

"MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME"

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

Whether for your home or the Pillars of Padma Bridge
We forge steels with the same expertise

SHAH CEMENT

AWARDED

ASIA RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD 2015

AREA

JUTE MILL WORKERS Fresh demo from Apr 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers of state-owned jute mills from across the country yesterday announced fresh demonstrations, including road blocks next week, to press home their nine-point demand.

They will hold rallies at 26 mills of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) on Friday, march on Sunday, and block roads and railways from 8:00am-12:00pm for four days from next Monday, SM Kamruzzaman Chunnu, general secretary of Bangladesh Jute Mill Workers League (BJMWL), told The Daily Star.

Since March 29, jute mill workers have been demonstrating for payment of arrears and other demands.

The demands include implementing the National Wage Scale-2015, paying gratuities, addressing insurance claims of retired and deceased workers and reinstating those who lost jobs during previous demonstrations.

Worker leaders and union representatives from the jute mills made the decisions after a daylong meeting at BJMWL's office in the capital.

If the demands are not met, rallies will be held at the entrances of the mills on April 24 and roads and railways will be blocked for six hours on April 27-29, Chunnu said.

"Our workers are going hungry for days. But the authorities [BJMC] do not pay the dues..." Abu Daud Din Mohammad, president of Khalishpur Jute Mills Employees Union, told The Daily Star.

Experts suggest that the government provides funds immediately to clear arrears in order to put an end to the stalemate.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Chhatra League men scamper as policemen backed up by a riot truck chase them at the main gate of Chittagong University yesterday. The men of the pro-ruling party student body had padlocked the gate to press home their four-point demand, including resignation of CU proctor.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

9 hurt as BCL men, cops clash at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least nine people, including five policemen, were injured as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and police clashed on Chittagong University campus yesterday.

The clash ensued around 11:50am near the university's main gate when BCL activists padlocked the gate as part of their indefinite strike and police asked them to unlock the gate.

Five policemen and four BCL men were hurt during the clash, said police, adding that they took first aid at the university medical centre.

On Saturday night, the BCL men in a Facebook post declared that they would go for an indefinite strike yesterday to press home their four-point demand, including resignation of Proctor Ali Asgar Chowdhury and withdrawal of Officer-in-Charge of Hathazari Police Station Belal Md Jahangir for filing a "false" arms case against six BCL activists of the CU unit.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

614 outlaws to surrender tomorrow

STAR REPORT

A total of 614 members of several outlaw gangs will surrender to police tomorrow in Pabna, said home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday.

Even 30 years ago, different members of various outlaw gangs held power in many places in the country but their numbers and strength have reduced significantly now, the minister said at the inauguration of the "International Training Course in Transnational Crime: SAARC Perspective" held at the Police Staff College in Mirpur.

Around 20 participants, including two each from India, Maldives and Bhutan, will take part in the two-week long training course.

The Public Security Division Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Hasina warns against exploiting Rohingyas

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday feared that vested quarters might exploit the frustrated Rohingya youths to materialise their ill motive.

"The young people who do not have any work are also not sure about their repatriation to their homeland and getting frustrated about their uncertain future. Vested groups can exploit those people for bad purposes," she said.

The prime minister expressed her apprehension while visiting Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom Mark Field, MP met her at her office.

She also said the international community should mount strong pressure so Myanmar takes back their citizens. "This is causing huge pressure in the area and the Rohingyas outnumbered the local people," she said.

The premier's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

He said Sheikh Hasina mentioned that

the plight of the Rohingyas would worsen further during the monsoon. In this connection she said that the government was preparing an island to relocate the Rohingyas temporarily for their better living.

Mentioning the relation between the UK and Bangladesh wonderful, she recalled the support of the UK government and its people for their support during the Liberation War.

The prime minister invited the UK entrepreneurs to come to Bangladesh with their investment.

Regarding the climate change issue she appreciated the UK for supporting Bangladesh. In this connection she said that the government has already constituted a Climate Fund with its own resource and is constructing various infrastructures in the coastal belt areas keeping in mind the climate change issues.

She has struggled all through her life for restoration of democracy in the country, Hasina said, adding media is enjoying total freedom in Bangladesh.

Talking about the flourishing private

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



BARGUNA SCHOOL HC issues rule over death of student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the respondents to explain within four weeks why they should not be directed to pay compensation to the families of Barguna school victims.

Third-grader Mansura, 9, daughter of Najir Hossain Hawlader, died and at least 10 of her classmates of Chhotobaghi PK Government Primary School in Taltali upazila were injured on Saturday as chunks of plaster from the ceiling fell on them.

The HC asked the respondents to show cause why their failure to ensure safety and security should not be declared illegal.

The secretary to the primary and mass education ministry, the deputy commissioner and the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Dutchman ends longest EV trip



AFP, Sydney

A Dutchman yesterday completed an epic 95,000 kilometre (59,000 mile) journey by electric car in Sydney in a bid to prove the viability of such vehicles in tackling climate change.

Wiebe Wakker drove his retrofitted station wagon nicknamed "The Blue Bandit" across 33 countries in what he said was the world's longest-ever journey by electric car.

The trip from the Netherlands to Australia took just over three years and was funded by public donations from around the world, including electricity to charge the Bandit, food and a place to sleep.

Wakker drove across a variety of countries and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

All properties of Ershad go to Trust

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday donated all his movable and immovable properties to a Trust.

The trustee board includes HM Ershad, his son Eric Ershad, his personal secretary Shamsuzzaman Mukul, his cousin Md Jahangir, and Maj (retd) Khaled Akhtar.

SM Faisal Chisti, a presidium member of Jatiya Party, said the trustee board was formed around 4:15pm yesterday. Faisal was present

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 8
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-35 6-21 7-45
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

2 students die after 'taking liquor'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two Rajshahi University students died allegedly after drinking unauthorised liquor yesterday, just a day after the death of a Russian engineer working at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant allegedly due to the same cause.

Another student of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, who also drank the liquor, is undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Police said the three had a bottle of "vodka" together at a private dormitory in Rajshahi's Monafar Mor area on Friday night.

When they complained of feeling unwell early yesterday, other students of the dormitories rushed them to RMCH where duty doctors pronounced the two dead.

Dr Nazmul Huda, chief of the RMCH's medicine unit, said they were

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Earth on the bank of the Surma river near Shah Paran Bypass Bridge being transported to brick kilns and housing estates on a tractor-trailer yesterday. Locals have been protesting this and even formed human chains but the people removing the soil are influential and they had been threatening villagers with dire consequences.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Israel PM vows to annex WB settlements

Turkey, Palestinians condemn

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to annex settlements in the occupied West Bank if he wins Tuesday's elections, a deeply controversial move that could prove to be the death knell for the two-state solution.

His comments late Saturday, just days before the closely-fought April 9 poll, could be seen as an appeal to right-wing voters who do not believe in the feasibility of a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

"I will apply (Israeli) sovereignty, but I don't distinguish between settlement blocs and isolated settlements," he said in an interview with Channel 12 television.

He did not provide details on how quickly he planned to move ahead with it and whether it would involve all settlements.

If done on a large-scale, annexation could end already fading hopes for a two-state solution with the Palestinians.

It is a move the Israeli far-right has long pushed for. Settlements built on land occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War are deemed illegal by the international community and their ongoing construction is seen as a major barrier to peace.

Senior Palestinian official Saeb Erekat said Netanyahu's statement on annexation was "not surprising."

"Israel will continue to brazenly violate international law for as long as the international community will continue to reward Israel with impunity, particularly with the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5