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# TRANSPORT STRIKE

## Commuters suffer in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of commuters, particularly those in the capital, suffered a lot yesterday due to a countrywide transport strike enforced in protest at the murder of a transport leader.

Many passengers who travelled overnight to reach their destinations in Dhaka and other parts of the country remained stranded in the capital's inter-district bus terminals.

Schoolchildren, their parents and students taking admission tests at different universities were the worst sufferers of the strike. Many city schools were open yesterday to make up for the losses caused by the opposition alliance's recent hartals.

Taking advantage of the situation, rickshaw-pullers and drivers of CNG-run auto-rickshaws charged commuters exorbitantly.

Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Malik-Sramik Oikya Parishad, an association of transport owners and workers, had called a dawn-to-dusk strike around 9:00pm Thursday.

The association, however, withdrew the strike at midday yesterday, considering the ongoing Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations.

The secretary general of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity, however, threatened to enforce an all-out strike across the country if the killers of the transport leader are not brought to book soon.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



People wait, *top*, at Shahbagh unable to go anywhere during a bus strike in the capital yesterday morning. A few of them rushed to an auto-rickshaw, *left*, as soon as it stopped asking if it was willing to take them to their destinations. Some city dwellers get on a truck failing to get a bus going towards where they wanted to go.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



# No casualties during Hefajat flushing out

*But May 5-6 countrywide violence killed 45, says Nirmul Committee White Paper*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There were no casualties on early May 6, when law enforcers flushed out Hefajat men from the capital's Shapla Chatter, said a whitepaper by the Gono Commission of Ekattur Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday.

Previously, Hefajat, Jamaat and BNP claimed that several thousand Hefajat men had been killed during the operation, giving rise to widespread controversy apparently to embarrass the government.

The Gono Commission, however, said a total of 39 people had been killed in clashes in and outside the capital centring the Hefajat rally on May 5-6. Six

more law enforcers were also killed during the time, says the report.

The whitepaper styled "400 Days of Fundamentalist and Communal Violence of Hefajat-e Islam and Jamaat-e-Islami" binned the lists of 79 and 61 deaths prepared by Hefajat and rights body Odhikar respectively. It termed the reports incomplete, exaggerated and repetitious.

On the home ministry list, which claimed that a total of 28 people had died that day, the whitepaper said families of some victims had not reported to the police about the deaths and buried the bodies secretly. This kept the government report incomplete.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## ATTACKS ON HINDUS TIB for probe, punishment to culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed concern over the attacks on minority communities and their places of worship in Lalmonirhat, Pabna, Rajshahi, Faridpur and Khagrachhari in the last few days.

In a statement yesterday, the anti-graft watchdog demanded a fair investigation into the incidents by a powerful judicial committee and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

It also demanded appropriate administrative steps to put an end to such barbarism in no time.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## ROOPPUR POWER PLANT 'Russia to use safest nuke technology'

STAR REPORT

Russia would install its top-notch and safest VVER nuclear reactor in the Rooppur power plant that comply with all post-Fukushima international safety regulations, said Igor Korolchenko, head of construction of the project.

"It will be a pressurised water reactor. This is the safest technology available today, having clocked 1,500 reactor-years of accident-free operation," said Korolchenko in an email interview.

Rosatom, the Russian state nuclear power company, would provide the



Igor Korolchenko

nuclear power plant.

Preparatory work at the site would begin in January, 2014, and the main construction phase, which would take about 5 years, would start in 2015.

The Russian side was planning to commission the Rooppur nuclear power station in the beginning of 2020, he noted.

"The station will be designed with an effective combination of active and passive [operating without human intervention on the basis of natural forces] safety systems," he said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Small traders stage a token hunger strike at Shahbagh across the street from Aziz Super Market yesterday protesting against the series of hartals which were hurting their business.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Over 1,000 rare turtles seized at Thai airport

*Smuggled from Bangladesh, Pakistan, say Thai police*

AFP, Bangkok

Thai customs have found over a thousand turtles and tortoises in airport luggage in a week, including a haul of 470 creatures yesterday as conservationists warn of "skyrocketing" smuggling for the pet trade.

Officials at Suvarnabhumi Airport said a 25-year-old Pakistani man had been arrested on suspicion of wildlife trafficking after four suitcases on a flight from Lahore were found to contain the protected

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## No political reform in China

*Says Communist Party documents*

REUTERS, Beijing

China's Communist Party gave an emphatic no to any political reform that may threaten its rule in a lengthy document published yesterday, the day before it starts a key meeting to set the economic agenda for the next decade.

While party leaders have promised unprecedented reforms at the four-day closed-door plenum, these will focus on economic issues, and there have been

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## 3 robbers killed in shootout

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Three alleged robbers of a notorious gang were killed in a 'gunfight' with police at Subarnochar in Noakhali early yesterday.

Five policemen and two other gang members were injured in the incident.

The deceased were identified as Kalu, the

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PRAYER TIMING		November 9
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5:00	5:35
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:25	5:30
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Monster typhoon whips Philippines

*3 killed; massive destruction feared*

AFP, Manila

One of the most intense typhoons on record whipped the Philippines yesterday, killing at least three people and terrifying millions as monster winds tore apart homes.

Super Typhoon Haiyan smashed into coastal communities on the central island of Samar, about 600 kilometres southeast of Manila, before dawn with maximum sustained winds of about 315 kilometres an hour.

It then swept across the central Philippines, destroying phone and power lines, as well as homes and vital infrastructure, causing a massive communications blackout that left authorities without a clear idea of the extent of the damage.

Haiyan's wind strength made it one of

the four most powerful typhoons ever recorded in the world, and the most intense to have made landfall, according to Jeff Masters, the director of meteorology at US-based Weather Underground.

Haiyan generated wind gusts of 379 kilometres an hour early yesterday morning, according to the US Navy's Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

"It was frightening. The wind was so strong, it was so loud, like a screaming woman. I could see trees being toppled down," said Liwayway Sabuco, a saleswoman from Catbalogan, a major city on Samar.

The government said three people had been confirmed killed and another man was missing after he fell off a gangplank in the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the government is playing "hide-and-seek" over holding the next general polls?

Yes

71%

No

29%

TOTAL VOTES: 298

TODAY'S POLL

Don't you think there should be a law to realise compensation for the damage caused by pro-hartal activists?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

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এইচআর প্ল্যানিং, ডিপ্লয়মেন্ট এন্ড অপারেশনস ডিভিশন

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