

# Smugglers attack BGB men

## 4 hurt in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

A BGB team came under attack by a group of smugglers while conducting a search at Ishwardi Railway Station yesterday.

The attack prompted the BGB men to fire shots in the air, sources at the border force said.

After the incident, a chase and counter between BGB men and the alleged smugglers began.

Four people, including three passengers of Maitree Express, were injured during the clash.

No BGB men, however, were injured, sources added.

The incident took place following an altercation with the passengers over search by BGB men. It all started when the BGB men got on the train to sort the luggage and take them down outside the train.

Amidst the commotion, the smugglers suddenly attacked the BGB men with brick chips, BGB officials said.

Acting on a tip-off, BGB conducted the drive in Maitree Express around 2:25pm yesterday, said Lt Col Mahamud Hossain, director of BGB

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Border Guard Bangladesh personnel checking luggage of passengers of Maitree Express, heading towards Dhaka from Kolkata, at Ishwardi Railway Station, came under attack by reportedly smugglers yesterday. The photo shows a man hiding his face in confrontation with a BGB personnel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# DEFENCE BUDGET

## TIB hails plan to reveal details

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming the finance minister's statement in parliament that the allocation for the defence ministry will be disclosed in future, Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to disclose details of the defence budget in the current session of parliament.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the graft watchdog had been demanding for a long time that the government ensure transparency and accountability of the defence budget and the finance minister's statement had made the TIB hopeful.

The matter should not be kept pending for future, he added in a press release.

Since public money is spent on defence, therefore, the budget must be disclosed immediately for the sake of open discussion and building public trust, observed the TIB official.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman called for introducing a culture of evaluating the defence expenditure regularly. Pointing at the Defence Companies Anti-Corruption Index 2012, he said Bangladesh had made a frustrating score in that index.

People do not know on what basis

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# Indian ministers asked to submit wealth report

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *New Delhi*

All ministers in the federal Indian government have been asked to submit details of their assets, liabilities and business interests to Prime Minister Narendra Modi within two months.

They have also been directed to sever all connections, short of divesting themselves of ownership, with the conduct and management of any business in which they had interests before being appointed minister.

This was stated in the Code of Conduct for Ministers re-issued by the Indian Home Ministry after the new BJP-led government took charge.

The Code, whose observance will

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# China wants to close trade gap

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About democracy, he said the model of democracy is different in different countries. "There's no standard model of democracy. If anyone thinks there's a standard model of democracy, then he is not right."

Democracy should be built considering the situation, need and context of a particular country, he observed.

The foreign secretary said the Chinese president described Sheikh Hasina as an "old friend of the Chinese people".

Recalling the visits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to China in 1952 and 1957, he said the relations between the two countries have been growing since then. "The relations will continue to grow and gradually go to higher levels," hoped the president.

On the Vision 2021 of Bangladesh,

Jinping said his country also has Vision 2020 when China will be a peaceful prosperous country. Both the countries could help each other to attain their visions, he noted.

Pointing at China's new initiative about the "Silk route economic belt and 21st century maritime silk route", the president said Bangladesh is important for this. This route will start from China and end in Africa through India and Myanmar.

The PM thanked the president for the initiative. The Chinese leader praised the leadership of Sheikh Hasina and congratulated her on being elected as the PM for a third term.

The Chinese president through the PM invited his Bangladeshi counterpart to visit China. Hasina also invited him on behalf of the Bangladesh president to visit Bangladesh.

Jinping showed the utmost courtesy to the Bangladesh PM as he came to the corridor of his office to receive her which is not usual for a person like him in China.

Earlier, the PM called on Yu Zhengsheng, chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), at his office at the same venue.

Zhengsheng highly appreciated the development of Bangladesh in different sectors under the visionary leadership of Sheikh Hasina. He described the activities of the organisation.

He emphasised on regular exchange of visits between the CPPCC members and Bangladeshi lawmakers.

Although Bangladesh has some resource constraints, it could develop itself by developing its human resources like China, he noted.

# Global wealth grows

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with more than \$1 million – 900,000 more than the year before, the report found.

Looking beyond the super-rich, private wealth overall grew to \$152 trillion (£90 trillion) last year, boosted by rising stock markets and wealth creation in rapidly developing economies.

The 15 per cent rise was stronger than in 2012, when global wealth grew by 9 per cent.

Wealth was growing rapidly in the Asia-Pacific region (apart from Japan), Eastern Europe, North America, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

China has been the biggest driver, with private wealth in the country surging by almost half in 2013.

