

## Mymensingh

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bangladesh Agriculture University, at an orientation programme for teachers under the initiative.

Around 200 high school teachers from Mymensingh, Tangail, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj and Netrakona districts attended the programme held at Shohag Party Centre in Mymensingh town.

Under the EIS initiative, over 1,000 schools across the country will get three copies of The Daily Star each five days a week for free.

The distribution already began in 189 schools in Dhaka zone on June 9 and will next cover 97 high schools in six districts of Mymensingh zone. Gradually, more schools will be brought under the initiative.

To help students learn English language, The Daily Star will bring out an extra page featuring helpful materials and discussions every week.

The venture also includes organising contests on spelling, vocabulary and book reading, among others.

Addressing the Mymensingh orientation meeting as chief guest, Dr Sattar Mondal said students can also send letters written in English to the "Letters to the Editor" column of The Daily Star.

"Once a write-up of a student is published, you will see the whole school will be inspired in no time," he told teachers, adding that the teachers will have to play a very cooperative role for this.

"Who knows, someone may one day become a writer like Tolstoy or Shakespeare!" Prof Mondal said.

Speaking as the special guest, Mymensingh Acting Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Mohsin said children in Bangladesh are very talented and they can do miracles by properly utilising their faculties with the help of teachers.

He lauded the EIS initiative which, he believes, can really help students.

Monowara Begum, headmistress of Naserabad Girls' High School, Mymensingh, said shyness and lack of confidence of students are the major obstacles to learning English language.

"If the programme runs properly, I hope students can shake off this shyness, and do very well in the future," she told The Daily Star.

Jasim Uddin, a teacher of English at Nakla Pilot High School of Sherpur, told The Daily Star that this initiative will not only increase students' language skills, but also their general knowledge and "help them become better citizens".

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said the information and communication technology has united the world, but anyone without

knowledge in English will be deprived of the huge knowledge base because ICT uses this language.

Once upon a time, natural resources were used to scale the richness of a country, but in today's world, it is the innovative ideas by which prosperity of a nation is measured, he said. "So, we all must try to develop this resource," Mahfuz Anam said.

The best performing schools will be awarded, he declared.

AKTEL Chief Commercial Officer Bidyut Kumar Basu said teachers are educating the whole nation and this initiative is only to complement them and the government in their efforts.

"With your cooperation, we can go a long way," he said.

AKTEL Acting Regional Executive Azmal Hossain also spoke at the programme.

Prof Shaheen Kabir of Jahangirnagar University delivered a presentation on the special page on English language to be published in The Daily Star.

## Gunned down

**FROM PAGE 16**  
College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Sub-inspector Zakir Hossain of Khilgaon Police Station told The Daily Star that criminals shot Biplob point blank in his mouth when he tried to take shelter in a building. While fleeing, the criminals also opened fire on a local man leaving him injured.

Locals said 10 to 12 armed cadres of detained Kailla Palash killed the youth as the gang suspected that he helped Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to arrest criminal Tushar, nephew of Palash, three days ago from the area.

Locals and police said the killers were cadres of Kailla Palash while Biplob was an accomplice of Shahjada group active in the area.

Police said both the groups collect tolls from garment factories, owners of under construction buildings and traders in the area. The groups had long rivalry over collecting tolls and controlling Jhut (garment wastage) trade.

Meanwhile, Dakkhin Keraniganj Police recovered the body of a youth floating in Buriganga river at Teighat in Kaliganj on the outskirts of the capital.

Police said they found the decomposed body around 12:00pm. However, police could not identify the youth.

## 56 indigenous

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Hossain Master, of Chhaor, attacked the families. The indigenous families retaliated with bows and arrows but they were no match against the gang's firearms, clubs, machetes and spears.

"Police were called in but they stood as spectators," said Sabin Munda, a local leader of Jatuya Adivashi Parishad visiting the spot.

Chhutar Kisku, his wife Kastantima Murmu, Suren Murmu, Jasef Saren, Biswanath Hembrom, Mosrefa, Deljan, Osnara and her daughter Samija were among at least 30 indigenous people who were injured in the attacks.

The victims alleged Ata, Dhala, Ahsan and Mozaffar of Kumarpura led the attacks in presence of Nur Hossain and his son Manjurul.

