

SAFAR 29, 1435 HIJRI

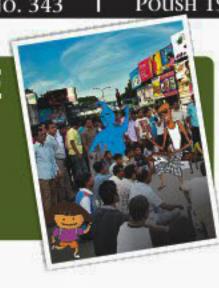
Your Right to Know



WikiLeaks didn't know or approve of party meeting with the Syria president

**MEETING WITH ASSAD** 





#### **CONSUMERS SUFFER**

Cost of living rose 11pc last year compared to that in 2012

PAGE B1

# Jamaat vexed at BNP role

Distances itself from blockade over ally's Mollah reaction

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Jamaat-e-Islami is gradually distancing itself from its main ally BNP, as the Islamist party is disappointed with the BNP's handling of the ongoing movement and its stance on the execution of Abdul Quader Mollah.

The Jamaat believes it has already "paid dearly" by losing many of its leaders and activists in the violent movement against the government. In most cases, BNP leaders and activists kept themselves from the street agitations.

To the Jamaat, the BNP just wanted to have the pie prepared through Jamaat sacrifice. In addition, the more Jamaat takes to the streets, the more it is perceived as a terrorist organisation. But it could have come out of this stigma had the BNP joined it on the ground.

would condemn, at least tactically, the hanging on December 12 of Jamaat assistant secretary general Quader Mollah for war crimes. But she did not do so, which has frustrated Jamaat.

At the same time, the Jamaat was expecting that BNP chief Khaleda Zia

The Daily Star has learnt these from a number of leaders of the BNP, Jamaat and a component of the 18-party opposition alliance.

The rift between the two allies became clearer after the BNP failed to bring out on the streets any of its leaders to enforce the December 29 "March for Democracy" programme that was later extended by one day.

According to the sources, Khaleda herself phoned the 20 Dhaka city

#### Jubo Dal leader shot dead

Nonstop blockade begins

STAR REPORT

An activist of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, youth wing of the BNP, was shot dead and several others were wounded in a clash between blockaders and BGB personnel in Chandpur yesterday, the first day of the BNP-led opposition's indefinite blockade across the country.

Blockaders hurled petrol bombs at a Rajbari-bound train at Pangsha station in Rajbari last night, causing fire to one of its compartments.

Fire-fighters brought the flames under control after more than half an hour around 11:30pm, said fire service officials.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



### 'Love' for land knows no bounds

Eight AL lawmakers, leaders own land equivalent to one-tenth of Dhaka

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Just eight ruling party lawmakers and leaders roughly own land equivalent to a tenth of the capital, excluding the cantonments.

A random scan of the wealth statements the eight ruling party lawmakers and leaders recently submitted to the Election Commission reveals their lust for land and how aggressively they got hold of it as much as they could during the last five years.

Just five years ago, as per their 2008 wealth statements, the eight owned

only 71.417 acres of land.

thousands crore taka. Many say that they actually have even more land than they have disclosed.

much land is being talked about here: processing zones and the private Korean EPZ combined have only tracts of land in the last five years. around 5,000 acres.

They now own 3,508 acres of land. Mahmud, former state minister for The pieces of land are worth a couple of housing and public works Abdul Mannan Khan, lawmaker from Dhaka Joint General Secretary Mahbubul For the sake of understanding how Alam Hanif, former state minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Dhaka city spreads over 31,630 acres of Nanak, lawmaker Nazrul Islam Babu land. The eight state-owned export and AL Organising Secretary Bir Bahadur are the ones who bought vast

But some ruling party high-ups did Former state minister for water not just go for land, considered a secure resources Mahbubur Rahman, Forest investment with high future returns.

and Environment Minister Hasan Instead, they went for large fish farms, which is a way to avoid tax since earnings from fisheries are tax free.

Seven lawmakers have shown in total [Mirpur] Aslamul Haque Aslam, AL Tk 34 crore annual earnings from fisheries while two have shown investments worth Tk 27 crore in fish farming.

> AL lawmakers Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury, Elias Uddin Mollah, Mannan Khan and Hanif, and three AL nominated candidates, ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury (Chittagong-6), Didarul Alam (Chittagong-4), and Talukder Abdul SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



passengers at Bijoy Sarani intersection in the capital yesterday ignoring or oblivious to the government ban on motorcyclists carrying pillions.

ONLY ONE TO RIDE A MOTORBIKE

## Sudden ban kicks up an uproar

HELEMUL ALAM and RAFIUL ISLAM

The government out of the blue has slapped an indefinite ban on pillion passengers on motorbikes upsetting law-abiding motorcyclists.

"I always take my wife to her office at Motijheel, around 10km from my home at Taltala," said Nazmul Ahsan. With no direct buses to take her to work, his wife now has to change vehicles, including rickshaws, several times to get to work spending a lot

more time and money on the commute.

The ban put Aminul Islam in trouble as the resident of Mirpur uses his bike to take his daughter to school 1.5km away. "I am worried but I welcome the BRTA decision. I want relaxation of the ban in cases of carrying children to their schools," he added.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) imposed the ban on Saturday following several incidents in which motorbikes with pillion passengers were involved



#### **WELL DONE, BRAC STUDENTS!**

Congratulations to the 107,197 students of BRAC's non-formal primary schools for your outstanding performance in the primary completion examination 2013. You achieved a remarkable 99.99 per cent pass rate, Congratulations also to your 3,834 teachers! Amongst you, 8.27 per cent attained GPA-5 and 90.10 per cent of you got A+, A or A- grades.

Coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, all of you have overcome countless challenges due to the lack of resources and opportunities. Many of you come from ethnic minority communities and some of you also struggle with special needs. We express our deepest gratitude to the government and other associates for supporting you to achieve exceptional results despite the odds facing you.



We, the BRAC family, are proud of you!