

## 2.2m children bearing

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"Although pre-primary schools are supposed to use only 'play and learn materials' and dispel the child's fear of schooling in the process, our nursery schools use more serious teaching methods," said Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campe.

She added that a lack of specialised training for pre-primary teachers was a key reason behind this practice.

Surveying 1,500 schools in thirty randomly selected upazilas across Bangladesh, the study also concluded that only 40 percent of the 6.5 million children aged between four and five years go to nursery schools.

"Pre-primary schooling has the potential to completely stop primary school dropouts, if they are run properly," added Rasheda.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Advocate Mostafizur Rahman and Founder Chairperson of Brac Fazle Hasan Abed, among others, spoke.

## 4m suffering from

FROM PAGE 5

since Aila.

In many areas, influential locals cut embankments and made sluice gates to take saline water inside for commercial shrimp cultivation, the discussants said.

The speakers recommended that different steps to overcome the situation including proper repairing of the embankments, safe water and sanitation facilities be ensured in the shelters during disaster period.

Zuena Aziz, additional secretary, ministry of local government and rural development, was present as chief guest with Dr A Atiq Rahman, executive director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), in the chair.

SMA Rashid, executive director of the Bangladesh NGO Forum, delivered the welcome speech.

Md Nuruzzaman, chief engineer, DPHE; Syed Tajul Islam, deputy secretary, water resources ministry; and several inhabitants from Aila-hit areas including Jayanti Rani Sarder of Dakop, Abdul Mannan of Koyra, Abdur Rauf of Koyra, Shikha Rani of Mongla, Hazera Khatun of Gabura, among others, spoke.

## Capital sees waterlogging

FROM PAGE 3

Khepupara 10, Iswardi 20, Patuakhali 12, Khulna 7, Barisal 8, Bhola 5, Chandpur 18, Chuadanga 4, Satkhira 7, and with Faridpur the highest 32 millimetre of rainfall, said Rasheduzzaman, a meteorologist at Dhaka Met Office.

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Prof M Rezwan Khan, vice chancellor of United International University, addressing a press conference at UIU Auditorium yesterday marking the 3rd International Conference on the Developments in Renewable Energy Technology to be held on May 29-31. Prof Md Fayyaz Khan of EEE department and co-chair of the technical committee of ICDRET; Dr Raqibul Mostafa, head of EEE; Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury, director of the Center for Energy Research, also attended the programme.

# Razakars tortured father on Subhan's order

## Son testifies at war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A victim's son yesterday testified against war crimes accused Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Abdus Subhan, saying that he along with Razakars and Biharies picked up his father and an Ansar man, who were later tortured to lifelong physical impairments at a Razakar camp in Pabna on Subhan's order during the Liberation War.

Ashraf Uddin Miah, the eighth prosecution witness in Subhan's case, said although his father and another detainee were released later following Subhan's order, they became crippled due to the torture.

Biharies, who were accompanied by the accused, also looted their houses and burnt down one of them, Ashraf told the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

Subhan is facing nine charges including genocide committed in Pabna during the war. Subhan, however, pleaded not guilty before the court.

During his 49-minute testimony, Ashraf, son of Alauddin Miah, an Ansar member of Arunkhola village at Iswardi in Pabna, said in the middle of Bangla month Baishakh, Subhan along with Pakistani army and Biharies had come to their home in search of his father.

"As they did not find my father, Biharies looted belongings of our house and set fire to a straw-house," said Ashraf.

Then Subhan and his cohorts went to Joyenuddin's home, who was also an Ansar member, and looted his house, as they did not find him there, he said.

"Under the leadership of Moulana Subhan, Pakistani army and Biharies looted and torched the houses of the Hindu-dominated area in our village," he added.

On the first day of Bangla month Jaishtha, Subhan, Khoda Baks (Khudu Kha) and 15/20 Razakars besieged a tea stall at Arunkhola Haat, picked up his father and Joyenddin, and taken them to Iswardi Rest House, a camp of Razakar and Pakistani army, said Ashraf.