Nur Hossain, Manjurul and their relative Azaharul were seen looting corrugated iron sheets and household items yesterday morning when a group of NGO activists and journalists visited the spot.

Nur claimed he bought the six acres of land from Chhotka Mardi, Churka Mardi and Hudur Mardi in 1976. "But we could not have possession of the land," he told journalists.

He said the eviction process through proper ways would have taken a long time and that is why he captured the land by force.

Karamat Uddin, a lawyer for the indigenous people, said the documents on the land Nur Hossain produced were declared invalid by the government in May, 2007, and a Naogaon court was trying the case filed in this regard.

Naogaon Deputy Commissioner Ahsan Habib Talukhdar and Superintendent of Police Mofazzel Hossain visited the scene and formed a probe committee headed by Porsha upazila nirbahi officer.

Jatuya Adivashi Parishad rejected the committee and called for a movement from Monday saying Nur Hossain was included in the committee.

Condemning the incident, different rights organisations yesterday demanded punishment of the perpetrators.

Leaders of Centre for Human Rights, Development and Human Security in a statement said the administration did not take any action to prevent the attack.

Bangladesh Adivashi Odhikar Andolan also demanded punishment of the criminals and compensation to the villagers for their damaged homes.

Leaders of Gono forum too demanded arrest of the criminals and expressed support for the victims.

## BDR jawan dies of 'heart failure'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another jawan of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) died of heart failure in Khagrachhari yesterday.

The deceased, Abdul Mazid, 46, a nayek of 29 Khedachhara BDR Battalion in Khagrachhari, hailed from Ramkrishnapur village in Lalpur upazila of Natore. He was recruited in BDR in 1984.

With his death, 26 BDR jawans died since the February 25-26 mutiny at BDR headquarters in the capital.

A BDR press release said Mazid went to Matiranga Bazar, some seven kilometres off the battalion headquarters, yesterday morning. He later felt sick and got into a local vehicle, it said.

The release also said Mazid reached the battalion headquarters shortly. Then he was rushed to Matiranga Upazila Health Complex at about noon where doctors declared him dead at 12:20pm, it said.

His body will be sent to his village home by BDR after the postmortem, it added.

## BNP asks

**FROM PAGE 16**  
implementing the project.

"We as members of the United Nations are urging all and if necessary we will seek the international community's cooperation through formal letters and we will not accept the Indian attempt to build a dam on the Borak river," BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

He said it is the duty of the government to protest and mount pressure on India so that it stops the project. "The Tipaimukh dam will be the life and death issue for Bangladesh but the Awami League government has failed to voice protest as it has no moral strength," he said.

Strongly criticising the government for keeping mum, he said the BNP would do everything it can to stop the controversial Indian project if the government fails to take effective initiatives.

Former water resources minister and party Vice-president Hafiz Uddin Ahmed (BDR) personally during the BDR mutiny at Pilkhana in February.

He filed a general diary with the police station in this regard yesterday.

"All governments except the Awami League-led government protested the Indian project. Khaleda Zia's government took a firm stance against the project from the very beginning. The BNP government protested twice verbally on April 16 and May 18, 1992," he said.

Hafiz, who was acting secretary general of the party's so-called reformist faction, attended for the first time any programme with Khandaker Delwar Hossain, once his rival in the party, since Delwar was made secretary general on September 2, 2007.

"Experts and people believe that the proposed dam will be turned into a death trap for Bangladesh that is why we demand the government's formal protest against the project," Hafiz said, adding that people will take all necessary steps if India continues with the project ignoring the interest of Bangladeshi people.

Providing minutes of Joint River Commission (JRC) meeting, Hafiz said his Indian counterpart promised that they would provide all data before going to implement the project but India is yet to share any information with Bangladesh about the project.

Former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Moniruzzaman Mian and BNP leader Rizvi Ahmed were also present.

## Building rules

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"We approve our buildings," he said adding, "But we are not authorised to issue any approval under the BC Act."

Rajuk has currently decided to demolish more than two thousand deviant under-construction private buildings in the city.

Rajuk director (development control) Sheikh Abdul Mannan said, "We cannot demolish or take legal action against a government-owned building for non-compliance."

Mubasshar Hussain, president of the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh said, "The government does not hold the moral authority to apply a law on a private individual if it itself violates the rule."

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan said, "Irregularity has become the rule in our country."

