

## Wrath of dowry

FROM PAGE 16  
Only three months ago, her father, Mohammad Abdul Alek, a day labourer, had to endure immense hardship to arrange a dowry for his daughter's wedding.

"I didn't know from where my father would get the extra amount. However I went to my parents, but returned empty handed two days later," Parvin said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

"I'm the only daughter with three sons in the family, and I could feel the pain of my parents and the brothers, who were feeling totally helpless," she added.

When Parvin tried to explain to her husband and the in-laws that her parents are too poor to meet their demand, her husband's entire family became furious. They started citing, day and night, examples of other families in the village who had received larger amounts of dowries.

One Saturday morning in October 2000, her mother-in-law and sister-in-law asked her to collect hay from the harvest of paddy, and pile them up in front of their house. As she gathered the hay, she found two neatly wrapped packets underneath.

"My mother-in-law and sister-in-law asked me to take the packets to my room and to open those. They ran out of the room, and I don't remember anything after that," Parvin said.

She was admitted to Rajshahi Sadar Hospital with horrendous injuries, where doctors amputated both of her hands from the wrists. She lost one of her eyes, and can hardly see with the other. She said all her body bears marks of injuries.

As usual a case was filed with Pabna police station, which kept dragging on. At one point a village shalish (an unofficial court of village

elders and influential people) settled the matter by ordering her husband and his family to return the entire amount of dowry that Parvin's family had paid at the time her wedding, and granted her husband's family immunity from any punishment.

"They did return the dowry to my parents, but I got nothing. Now I'm struggling hard to live on as a handicapped person," Parvin sobbed.

### Moitree

FROM PAGE 16  
The attackers, more than 50 in number, were equipped with hammers, axes, pipes and iron rods, said witnesses.

The incident took place an hour after the college authorities started selling admission forms in the morning.

Prof Farida Sultana, principal of the college, describing the incident said the attackers stormed into her office around 11:00am and threatened her of ominous consequences if she did not stop the admission process at once.

In a few minutes the cadres ransacked teachers' room, Staff Council Office and the store beside it. They vandalise the furniture and electronic goods including phones and fax machines. At the time they were chanting slogans—“Duniyarmajdurehao.”

Police arrested three Chhatri Moitree leaders—city unit president Motiur Rahman Mati, general secretary Asaruzzaman Sunon and joint secretary Muhammen Haque Rana—from the scene.

The three were seen directing the attackers, said police and witnesses.

However, Chhatri Moitree blamed Bangladesh Chhatri League, student front of the ruling Awami League, for the incident terming themselves victims of a conspiracy.

Additional police were later deployed at the college.

## Daylight saving

FROM PAGE 1  
Shops and malls that usually remain open till 8:00pm closed after 8:00pm last night, with the clock running an hour ahead.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Friday night inaugurated the DST in Bangladesh at her official residence.

She urged all to be more conscious about using electricity and saving energy by utilising the daylight.

The government has adopted the DST so that people can best use the natural resource of sunlight, she said.

The government expects a five percent reduction in the national power demand, equivalent to 200 megawatt of power, during the evening peak hour—7:00pm to 8:00pm.

As per the government decision, the daylight saving measure begins this year from June 19 and ends on October 1, when the clock is to be set an hour back. From next year on, the clock would be set an hour forward on April 1 and set an hour back on October 1.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, said the university's classes, libraries, laboratories and examinations will be held according to the new DST.

"Initially we may feel something unusual while adopting the new time," he said adding that from the national perspective the decision is very much scientific.

Siddique said our social life style would also develop with the new time as its benefits have already been proven by some developed countries.

He thinks DST should remain even after electricity problems are solved.

A number of private and government schools were found not complying with the DST. Sources said some of those schools start their morning shifts as early as 7:00am which makes it very difficult for students, who live far away, to get to school. This forced the schools to advance their morning shift times which also had an impact on day shift timings.

Nur Mohammad Rifles Public School and College was one of those. The school's day shift started at noon, which was earlier 11:00am, said a guardian over phone to The Daily Star. As per the DST, the school should have started as usual at 11:00am.

Mobile phone operators complied with the DST. The operators through short message service (SMS) and advertisements had informed the customers about DST and what would be considered peak and off-peak hours.

### Ashraf

FROM PAGE 1  
office at Dhanmondi following a party sub-committee meeting on AL's 60th founding anniversary.

AL Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, who heads the sub-committee, chaired the meeting attended by leaders of the party's city unit and those in the districts adjoining Dhaka as well as lawmakers from the capital.

Officials are planning to let some of the 2 million people displaced by fighting in Swat to start returning home further south Thursday.