The situation in Western Europe was steadier, with wealth increasing by 5.2 per cent in a year, but it is expected to be knocked from its spot as the second-

richest global region next year.

Analysts expect Asia-Pacific to be the richest place in the world in terms of private wealth by 2018.

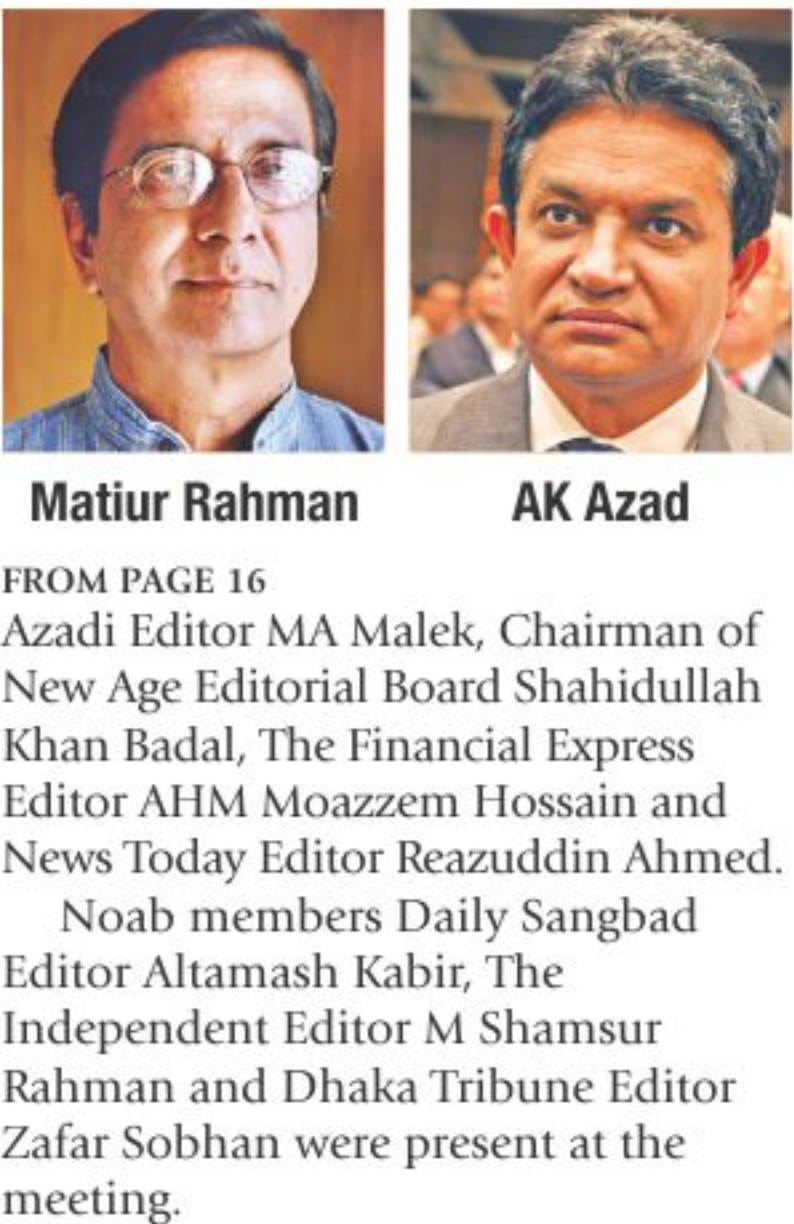
Brent Beardsley, a BCG senior partner who co-authored the report, said developed economies must make the most of existing assets.

He added: "The task in the developing economies is to attract a sizable share of the new wealth being created there. Overall, the battle for assets and market share will become increasingly intense in the run-up to 2020."

The report found that the growth of private wealth was largely driven by a strong rebound in equity markets from the second half of 2012.

Improvements were spurred on by relative economic stability in the US and Europe, alongside signs of recovery in some countries including Ireland, Spain and Portugal.

# New committee



**Matiur Rahman**

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Azadi Editor MA Malek, Chairman of New Age Editorial Board Shahidullah Khan Badal, The Financial Express Editor AHM Moazzem Hossain and News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed.

Noab members Daily Sangbad Editor Altamash Kabir, The Independent Editor M Shamsur Rahman and Dhaka Tribune Editor Zafar Sobhan were present at the meeting.

# 2 more bKash agents

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frisked them saying that they were checking to see if Kabir and Rubel were carrying drugs.