He said that he was trying his level best to ensure compliance of the relevant laws in this regard.

## Killing spate scales

**FROM PAGE 16**

Amid such situation DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque has decided to join the anti-crime drives along with the deputy and assistant commissioners.

Shahidul Haque said they have launched convoy drives, which include several patrol cars and a good number of police and Rapid Action Battalion personnel during operation, to create a sense of security among the city dwellers.

All the efforts made by the law enforcers have often-times proved ineffective as criminals in most cases pass through police check posts and deceive foot-patrol by simply shifting their timing and adopting newer techniques.

Some recent incidents of killings denote that armed criminals chose late night as their time of activity and in most the cases they used private cars and motorbikes as their mode of transport.

For instance, on June 3 moneychanger Faruk Ahmed Khan, 48, and his driver Anisur Rahman Rana sustained bullet injuries when criminals in a private car snatched Tk 2 lakh and two mobile phone sets from their possession while they were returning home at dead of night. Two days later Faruk succumbed to his injuries.

Iqbal Hossain who fell victim to snatchers in East Rampura a few days ago said if the check-posts ensure foolproof checking of private

## Grenade

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informed the police of the matter."

"I recovered the grenade, eight SMG bullets and a clip charger from the mud piled near the drain on Friday," he said.

"The rainfall yesterday must have washed away part of mud beneath which the things were hidden. That's why they became visible," he said.

SI Mahmudul said the recovered ammunition might have been dropped in the drain by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel during the BDR mutiny at Pilkhana in February.

He filed a general diary with the police station in this regard yesterday.

## More fund sought

**FROM PAGE 1**

It says 65.79 percent of the allocated fund was spent on salaries and allowances of the force in 2004-05, 69.30 percent in FY 2005-06, 72.03 percent in FY 2006-07 and 64.52 percent in FY 2007-08.

For services and supplies, which include pension, uniform, food, etc, 15.43 percent of the fund has been spent in the last four fiscal years since 2004-05. The expenditure was 14.30 percent in FY 2004-05, 15.91 percent in FY 2005-06, 15.90 percent in FY 2006-07 and 15.59 percent in FY 2007-08.

The report terms the budgetary allocation very inadequate for modernising the force as only 5.6 percent of the allocated fund was spent on defence purchase in FY 2004-05, 5.9 percent in FY 2005-06, 5.1 percent in FY 2006-07 and 7.2 percent in FY 2007-08.

The defence purchase for UN peacekeeping mission was on an average 8.46 percent in the said four fiscal years.

The report says the army could never meet its needs for ammunition because of budget constraints.

The force sought Tk 70.49 crore for just purchasing ammunition in FY 2005-06, but only Tk 1.41 crore was allocated for procuring both armament and ammunition. In FY 2006-07, the army got Tk 68.48 crore for purchasing armament and ammunition against a demand of Tk 61.56 crore for ammunition alone. Tk 79.97 crore in FY 2007-08 against a requirement for Tk 133.21 crore, and Tk 43.27 crore in FY 2008-09 against a demand of Tk 138.43 crore.

The report identifies insufficient funding as the "key problem" to starting replacement of outdated weaponry.

"Most of our weapons are from the 1960s and '70s, which belittles our overall military prowess," it says. According to the report, 90.3 percent small arms and 89.9 percent field artillery guns used by the army were bought during 1960s-80s while all the tanks are from that period.

The report also focuses on the shortage of manpower in the force and says talented youths are discouraged to join

cars and motorbikes, criminals would not be able to commit crimes using faster vehicles to get away.

He said "I used to return from work between 11:00 pm and 12:30am as I need to rush from one end to the other of the city but now I dare not go out after dark."

DMP Commissioner said "Police alone cannot check crime in such mega city if social initiatives are not taken in this regard since social values are declining."

He said he had asked high police officials to beef up night vigilance in the city streets to ensure proper service at check posts and during patrol teams.

DMP has recently taken some initiatives to contain crimes. It has set up interrogation cells at all the eight Deputy Commissioners' (DC) offices, a Detective Branch cell to detect criminals through their cellphones and assigned 100 to 125 reserve forces to the DCs.

Moreover, DMP has deployed additional 3000 men by forming 100 more patrol teams in the capital.

