

## Political

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members to avoid the word, Adivasi, at discussions and talk-shows on International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

Prof Schendel said not all the people who live in Bangladesh are Bengalis. There are garos, chakmas and so on living in the country. They do not consider themselves Bengalis, but Bangladeshi citizens. These people call themselves Adivasi or indigenous people.

"If somebody calls themselves by certain terms, who are outsiders to say they cannot do that?" he asked.

"I think it is political thing but it is unacceptable from a social science point of view where you have to understand why certain people start calling themselves Adivasi and what it means in terms of social dynamics," he said.

Prof Schendel, also an anthropologist, said it is clear that they [indigenous communities] do so to show that they are being treated as secondary citizens and they claim full citizenship.

Asked what the government should do, he said it is really up to the citizens to tell the government what to do.

Prof Schendel said identity, which is the topic of the conference, is a huge issue in Bangladesh.

"Who are we -- are we Bengali, Bangladeshi, or Muslims? Everybody is talking about it. But you don't understand all these different identities if you don't know your own history. If you know how things started you can also understand how it works through the society now and in the near future," he said.

The anthropologist stressed on studies on social sciences and humanities, saying, "If you listen to Bangladeshis discussing life, it is always about social or political or religious problems. They don't talk about mathematics or physics."

"You really need people who can analyse what is going on much more rigorously than most people do. And that's what social scientists are for. They can tell you that you have these problems and there are certain solutions. So they can be very important," he added.

Prof Schendel thinks social science is broadening in Bangladesh in a very good way, but there is much more to do.

He presented a keynote on 'inter-connected Asia' yesterday at the conference.

## BCL men clash

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wake of the violence until September 8 and asked all students to vacate the dorms by 10:00am today.

Chhatra League activists vandalised five university buses and ransacked several class rooms during the clash. They also exploded several home-made bombs, spreading panic among students.

Police fired rubber bullets and teargas canisters to disperse them. The fighting also left five policemen injured.

Mir Sariful Haque, officer-in-charge of IU Police Station, said his team fired 19 rubber bullets and six teargas canisters to stop the agitating students from attacking the vice chancellor and vandalising university buses.

Of the injured students, Biplob Karmakar, Nazmul Haque Ranu, Emdadul Haque, Abdur Rahman were admitted to Kushtia Medical College Hospital.

Shamim Hossain Khan, convener of IU Chhatra League unit, told The Daily Star that his unit protested the university administration's decision to allow Shibir to bring out a procession on campus.

Shibir activists chanted derogatory slogans about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her administration, said Rizvy Hasan Mahmud, a member of IU Chhatra League convening committee.

Chhatra League activists had blocked the VC's car.

IU VC Prof Abdul Hakim Sarkar said the university did not allow Shibir to hold rallies on campus. "We have permitted students of the university to hold their protests against the heinous Israeli attacks on Gaza," he said.

University Proctor Mahbubur Rahman said Chhatra League activists went overboard while protesting.

No university buses were plying between Kushtia and Jhenidah after the clash.

Additional police forces were deployed at the university.

## Key part

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The business growth has been "very good" from the onset of the operations, and now, the company is looking to expand.

"We are trying to make bigger pushbuttons for vending machines so that the customers can buy even a bag of rice from them."

Haque said the company has started selling its LED bulbs in Bangladesh; 10 percent of the total bulbs produced in the factory are being sold in the local market.

"We use the slogan "Made in Bangladesh" on the body of every product manufactured in the factory," he said, while calling for a separate export processing zone for Japanese investors as many are interested in setting up industrial plants in the country.

# Fraud gang held in city

## Mystery over seized box

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives in separate raids have arrested 11 members of a gang who tricked several rich people out of money on the promise of selling them uranium.

Police said they also seized a two-piece box set -- one fitted inside another. According to the arrestees, the smaller box contained two pounds of uranium worth around Tk 50 crore.

The claim could not be verified as police were yet to open the smaller box.

Krishna Pada Roy, deputy commissioner of detective branch (South) at Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press briefing yesterday said the police would send the box to experts to check what's inside. They were waiting for a court order for the test.

Contacted, Prof Khorshed Ahmad Kabir, former chairman of nuclear engineering department at Dhaka University, said uranium is mainly used for producing nuclear energy and weapons in some countries and there is almost no chance of having it in Bangladesh.

Krishna said the gang after promising to delivery uranium tricked affluent

people into giving it money. The clients were told that they would be able to sell uranium for much higher prices.

After getting the money, the gang stopped all sort of communications.

Tipped off, detectives conducted the drives at Hatirjheel, Dhanmondi, Uttara and Banani and arrested the eleven. They also found equipment like radiation metre, gas mask, "radiation proved" jacket and hand gloves and a catalog that reads "Uranium Atomic Weight-222.07 (A)".

The box set was seized from the Banani residence of Aslam Mia, 61, one of the arrestees, said the deputy commissioner.

The other arrestees are Sagor, 45, Humayun Kabir, 48, Kaiyum Chowdhury, 54, Kayes Ahmed, 54, Md Khaleque, 44, Swapan Mollah, 45, Md Firoz, 45, Mahmudur Rahman Nasim, 42, Main Uddin Sarwar Rajon, 35, and Tofayel Ahmed Patwari, 48.

Detectives produced them before a Dhaka court, which granted four-day remand for each, police said.

A case was filed with Banani Police Station in this connection.

On Friday, supporters of Nizam had beaten up two Bangladesh Chhatra League men while they were on their way to a programme marking the National Mourning Day.

## Jubo League

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hospital.

Rafed is an aide to Shah Nizam, a joint secretary of Jubo League's district unit.

## JU teacher terminated

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Prof Mamun refuted the allegations. He said he was sacked because he had raised his voice against corruption and irregularities of the university authorities.

He said he will take legal steps against his sacking.

Mamun claimed that he had submitted an eight-page document to President Abdul Hamid, chancellor of the university, with details on how successive university authorities had indulged in corruption and irregularities.

Meanwhile, AKM Anisuzzaman, a lecturer of Accounting and Information Systems, was suspended after allegation of sexually harassing a female student was found to be true in the preliminary probe.

The students of the department

## Govt mulls reshuffle

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well will go," he added.

Two war crimes tribunals have so far kept five cases waiting for verdicts since November last year after the completion of all proceedings. It is not known when the judgments will be delivered.

Anisul Huq, however, said he speculated the verdicts would be delivered soon.

The rift over power among the prosecutors has continued for long. But it was intensified in April this year when Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo went on medical leave and Syed Haider Ali took the charge as acting chief prosecutor.

Even after Tipoo joined office on April 30, Haider Ali clung to the position of acting chief prosecutor by continuing to exercise the power he no longer had.

The clashes between the prosecutors came to light when at least two of them brought allegations of professional misconduct against each other.

Amid such a situation, Attorney

General Mahbubey Alam on June 1 said the prosecution should be reconstituted as soon as possible and Tipoo should step down "considering his old age".

Earlier this month, the government removed a prosecutor for professional misconduct and another prosecutor stepped down on health grounds. The prosecution now has 19 members.

Anisul Huq yesterday said he held meetings with the prosecution team twice and requested them not to be locked into conflicts. "But they did not patch up their quarrels."

Meanwhile, the government has appointed Mustafizur Rahman, a deputy secretary of the law ministry, as registrar of the ICT, according to a law ministry circular issued on August 21.

Mostafizur will discharge the additional duty as the previous registrar, AKM Nasiruddin Mahmud, was transferred to Chittagong as district and sessions judge.

## Farmers flood-hit

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assessing the losses and preparing a list of the affected farmers. Once the list is completed, they would send it to the agriculture ministry for deciding on compensations.

Additional Secretary of Agriculture Ministry Anwar Faruque said the ministry would hold a meeting today to discuss the matter and decide on the next course of action.

Meanwhile, flood situation in the northern part was improving though water was flowing above danger mark at many points of the Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Teesta and Dharla rivers, according to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

In the central parts of the country, water levels were on the rise in major rivers, including the Padma, lower parts of the Jamuna, the Buriganga, the Turag and the Dhaleshwari yesterday.

"In next three to four days, water will increase in the rivers of the country's central part," said Sazzad Hossain, sub-divisional engineer of FFWC.

It is unlikely that water levels in rivers around Dhaka would cross the danger mark, he told The Daily Star.

According to the FFWC, water was flowing above danger mark at 17 river points in the northern, central and

north-eastern regions.

Ten houses were lost to the Brahmaputra that witnessed rise in water level in Sherpur Sadar yesterday. A vast area of cropland was inundated in the area.

More than 500 houses and croplands were damaged by water of the overflowing Padma in Charjanajat union of Shibchar in Madaripur.

More areas in Louhjang and Tongibari of Munshiganj were inundated.

Ferry service on the Mawa-Kawrakandi route was disrupted due to strong current and river erosion at Mawa for the sixth consecutive day yesterday, leaving over 450 vehicles stranded on both sides of the Padma.

Meanwhile, many of the several lakh marooned people, including two lakh in Kurigram alone, have been facing food and drinking water crises.

At a press briefing at the secretariat, Disaster Management Secretary Mesbaul Alam said the ministry has so far allocated 8,000 tonnes of rice and Tk 3 crore for the affected people.

The ministry also asked the local administration to distribute relief materials among the affected people, he said.

ENVOY AT A LOSS

## Korean embassy deplores lawsuit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The summon issued by a Dhaka court upon the Korean ambassador was completely flawed, regrettable and unacceptable, claimed the Korean embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

In a statement, it hoped that this would never happen again.

The embassy said the act of suing a diplomat was deplorable and that the ambassador was irrelevant to the lawsuit between two companies in dispute.

In a rare incident, the first Court of Joint District Judge, Dhaka, Fazley Elahi Bhuiyan, on July 24 summoned Korean Ambassador Lee Yun-young to appear before it on September 10 in connection with a lawsuit.

Abdul Kader Faruq, managing director of RN Spinning Mills Ltd, had filed the case against two top officials of Korean company Dayeung Industries and the ambassador to realise \$1.38 lakh.

The summon was, however, cancelled and the ambassador's name was dropped from the case on August 21.

It said it had conveyed its "firm and clear position to the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and requested all necessary measures to address the matter for the sake of the future relationship between the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of Bangladesh".

## 'Modi effect' gets Delhi working, but reforms prove elusive

AFP, New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shaken up India's ruling elite in his first 100 days since taking power, but has so far struggled to deliver the bold reforms needed to kick-start the economy.

Modi swept to power in May on a tide of hope after years of political stagnation and slowing economic growth in the world's largest democracy.

His Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party (BJP)'s landslide election win gave them the strongest mandate in a generation.

But the new government's first budget was short on big-ticket reforms, and it ended its first parliamentary session in power this month without managing to push through even modest legislative changes.

"When Modi came to power, people had huge expectations of him and people thought that things would happen right from the first day," said Manoj Joshi of the New Delhi-based think-tank Observer Research Foundation.

Inflation remains high at nearly 8.0 percent, while industrial output expanded by an unexpectedly slow 3.4 percent in June, dimming prospects of a quick economic recovery.

## Nilu leaves

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in the last year's anti-government movement, specifically for not participating in the January 5 general election.

Pointing to Khaleda Zia's decision not to call on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee during his Dhaka visit last year, Nilu said it was a big mistake too.

## Another lower

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A high official in the law ministry requesting anonymity told The Daily Star that Salauddin had been absent in his office for several months without informing the higher authorities concerned.

"Though he [Salauddin] had been transferred to the post of joint district judge of Lalmonirhat around one year ago, he is yet to join office, which is a gross misconduct as per Public Servant (Discipline and Appeal) 1985 Act," he said.

Besides, there are some corruption allegations against Salauddin, the official added.

He further said Salauddin could not give any satisfactory answer to the show-cause notices issued against him for his irregularities and misconduct.

Earlier this month, the SC decided to send two other lower court judges into forced retirement for similar offences.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission has recently decided to inquire into the hasty acquittal and bail of dozens of accused by Faruk Ahmed, a recently retired Dhaka court judge, just months before he went into retirement.

The decision came after the law ministry asked the anti-graft body to take necessary action against Faruk, as per the SC's decision.

# EU 'appalled' by migrant dead off Italy

## Eighteen migrants die in new boat accident in Mediterranean

AFP, Brussels

The European Union's Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem said yesterday she was "appalled" by a new report that migrants had died trying to cross the Mediterranean to get to Italy.

"I am appalled by these new tragedies at sea and I express my condolences to the victims and their families," she said in a statement, adding that she would meet with Italian Interior Minister Angelino Alfano on Wednesday in Brussels to discuss the latest developments.

Media reports said yesterday that an Italian navy ship had approached a boat in difficulty and found 18 dead along with 73 survivors on board.

"I also thank the Italian authorities for the huge efforts put in place to assist and rescue thousands of migrants over the last days," she said.

Italy's navy, coast guard and mer-

chant marine have rescued more than 3,500 people since Friday in the stretch of the Mediterranean between Sicily and the Libyan and Tunisian coasts.

Faced with the new crisis, Malmstroem again urged member states "to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries facing increased migratory and asylum pressure, in particular by resettling people from refugees' camps outside the EU".

Many of the migrants making the risk and often deadly journeys are refugees from Eritrea, Somalia and Syria, but there are also many arriving from across Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

More than 100,000 migrants have landed in Italy so far this year, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR - far higher than the previous record of some 60,000 who arrived in 2011 at the height of the turmoil triggered by the Arab Spring revolutions.

## Khoka, 7 others sued for graft

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lots and open spaces on the first, the second, the third and the fourth floors of Dhaka Trade Center -- owned by the city corporation -- in Gulistan in the capital between September 2009 and April 2010.

According to Local Government Act 2009, the DCC can acquire or hand-over any property through sale, mortgage, lease-out or exchange only upon the government's permission, the case statement mentioned.

Khoka, however, took no permission from the government to allocate the shops, ACC investigation found.

Apart from these, the ACC also found evidence that Khoka along with the other accused tampered the note-sheet of relevant documents of then unified DCC to allocate the shops.