"They then put us inside a microbus, and handcuffed us. They also blindfolded us with gamcha [traditional towels]," Kabir said.

The criminals then took the money from their bags and dropped the duo off, still blindfolded and handcuffed, on Jhalakathi-Shekerhat road, about 15km from where they were picked up.

Kabir and Rubel had withdrawn the cash from a bank just an hour before the mugging.

bKash agents getting mugged have become very frequent.

On May 10, armed criminals took away Tk 20 lakh from an agent in Rajarbagh in the capital when he was

taking the money from retailers to a bank in Motijheel.

On April 13, another agent was stabbed and Tk 8.5 lakh was snatched in Basabo.

On the same day, Rana Mia was ambushed and mugged in Turag while he was collecting money from retailers.

A few days earlier, a distributor was shot right in front of a bank in Mirpur and Tk 10 lakh was taken away.

In February, muggers shot an agent in Barisal and took away Tk 60 lakh.

A bKash official in Dhaka, seeking anonymity, said they met high officials of the police and sought their assistant, following the recent incidents of mugging. He also requested bKash sales agents and distributors to be careful.

# 'Opener a la final'

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training ground north of Rio de Janeiro with a crowd of about 1,000 fans greeting them on their return from Sao Paulo on Sunday.

That contrasted with two weeks before, when a group of teachers circled the team bus to protest over spending on the World Cup as part of a strike.

Anger over the amount spent on the finals and broken promises ahead of the tournament contributed to a wave of demonstrations last year with opponents questioning whether hosting global sporting events should be a national priority.

"For us it's a gift to see the fans, our people, now understand that the Cup has arrived in Brazil and it's going to be an amazing moment," said Alves.

"I know it is difficult sometimes for us to set aside the situation our country is in,

but the world is going to be here and they deserve a real Brazilian reception."

The country's largest city Sao Paulo is set to raise the curtain of the tournament after metro workers' strike was suspended for two days. Although, the union warned that the strike would resume on Thursday -- when Sao Paulo hosts the opening match -- if its demands are not matched.

The opening ceremony, which will take place right before the first match kicks off at 2:00 am Bangladesh time on Friday, is set to give the world a taste of all the colours of Brazil. Although Jennifer Lopez has opted out, Pitbull and Brazilian singer Leitta will perform the official World Cup song accompanied by drummers. The show is set to dazzle the world featuring 600 artists, including acrobatic gymnasts, trampolinists, martial arts-style performers and stilt walkers.

# Titas severs 5,000 illegal gas lines

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

The authorities of Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Company Ltd yesterday severed around five thousand illegal connections in eight kilometre area of Sonargaon upazila.

Abu Jafar Sultan Ahmed, manager of Sonargaon zone Titas Gas, said locals of Babrabad, Bhagalpur and Madhabpur villages of Mograpara union obtained these connections illegally a year ago.

The illegal pipe lines in those areas were being removed gradually, said Abu Jafar, who was accompanied by other Titas officials, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer and members of the law enforcing agencies during the drive.

# EU worried

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and two other dailies at the residence of EU Ambassador William Hanna in Gulshan on Monday evening, he said he had raised the issue during his talks with government officials, political leaders, including BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, and civil society members of Bangladesh.

On the political situation in Bangladesh, Astuto said the EU prescribes political moderation and national unity for overcoming prevailing impasse.

"We advocate dialogue. We do urge major players to come together to find a common solution, which is the only recipe to end the stalemate," said the EU official, who left Dhaka on Monday night.

Asked about the acceptability of the January 5 elections, the EU official referred to the January 9 statement of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, who called on all parties to refrain from violence and to engage in a "genuine dialogue to agree on a mutually acceptable way forward to strengthen democratic accountability and to hold transparent, inclusive and credible elections, putting the interests of the people of Bangladesh first".

About developments in the garment sector after the Rana Plaza disaster, Astuto said a lot of progress has been achieved but much more needs to be done in implementing the Compact Agreement to ensure safety standards and rights of workers. He said the EU would continue to work with the government to enhance trade and investment in Bangladesh.

The head of the EU delegation to Bangladesh, William Hanna, was present during the interview.

# EC fines JP

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penalty on a party since the introduction of the political parties' registration system in 2008.

The commission made the decision at a meeting on Monday, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told The Daily Star yesterday.

The main opposition failed to submit the statement within the first 90-day timeframe after the election, which expired on April 23. Then the commission issued a warning notice giving the opposition an additional 30 days, which also expired on June 4, EC officials said.

"They [JP] ignored our directives. So, we are going ahead as per the law," Shah Nawaz said.

