

40 accused, all BCL

FROM PAGE 1

Ripon, Shakil alias Chhota Shakil, Zakir, Khokan and Shah Poran.

Supporters of BCL leaders Pritom Chakrabarty and Saleh engaged in the clash over establishing supremacy on the campus around 1:30pm on Thursday, reports UNB.

The clash soon spilled over into nearby Munsebari area. At one stage, the supporters of Saleh attacked Pritom.

Witnessing the incident from a neighbouring house, Sumu, also a nephew of local lawmaker AKM Bahauddin Bahar, rushed to the spot to save Pritom.

But the attackers shot Sumu in the back and pelted him with bricks, leaving him critically injured in the

head.

He was taken to Comilla Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Soon after the filing of the case, police conducted raids at Kabi Nazrul Hall of the college and Baludham and Telikona areas in the city.

The law enforcers, however, could not arrest any of the accused till filing of this report last night, reports a correspondent in Comilla.

Feroz Hossain, a sub-inspector of the police station, said police had collected call records of the accused.

He also said they were putting in their best efforts to arrest the culprits.

Meanwhile, the condition of Pritom, who was being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, has

IMF to provide

FROM PAGE 16

The current account of the balance of payments is projected at a surplus of 1.3 percent of GDP in FY14, and is expected to move into a moderate deficit in FY15, said the press release.

Macroeconomic policies under the authorities' programme are set to remain focused on safeguarding stability and building policy buffers. With inflation risks tilted to the upside in the near term, monetary policy should remain prudent, it said.

"Strengthening the state-owned commercial banks remains another

focus of financial reforms, centred on improving governance, automating financial reporting, and recapitalising these banks," the release said.

Steps have also been taken to improve working conditions in the garment industry, including through a sizeable increase in the minimum wage, and to strengthen the targeting and efficiency of social safety net programmes.

"Continued progress on these fronts should contribute to promoting high, sustained, and inclusive growth," it added.

BNP observes

FROM PAGE 16

capital and offered Fateha, seeking eternal peace of her husband.

On this day, May 30, 1981, Zia was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army officers at Chittagong Circuit House.

Zia was a sector commander during the Liberation War. He was awarded Bir Uttam, the highest gallantry award for a living officer, for his wartime services.

BNP and its different front and associate bodies have taken up a 14-day programme to observe the day in a befitting manner.

On the occasion of the death anniversary, the party flag has been hoisted at half-mast at the party's central office at Nayapaltan and all party offices across the country.

As part of the programme, the BNP chief inaugurated a blood donation programme organised by Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) on the mazar premises around 11:40am.

Meanwhile, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has blamed the government for the incidents of killing, abduction and forced disappearance.

"Killings, abductions and forced disappearances are happening across the country. There is no guarantee of natural deaths here. We want to get rid of such situation. An acceptable general election is needed immediately to this end," he said after placing wreaths at the grave of Zia.

The BNP leader asked his party men to take a fresh vow influenced by the spirit of Zia. "We have to take the responsibility for saving the people and the country from the government's repression and oppression."

A movement is going on to realise their demand to hold a fresh general election, and it will be intensified to force the government to meet the demand, he warned.

Khaleda also distributed food among the poor at different places, including Rajdhani High School playground on Manik Mia Avenue, Mohammadpur Town Hall, Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Shantinagar and Nayapaltan BNP headquarters, in the capital to mark the day with due respect.

She also opened a free medical camp organised by the DAB in front of the party's Nayapaltan office.



Students of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College show their project "Save the Buriganga with scavenger" at the science project competition IGNIITE held at their institution yesterday. The project is about cleaning up the polluted life line of Dhaka.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Young science minds show their talent

FROM PAGE 16

Students of classes VI-VIII participated in Discover Science, a 40-minute MCQ quiz, while students of classes VI-VIII and IX-X prepared concept papers on different projects for the Idea Flight category. Imagine the Future featured science and technology-based projects from the students of classes IX-X.

A total of 140 innovations like Aswa and Tasnuva's turned up in the final round. A team from Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar Girls' College showed how cars equipped with specific sensors can detect when the driver is falling asleep, or if the driver has more alcohol in their breath than permissible for driving.

Students of Sir John Wilson school talked about how rickshaw pullers can convert the energy produced from pedalling to electricity, which can be stored in a battery and later used to light up their homes.

On the other hand, a team of Holy Cross School students toyed with the idea of turning plastic into fuel.

"A large part of the waste in our country is plastic. If heated up to 300 degree centigrade, plastic can be used

to produce diesel, gasoline and kerosene," said Anika, a team member.

Meanwhile, Anirban and Palak from Ideal School showed how sunlight directed through a magnifying glass of a certain diameter and thickness can be used to cut steel while Ariful from Willes Little Flower School and College visualised a robotic help for people with reducing physical strength.

