

## British charity urges

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bangladeshi restaurants in serious trouble and facing irreparable damage, IAS Chief Executive Keith Best said.

The issue has worried restaurant owners and workers in East London's Brick Lane, famous for its inexpensive curry houses, sweet shops and stores selling everything from fresh fruit and vegetables to traditional Asian clothes.

"It seems the Asian people, not just Bangladeshi but also Chinese and Indian, have been targeted. This is wrong," said Abdul Noor, who runs a small family-owned curry house on Brick Lane, also known as London's Bangla Town.

"When people go to Chinatown, they expect Chinese food served by Chinese people," added the 35-year-old restaurateur whose family came to Britain over 30 years ago.

"When they come to Brick Lane, they expect to have curry. How will they feel if they are served by people of different cultural origins who probably do not eat curry?"

Restrictions on lower-skilled migrants from outside the EU have left many Bangladeshis

struggling to find work in Britain. Limits have been tightened since eastern Europeans were given employment rights. Migrant worker A Mannan Rana said many of his friends and relatives hoping to join him in search of better living are already feeling the pinch.

"It was not that difficult to come here two years ago. But it is getting harder and harder now," Rana said, adding, "I hope the government will continue to give them a chance."

Best said attempts to get eastern Europeans to work in curry restaurant kitchens have failed because they "have no cultural sensitivity towards or understanding of the curry industry."

"The lack of appreciation of the crisis facing the industry could do it irreparable damage," he said in a statement.

He has written to the immigration minister Liam Byrne asking for the rules to be relaxed for catering workers from Bangladesh.

He has also called on the British public "to save what has become an integral part of British life".

## SIDR VICTIMS West Bengal minister to hand over relief today

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

West Bengal's Transport Minister Subhas Chakraborty is to hand over 111 truckloads of relief materials for Sidr-affected people to Bangladesh authorities.

Food and Disaster Management Secretary Mohammad Ayub Miah is expected to receive the relief materials at a ceremony at Benapole Customs House at 2:00pm.

The relief materials include 1,010 tonnes of rice, 50 tonnes of wheat, 750 pieces of blankets, 10,000 pieces of saris and 6,000 pieces of mosquito nets.

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee during his visit to the cyclone-affected areas in Bangladesh made a pledge of assistance and the relief materials are part of that pledge.

## Mugger lynched in Chittagong

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat a mugger to death and injured three other of the gang as they were trying to flee after robbing a student at Chittagong city's GEC intersection yesterday afternoon.

The dead was identified as Rubel, 25, while the injured are Rashid, 25, Shaker, 24, and Sumon, 25. The victim of the mugging, Shahab Uddin, was also injured during the robbery.

Sources said the muggers intercepted Shahab, a third year student of history at Chittagong University, near MA Aziz Stadium around 1:00pm as he was travelling on a rickshaw.

They opened fire on Shahab when he tried to resist the mugging attempt. Shahab fell down from his rickshaw after receiving bullets in the abdomen and a hand.

Habilder Abdul Mannan of Enayet Bazar Police Camp noticed the incident and chased the muggers who were trying to flee on an auto-rickshaw.

Mannan sent wireless message to authorities concerned and Sergeant Shariful stopped the auto-rickshaw at GEC intersection.

Angry locals gave the muggers a beating leaving them seriously injured, sources said. They also torched the auto-rickshaw.

Police recovered a gun, a machete and two bullets from their possession.

The injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors on duty declared Rubel dead.

The rest three were having treatment at the hospital. CMCH sources said, the condition of Shaker was grave.

Shahab was also having treatment at the hospital.

## 7 killed in Valentine's Day US campus massacre

AFP, Chicago

Authorities investigated Friday what drove a former student to coldly spray a university lecture hall with bullets, killing six people and wounding 15 before turning a gun on himself.

The death toll rose to seven early Friday after a sixth shooting victim died from injuries sustained in the incident, officials at Northern University Illinois, the scene of the carnage, said on its website.

Law enforcement sources tentatively identified the shooter as a 27-year-old graduate student in social work at another area school, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, but did not release his name.

He graduated with honours from the Northern Illinois University in 2006 and began graduate work there before transferring to another institution last year, university president John Peters said.

