



The Daily Star



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“Thousands of people are now roaming around the capital with their briefcases to lend money to Bangladesh.”
PLANNING MINISTER MA MANNAN AT A PROGRAMME IN CHATTOGRAM (PAGE 5)



“Corruption and abuse of politically-linked power is no monopoly of leaders of student and youth organisations ... nor are other front organisations of the political party immune to the malaise.”
TIB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IFTEKHARUZZAMAN IN A STATEMENT (PAGE 3)



“There is a huge difference between Australian women's football and our women's football. I think drawing against Australia is a big achievement.”
BANGLADESH U-16 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM COACH GOLAM RABBANI CHOTON (PAGE 14)

GOPALGANJ SCIENCE & TECH UNIVERSITY

Outsiders attack students; 20 hurt

Food supply to resident students stopped; power, water lines of halls snapped; early puja vacation declared to quell protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students pressing for the resignation of the vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU) in Gopalganj came under attack yesterday.

They alleged the attackers were hired goons of the VC, Prof Khondoker Md Nasiruddin, who wanted to quell the movement by intimidating them.

Wielding sticks, dozens of “outsiders” swooped on protesters at four places when the students were on their way to the campus from their homes in adjacent areas, the protesters said.

The attacks, carried out between 10:30am and 1:00pm, left at least 20 students, including three campus reporters, injured. Many of them were being treated at Gopalganj Sadar Hospital.

The incident triggered condemnation from teachers and journalists.

Assistant Proctor Humayun Kabir, a lecturer of Sociology department, resigned in protest.

Earlier in the day, the authorities declared an impromptu 10-day vacation ahead of Durga Puja and asked the students to leave dormitories by 10:00am.

The largest religious festival of the Hindus would be celebrated in the first week of next month.

The students alleged that the authorities also snapped power and water connections to the dormitories and shut the dining rooms there, apparently to force them to leave the campus.

They said the moves were aimed at “gagging the voice against corruption and irregularities that have plagued the university for long”.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A part of the students' demonstration on the campus of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University in Gopalganj for the removal of its vice chancellor. Inset, an injured protester being taken care of by his fellows after he was beaten up allegedly by the goons hired by the VC.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



GK Shamim on remand

Sued in 3 cases for extortion, drug dealing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SM Golam Kibria Shamim has been accused of tender manipulation, extortion and running drugs and gambling businesses in one of the three cases filed against him yesterday.

He took money from bus terminals and cattle markets by causing fear with his armed bodyguards, the case added.

Although the firearms were licenced for personal security of his seven bodyguards, they wielded those breaching the conditions of licences, it reads.

Shamim and Shafiqul Alam Feroz, president of Kalabagan Krira Chakra Club, were arrested on Friday. They were placed on a 10-day remand yesterday.

Popularly known as GK Shamim, the top government-listed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



WORLD RIVERS DAY TODAY

Authorities' inaction put rivers in peril

River Commission chief tells *Star*

TAWFIQUE ALI

The deplorable conditions of the rivers around Dhaka city and elsewhere in the country due to encroachment and pollution are the result of inaction of the river custodians and their complicity with the grabbers for decades, National River Conservation Commission Chairman Muzibur Rahman Howlader has said.

Landmark judgments were given by the highest court, repeated outcries were heard from the public and media, directives were given by the prime minister, and laws related to river conservation are all there. But encroachment and destruction of rivers continue.

Following the 2009 High Court verdict, the relevant district administrations arbitrarily set up demarcation pillars around the four Dhaka rivers in the dry season in the name of saving them. But there are shocking allegations that the river custodians had links with the grabbers,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Muzibur Rahman

No let-up in river grabbing

Nat'l River Commission identifies 45,148 grabbers in 60 districts

TAWFIQUE ALI

The country's rivers and canals in sixty districts are in distress with at least 45,148 grabbers identified, according to official lists so far prepared by the respective deputy commissioners and submitted to the National River Conservation Commission.

Lists from the rest four districts -- Gaibandha, Panchagarh, Bagerhat and Mymensingh -- are due, said NRCC officials.

Of the country's seven divisions, Chattogram has the highest number with 18,411 grabbers.

According to the lists, the illegal grabbing of these rivers and canals have been going on for ten to fifty-five years with concrete, semi-concrete and makeshift structures mostly used commercially by powerful quarters.

Though the local land administrative authorities intermittently carry out eviction drives, in most cases the grabbers go merrily making money at the cost of public property, thanks to a lack of fund, manpower and logistics of the authorities.

