



Clockwise from bottom left, Demanding a reform in the quota system, students chant slogans with some of them holding flowers as a symbol of peaceful protest in Shahbagh area yesterday. A jobseeker holds a placard reading "NOT 56% ONLY 10%". Demonstrators block the intersection. Smoke surrounds a group of agitators after law enforcers lobbed teargas canisters on them. Police stand guard after dispersing the demonstrators.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, PALASH KHAN, RASHED SHUMON

Diarrhoea sees sharp rise

Affects capital, surrounding areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The capital and its surrounding areas are suddenly witnessing a phenomenal rise in diarrhoea patients. Diarrhoea cases usually increase during the summer, but this year the disease is being spread even before the summer reached its peak. Higher temperatures in summer are suitable for growth of bacteria, virus or parasites in water and food. Consumption of such unsafe water or food primarily contributes to the spread of diarrhoea in summer time, according to experts. By far, the highest number of diarrhoea patients taking admission at icddr -- the world's largest diarrhoeal disease hospital -- in one day during the first week of April had been 450. But this year, since April 2

till yesterday, the hospital has been seeing close to or higher than 700 admissions a day. Iccdr,b admitted 752 patients on April 3, 788 on April 6 and 735 on April 7 -- a sign of unusual rise of the disease before peak of summer, said icddr,b officials. By 6:00pm yesterday, a total of 578 people were admitted to the hospital with diarrhoea symptoms. AKM Tariful Islam Khan, media manager at icddr,b, said 70 percent of the patients are adults and the rest are children. Among all, some 35 percent are suffering from severe dehydration. Patients are coming from different parts of Dhaka and some are coming from the periphery of the city, he said, adding that the majority are from Jatrabari, Kadamtoli,

Dakkhin Khan, Badda, Lalbagh, Mirpur, Ramna and Mohammadpur areas. Dr Azharul Islam Khan, chief physician and head of hospitals at the icddr,b, said many of the patients at the hospital reported to have drunk water, supplied in their areas, that emits foul odour. "... Based on patients' accounts, we think the unusual rise in diarrhoea cases is possibly due to the compromise in water quality." "The water supplied by Wasa cannot become contaminated all on a sudden. What we suspect is that there have been development works on many roads in recent days. And it's possible that the water pipes in some of [those] places might have developed leaks, resulting in the contamination of

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Fire breaks out at Gulshan Shopping Centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at a market in the capital's Gulshan-1 yesterday evening, burning goods in at least five furniture shops. The fire originated on the first floor of six-storied Gulshan Shopping Centre around 7:25pm. It was doused by seven firefighting units around 9:30pm, said fire service officials. No one was hurt as the market was closed, said Gulshan police. The fire might have originated from an electric short-circuit, said Faisalur Rahman, senior station officer of Tejgaon Fire Service Station. A three-member probe body was formed.

Release trade union leaders

Demands int'l garment workers' rights body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC), a global workers' rights body, called for an immediate release of seven trade union leaders of the Garment Workers Trade Union Centre (GWTUC) in Bangladesh from prison. In a statement issued on Saturday, the CCC said the union leaders were detained last week on the basis of false charges filed by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the garment makers' platform. The CCC called for the release of the detainees including Joly Talukdar, KM Mintu, Monjur Moin, Jalal Howladar, Lutfar Rahman and Md Shahjahan, all leaders of the GWTUC. The rights group also demanded release of Sazedur Rahman Shameem, a leader of Communist Party of Bangladesh, who was allegedly detained on April 1 after attending the court to request an extension of their bail.

Of the GWTUC leaders, only Montu Ghosh was granted bail. On April 5, the High Court agreed to grant an interim bail to the seven, but to date all remain in custody at Dhaka Central Jail, the CCC statement said. The BGMEA filed the complaint following a protest by the workers of the Ashiana garments factory. The protest took place outside the BGMEA headquarters on January 31. The workers claimed that they initially went to the building, along with a number of GWTUC leaders, after receiving a request to join a meeting with the owner of Ashiana garments. The meeting was for negotiating the payment of severance and unpaid wages, following the sudden and indefinite closure of the factory. According to the testimonies taken from those who were present that day, around 450 workers arrived at the proposed time. But the BGMEA security informed them that

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An excavator in operation at Gulshan-Banani lake. Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) is renovating the lake as part of its beautification project centring the lake. The photo was taken from Banani Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Rajib still traumatised

The Titumir College student, who lost hand in road accident, will take a few months to recover, say doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The physical condition of Government Titumir College student Rajib Hossain, who lost his right hand in a road mishap in the city five days ago, is improving, but he is mentally unwell, doctors said yesterday. "There is a fracture in his skull, and a small injury in the brain. However it's now improving," said Prof MS Zaman Shaheen, head of orthopedic department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). It will take a few months for Rajib to fully recover from the condition and then the operation to set an artificial hand can be conducted on him, they added. Rajib's aunt Jahanara Begum said the recent CT scan and blood test reports



which came yesterday indicated improvement in his health. However, Rajib is not taking his meals properly, she added. "He is traumatised," the aunt said. Prof MS Zaman said Rajib may behave differently due to his head injury. But it will recover gradually, he hoped. "We have to encourage him psychologically too," the doctor said. Eldest among three brothers, Rajib lost both his parents. He worked for a computer shop in the Old Dhaka to pay for his own education. The 22-year-old college student lost his hand after it got stuck between two speeding buses trying to overtake each other in the capital's Bangla Motor area on Tuesday. Profusely bleeding, he was taken to

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Govt to buy rice at Tk 38 per kg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to buy rice from millers at Tk 38 per kg this Boro season, which is 12 percent higher than the previous season. The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee at the secretariat, presided over by Food Minister Qamrul Islam. The minister said the production cost of rice in this Boro season was Tk 36 per kg and the purchasing price was fixed adding Tk 2. Last year, the production cost of Boro rice was Tk 31 per kg, he said.