"I was present there [Arunkhola Haat]," he added.

Following the advice of local digni-

## KILLING OF ATIQUIL ISLAM Verdict on June 10

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed June 10 for pronouncing the verdict against four muggers in connection with the killing of Atiqul Islam, a video editor of private satellite channel NTV, in February 2009.

A gang of muggers shot dead Atiqul around 7:45pm on February 13, 2009 in the city's Moghbazar area on his way to his residence. They also snatched away his motorbike.

After completion of arguments from the prosecution and the defence, Judge Md Nuruzzaman of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 of Dhaka set the date.

The accused are Abdullah Md Ibne Ali Sarkar alias Nahid, Shakil Sarkar, Md Forkan and Md Khokon.

Of them, Khokon went into hiding after he got bail from the High Court.

Following the killing, a murder case was filed with Ramna Police Station accusing unidentified persons.

Later police arrested four muggers on different dates. Of them, Nahid and Shakil gave confessional statement before a magistrate saying that they along with two others had killed Atiqul for snatching his motorbike.

Detective Branch of police pressed charges against them on August 9, 2009, and the court framed charges against them on September 6, 2010.

## Constitutional changes

FROM PAGE 5

in Narayanganj, NHRC Chairman Mizanur Rahman said if the HC through its judgment enhanced the power of the NHRC, they would carry out investigation without fear against all human rights violators, irrespective of their identities.

Regarding Rab, he said, "If you can eradicate the culture of impunity, there is no need to abolish any law enforcing agency."

However, advocate ZI Khan Panna questioned the need for a separate elite force when police could be made equally skilled if provided with proper training, logistics and equipment.

Indian lawyer Vrinda Grover gave example of a directive by the Supreme Court of India in 2006 that directed the states to constitute the State Security Commission to ensure that the state government did not exercise unwarranted influence or pressure on the state police, and that the police could act according to the law and the constitution.

She said that political executive in India used to hold the power to appoint and terminate police chiefs, but now State Security Commission -- a body comprising of politicians and civil society members, even opposition party leaders -- appoints the senior most functional officer of police for a fixed tenure.

Maya Daruwala, director of CHRI, said that the duty of police was to uphold the law, not just enforce it.

## Speaker urged to request

FROM PAGE 5

Shirin will have a one-to-one meeting with Modi on May 27, a day after he will be sworn in.

The inter-river linking project aims to divert the water of the Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers through different canals to different regions of India depriving and ignoring the outcries of Bangladesh and some of its own states.

## Opportunities for Graduate level education and Postdoctoral Research in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, USA

The Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health is seeking applications from competent Bangladeshi nationals for masters, pre- and post-doctoral studies supported by its Fogarty Training grant on global infectious diseases. The post-doctoral position starts immediately. The masters and doctoral level training will begin in September 2015. Interested candidates are requested to apply. The fellowship is contingent upon admission in the program. Please review application information at <http://www.jhsph.edu/admissions/application-requirements/>, or contact Cristina Salazar ([csalazar@jhu.edu](mailto:csalazar@jhu.edu))

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### Rice mill blast kills three

Our Correspondent, Mymensingh

Three workers were killed and two others injured in a boiler blast of a rice mill in the district's Haluaghat upazila yesterday.

The dead are Alam Miah, 42, son of Abdul Mazid, Sultan Ali, 40, son of Jamir Uddin, and Hazrat Ali, 40, son of Abdul Mazid. All hailed from Haluaghat.

Police said the boiler exploded when the workers were working at Shakil Auto Rice Mill in Dhara Bazar area around 6:00am, injuring five workers critically.

They were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where Sultan, Hazrat and Alam died, said Jakiur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Haluaghat Police Station.

One of the injured, Abdur Razzag, has been undergoing treatment at the hospital in a critical condition. The other injured, Rahmat Ali, has been referred to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated, hospital sources said.

The reason behind the blast could not be known.

Ref: The Daily Star, May 18, 2014.

## MONEY IS NOT VALUABLE THAN LIFE, BE CAREFUL OF BOILER BLAST.

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