However, outclassing all of them, Tahzeeb Rahman Alvi of St. Joseph Higher Secondary School won the title of Discover Science while Aniruddha Chowdhury and SM Taufique of Mastermind school won the Idea Flight competition from the junior category with their project "Jarvis". The senior category title was a tie between a Mobile Control Rescue Robot and a Smart Voltage Multiplier by Shakti Banik of BNM Public School and Arian Ashfaq of St Joseph School respectively.

Anogh Zaman and Zafreen Sultana of Aga Khan school won in the Imagine the Future category with their science proposal titled "Evolution of Mind".

In the prize giving ceremony attended by students, their parents and guests, champions received a laptop each as the first prize, while other winners received tablets and science books.

Stressing on science education, Manju Ara Begum, principal of the VNSC, said a lack of interest in science is being witnessed in the country, especially in the rural areas.

"Such science festivals are essentially important to make more students interested in science," she said.

Nusrat Jahan Mim, a judge of the competition, said the jury was mesmerised to see the innovative projects the students came up with.

"It was difficult for us to judge ... You all are awesome and your styles of work are superb ... If you go on with such scientific minds and analyse your steps in your life, you will make a different Bangladesh one day," she said, adding that the judgements were given on the basis of four criteria -- creativity, originality, methodology and the presentation style.

Moderating the prize giving ceremony, Munir Hasan, project consul-

tant and secretary of Bangladesh Math Olympiad, said the country might not be enriched with natural resources like oil and gas, but it has got talented young minds, who will take forward the science education in the country.

"And we have that tradition as we are the descendants of famous scientists like Satyendra Nath Bose, Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose and Amar Bose," he added.

Thanking all, Syed Tahmeed Azizul Huq, head of Grameenphone's corporate communication, said that more such initiatives will be taken in future.

Marcus Adaktusson, who heads the communications department of Grameenphone, said the largest mobile phone service provider aims to empower society through the expansion of internet. "We believe all of you, sitting in this auditorium, will take internet and Bangladesh to next level"

In his speech, Salehuddin Ahmed, managing editor of The Daily Star, advised the students to experiment with science and make it easier to people.

Brazuca this time

FROM PAGE 1

was said to be too light and bouncy, while some complained that Teamgeist used in Germany four years later was slippery.

On Thursday, scientists in Japan said the Brazuca which Adidas developed as the official ball for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, should hit the mark.

It had a stable flight trajectory thanks to its shape and number of panels -- a record-low six, they wrote in the Nature journal Scientific Reports.

Traditionally constructed from 32 panels, more recently the ball that is redesigned every four years for the sporting world's greatest spectacle, had fewer -- Jabulani had eight panels and Teamgeist 14.

A pair of engineers at Japan's University of Tsukuba compared the aerodynamics of the Brazuca, Jabulani, Teamgeist, the Cafusa used in the 2013 Fifa Confederations Cup, and the

conventional 32-panel ball in the laboratory.

They used wind tunnel tests and kicks with robot legs to measure drag, also called air resistance, and trajectory.

The tests showed that Jabulani, dubbed "supernatural" by Brazilian striker Luis Fabian, had, indeed, been an erratic ball.

Brazuca, on the other hand, had the lowest drag of all the balls tested, followed closely by the traditional 32-panel sphere.

These two balls also had the most stable trajectories.

Simon Choppin, a sports engineer at Sheffield Hallam University in England, said the findings meant the Brazuca would be more predictable for the players.

"It's much more likely to behave like the footballs they are used to play with."

Choppin, who was not involved in the study, said the ball did not seem to

have the problem of being too smooth, as some of its predecessors had been.

The smoother a ball, the more drag and other "unsteady" aerodynamic forces it experiences while travelling through the air, whereas a rougher ball surface, created by panel seams, for example, caused the opposite behaviour, he explained.

The seams on Brazuca, said Choppin, are deeper -- thereby creating more surface roughness.

The research team said they have shown that a ball's characteristics can be used to predict its trajectory, which may be useful for coaching and design.

And while predictability of a ball is good for long, running passes and goalkeepers, not everyone may be happy with Brazuca's steady-does-it features.

Some strikers prefer a ball to dip and swerve, as it helps them confound the keeper.

Perfume makes

FROM PAGE 16

The research from the Monell Chemical Senses Centre reveals that women's faces are rated as more attractive in the presence of pleasant odours.

"Odour pleasantness and facial attractiveness integrate into one joint emotional evaluation," said Janina Seubert, a cognitive neuroscientist who led the research.

"This may indicate a common site of neural processing in the brain."

Previous studies had shown perception of facial attractiveness could be influenced when using unpleasant vs pleasant odours.

However, it was not known whether odours influence the actual visual perception of facial features or alternatively, how faces are emotionally evaluated by the brain.