Armed with a shotgun and two handguns, the man calmly stepped out from behind a curtain at the front of an auditorium Thursday afternoon just minutes before the end of a geology class, officials and witnesses said.

Screams filled the hall as he sprayed bullets into the auditorium filled with dozens of students at the campus in DeKalb, a Chicago suburb.

"It started and ended within a matter of seconds," university police chief Donald Grady said at a press conference.

Police were in the room within two minutes of getting a call but did not have time to fire a single shot as the gunman was already dead on the stage.

"We have no apparent motive at this time," Grady added.

Four people including the gunman died at the scene, while two others died in hospital, officials said.

Sixteen others were wounded, one of whom died overnight.

All of the victims were students, including an instructor who is a graduate student, Peters said.

Witnesses described the shooter as a white male dressed in black around six-foot (1.8 meters) tall.

"He just fired directly into the audience," said John Giovanni, a student in the class. "He didn't say a

word. It didn't look like he was aiming directly at someone. I think he was trying to hit as many people as he could."

Screaming students ducked for cover, some crawling on their bellies, others cowering behind seats while others made for the doors.

"After he fired the first shot, everybody got down. A lot of people were screaming. Everybody started running for the door," another witness, Zach Seward, told CNN.

"I turned and I ran for the door. On my way out, I heard a couple more shots go off. I wasn't sure if one was going to hit me in the back. I ran as fast as I could to my dormitory. So it was just complete chaos, really."

After spraying students with a shotgun, the gunman "pulled out a handgun and began shooting at me," instructor Joseph Peterson told the Chicago Sun-Times from his hospital bed.

Peterson, 26, fled but the gunman chased him, firing and hitting him in the left shoulder before a bleeding Peterson made it out an auditorium door.

He said he had no idea what had prompted the shooter.

"I never saw him before," Peterson said.

"The information we have right now indicates he did not have any record of police contact or a prior arrest record," university president Peters told a press conference Thursday.

The massacre follows school shootings in Ohio, Louisiana, Tennessee and California that left a total of five dead.

It comes 10 months after 32 students and faculty were shot down by a mentally disturbed student at Virginia Tech University in the deadliest massacre ever at a US school.

Northern Illinois University was placed on a security alert in December after police found threats on a bathroom wall laced with racial slurs, references to the Virginia Tech shooting and a warning that "things will change most hastily" in the final days of the semester.

But Peters said he did not think Thursday's shooting was related to the threats and said that while security has been heightened there was not much more officials could

have done. "I don't know of any plan that can prevent this tragedy," he told reporters. "Unless we lock every door I don't know how we can keep people out."

## 46 grenades

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Nazrul and reached there early yesterday. They dug up the bank of a pond owned by Nazrul and found the grenades hidden in a bag.

After the recovery of the grenades, members of the elite force raided several other places of the upazila, Rab sources said.

Police Superintendent Abdullah Baki of Satkhira said the police were not informed about the drive conducted by the Rab. He said police, on receiving information, went to the spot and came to know about the operation.

It Col Mestual Islam, commanding officer of Rab-6 told The Daily Star that the grenades were recovered from the village following confessions of Nazrul.

He said the Rab personnel also carried out drives at several other places taking the arrestees with them and recovered more grenades. But he declined to disclose the total number of the recovered grenades.

When asked, the commanding officer also declined to say whether Nazrul has any links with any militant or terrorist group. But sources said Rab arrested Nazrul suspecting his links with the militants.

Commander SMAK Azad, director of the Legal and Media Wing of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), said they will provide details of the grenade recovery to the media today.

According to local sources, arrested Nazrul Islam's two sons have shoe shops at Nalta Bazar and Parulia Bazar. One of them, Hafizur Rahman, took religious education.

In recent months, the law enforcers recovered grenades from the city's Banani and Moghbazar, Nalibabari in Sherpur, Barobari village in Pirganj, Thakurgaon, Sirajganj, at Botiaghata upazila in Khulna, at Sonatila in Panchhari upazila of Khagrachhari, and at Shalipur in Savar.

## Bird watching at JU

FROM PAGE 16

once. If an individual approaches them, the birds will definitely fly away and there is a very little chance of any direct contact," said Dr Mofizul Kabir, associate professor of the zoology department of JU who is also the convener of the fair management committee.

