stabbed at his university around 5:30pm on Saturday and suffered injuries in the back of his head, one in his back and another in the left hand.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid him a visit at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka around 12:45pm yesterday.

She stayed there for 15 to 20 minutes, Maj Gen Munshi Md Mojibur Rahman, chief cardiac surgeon and consultant surgeon general of Bangladesh Armed Forces, told The Daily Star.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talked to Prof Iqbal and also inquired about his health.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## It's an attack on every intellectual

Editors' Council says about the attack on Zafar Iqbal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council, an organisation of editors of the country's leading newspapers, yesterday strongly condemned the attack on renowned writer Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal.

The Council expects the government and law enforcement agencies to make serious efforts to control militancy in the country with an iron hand.

It made the call in a press statement signed by General Secretary of the organisation Mahfuz Anam, also editor of The Daily Star.

Prof Zafar Iqbal was a very popular teacher, writer and a noted scientist. His writings fascinate children and teenagers. He also regularly writes columns for newspapers, the statement said.

He has been working relentlessly on issues of the Liberation War and demanding trial of war criminals, the statement read.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## ASSAULT BY TEACHER Madrasa boy dies of injuries in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A madrasa boy who was allegedly beaten up severely by one of his teachers in Bhaluka upazila died of his injuries at a Dhaka hospital early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Tauhidul Islam, 11, only son of Kawsar Ahmed of Panchgaon village.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



## China planning £2b 'intelligent super highway'

MAIL ONLINE

China has announced its plan to build an 'intelligent super highway' for self-driving vehicles.

The 100-mile expressway is expected to connect three major cities in China, which already has one of the largest highway networks in the world.

The project would cost 17.4 billion yuan (£2 billion), according to Chinese media.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

মেলা! মেলা! মেলা!

ব্যাংকার-এসএমই নারী উদ্যোক্তা সমাবেশ ও পণ্য প্রদর্শনী মেলা-২০১৮

সময়কালঃ ০৮ মার্চ-১০ মার্চ, ২০১৮

স্থানঃ বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি, ঢাকা

মেলাটি উদ্বোধন করবেন বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদের মাননীয় স্পীকার ড. শিরীন শারমিন চৌধুরী

মেলায় সবাই সাদরে আমন্ত্রিত আয়োজনেঃ বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক