

## Nur Hossain's driver held

STAR R'PORT

Police arrested the driver of Nur Hossain, the prime suspect in the sensational seven-murder in Narayanganj, from Comilla's Chandina upazila early yesterday.

Golam Morshed, officer-in-charge of Chandina Police Station, said that acting on a tip-off, police raided Belashwar village around 3:00am and nabbed the driver, Zubaer alias Jabbar, from his in-laws' house.

Seven people, including Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Kumar Sarker, were abducted from the city on April 27.

Later, their bodies were recovered from Narayanganj's Shitalakhya river.

After the incident, Zubaer was hiding in that house, Morshed said.

Nur Hossain, a Narayanganj city Awami League leader and also a councillor of the city, along with his two associates was arrested from an apartment in Kolkata on the night of June 14.

Later, they were booked under the arms act and the foreigners act for illegal trespass into Indian territory without valid travel documents and for illegal possession of a firearm.

## Language-split Belgium teeters back into crisis

AFP, Brussels

Belgium risked plunging into a fresh political crisis yesterday after attempts to form a coalition government collapsed amid allegations Flemish nationalists were not committed to keeping the country together.

Tough-talking Flemish nationalist Bart De Wever, whose separatist N-VA party won last month's general election, has been tasked by the king to form a coalition government.

But Centrist Benoit Lutgen refused to join the proposed coalition, saying he had failed to win assurances that De Wever would keep the language-divided nation intact.

A De Wever-led government would be "a Belgo-sceptic project," Lutgen told Belgian broadcaster RTL late Tuesday. "The wolf does not become a lamb in a few weeks."

The fear is that Belgium repeats the crisis of four years ago when a record-breaking impasse left the country 541 days without a government.

The N-VA won 32 percent of the vote in Flanders, making it the most popular party.

## Biman staff

FROM PAGE 16

Office. Police rescued Rubi and arrested Hafizur.

Rubi told The Daily Star yesterday that she was disappointed with Hafizur getting bail. She said she had filed a complaint with police but during recording of the case, police brought a simple charge which led to Hafizur getting bail.

Investigation officer of the case Sub-Inspector Shafikul Azam of Motijheel Police Station, however, said he had filed the case as per the statement of the complainant and had even given a copy of the case to Rubi.

Criminal law expert Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that police should have brought an attempt to killing charge against Hafizur as Rubi had head injuries.

Rubi said she was given first-aid at Dhaka Medical College Hospital but later she got admitted to a private hospital following chest pains.

Meanwhile, a three-member committee led by a joint secretary of the civil aviation ministry was formed yesterday to investigate into the incident. The committee would submit its report in three days.

Biman authorities have suspended Hafizur.

## 40 shanties

FROM PAGE 2

shifting the evicted people to six schools on a temporary basis, but many of them do not want to live there", he said, adding that the problem would not be mitigated unless the government sets up permanent rehabilitation for these people.

Landslides killed 127 people in the city in 2007, 17 people in 2011, and 28 people in 2012.

The Divisional Hill Management Committee has identified 30 hills in Chittagong as risky, where people are living. Among these, a total of 666 families are living on 11 risky hills in the city.

The families would be evicted permanently step by step, said Abdul Kader.

## Shahjalal bank

FROM PAGE 16

The bank's board of directors yesterday blamed Solaiman, also former chairman of the bank, for misappropriating another Tk 25 crore in the name of loans.

"We have detected more cases of embezzlement of another Tk 25 crore by Solaiman, and the bank has decided to file another criminal case against him," AK Azad, chairman of the bank, told a briefing at the bank's headquarters in Gulshan after an emergency board meeting.

"We have also found that he was involved in the Bismillah Towels loan scam," said Azad, also former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Farman R Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, said Solaiman embezzled the money in collusion with his nephew ANM Jahangir, the then manager of the bank's Jubilee Road branch in Chittagong.

Jahangir is one of the four accused.

Farman alleged Solaiman had influenced the bank to lend Tk 140 crore to SK Steel in Chittagong in 2011.

## Messi puts Argentina

FROM PAGE 1

that had not conceded a goal in their previous two matches.

A telling pass by Fernando Gago found Angel di Maria only for the Real Madrid man's shot to ricochet off the near post. As the loose ball bounced Messi magically appeared to slam into the roof of Vincent Enyeama's net.

Argentina's lead lasted all of 80 seconds when CSKA Moscow striker Ahmed Musa curled the ball artfully past Sergio Romero into the far post.

Enyeama then did well to keep the scores level when keeping out di Maria's thunderous low drive from 30m out.

On 38 minutes Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella was forced into an unscripted change of personnel when Sergio Aguero limped off to be replaced by Ezequiel Lavezzi.

As the interval approached Messi struck a peach of a free kick from outside the box, only denied by another fine save from Enyeama.

But the Lille stopper couldn't perform the same heroics when from a near identical position shortly after another Messi free kick thudded into the near corner for his fourth goal of the tournament.

Musa levelled only two minutes into the second half when, getting the better of Argentine defenders Federico Fernandez and Marcos Rojo, he clipped the ball past Romero.

In an at times breathtaking encounter Rojo bagged his first international goal three minutes later, knocking the ball home with his knee off a corner after Nigeria failed to clear Ezequiel Garay's header.

With his work done Sabella rested

Solaiman also put pressure on the bank's management to give a loan of Tk 25 crore to Joynob Steel that year.

In both cases, Solaiman gave false assurances about the loans, promoting the clients as good borrowers, said Farman.

Speaking at the briefing, Azad said the bank ran enquiries and found that Paradise Corporation, owned by Solaiman, took more than Tk 18 crore in bribe from SK Steel in 61 cheques, and Tk 7.63 crore from Joynob Steel in 10 cheques.

Azad said his bank has written to Bangladesh Bank for taking action against Solaiman.

Farman said the bank's non-performing loans rose to Tk 750 crore or 8.5 percent of its total loans in recent months due to the embezzlement.

The other two accused are Enamul Haque, chairman of Paradise Corporation and Aminul Haque, a director of Paradise Corporation.

The loan recovery time expired in November 2013, according to the case statement.

Messi on the hour, Ricardo Alvarez coming on in his place.

Musa had 'hattrick' flashing in front of his eyes in the final quarter of an hour when he cut inside Pablo Zabaleta only for the Manchester City defender to produce a superb tackle to deny him the scoring opportunity.

The group finished with Argentina on nine points, Nigeria on four, Bosnia on three and Iran on one.

The match at Beira Rio stadium was as close as Argentine will come to a home game at this World Cup as an estimated 150,000 fans flooded across the border into this southern port city looking to get in on the party.

Although Argentina were guaranteed a place in the last 16, the twice champions still had plenty to play for on a drizzly day with top spot up for grabs and the soccer world waiting for the Sky Blues to flash their championship credentials after uninspiring wins over debutants Bosnia and unfancied Iran. Bosnia's victory was their first World Cup win.

Already eliminated after two losses, Bosnia, appearing at a major tournament for the first time as an independent nation, went ahead in the 23rd minute through Edin Dzeko.

Bosnia doubled their lead just before the hour through Miralem Pjanic's cool finish before Reza Ghoochannejhad pulled a goal back for Iran in the 82nd minute.

Avdija Vrsajevic restored Bosnia's two-goal cushion with a fine strike a minute later.

Iran had required all three points against Bosnia and needed Argentina to beat Nigeria to have any shot of grabbing a surprise place in the last 16.

## Sushma Swaraj in city

FROM PAGE 1

external affairs minister, Swaraj will discuss long-pending issues and review the status of bilateral ties between Dhaka and Delhi.

"We are expecting that she will carry a positive message of engagement between the two countries and this visit will take bilateral relations to a higher level," said a top foreign ministry official.

Dhaka is also optimistic that the Indian minister's visit will pave the way for an early trip by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh, he added.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Hauqe, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran and other senior officials from the foreign ministry and the Indian mission in Dhaka received Swaraj at Shahjalal International Airport around 10:50pm.

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi said though there was no big expectation about the outcome of the trip, India termed it a "goodwill visit" aimed at taking forward the bilateral ties which have been on a "positive track" for the last few years.

Swaraj will hold a meeting with Mahmood Ali and call on President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

She will also meet Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and prime minister's advisers Gowher Rizvi and Mashur Rahman.

Welcoming the Indian minister's trip to Dhaka, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir yesterday said his party was hopeful that her visit would have a positive impact on resolving outstanding bilateral issues, including the LBA and Teesta water sharing deal.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Indian diplomats in Dhaka said Swaraj was not here with a "specific agenda" and that the minister would review bilateral ties and what to expect in the coming years.

However, they added, the seven-member Indian delegation, which is expected to raise issues like illegal



The bridge at Bhumidakkhin on Manikganj-Singair highway collapsed when the stone-laden truck was crossing it in the wee hours of yesterday. The collapse snapped road communications between Dhaka and Singair, and Harirampur upazilas of Manikganj.

PHOTO: STAR

### BCL vs BCL

### Activists cut tendons of leader in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Chhatra League activists allegedly stabbed and cut tendons of its Pear Ali College unit president in the district's Sreepur upazila yesterday.

The victim, Sarwar Jahan Sohel, has been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Dhaka. His condition is stated to be critical.

Sources said Billal Mamun, vice-president of Sreepur upazila unit BCL, the student wing of the ruling Awami League, got locked into an altercation with Sarwar on the college campus over a trifling matter on Monday.

Following the altercation, BCL activists, numbering 10-12, led by Billal attacked Sarwar at Proshika intersection in the morning when he was on his way to the college. They hacked Billal with sharp weapons and severed the tendons in his left hand, leaving him seriously injured.

Billal was rushed to a clinic at Mawna Chowrasta. He was later shifted to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated.

Mohsin-UI-Kadir, officer-in-charge of Sreepur Model Police Station, said police visited the spot.

### GM Quader's

FROM PAGE 16

be a real opposition party staying in the government and the opposition at the same time," said GM Quader in the programme at Institution of Diploma Engineers yesterday afternoon.

"It contradicts with the constitution when a party plays the role of opposition and at same time functions in the government. There is no system in parliament for floor crossing," he said.

Following his comments, Bablu expressed his anger and shouted out, "Is it a speech?"

Bablu stood up from his chair and tried to get down from the stage. Ershad was there but did not say anything while JP presidium member SM Faisal Chisty made a futile attempt to keep the secretary general on stage.

Earlier, when GM Quader was asked to deliver his speech, he refused. It was Bablu and other leaders who coaxed him into speaking.

Bablu leaving the stage did not stop Quader's speech.

Quader went on to say, "If anyone claimed that he is the husband and wife of the same family, it would not be a perfect family. In the same way you cannot be a striker for Uruguay and at the same time the goalkeeper for Italy."

When The Daily Star called Bablu for his comments over the incident, he said, "It is not an issue at all."

After Quader, Ershad delivered his speech but did not make any direct comment on the incident. He, however, said he was saddened by the incident which showed clearly the conflict within the party.

Matshyajibi Party, a wing of the Jatiya Party, had organised the programme.

## Passengers

FROM PAGE 2

disruption had the Airbus returned to service on time. One of its engines was sent for overhaul on May 15 and the aircraft was supposed to be in service on June 15.

The Airbus is now scheduled to return to service on July 4.

The officials said a Boeing 737-800 was grounded for repairs and Biman authorities were expecting it to be back flying passengers in a couple of days.

## S Africa platinum

## mineworkers back to work

AFP, Marikana

Thousands of miners on South Africa's platinum belt streamed back to work yesterday after reaching a wage deal with leading global producers that ended a crippling five-month strike.

Workers at Anglo America Platinum (Amplats), Impala Platinum and Lonmin started making their way to the mines outside Rustenburg from as early as 5.00am (0300 GMT), setting the northwestern town abuzz for the first time in months.

"I feel like a new employee all over again," said Andries Phala.

