

## WHEN BCL STORMS CAPITAL

What the Vs were for (1)? It was supposed to be a mournful rally. Or was it the victory of requisitioning so many buses like the one they were on, creating a severe dearth of public transports in the capital, making poor commuters suffer, including women and infants (2); or was it the victory of keeping traffic in wait while they take over streets creating tailbacks, getting a sense of grandeur (3); or was it for the gridlock they successfully created after the rally (4)? Or perhaps what made them so proud was their show of might just before the PM's arrival at the venue when they fought among themselves for getting "favourable" seats. Let alone all the other "good deeds" they reportedly do all over the country on a daily basis. Ladies and gentlemen, here comes the BCL!

PHOTO: STAR



## GENETICALLY MODIFIED BT BRINJAL Greens demand stop to farming, marketing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday demanded a stop to farming and marketing of Bt brinjal, stating that enough research has not been done to assess the impact of the genetically modified crop on environment and human health.

They also claimed that most farmers who cultivated the crop did not get high yield as promised by the agriculture ministry and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI).

They said seven out of the twenty who planted Bt brinjal made losses as their plants mostly wilted.

The activists were addressing a press conference organised by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association at Dhaka Reporters' Unity. The conference was also attended by the seven farmers of Gazipur who made losses.

Mujibur Rahman of Gazipur's Sreepur upazila said he planted 1,050 seeds on one bigha of land in March, and used fertiliser as per the instructions of the agriculture officer.

However, when flowers began blooming, the plants began dying, he said.

"The agriculture officer and a foreigner visited my field a number of times and carried out tests on the plants, but they could not save the plants," he said.

He further said that he also planted local brinjal saplings alongside the modified crop and those flourished.

Environmental activist Pavel Partho said the crops were not high-yielding for any of the farmers aside from one farmer in Rangpur.

He further said Bt brinjals were being sold in Rangpur without labels violating the law, and that consumers cannot differentiate between normal brinjals and the modified ones.

"Developed countries, especially those in Europe, would not import vegetables from Bangladesh if they are not properly labelled," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bela, who chaired the programme.

Representatives from Ubiniq, Bangladesh Organic Products Manufacturers Association, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, B-safe and Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetables and Allied Products Exporters Association, among others, were present.

## N'GANJ-7 MURDER Another Rab man confesses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Another Rapid Action Battalion-11 member yesterday made a confessional statement before a Narayanganj court admitting his involvement in the sensational seven-murder in the district last April.

Radio operator Arif Hossain told the court of Narayanganj Senior Judicial Magistrate HM Shafiqul Islam about his involvement in the murders and described how those were carried out.

He along with four others was arrested on August 26 and placed on an eight-day remand the following day.

The other four are Lance Nayek Hira Miah and Belal Hossain, Constable Emdadul Haque, and Sepoy Abu Tayab. Aside from Belal Hossain, the other three made confessional statements on Saturday.

Besides, another Rab personnel, constable Sihabuddin, who was arrested on Saturday is on an eight-day remand.

With the six, investigators have so far arrested nine Rab-11 members in connection with the murders. The other three arrested are - Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, Maj Arif Hossain and Lt Commander MM Rana.

Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam, his driver and three associates, and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker and his driver were abducted separately but around the same time on April 27 from Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road.

Their bodies were found floating in the river Shitalakkhya a few days later.

## 17 illegal passport brokers fined in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A mobile court fined 17 illegal brokers Tk 200 each during a raid at Rajshahi divisional passport office yesterday.

The mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Alamgir Kabir and assisted by Rab, also gave them a three-day imprisonment, in default to pay the fine.

The convicts, who paid the fine, said they would not be involved in such brokery in future, said Alamgir Kabir.

The brokers used to fill passport forms in exchange for money and if anyone wants to fill those by himself, the brokers used to harass them and create hindrance entering the passport office, said the magistrate.

## War criminal Alim's body handed over to family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of convicted war criminal Abdul Alim, who died of cancer on Saturday, was handed over to his family after autopsy at Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday.

Khaled Bin Alim, a son of Alim, received the body from the jail authority at DMC morgue, said Farman Ali, senior jail superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail.

Alim's body was taken to his eldest son Faysol Alim's Banani house in the capital, and he is supposed to be buried at his family graveyard in Joypurhat.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Fire breaks out at RMG factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at a readymade garment factory in the capital's Mirpur-1 yesterday afternoon.

