



The convicts of the Simi suicide case (left) cover their faces as they are escorted to jail after the judgement at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday while the parents of Simi come out of the courtroom looking unhappy.



PHOTO: STAR

## Four cops get 7-yr RI for snatching

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four police personnel were convicted in a criminal case yesterday and awarded seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

Judge Mohammad Belayet Ullah of the 6th Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka found havildar Mamun and constables Jallil, Obaidur and Nabi Newaz guilty and gave the verdict.

Both the prosecution and defence lawyers had completed their arguments in the case on September 21.

The case filed with the Motijheel Thana stated that the plaintiff Mohammad Iqbal Khan and his friend Palash were on their way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at around 9:00pm on November 13 last year when they were stopped by two police personnel at a place near Bangabhaban.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Central Shaheed Minar Siege lifted but tension prevails

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tension is running high as the Bikkhubda Nagorik Samaj (BNS), a newly formed forum of many socio-cultural organisations, is firm to hold its planned gathering at the Central Shaheed Minar on October 1 defying government's restriction.

"We must go ahead with our programme at any cost", journalist Shahriar Kabir, a BNS leader said while talking to The Daily Star last night.

"There is no rule to restrict rallies at the Central Shaheed Minar, which was free for any public function earlier," he said.

The question of taking permission from Dhaka University authorities does not arise at all as it was free earlier, he said.

The BNS programme was announced on September 23.

On September 26, opposition leader and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at a public meeting in the city gave the government a September 30 deadline to withdraw the restriction or to face defiance.

The authorities yesterday withdrew police from the Minar area but restriction on public gathering still remains as prior permission from Dhaka University authorities is needed for that.

The government on September 22 decided to strictly enforce the provision.

This sparked widespread protests and criticisms by different political and socio-cultural organisations. Even policymakers of ruling

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Girl kidnapped, raped, killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A teenage girl was kidnapped, raped and murdered at Krishnapur in Puthia, Rajshahi on Friday allegedly by a Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) activist and his accomplices.

Eighteen-year-old Shahnaz Khatun Shahina was kidnapped by Rakib, 22, a BNP cadre and nephew of Shahjahan Ali, president of Puthia Union BNP, and his friends kidnapped the girl as she came out to drink water at around 2:30am.

The culprits took the SSC examinee to a neighbour's house and raped her by turn before strangling her, a police officer said preferring anonymity.

The killers then dumped the body into a pond, some 12 yards away from her house. There are many scratches on the body, mouth and throat, the officer informed.

Rakib, a student of Puthia Degree College, also raped the girl several months ago and managed to hush

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Simi's family disappointed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family members of Simi were frustrated after hearing the verdict in the Simi suicide case.

"It is a very light punishment for the crime. The punishment should have been deterrent to such crimes," they told The Daily Star at the courtroom yesterday.

Simi's parents said they would appeal to higher court against the verdict.

Her friends and classmates who crowded the courtroom brought out a procession on its premises shouting slogans terming the verdict 'farical' and demanding reinvestigation and re-trial.

Five of the six accused in the case, including Sub-Inspector (SI) of Khilgaon Police Station Abul Bashar, were given one-year prison term each. The rest one was acquitted.

Simi's mother Zarina Begum burst into tears hearing the verdict. She, her husband and two sons were in the courtroom. Simi's elder sister Saleha Banu Shaba did not turn up for security reason, they said.

"I want to cry out that it (the verdict) hurt me much," a sobbing Zarina said.

"What type of punishment is this? Is it a judgement? I could not

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Ruling alliance to celebrate one year in power Oct 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP-led alliance has started massive preparations to celebrate completion of one year in power on October 10 through organising various programmes to highlight its successes.

Alliance leaders at a meeting here yesterday chalked out a three-day countrywide programme for the celebrations.

Sources said the day will be celebrated at state and party levels. BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) will also organise programmes jointly.

Joint public meetings and processions will be organised in all than and district headquarters on October 10 and 11 respectively and at Paltan Maidan in the city on October 12.

The Paltan meeting will be addressed by BNP chief and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest,

and by chiefs and secretaries general of the component parties as special guests.

On October 10, the prime minister will address the nation over Radio and Television.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan chaired yesterday's meeting, also attended by secretaries general and other senior leaders of the component parties.

BNP leaders Tariqul Islam, Mirza Abbas, Abdus Salam and Emran Saleh Prince, Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, ATM Azharul Islam and Prof Mujibur Rahman, BJP leaders Kazi Firoz Rashid, Maidul Islam and Saifur Rahman and IOJ leaders ARM Abdul Matin and Abdur Rab Yusufi attended it.