The current study design centred on the principle that judging attractiveness and age involve two distinct perceptual processing methods: attrac-

tiveness is regarded as an emotional process while judgments of age are believed to be cognitive, or rationally-based.

This suggests that olfactory and visual cues independently influence judgments of facial attractiveness.

With regard to the cognitive task of age evaluation, visual age cues (more wrinkles and blemishes) were linked to older age perception.

However, odour pleasantness had a mixed effect.

Visual age cues strongly influenced age perception during pleasant odour stimulation, making older faces look older and younger faces look younger.

Jean-Marc Dessirier, lead scientist at Unilever and a co-author on the study, said "These findings have fascinating implications in terms of how pleasant smells may help enhance natural appearance within social settings."

Anomalies in court martial

FROM PAGE 1

secretary, explaining the government's position.

He, however, did not specify the anomalies in the court martial proceedings.

The defence secretary also requested the chairman and members of the committee to accept the government decision what he said in the "highest interest" of the country.

Yet, the parliamentary body suggested scrapping the court martial proceedings as it was informed that there were anomalies in the proceedings. But the defence ministry paid no heed to the recommendation. The then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself held the defence portfolio.

"We could not proceed further with the issue due to various limitations," Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiqullah, the then chairman of the parliamentary body, told The Daily Star recently.

Shafiqullah, also an ex-army chief, would not elaborate on the "limitations" that halted their move.

The trial of the accused army officers in the court martial in July 1981 triggered widespread controversies as it was held violating the army rules. In addition, some innocent officers were convicted of the murder.

No accused person was given the opportunity to raise any objection against any member of the court, should anyone feel he would not get justice. Several other provisions of the army rules were violated.

Agitations took place around the country for such gross violation of the army rules. Victims sought intervention of the Supreme Court after the delivery of the verdict by the court martial. But the SC could not interfere because of the constitutional bar on it.

The army headquarters hurriedly formed the general court martial led by Maj Gen Mohammad Abdur Rahman, an officer repatriated from Pakistan after the country's Liberation War. The hearing started on July 10 and ended on July 26, before the judicial inquiry commis-

sion formed by the government completed its inquiry.

In the trial, the first court martial ordered death penalty for 12 officers and different terms in jail for 14 others. The remaining defendants were acquitted but they were dismissed from service.

Later, a second court martial was formed to try another officer who was ill during the trial proceedings in the first court martial. This officer, too, was given death sentence.

The camera trial held General Manzur, who was murdered in army custody inside of the Chittagong cantonment on June 1, 1981, responsible for leading the failed rebellion.

Those awarded the death penalty were hanged in September 1981, three months after Zia was assassinated.

Before the court martial began, the army headquarters hastily carried out a stage-managed inquiry. Maj Gen Mozammel Hossain, who too was repatriated from Pakistan after the 1971 war, led the investiga-

tion.

Some accused in the Gen Abul Manzur murder case described how the inquiry was a farce. The court of inquiry, however, recommended holding a court martial of 35 officers and two junior commissioned officers. Most of them were freedom fighters.

The then army chief Gen HM Ershad and officers close to him played a hyperactive role in completing the court martial quickly in a pre-planned way to punish the accused.

After around two decades, the parliamentary body in 2000 moved to review the court martial proceedings to see if it was possible to relieve some of the pain of the victims' families, at least by scrapping the proceedings.

The committee received applications from victims' families seeking remedy. The House committee then formed the sub-committee to deal with the applications.

At one stage, the defence ministry moved to review the court martial proceedings with the army head-

quarters.

At the October 2 meeting of the parliamentary committee, the then army chief Lt Gen Mostafizur Rahman said proceedings of relevant court martial are confirmed or reviewed by the chiefs of the services under the authorities vested in them.

"If the sub-committee thinks it appropriate to review the trial held in the court martial, it can summon the then army chief HM Ershad to determine if he had taken the correct decision on the trial," Gen Mostafiz told the meeting.

He, however, said discussion was being held on the death penalty awarded to the 12 army officers in 1981.

"Around 400 to 500 army personnel were hanged between 1975 and 1977. All those incidents should be reviewed," he said.

Mostafiz also said military laws in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan were similar. "In India, the court martial proceedings are being reviewed recently through forming law commissions. If needed, such law com-

missions may be formed in Bangladesh to review the court martial proceedings against armed forces' officers for violation of discipline."

AL lawmaker and committee member Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali said the government or the army chief or an authorised army officer could scrap the court martial proceeding under section 132 of the army act.

"In this case, this should be done. Because, the trial was not fair and laws were violated," Shawkat told the meeting.

Members of the committee present at the meeting supported Shawkat.

But there was no further progress to this effect.

[The report has been prepared based on the proceedings of the parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry in seventh parliament and the books, "Democracy and the Challenge of Development" by Moudud Ahmed, "Silent Witness of a General" by Maj Gen (ret'd) Moinul Hossain Chowdhury.]