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Bashundhara chief sued for land grabbing, threatening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two lawsuits have been filed against Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan and five others on charges of grabbing government lands, removing soil from there and threatening a government official.

Md Mukhlesur Rahman Khan, assistant land officer of Shafipur union land office filed the cases with Kaliakoir Police Station in Gazipur on Thursday.

The plaintiff said the accused grabbed government lands and removed soil from there for Mouchak City Project of Bashundhara Group at Madhyapara and Thakurpara in Kaliakoir upazila.

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Seek mercy, end strike by today

Minister asks river vessel workers; normalcy returning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Movement of vessels on all routes became almost normal while loading and unloading of goods in Mongla and Chittagong seaports remained mostly suspended yesterday, the seventh day of indefinite water transport strike.

Meantime, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan extended the government ultimatum for transport workers to resume work by 24 hours, provided they plead for mercy.

The workers, who had not joined work within the Friday deadline, can do so by 5:00pm today only after making a plea for mercy. Otherwise, legal action will be taken against them, the minister said at a press briefing.

He also warned that the workers' certificates of competency would be cancelled or suspended in line with the Inland Shipping Ordinance, 1976, if they do not resume work by the deadline.

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Buses stop regularly at this spot near Sonargaon intersection in the capital where there is a signboard asking drivers not to stop to pick passengers.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Khaleda greets Cameron

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has congratulated the new British Prime Minister David Cameron, and assured to work closely with him and the UK government in achieving common goals of global peace, prosperity and socio-economic stability.

In a letter sent to Cameron on Thursday, Khaleda Zia said: "Please allow me to extend my heartiest congratulations on

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3 arrestees tell double murder story

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arrested Noor Alam Babu admitted to the killing of his stepmother and stepsister with the help of his two friends at Shanir Akhra in the city on May 8.

During a press briefing yesterday, Babu said he was angry with stepmother Yasmin Alam, because she did not want him to stay at her house.

Detective Branch of Police arrested Noor Alam, 17, and

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OnlinePoll ✓

How do you look at Khaleda Zia's allegations against the government?

- Reflects bad political taste: 58.0%
- Reflects reality: 40.6%
- No Comments: 1.4%

Total votes: 1432

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government's move to hike power tariff is justified?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Storm ravages Sylhet city

Causes 13-hr outage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A severe nor'wester in the city uprooted thousands of trees and blew away more than 50 billboards and hundreds of tin roofs Thursday night.

The nor'wester also caused a power outage throughout the city from 10:00pm on Thursday to 11:15am Friday as power supply system collapsed after a number of electrical poles toppled over and many transformers went out of order.

The city was hit by a nor'wester for the second time at about 6:00am yesterday.

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Thai troops open fire on protesters, 8 dead

AP, Bangkok

Thai troops fired bullets at anti-government protesters, and explosions thundered in the heart of Bangkok yesterday as an army push to clear the streets and end a two-month political standoff sparked clashes that have killed eight and wounded 101.

As night fell, booming explosions and the sound of gunfire rattled around major intersections in the central business district. Local TV reported that several grenades hit a shopping center and elevated-rail station. Plumes of black smoke hung over the neighborhood as tires burned in eerily empty streets while onlookers ducked for cover.

With security deteriorating and hopes of a peaceful resolution to the standoff increasingly unlikely, what was once one of Southeast Asia's most stable democracies and magnets of foreign investment has been thrust deep into political uncertainty. The crisis threatens its stability, economy and already-decimated tourism industry.

Violence escalated after a rogue army general regarded as a military adviser to the Red Shirt protesters was shot in the head Thursday evening, possibly by a sniper. A doctor said Maj. Gen. Khattiya Sawasdiplol was still in a coma yesterday and he could "die at any moment."

Clashes since then have killed eight and wounded 101, officials said. Among those wounded were two Thai journalists and a Canadian reporter, who was in a serious condition.

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Prayer Timing

May 15

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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*Condition apply