The parking lots were meant to be used for parking vehicles and open spaces were a must for sufficient ventilation inside the market which are fundamental rights of the leaseholders of shops and customers, the ACC observed.

Quoting Local Government (City Corporation) Act-2009, a top ACC official said there can be no temporary allocation of shops in a permanent DCC market like Dhaka Trade Center.

Besides, the accused also committed irregularities in determining the monthly rent of the shops. The accused could not say on what basis the rent was fixed, he added.

The probe found that initially Mohammad Ali in the shop allocation file mentioned Tk 10 as rent for each square foot which later Khoka unilaterally increased to Tk 15.

## Witness links Subhan

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Around 6:00am on May 12, 1971, he heard gunshots from his house and saw people fleeing the village, saying the Pakistani army had attacked their village. He too started running with them for life, said Khorshed.

Then he hid in a sugarcane field beside the union parishad office at their village as he saw a white car along with four/five Pak military vehicles near the office.

"Moulana Subhan, clad in white Panjabi, got down from the white vehicle and talked with some army men who also got down from their vehicles. And then, they [army men] opened fire on several people, who immediately collapsed on the ground."

Then, the vehicles rolled out towards Sindurpur and Kandurpur villages, said Khorshed, adding that he had seen another group of army personnel taking some 40 to 50 people towards those villages.

A few minutes later, Khorshed accompanied by Bhajan Saha, Budhishwar Saha and Balai Saha, who also had been hiding with him, came out and found the bodies of Madan Kumar Sarkar, Chetan, Ratan and Ghughria lying in front of the office.

After sometime, he met Shamsul Alam near the sugarcane field and together they returned to Fakitpur after

the Pakistani army had left the area around 2:00pm.

Later, they went to Sindurpur where one Budhishwar Biswas informed them that many people were killed, women violated and houses burnt down in their village, the witness said.

"Moulana Subhan was present at the crime scenes when the atrocities were committed," Khorshed quoted Budhishwar as saying.

Khorshed said they had seen bodies lying on the banks of the Padma river and some boats in the river. Over 100 people were killed there and most of the victims were on their way to India to take refuge.

Khorshed and Shamsul visited several other villages on that day and saw many dead bodies there. They also helped people of those villages bury the bodies.

The following day, he along with Shamsul, Fazlul Haque, the then principal of Satbaria College, and the victims' families estimated that the death toll of that day was 170-175, said Khorshed.

After his testimony, Subhan's counsel Mizanul Islam cross-examined him. The three-member International Crimes Tribunal-2 led by Justice Obaidul Hassan then adjourned the case proceedings until today when Khorshed will face further cross examinations.

## US may strike IS in Syria too

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the country's largest, which was repelled by security forces yesterday, a police officer and witnesses said.

Iraq "needs help and support from everybody... all the forces against terrorism," but not in the form of troops, as "there is no shortage of fighting men," Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said at a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart Mohammed Javad Zarif in Baghdad.

Zarif, on a two-day visit to Baghdad, for his part said Iran is working with Iraq, and also called for a broad effort against IS.

As Washington on Saturday debated extending air strikes into Syria, senior British politicians urged Ankara to act to block recruits from the UK and other countries from entering Syria via Turkey, en route to joining Islamic State (formerly Isis). This weekend large numbers of IS jihadists were trying to secure greater control of the border area, pushing northwards in armoured trucks looted from abandoned Iraqi military bases.

The route has been used by most of the foreign fighters who have joined the cause, and is believed to have been taken by several hundred of those who have joined IS from the UK.

US officials said that there was now a "new context" for confronting IS -- and cutting off its supply routes -- following the beheading of US journalist James Foley. Washington has also ramped up its rhetoric following the

grisly execution of Foley, calling it "a terrorist attack against our country."

The killing of Foley has stoked Western fears that territory seized by the militants in Syria and Iraq could become a launchpad for a new round of global terror attacks.

In a sign that Washington may widen the field of its air strikes, the White House said it was ready to "take action" against any threat to America in Iraq or Syria.

Deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said: "If we see plotting against Americans, if we see a threat to the US emanating from anywhere, we stand ready to take action against that threat. We have made it very clear time and again that if you come after Americans, we're going to come after you, wherever you are -- and that's what's going to guide our planning in the days to come."

Islamic State declared itself a "caliphate" in late June and has since added large parts of northern Iraq to territory it already held in eastern Syria.

President Barack Obama authorised air raids in Iraq two weeks ago to help regional Kurdish and Iraqi forces fighting IS in the country's north. Its warplanes have already launched more than 90 air strikes against IS jihadists in Iraq since August 8.

If Washington widened its attacks to extremists in Syria, this would mark a turning point, ending its hands-off approach to the country's civil war.