"Although we suspect that migratory birds are the prime carriers of bird flu, no evidence has so far been found confirming the claim. There is however a possibility of bird flu spreading through the migratory birds," he added.

The fair titled 'Brac Bank Bird Fair 2008' was organised jointly by the department of zoology of JU, Wildlife Rescue Centre (WRC), Step Media Ltd, and Brac Bank, attracting a large crowd of nature-loving people from the capital and its adjacent areas including university students who were seen yesterday watching birds through telescopes or by roaming around by the lakes on the campus.

"We have heard that bird flu might spread through feathers of birds or through eggs or saliva, and it might become disastrous if people are infected with the virus through wild animals," said Imam-ul-Haq, a prominent bird watcher, adding however that none of the cases of bird flu transmission to human body was reported from contact with wild birds. All cases of bird flu infection around the globe were resulted from direct contact with domestic birds, he said.

Although migratory birds usually start to throng the evergreen JU campus by the end of October, this year the guest birds arrived a month later in November and since then more than six thousand migratory birds' arrival has been recorded.

Zoology department sources said around 130 to 150 species of migratory birds are usually found on the JU campus, 95 to 100 of which are local, while 35 to 40 species are foreign.

The fair began early in the morning with visitors watching guest and local birds through two telescopes and several binoculars available on the campus.

The migratory birds enter Bangladesh mostly from the Himalayas as soon as winter snow starts to fall there in October, leaving the birds' usual habitat too cold to survive. They start to fly off again in March. Only seven to ten species of the guest birds usually settle on the lakes while others are known as migratory treebirds.

Birds that come from the wetlands and highlands south of the Himalayas are known as local migrants, who usually come from Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland in India. Some birds also migrate internally from the hilly areas of Bangladesh while some do come from as far as Siberia and other places in Mid-East Asia.

The migratory birds include 28 Bangladeshi species which come from places such as Hakaluki and Hyle lakes, Nijhum Dwip, shoals in the Jamuna River, Tangour swamp in Sylhet, and from Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Vice-chancellor of JU Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman inaugurated the fair.

A bird sketching competition, a

photography exhibition, an art competition for children, and a quiz competition on birds were also held on the sidelines. Besides, an inter-university competition on bird identification was also held. Students of different private and public universities, and of schools and colleges took part in the competitions.

Ten kiosks displaying photographs, posters, calendars, tee-shirts, and cards on birds were also set up on the path leading to the university auditorium.

The fair closed in the afternoon by holding of a seminar following which competition winners were awarded with different prizes. The yearly fair has been being held on the JU campus since 2001.

Meanwhile, as conditions of most of the lakes on the campus have become unfriendly to the birds due to the university authority's reluctance to protect the habitat of birds, the campus is attracting lesser numbers of migratory birds every year. Now migratory birds can be seen floating only on three lakes on the campus. The birds use the lakes during daytime and wander into the adjacent paddly fields near the river at night in search of food.

Study revealed that the number of migratory birds dropped due to drying up of the lakes, cultivation of napier grass in the lakes, water pollution, and lack of measures to preserve their habitat.

A survey by the Department of Zoology of JU shows that the rate of decline in the number of migratory birds to JU each year varies between 15 percent and 20 percent.

Moreover, some species even completely stopped coming to the campus including Harial, which was last seen there in 2004.

The species of migratory birds that are seen in JU lakes during winter include Lesser Whistling Duck or Chhoto Sharali, Fulvous Whistling Duck or Boro Sharali, Northern Pintail or Lanja Duck, Garganey or Garia Duck, Common Tilt, Yellow Wagtail or Halud Khanjania, Wagtail or Khanjania, Common Sandpiper or Kada Khocha, Wood Sandpiper, Painted Snipe or Rongla Chaga, Asian Quail, another type of Painted Snipe or Badami Kasha, Comb Duck, Moor Hen, Jolpippi, Water Hen or Jolkukkut, Shuichora, and Kampaki.

## Hasina refuses

FROM PAGE 1

too weak to move properly due to illness. She is also suffering from allergy. He said that as her personal physician, he suggested her to go for treatment. But she said how she could believe that there would be no foul play in treatment.