## Rejoinder

**FROM PAGE 1**  
a housing company but a cooperative society which has very little capital. It is not true that each of the 50 members paid Tk 5 Lakh for the cooperative.

The letter claims that between Atir Bazar to Washpur through Looter Char there is no existence of a canal or any khas land. All land there belongs to private owners. "A canal was somehow created after soil from the bed was sold to build the Dhaka Flood Protection Embankment in 1988."

**Our Reply**

According to our investigation, Atir Khal has been used by millions in the area for over a hundred years. This beautiful waterway starts from Washpur and winds its way through dozens of villages and trading centres to Kholamora where it meets the Buriganga again.

Our correspondent talked to dozens of elderly residents of Washpur, Basila, Ati, Looter Char and other places who confirmed that as long as they could remember it has always served as a canal.

## Eviction drive

**FROM PAGE 16**

"We have long been whirling in a vicious cycle of river encroachment and eviction," he said. "The Buriganga has been a glaring example of failed evictions driven by successive governments against the grabbers."

Demolition drives in the Buriganga cost the public exchequer crores of taka yielding nothing but further encroachment, Prof Mujibur said.

The filled-up part of the Turag is also not being recovered under the ongoing eviction drive.

Lack of magistracy power has been a potential obstacle to keeping the rivers free from grabbers, said BIWTA Director Mahabubul Alam.

"We could not touch one mosque and a temple on the list as it's a sensitive issue," said Saiful Islam.

Environmentalists say the survey of the rivers' demarcation seems remarkably anomalous and it should be reviewed.

BIWTA Chairman Md Abdul Mannan Howlader said though they planned a three-day eviction drive to clear the Tongi part of the Turag, it took them longer and they would continue until the job is done.

"My latest plan is to hire a pontoon-mounted excavator in the next two or three days to remove filled-up earth from the Turag. I have already held talks with the minister in this regard," he said.

The BIWTA along with the district administration of Dhaka and Gazipur launched a three-day eviction drive in the Turag on June 3.

As many as 63 structures on the Gazipur end of the river and 69 on the Dhaka side have been built encroaching on the river. Five of the 63 and three out of 69 have obtained permanent HC stayon eviction.

The notable structures on both Dhaka and Gazipur banks that have been partially knocked down include the Merchants Dyeing Ltd, Hossain Dyeing, Bengal Indigo Textile Factory, Shajid Washing, Monjil Paribahan Ltd, Masjid market, Bata Market and Fish Market.

Most of the makeshift structures on the lists have been knocked down, inform BIWTA officials, adding the average expenditure for the drive per day is Tk 1 lakh including labour, transportation, fuel and others costs.

The drive continues today in Tongi.

## Ctg arms

**FROM PAGE 1**  
section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code at 4.15pm. The proceedings were on as of filing this report at 1:00am.

Court sources said Sahab was detailing the source, destination and other issues with regard to the 10 truckloads of arms and ammunition seized in the port city on April 2, 2004.

The Criminal Investigation Department produced him before the court at 2:30pm.

After arrest on May 2 in the case filed under Arms Act, Sahab Uddin was first remanded for three days on May 4 and then for six days at the Task Force for Interrogation cell on May 8.

His latest remand began on June 3 and ended on June 6.

Less than 12 hours after his first confessional statement on May 15, CID in the capital arrested two former NSI chiefs—Major General (ret) Rezaul Haider and Brigadier General (ret) Abdur Rahim—for alleged links to the weapons seizure.

Ex-NSI deputy director (mechanical) Major (ret) Liakat Hossain was held on May 26.

## RMG units

**FROM PAGE 16**  
200 labourers with two tugboats were engaged for yesterday's drive.

The demolition team on Thursday completed demolition of two multi-storey buildings -- one six-storey garment factory and one six-storey residential building -- owned by a former municipality commissioner Md Jahangir.

After demolition BIWTA men found it difficult to remove foundations of heavy structures with RCC pillars, said BIWTA officials.

Once demolition of the multi-storied structures is finished, the eviction team will proceed towards the north of the river port to pull down makeshift and a few more two or three-storied concrete structures at Nitaiganj, said our Narayanganj correspondent.

A total of 134 structures including makeshift ones were listed for demolition as those were built illegally on the river, said officials.

Of them five obtained stay orders from the court on eviction.