According to the electoral law, each political party that has competed in the national polls must submit an expenditure statement to the EC within 90 days

after the election.

If any party fails to comply with the law, the commission will issue a notice of warning directing the party to submit the statement within the next 30 days. If the party fails this time as well, the commission will give it another 15 days to submit the statement with a Tk 10,000 fine.

The submission date will not be extended any further and the commission may cancel the party's registration this time for not submitting the statement, as per the electoral law.

The EC will send a letter to the JP in one or two days, asking it to submit the expenditure statement within the next 15 days along with the fine, Forhad Hossain, a senior assistant secretary to the EC Secretariat, told The Daily Star.

Talking to the newspaper by phone last night, JP Presidium Member Kazi Firoz Rashid claimed that the party

submitted the statement yesterday.

Jesmin Tuli, joint secretary to the EC Secretariat, said the commission had not received any report.

"Even if the Jatiya Party has submitted the statement today [yesterday], it has to pay the fine because the deadline expired a few days ago," she said.

Twelve parties contested the January 5 polls, in which 153 MPs out of 300 were elected unopposed.

Meanwhile, the EC will write letters next week to all the 40 registered political parties, excluding the Jamaat-e-Islami, asking them to submit their annual audit reports by July 31, EC sources said.

The High Court in August last year declared Jamaat's registration illegal, saying that its charter contradicts the constitution. An appeal against the verdict remains pending at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

SHAH NAWAZ BRIEFING

The commission has no jurisdiction to take action against Feni-2 lawmaker Nizam Uddin Hazari even if he gave false information in his affidavit submitted to the EC before the January 5 polls, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said yesterday.

Following a writ petition claiming that Nizam had resorted to forgery to get out of jail early and contest a seat in the polls, the High Court on Sunday asked the government and the EC to explain why his parliament seat should not be declared vacant.

"We can cancel one's candidacy, if we find out forgery in his affidavit before the election. Once they are elected MPs, it goes beyond our jurisdiction. Now, we can take action against an MP if the Speaker of parliament gives any order," Shah Nawaz told reporters at his office.

# Foreign friends to get new crest

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Court seeking its directive on the government to give new crests to foreign friends and institutions. The petition is now pending with the HC.

Earlier, Manzill had sent a legal notice to the ministry asking it to replace the tainted crests in a bid to restore the dignity and image of the country.

The Awami League-led grand alliance government between 2011 and 2013 awarded shields to 338 foreign

friends and organisations for their outstanding contribution to country's Liberation War in 1971.

According to the policy, every shield was supposed to have 22.5 grams of gold and 339 grams of silver. But Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) tested a shield in 2012 and found that the shield only had 2.363 grams of gold and 466.237 gram of brass instead of silver.

After this anomaly was published in media recently, the liberation war

affairs ministry formed a probe committee on April 7 to identify the people involved in the scam.

The committee found that the government was robbed of around Tk 7.04 crore through these sub-par shields. The probe body held former state minister for liberation war affairs AB Tajul Islam and 12 others of his ministry responsible for the fraudulently.

Interestingly, it's none other than AB Tajul Islam who is heading the

parliamentary committee, which is probing the incident now.

Among the 12 government employees, secretary of the ministry Golam Mustafa and senior assistant secretary Babul Mia have been made officer on special duty (OSD) while former joint secretary Abul Quasem Talukdar had already been made OSD over issuance of fake freedom fighter certificates.

Besides, the Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to investigate the allegations of impurity in the

# Students go rowdy

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Academy School and College, sustained injuries when a Konabari bound pick-up hit them as they were crossing the road near the institution in Tongi college gate area around 12:00noon, police and local people said.

Local people whisked them off to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the capital's Uttara. Chhowa was shifted to Apollo Hospital and Laboni to Pangu Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

As a rumour of their deaths spread, angry students of the institution and other nearby schools and colleges along with local people barricaded the highway at the college gate around 12:15noon.

They damaged more than 100 vehicles, mostly buses, and set ablaze the pick-up that hit the girls. However, the driver and helpers of the van managed to flee the scene.

At least five people, including two students of Shafiuddin Sarker Academy, were injured during the two-hour-long violent protest that halted vehicular movement on both sides of the highway, causing untold sufferings to thousands of commuters.

On information, police rushed to the spot and tried to control the situation.

The protesters removed the barricade around 2:15pm following assurance of punitive action against the pick-up driver by Gazipur Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Nurul Islam and Gazipur Superintendent of Police Abdul Baten.