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Killed for a memory card!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman was stabbed to death and two of her family members were injured following a quarrel with neighbours over a memory card in Chittagong city's Sadarghat area on Saturday night. Stabbed in the chest, Bali Begum, 25, was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said CMCH police. Her mother Baby Akther, 50, and brother Suman, 28, were undergoing treatment at the hospital with stab injuries in different parts of their bodies, they said. Nezam Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sadarghat Police Station, told The Daily Star that Suman lent a mobile phone set to his neighbour Akramul Haque, 18, as the latter wanted to make a call. When Akram gave the cellphone back to Suman he refused to take it as he did not find a memory card. Akram told Suman that there was no memory card in the phone, triggering an altercation between them, said the OC. Later, the family members of both the two youths quarrelled when Akram's brother Joy, 20, stabbed Bali, said the police official. The other two were injured as they tried to save Bali. Police arrested Joy, his mother Mita Begum and brother Akram, said the OC.

Yaba made him millionaire

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Meet Nurul Huda. Not so long ago, he used to work as a helper of a bus. Day in day out, Nurul tended to travellers on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. Nurul, 39, is a millionaire now. It took him eight years to become one. Hailing from Khutakhali area of Chakaria upazila under Cox's Bazar, Nurul has properties in his home town as well as in Chittagong city under his and his wife's name. Not to mention, he owns a car and lives at Nasirabad Housing Society, a posh area in the port city. Though a man changing his fortune is always commendable, in Nurul's case it was something else. He resorted to peddling Yaba pills. But the law eventually caught up with him. Early yesterday, Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested Nurul Huda along with 10,000 Yaba pills from Chittagong city's Sholoshahar Gate-2 area. Police also arrested

his driver, Mohammed Karim, 27, who was his accomplice. "Nurul Huda is a listed Yaba peddler..." said Inspector Habibur Rahman of the detective branch, who led the drive. "While working as a bus helper, Nurul started the business and peddled the contraband pills from Teknaf to Chittagong. He knew the route very well." He sold the pills to individuals as well as other sellers in the port city, he added. "Based on secret information, we intercepted his car in front of a community centre and arrested the duo. The vehicle is registered under his wife's name." "Through selling Yaba, he accumulated a huge amount of wealth. He is also known as Nurul Huda Driver." Inspector Habib said one Mohammed Ullah, 35, hailing from Teknaf used to supply the pills to Nurul. Mohammed Ullah is an accused in a narcotics case filed with Bakalia Police Station. "We are trying to arrest him." Nurul is also an accused in two narcotics cases filed with Chandgaon and Chawakbazar police stations, said police sources.



Help save Rabeya

CITY DESK

Rabeya Basri, an 11th grader from Bagherpara upazila in Jessore, has been suffering from blood cancer (T-Lymphoblastic lymphoma), for the last four months. She is currently undergoing chemotherapy at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at ward 902, bed 45, under Professor Dr MA Khan, said a press release. Her father passed away recently and her mother has already sold all belongings to meet the expenses of the treatment. An additional TK 40 lakh is needed to cure her illness. Rabeya's family cannot afford her treatment any further and has requested all to come forward to save the girl. Financial assistance can be sent to: Name: Humayun Kabir, Saving A/C no: 20503166700097814, Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, KDA Avenue, Khulna. Mobile No: 01986-643328 (bKash), 01779-5461278 (Rocket).

Office of the Project Director
Strengthening of Hilsa Research in Riverine Station Chandpur Project
Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute

Call for Research Proposal

A GOB funded project entitled "Strengthening of Hilsa Research in Riverine Station Chandpur" has funding to conduct research on priority topics (see below), to better develop/update suitable management policy/plans for the hilsa fishery. The research should be demand-driven to the fishers, preferably the target groups residing in the nearby hilsa fishing/research sites, and designed to be of immediate use for improving hilsa management.

The Hilsa Research Project supports short to medium-term (24-36 months, initially 24 months) projects for any of its research themes (population dynamics & stock assessment; breeding biology; population structure using molecular techniques; early gonadal development in sub-adult hilsa; migration and recruitment pattern; biological productivity of riverine ecosystem; climate change impact on the geomorphology of hilsa ecosystems; development of value-added products; transportation, processing and handling for marketing; socioeconomic condition of hilsa fishers) achievable within the stipulated timeframe. Universities, research institutions, and relevant individual experts are invited to submit a full proposal for a research grant/award, subject to their availability of research facilities and expertise. Collaborative/joint research will get preference. Prescribed format are available at the Project Director's office or by e-mailing projecthilsa@gmail.com or accessing <http://www.fri.gov.bd>. Those entities with acceptable proposal will be invited to present of BFRI regional and central workshop. Proposal's that are incomplete, submitted late, or do not comply with the prescribed format will be rejected without explanation.

The deadline for submitting completed proposal's in prescribed format is 8th May, 2018 by 17:00 hours, as delivered by (a) soft copy (e-mail) to projecthilsa@gmail.com and (b) courier to the Project Director Office, Strengthening of Hilsa Research in Riverine Station Chandpur Project, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Riverine Station, Chandpur-3602, Cell No-01717 671819. The sealed envelope containing ten hard copies (one original and nine copies) should clearly indicate the full address of the candidate. For additional queries, please contact the above e-mail address.

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