BIWTA high officials said that drive in Shitalakha would continue until the eviction of all the listed structures is done.

BIWTA chairman Md Abdul Mannan Howlader said that similar eviction drive would begin in the river Buriganga this week.

Our Narayanganj correspondent adds: A couple of makeshift semi-concrete structures were also pulled down during yesterday's drive. The drive continues today for the fifth day.

## Baby born

**FROM PAGE 16**

make sure someone keeps him alive, and safe.

She disappeared from the cyclone shelter yesterday evening, when the news of her having sold a baby spread.

Taslima Begum gave birth to Saeed on June 5 at the temporary cyclone centre at the upazila parishad office where she had taken shelter during Aila. The cyclone battered her house at Jilekata village under the upazila on May 25.

Saeed has reportedly been very sick Tuesday last week, mostly from want of food.

No one came forward to help the destitute woman as doctors told her the baby needed medication and food. Taslima was herself near to starving and unable to provide for her other two children.

Taslima's first two children are by her first husband Ataur Rahman who is absconding in connection with a criminal case. Her second husband Zafar Sheikh of Gabura Union in Satkhira, had reportedly been telling her that he would only be taking up the responsibility of his child, Saeed, and not two other children from her earlier marriage.

As a desperate Taslima watched her child get weaker and weaker, she did the unthinkable. She found someone who promised to bring up her eight-day old baby.

Helaluddin, an employee of the revenue office at Koira bought him for Tk 2000 and Taslima gave up her rights to the child by signing an affidavit through the Notary Public.

"I had no other alternative," said Taslima at the centre yesterday. "He would have died without any food," she kept telling everyone who asked her why she had sold her own baby.

Koira UNO Arif Pasha said he was aware of the woman handing over her baby to Helaluddin but denied that the baby had been sold. He said the Taslima gave the child to Helaluddin for his upbringing because she couldn't afford to look after the ailing

baby. The money Helal gave her was meant as "help" for her desperate situation and nothing more.

As reporters and others who heard about the "transaction" started making enquiries about what had happened at the cyclone shelter, Taslima went missing yesterday evening.

UNO Arif Pasha said he had no idea where she had gone as she simply 'disappeared' with her other two children.

## Scope means

**FROM PAGE 1**

Ameer Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP leader and former commerce minister, said allowing someone to invest by paying 10 percent tax amounts to giving him the upper hand over those who would invest after paying 25 percent tax.

The Anti-Corruption Commission should be closed for the next three years since it would have nothing to do against the corrupt individuals as long as the money-whitening provision is in force, he added.

Dr Mashur Rahman, prime minister's economic affairs adviser, however, said the chance to whiten undisclosed money would attract more investment and help generate employment.

The provision was in place during tenure of BNP-led four-party alliance and the caretaker government as well, he noted.

Centre for Policy Dialogue's economist Fahmida Khatun said the regular taxpayers would lose out on their investments due to money-whitening.

Akash said the size of the proposed budget is not a problem more serious than its implementation. "I'd say only 80 percent of the Annual Development Programme could be implemented."

Mashur Rahman said the government has drawn up the budget in light of its election pledges, and everyone should assist and press the administration to execute the financial plan properly.

## UN slaps tough

**FROM PAGE 16**  
and China joined Western powers and nations from every region in unanimously approving the sanctions resolution.

The resolution seeks to deprive North Korea of financing and material for its weapons programme and bans the country's lucrative arms exports, especially missiles. It does not ban normal trade, but does call on international financial institutions not to provide the North with grants, aid or loans except for humanitarian, development and denuclearisation programmes.

The resolution condemns "in the strongest terms" the North's May 25 nuclear test "in violation and flagrant disregard" of the 2006 sanctions resolution.

US Deputy Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo said the new resolution provided "a strong and united international response" to North Korea's test in defiance of a ban imposed after its first underground atomic blast in October 2006 by imposing "unprecedented" measures.

## FBCCI

**FROM PAGE 1**  
provision of stimulus package of Tk 5,000 crore in the budget to face the global financial recession.

Huq praised the government's move to expand the social safety net programme and raise the allocation to combat climatic change.

In his speech Huq also advocated privatisation of the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and revival of the sick industries for better management and employment generation in the private sector.

Huq, however, urged the government to reduce corporate tax to attract both domestic and foreign investment in the country.