They are being sent first to Mingora, Swat's main city. Electricity and civic facilities must be restored before they are allowed to go home in "phases," said Fazal Karim Khattak, a senior government official.

Refugees were happy to hear they will soon go home but worry about what they will find.

"Of course I am happy, but I don't know whether our home is safe or it has been destroyed," said Khadija Bibi, 45, a mother of four who left her home in the Kanjua near Mingora in May.

Khaisata Khan, 32, who owned a shop in the heart of the city of Swat, said he didn't know what had happened to his shop as the military had targeted Talibans in the area where it was located.

On June 24, a discussion followed by a cultural programme will be held at the same venue at 4:00pm. Sheikh Hasina will be the chief guest at the discussion.

Responding to a query on holding the party's national council within the deadline set by the Election Commission (EC), Ashraf said they would take a decision in this regard at a meeting of the party's highest policy making body following party's founding anniversary.

He however said if they fail to do so, they would seek extending the time limit.

### Shops burnt

FROM PAGE 16  
the chemical warehouses on Road-23 of Rupnagar around 10:30am and quickly spread to the adjacent houses.

Locals said the four sustained burn injuries trying to douse the fire and recover their belongings from the burning houses.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman and Awami League presidium member and Mercantile Bank Chairman Abdul Jalil were present among others.

## Learning English

FROM PAGE 1  
initiative by The Daily Star and AKTEL.

Around 150 teachers of 77 high schools of Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur and Laxmipur attended the programme.

Under EIS, 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 286 schools in Dhaka and Mymensingh zones. More schools in Comilla zone will be brought under the programme on June 24.

The Daily Star will bring out an extra page featuring helpful materials and discussions every week to help students learn English language. The venture also includes organising contests on spelling, vocabulary and book reading, among others.

Lauding the initiative, Comilla University Vice Chancellor Professor AHM Zehadul Karim said English is still a major problem, which is why many students fail in the Secondary School Certificate Exam.

This happens because of problems in the English teaching method, which was made complicated that scare students, he said addressing the occasion as the chief guest. "Such complications and fear must go," Dr Zehadul Karim said, adding that EIS programme could greatly help remove such problems.

Comilla Education Board Chairman Prof Atiur Rahman said, "There are many good English teachers but still the rate of failures in English in SSC level is increasing."

Math Olympiad, a country-wide programme by Prothom Alo to popularise Math, has significantly helped decrease the rate of failures in Math, he said expecting that the EIS will also help decrease the rate of failures in English.

He said research found that secondary to degree level

### Sircar, Akhtar

FROM PAGE 1  
It also suggested taking legal actions if they do not return the money.

Earlier, another sub-committee recommended retrieving Tk 35 lakh that Sircar, Akhtar and Delwar took illegally.

Shahjahan Khan said they are only working to ensure transparency and accountability in the Parliament Secretariat's spending and thus uphold the dignity of the House.

In another development yesterday, the all-party committee met Speaker Abdul Hamid at his office and apprised him of the progress in its work. It also informed him about the decision to summon Sircar, Akhtar and Delwar on June 27, added the meeting sources.

The committee today starts compiling the findings of its three sub-committees who have turned in reports recommending stern legal actions against the three.

Parliament will decide on the next course of action once it has the final probe report from the main probe body on or before July 9.

"We want to hear their versions before finalising our reports," Rabbi said, adding that the probe committee believes they would show up at the June 27 meeting.

Sircar, also a lawmaker of the ninth parliament, said he would decide whether to attend the committee's meeting after going through the letter.

Earlier, the committee had decided to summon them to be present at its meeting on June 10.

Asked about deferral, its chief said they had changed the date as a sub-committee could not submit its report on time.

Shahjahan Khan, head of the sub-committee that submitted its report yesterday, however said the date was deferred because the legislature was in budget session then.

In response to a growing call from the lawmakers, the speaker on March 19 formed the all-party parliamentary body to investigate alleged corruption in the Parliament Secretariat during the tenure of former speaker Sircar and Hamid.

The probe body and its sub-committees have already disclosed details of financial irregularities by Sircar, Akhtar and Delwar.

A worker of the floor said people of the authorities first attacked the workers. Later when police took some of the agitating workers upstairs for settlement, they also assaulted them [workers] in front of police.

Lutful Rahman said they closed the factory for the day fearing further damage by the agitating workers.

Patrol Inspector of Khilgaon Police Station told The Daily Star that around 11:00am police moved the barricade from the road.