"It would be good if she is admitted to a hospital. Then we could keep her under observation," said the doctor.

Abdullah said Hasina is having severe hearing problems as both of her hearing aids have been damaged. "There is no alternative but to go to US for treatment of her ears since it is not possible in the country."

Hasina's blood pressure has been fluctuating, and it is alarming, he added.

## Plan fails to take off

FROM PAGE 16

acknowledge the problem, saying that many police stations have four SIs at the most and so it was not completely possible to run a separate case investigation unit.

The officer in the police headquarters observed that once some 30,500 police officers, who are supposed to be recruited in five years since 2006, are employed, the situation of acute shortage of investigation officers (IOs) will improve.

To make the initiative successful, police high-ups arranged an evaluation test for all 6,850 SIs across the country in November, 2007, the results of which are yet to be published.

A merit list will be prepared basing on the results and according to it, selected SIs will be tasked with case investigation, the officer told The Daily Star.

As part of the initiative, Dhaka Metropolitan Police authorities have asked officers-in-charge (OCs) of different police stations in DMP area not to assign any SI to more than 10 cases at a time.

Sources said, only Mirpur division could manage to achieve the target, but other divisions could not, due to lack of workforce.

The OC of a busy police station in the capital said they have 14 SIs

and none has less than 12 cases to probe at a time.

In the past, probes into various sensational cases had run into snags, as the IOs at different police stations, particularly in DMP area, were assigned cases seven times the number of their officially recommended quota.

The Police Regulation of Bengal, a British-era law-enforcement guideline, recommends a maximum of eight cases for a sub-inspector (SI) at a time.

However, it was found that the SIs at large police stations and in the crime-prone areas in the capital faced the workload of as many as 50 cases, officials concerned said.

To top it all, the IOs, who are burdened with more cases than they can properly handle, also required to take part in crime control activities and other additional duties.

Due to this, even in murder cases, the time-strapped IOs need as much as three years of time to complete investigations and submit charge sheets.

This situation ultimately denies the victims' right to speedy justice and helps the criminals evade punishment.

## Rice prices mark fall

FROM PAGE 1

30 to Tk 33 a kg on retail markets yesterday which had been sold for Tk 28 to Tk 30 last week, while prices of fine rice leapt to Tk 35 to Tk 45 a kg from Tk 34 to Tk 44 a week ago.

Retailers said they were not being able to sell rice at lower prices in line with the decrease in prices on wholesale markets yesterday, because they had bought the rice they were selling at higher prices from the wholesalers two days ago.

Nizam Uddin, general secretary of Badamtoli and Babubazar Rice Wholesalers Association, said prices of coarse rice have been fluctuating for the last month and a half without any interference from the traders.

He also said the last two days' fall in wholesale prices of coarse rice is bound to be temporary. "I think the price fall will not sustain, because prices of Indian rice have gone up again."

Wishing anonymity an importer said there is no chance of rice prices coming down in the near future since the Indian government is insisting on opening of new Letters of Credit (LC) with higher prices.

Halt in rice export for three days by India resulted in a price hike of

coarse rice by Tk 50 to Tk 100 a maund on wholesale markets in the capital last week.

Meanwhile, prices of various kinds of fish have also been shooting up in the city over the past two weeks in the wake of bird flu outbreak across the country. Prices of fish went up by Tk 20 to Tk 100 a kg on several kitchen markets during the period.

Fish traders at Karwan Bazar said fish prices went up since the panic of bird flu had gripped the city residents, and because most of them are now buying fish rather than poultry.

Prices of beef and mutton also have been shooting up over the same period. Price hike of fodder for livestock also contributed to the price hike of meat.

Price of sugar also jumped to Tk 33 to Tk 35 a kg last week from Tk 29 to Tk 30 of the previous week on retail markets.

Soybean oil was being sold for Tk 98 to Tk 108 a litre on retail markets yesterday which had been sold for Tk 94 to Tk 100 a week ago. Keeping up with the pace, prices of palm oil and super palm oil also went up. In Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) set up fair price markets, prices of soybean oil rose by Tk 6 a litre over the past week.