The total number of grabbers identified in thirteen districts of Dhaka division is 6,688 with the highest 1,843 in Faridpur, according to the lists.

The list of river grabbers in Dhaka district is still partial, said NRCC Chairman Muzibur Rahman Howlader.

“The river commission has already asked the DCs to undertake a year-long crash programme to evict the river grabbers in accordance with their lists,” he said. “They will get required funds from the land ministry.”

The DCs prepared the lists following the river commission's formal request in February, he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A piece of land created by filling up the Turag is now shrouded by grass. Although the High Court has accorded all rivers across the country the status of “legal persons” or “living entities”, the Turag is yet to be freed. The photo was recently taken from Birulia bridge over the river on the outskirts of the capital.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

EXTORTION CASE

Two Kushtia Jubo League leaders held

STAR REPORT

Two Jubo League leaders were arrested in Kushtia on Friday night, hours after they were sued in an extortion case by a local contractor.

The arrestees are Mijanur Rahman Miju, 36, general secretary of Kushtia Sadar upazila Jubo League, and Ashrafur Islam Sujon, 40, convener of Kushtia town unit.

A team of the Detective Branch of police picked up Mijanur from his home in Kushtia's Hasanbag village around 11:30pm on Friday. Another DB team arrested Ashrafur from his home in Kushtia town's Kalishankarpur area around the same time, said DB sources.

Al Amin Joarder, who is running several construction works at Kushtia Islamic University, filed the case with Islamic University Police Station on Friday evening, accusing six people, including five named, of demanding Tk 50 lakh as extortion money. The other named accused are Kushtia Sadar upazila BCL President Anisur Rahman Anis, former general secretary of IU Chhatra League

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

AUDIT OBJECTIONS 2013-18

CAG detects Tk 11,710cr anomalies

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Financial anomalies involving Tk 11,710 crore have been detected in 16 ministries between the fiscal years 2013-18 during audits by the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General.

The constitutional body raised 434 objections in 34 audit reports in the five fiscal years.

The anomalies ranged from breaching laws and policies, disregarding government instructions and public procurement rules 2008, weak internal control, irregularities, corruption, administrative and technical weakness, and laxity in realising government revenue and depositing them to the national coffer.

Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, comptroller and auditor general, submitted a compilation of the audit reports to the president recently, an official of the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG) said.

The ministries under question are finance, LGSD, housing and public works, law, justice and parliamentary affairs, youth and sports, industries, civil aviation and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

COMPANIES/ DEPARTMENTS	AMOUNT INVOLVED IN AUDIT OBJECTIONS
BASIC Bank	Tk 3,885 cr
Large Taxpayer Unit, Dhaka	Tk 1,862 cr
Karnaphuli Paper Mills	Tk 1,593 cr
Livestock department, Textile Mills Corp, Jute Mills Corp	Tk 791 cr
Civil Aviation Authority	Tk 549 cr
Agrani Bank	Tk 547.66 cr
National Board of Revenue	Tk 415 cr

SOURCE: AUDIT REPORTS OF OCAG



Shakib powers Tigers to win

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chattogram

Shakib Al Hasan's brilliant 45-ball 70 powered Bangladesh to a four-wicket victory against Afghanistan in chase of a modest 139 in the final league match of the tri-nation T20I series in Chattogram yesterday.

Although it was a dead rubber at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, ahead of the final between the same sides, Bangladesh were looking to gain in confidence after four consecutive losses to their opponents in T20Is.

It was not an ideal start for the Tigers as they came in to chase, with both openers Liton Das and Nazmul Hossain departing cheaply to leave Bangladesh struggling on 12 for two inside four overs.

Liton departed for four after he handed a simple catch to Asghar Afghan while attempting to clear the offside off the bowling of Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Nazimul, who failed in his T20I debut against Zimbabwe in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Two killed in 'gunfights' with police

One of them was murder-accused

STAR REPORT

Two people, including a prime accused in a murder case, were killed in separate “gunfights” with police in Chattogram and Laxmipur early yesterday.

In Chattogram, the dead was identified as Md Russell, 23, from Darji Para area in Chandgaon.

Speaking to the The Daily Star, Abdur Rahim, inspector (investigation) of Chandgaon Police Station, said, “Russell was the prime accused of a murder case filed with the station

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

4th Death Anniversary

On 22nd September 2015, Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi), the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved Family Members