"I'm glad the strike is over. I'm also happy that our return will make a small difference in our wages," said Phala, who has worked at Lonmin for 14 years.

Some workers were in full underground mining gear, with hard hats and reflective overalls, but it is expected to take several weeks for production to get into full swing.

Companies reported a combined loss of 24 billion rand (\$2.27 billion) in earnings and said workers lost 10.6 billion rand in wages, as a result of the longest miningstrike in South Africa's history.

"Being without income was difficult

for everyone, everything stood still. This bit of an increase will definitely motivate us to work harder," said an underground employee at one of Anglo American Platinum mines.

"We also deserve our share in the wealth of this country," he added.

The wage deal signed by the three companies on Tuesday will see the lowest paid workers whose basic salary is less than 12,500 rand (\$1,180) increase by 1,000 rand (\$95) a month for two years and by 950 rand in the third year.

Workers had originally demanded that basic wages be increased to 12,500 rand -- which would have represented a more than doubling of income for many.

The union representing the workers, the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) acknowledged that not all workers would reach a 12,500 rand basic wage under the new three-year deal, but has described the strike as a victory.

The government and business have welcomed the end to the strike, which pushed the economy into contraction in the first quarter of the year, but many media commentators warned more problems lie ahead.

## Strict anti-formalin

FROM PAGE 16

Hasina, also the leader of the House, said her government has taken up six fast-track projects aimed at turning Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021.

The six projects are: Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (first phase), Rampal Coal-fired Power Plant, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Project (metro rail), Deep Seaport Project and Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal Project.

On the construction of Padma bridge, the PM said the government has acquired 2,403.24 acres of land and handed it over to the Bridges Division. "The work order for setting up link roads on both sides of the bridge has already been issued," she added.

She further informed parliament that rehabilitation for the people, who have been affected due to land acquisition, is underway.

About the construction of the nuclear power plant in Rooppur of Pabna, Hasina said a Tk 4,400 crore work order has already been issued for

carrying out a feasibility study on the project.

Russian state-run Rosatom and Atomostroy are doing the primary works, which will be completed in three phases, the PM mentioned.

It is expected that 1,000-MW of electricity would be produced primarily from the plant by 2021 and 1,000 MW more from 2022.

On setting up a 1,320 MW coal-fired power plant in Bagerhat, Hasina said acquisition and development of land, feasibility study and formation of a company have been completed to this end.

"The main work on implementation of the power plant would start soon and I hope the work would be finished by 2018," she added.

About the construction of a deep seaport, she said discussion is on with different companies of China, the UAE and the Netherlands in this regard.

"A deal to this end would be inked with those companies within two or three months which would be able to build the sea port at a low cost and in less time," she noted.

## Bolivia's new clock

FROM PAGE 16

norms and think creatively.

"Who says that the clock always has to turn one way? Why do we always have to obey? Why can't we be creative?", he asked at a news conference on Tuesday.

"We don't have to complicate matters, we just have to be conscious that we live in the south, not in the north," Choquehuanca added.

He also told reporters that Bolivia had presented foreign delegations attending the recent C77 summit in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz with left-turning desk clocks.

The clock given to the delegations is shaped like the map of Bolivia and includes a disputed territory which is currently located in Chile but which Bolivia claims as its own.

Asked if Bolivia's left-wing government would try to extend the use of the reversed clocks, Choquehuanca said they should not be imposed on anyone.

"If you want to buy a clock of the

south, do so, but if you want to continue using a clock of the north, you can continue doing so," he said.

The new clock received a mixed reaction from La Paz's residents.

Shoeshiner Franz Galarza, who works in Murillo Square where the legislative building stands, told Efe news agency that the new clock was "a bad idea."

"If they want to send out the message that the country is heading in another direction, then they'll have to make that clear, because all the people who are walking past Murillo Square say they thought it was an error, a mistake."

Under President Evo Morales, an indigenous Aymara, Bolivia has passed a number of measures aimed at boosting its indigenous heritage.

The country has, for example, adopted the whipala, a rainbow-coloured indigenous flag, which is now flown alongside the traditional red, yellow and green banner used since the 19th century.