## Editor's note

FROM PAGE 1

a) Preparing for Climate Change; b) Enacting Right to Information Act; c) Combating Corruption; d) Investing for E-Governance; f) Implementing separation of Judiciary; g) Fighting Terrorism; and h) Establishing a Knowledge-based Society.

We express our appreciation to all the contributors for helping us to present our readers with such a well researched, fact based and visionary supplement.

On this occasion of our 17th Anniversary we express our heartfelt thanks to our patrons, advertisers, contributors and well-wishers. However the biggest debt of gratitude we owe is to our readers, who through their constant and enthusiastic support have made us the highest circulation and most trusted English language daily in the country. Please accept our sincerest thanks and gratitude. We promise to continue our "Journalism without Fear or Favour" and pledge to serve our readers with an expanded and improved paper in 2008.

The AL has already sat with Workers' Party of Bangladesh and Samyabadi Dal to take a common stance on the dialogue but they did not discuss the issue of grand electoral alliance. The AL will sit with Ganotantri Party on Monday.

"We will first hold bilateral meetings with our coalition allies to formulate a common stance regarding dialogue with the caretaker government and then we will talk to other like-minded parties,"

Geno Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya however said they would never join any alliance which comprises autocratic ruler, war criminals and religion-based parties.

They want a coalition based on principles and ideals, he said, adding they could even sit with BNP if it goes for secular and non-communal politics.

Ganotantri Party President Nurul Islam said the 14-party coalition itself is not functioning now. And a grand electoral alliance could be formed comprising secular, non-communal and democratic political parties ahead of the next polls.

But we have reservations about bringing Jatiya Party in the grand alliance as it did not clear their position on secular politics," he told this correspondent.

He hoped that through exercise of mathematics the future generation would be able to develop the country's science and technology, thus bringing true welfare for the people.

The programme also featured cultural and other functions. Today's programme will include friendship debates, an open seminar titled "Our rice, our pride", mathematics parliament, and concluding and prize giving ceremonies.

Math Olympiad

FROM PAGE 16  
Secondary categories yesterday.

## Discord among AL men

FROM PAGE 1  
strengthens ties with components of the 14-party.

Ties between the AL and other components of the coalition have become fragile in the changed political situation since January 11 last year and especially because the AL had signed a five-point deal with religion-based party, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis.

Gono Forum headed by Dr Kamal Hossain, a component of the 14-party combine, came down heavily on the AL and publicly said it no longer belonged to the coalition as the AL signed a deal with Majlis.

Although Zillur recently told reporters that Gono Forum is no more in the 14-party, the AL is now trying to reunite the coalition ahead of the much-talked-about political dialogue with the caretaker government.

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Math Olympiad

FROM PAGE 16  
convicted killers and execution of the verdict.

The JSD and its front organisations have chalked out programmes, including silent rally and discussion meetings, in the district.

An armed gang killed Aref, Kushtia district JSD president Lokman Hossain, general secretary Yakub Ali, and local JSD leaders Shamsher Ali and Israil Hossain at a rally in Kalidaspur village of Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia on February 16, 1999.

As Aref completed his speech against the political violence and increasing outlaw activities of the time in the southwestern region of the country, the killers sprayed bullets on him. The local leaders died while trying to save Aref.

The verdict of the case in connection with the killings was announced on August 30, 2004, sentencing 10 persons to death and 12 others to life imprisonment.

The convicts with death penalty are Ilias Hossain and Sahir Uddin of Talbaria, Baker of Kishorinagar, Mannan Mollah of Pachabbitta, Anwar, Jhanu and Jahon of Kursha of Kushtia district, Jalal of Palashisha, Safayat Hossain of Rajnagar and Rowshan of Bhabanipur of Meherpur.

## Math Olympiad

FROM PAGE 16  
Secondary categories yesterday.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee Chairman Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said the students would surely achieve their goals as they have been really pursuing this through hard work and talent.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman said the Bangladesh established their mother tongue as the medium of education through a language movement 56 years ago and the country's independence 37 years ago, but all the dreams of the nation are not fulfilled yet.

"You are the ones who will fulfil those dreams," he said, urging the students to practise mathematics and reasoning more.

Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd Managing Director Mohammad Yasin Ali said the participants are very talented and would surely succeed in the International Mathematics Olympiad and brighten the image of Bangladesh.

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Math Olympiad