Meanwhile, the ministries of information and foreign affairs, Bangladesh Television, Department of Films and Publications and Press Information Department are busy

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hands over a cheque to a girl after inaugurating a stipend programme for primary education at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. Given the number of school-going children, 150 poor families will receive stipend ranging from Tk 100 to 125 every month over the next five years.

## Terror links 2 Bangladeshis detained in Indonesia

AFP, Jakarta

Police in Indonesia's North Sumatra province have arrested two Bangladeshi men for suspected links with international terrorism, it was reported yesterday in Jakarta.

Police seized from the pair 11 cellular telephones, a bank account book with a balance of 52 million rupiah (5,700 dollars), Indonesian identity cards and passports, and gold jewelry, the Jakarta Post said.

The men, identified as Huseiri alias Iqbal, 27, and M. Tana Chouduri, 30, were arrested on Thursday at a hotel in the provincial capital, Medan.

"The police are still investigating their possible involvement with international terrorist networks," provincial police spokesman Amrin Karim was quoted by the Post as saying.

Karim said they had entered the province, apparently from Malaysia, without proper documents.

The spokesman could not be reached immediately by telephone.

The two men have made telephone calls to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, India and to Indonesia's restive regions of Poso and Aceh, the Post said.

Poso has been the scene of Muslim-Christian violence that has

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

Ali Noor touches up a painting during his three-day rickshaw-painting exhibition, organised by the Bengal Bhromon (Travels) Limited at a Banani house in the city to mark the World Tourism Day.

## A painter for the poor

SABRINA KARIM

He is neither Michelangelo painting the ceiling of Sistine Chapel, nor is he famous for any smiling Mona Lisa. The person behind the paintings that capture the imagination of millions of commoners, especially the marginally poor in the capital, is quite content with an anonymous entity as long as it helps him to eke out an existence.

True, he has never had the opportunity to receive any formal training in painting. Yet, the innate urge of creativity forces Ali Noor, a rickshaw painter, to give life to his imaginations. And, with every stroke of his brush, he deftly depicts his fantasy as well as the reality that entertain the common-

ers. He is immensely popular among the rickshaw-pullers and owners. But if you ask any art connoisseurs about him, he will immediately shot back at you, "Who's he?"

Things are about change, though. The Bengal Tours Limited has presented him with an opportunity to step out of anonymity by putting some of his works, 27 to be precise, on a three-day display to mark the World Tourism Day. The exhibition began on Friday in the city.

Well, the fetters of poverty did not let Ali Noor to continue his studies after class nine. He came to Dhaka from Dinajpur in 1961 to make a living. "It was my mother

who sold her earring to buy me the brush and paints for the first time. My orthodox father never liked painting," he fondly recollects while talking to this correspondent during the exhibition.

Ali Noor managed to get a job with some painting firms but his passion for painting drew him to the trade of rickshaw painting. Discovered by commercial artist Gulfam, he began to paint signboards, posters, banners and cinema posters. However, he eventually confined his works to rickshaw painting once he earned a name for it.

Ali Noor focuses on issues ranging from historical events to nature in Bangladesh, which is

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## DU halls reopen today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All residential halls of Dhaka University (DU) will reopen today and classes will resume from October 3 after two months of unscheduled closure since July 28.

The DU authorities have completed all preparations for reopening of the 14 halls at 10:00 am today in presence of hall provosts and house tutors.

Students will have to show their identity cards before being allowed to enter the halls.

Meanwhile, campus sources said the students would once again go for agitation once the classes resume to demand punishment to those responsible for the attack on the Shamsunnahar Hall.

Campus sources also said the activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) are preparing to take control of the residential halls after the reopening.

## BUET classes resume

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classes at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) resumed yesterday after a 20-day closure since September 8.

Presence of students on the campus was normal.

A small platform of students called 'Students against Violence' formed a human chain in front of the cafeteria at 1:00pm to press home their 10-point demand. But the protest ended at the request of some senior teachers.

The teachers led by Director of the student welfare Zainal Abedin assured the students that their demands would be met through discussion.

It was decided that the students

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

|         | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| Sept 29 |           | 5-48 pm  |
| Sept 30 | 5-50 am   |          |

| Prayer Timings |       |        |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| Sept 29        |       |        |
|                | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr           | 4-45  | 5-15   |
| Zohr           | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr            | 4-30  | 4-45   |
| Maghrib        | 5-54  | 6-00   |
| Esha           | 7-45  | 8-15   |

Source: Islamic Foundation