Managing Director of the factory Lutful Rahman told The Daily Star that the two executives brought false allegation of illicit relationship against worker Jharna and supervisor Saiful. The complaint resulted in similar incident at the floor during lunch hour on June 16.

Following the incident the authorities investigated into the allegation and found

nothing. Mafuz and Farzana, as a result, were fired on June 17, he said adding, but yesterday garment workers Aleya and some others who work in another unit of the group took the two to create chaos in the factory.

A worker of the floor said people of the authorities first attacked the workers. Later when police took some of the agitating workers upstairs for settlement, they also assaulted them [workers] in front of police.

Lutful Rahman said they closed the factory for the day fearing further damage by the agitating workers.

Patrol Inspector of Khilgaon Police Station told The Daily Star that around 11:00am police moved the barricade from the road.

Managing Director of the factory Lutful Rahman told The Daily Star that the two executives brought false allegation of illicit relationship against worker Jharna and supervisor Saiful. The complaint resulted in similar incident at the floor during lunch hour on June 16.

Following the incident the authorities investigated into the allegation and found

## POLICE WARNINGS Iranian rally organiser backs down

AFP, Tehran

violations registered by the three defeated candidates -- former parliament speaker Karroubi, former premier Mir Hossein Mousavi and ex-Revolutionary Guards chief Mohsen Rezai.

Neither Mousavi nor Karroubi showed up at the meeting, Press TV reported, without saying why.

Early on Saturday afternoon, Mousavi's newspaper website said he would soon make an "important" announcement, but did not elaborate.

However, powerful former president and Mousavi's supporter Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani denied reports that he was to issue a statement.

In demanding an end to protests, Khamenei warned that otherwise there could be further bloodshed beyond the seven deaths reported by state radio.

Amnesty International said on Friday it had information of 10 deaths. Beyond Khamenei's general warning, Mousavi was singled out by the head of Iran's security council on Saturday for a specific one.

### Notre Dame

FROM PAGE 16

before other classmates.

Iqbal said he had complained to a couple of teachers, but to no avail.

In the meantime, Babu and Rao kept on fraying his temper.

To avenge humiliation, Iqbal said, he took Babu to a house in Motijheel on June 4 and stabbed him.

The following day he learnt from newspapers that Babu had succumbed to his injuries.

### Warehouses

FROM PAGE 16

that the drive is being hindered due to court's stay orders against eviction.

BIWTA Deputy Director Saiful Islam said that they could not evict 11 out of 33 structures constructed on Ghatali bank of Turag because of such stayorders.

He said encroachers often get stay order on the basis of lease deal made by different agencies.

Foreside and port area of the river should remain under the conservancy of BIWTA, he said, adding that district administration, district councils and city corporations lease out land of the riverbanks for commercial uses.

Another BIWTA official engaged in the eviction drive along Shitalakhya river said that they also would not be able to evict Ekota Samobay Samity and Samata Samobay Samity and their 42 small structures opposite to Narayanganj river port terminal.

The encroachers have obtained court's stay order, as assistant commissioner (land) of Narayanganj leased out foreshore land to them although they were once evicted during caretaker government in 2007.

After lunch break, the eviction team in Narayanganj engaged labourers to demolish part of a poultry farm owned by Ferdous and two residential houses owned by Shah Alam and Shukrill Syedpur area.

The team, however, could not knock down a mosque, built by Popular Jute Mills on the river, fearful of hurting religious sentiment.

Meanwhile, authorities have identified a total of 70 illegal structures on Ghatali and Amin Bazar banks of Turag. The encroachers have occupied a total of 7.5 acres foreshore of the river.

Executive magistrate Idris Jahan led the Shitalakhya drive while Mokbul Hossain led the drive in Turag.

The drive continues both in Shitalakhya and Turag today.

### Canal Recovery Drive

Wasa launched yesterday's eviction drive to reclaim Hazaribagh Canal and demolished a number of makeshift illegal structures erected on the canal.

A total of 15 makeshift structures, four concrete toilets and portion of a two-storey building were demolished during the drive. Wasa chairman Golam Mostafa and managing director Md Shahjahan Ali Mollah supervised the drive.

Special Metropolitan Magistrate Kazi Wasi Uddin said that they would conduct the next drive to reclaim Kalyanpur Canal in Mirpur.

The Wasa high officials also found that Azimpur division of Public Works Department owes Tk 6 crore to Wasa and instructed the Wasa officials to realise the sum within next two weeks.

## RMG factory

FROM PAGE 16  
workers' leader Tania and Aleya when they appeared with two sacked workers—Mahfuza and Farzana—at the fifth floor of the factory around 7:30 am and demanded reinstatement of the two to create chaos in the factory.