The fire originated around 5:45pm in the storeroom of Cordial Design Ltd, housed on the third floor of a seven-storey building at Shah Ali Bagh in Mirpur-1, said Abdul Halim, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Seven units of firefighters brought the blaze under control after over half an hour of their efforts. Clothes of the storeroom were burnt.

Ataur Rahman, general manager of the factory, told The Daily Star that the factory was using the building as its godown. Around 30 workers were working in the building.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## MOGHBAZAR TRIPLE MURDER

## Another on remand He confesses to the crime, say police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Zakir Hossain Johny, an accused in Thursday's triple murder in the capital's Moghbazar, on a five-day remand.

The order came after the investigators had produced him before the court seeking a 10-day remand, said court sources.

Detective Branch of police arrested Johny, 25, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Saturday. He is the 15th accused in the murder case filed with Ramna Police Station.

The case was handed over to DB yesterday, said Mashuiur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the station.

Kala Chan, brother of one of the victims Ranu Akter Brishti, filed the case against 15 named and five to six unnamed people on Friday night.

On Thursday night, a group of 20-21 criminals stormed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Edward College student dies in 'accidental' firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A student of Pabna Edward College died after being hit by a bullet, which was fired "accidentally" from a revolver "he was taking a look at with his hostel mates" in the district town last night.

Md Masud Hossain, 22, son of Moksed Ali of Sholabaria village in the district's Ataikula, was a third-year accounting student. He died on route to Pabna Medical College Hospital.

The gun's owner, Abdul Hamid Master, vice president of Pabna district Awami League, who also owns the student lodging where the victim resided, said he forgetfully left the loaded revolver in his jeep while climbing out of the vehicle in haste.

His driver, Shakil, took the gun to the students, and they were playing with it around 9:45pm when a bullet was fired accidentally and hit the victim's chest, he said. The revolver

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 60pc of brick kilns

FROM PAGE 3  
using environment-friendly zig-zag technology. After several extensions, DoE fixed July as the final deadline for the updating brick kilns.

In the briefing, Hasan Mahmud said the owners were given much time to modernise their factories. "Those who did not follow government directives must face action," he added.

About amendments to the environment court law, Mahmud said there was no provision in the act for filing appeals against the verdict of the court. The committee therefore asked the ministry officials to incorporate this provision, he said.

## ATM Shamsuzzaman's son gets life term for killing brother

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Khalequzzaman Kushal, son of film actor ATM Shamsuzzaman, to life term imprisonment for killing his eldest brother.

The court also fined the convict Tk 50,000, in default, to suffer one year more in jail.

According to the prosecution, Kushal stabbed ATM Kamruzzaman Kabir, 35, to death at their Sutrapur house in the capital on March 13, 2012 following an altercation between the two.

On the day of murder, police arrested Kushal who took drugs before the incident. He had been suffering from mental illness.

ATM Shamsuzzaman and his family members who were present at the courtroom burst into tears hearing the judgment.



A truck being loaded with illegal battery-run rickshaws after police seized those in Tiger Pass area in Chittagong city as the drive started yesterday after the city corporation, district administration and metropolitan police gave the rickshaw owners an ultimatum around a week ago to remove those from the streets by August 30. On July 3, the High Court banned plying of such rickshaws across the country for not running with valid licences as per the law.

PHOTO: STAR

## KHALEDA'S GRAFT CASES SC to hear pleas for stay against HC clearance today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is set to hear today two petitions filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging a High Court verdict that cleared the way for a lower court to continue trial proceedings against her in two corruption cases.

The HC on June 19 rejected two writ petitions filed by Khaleda questioning the legality of appointment of Bashudev Roy as judge of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka who framed charges against her and eight others in Zia

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Engage in politics of sacrifice

FROM PAGE 3  
Hundreds of activists and supporters from most districts joined it.

Before start of the rally, the activists of Fazlul Haque Hall and Amar Ekushey Hall units of Dhaka University clashed with those of Jagannath University at the venue over sitting arrangements, leaving six injured.

The fighting lasted for 15 minutes when they threw chairs and sticks at each other, said Enamul Haque Prince, a central leader of BCL. The DU unit president and general secretary stopped them.

The PM arrived over one hour after the fighting. Addressing the rally, Hasina said conspirators of the August 15 and August 21 were still active and asked BCL to strengthen the organisation and remain alert against them.

She said Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech which inspired the nation to fight against the Pakistani forces in 1971 had got a place in a book

of political speeches of 2,500 years around the world.

Hasina criticised BNP founder Ziaur Rahman, former military dictator HM Ershad, and ex-prime minister Khaleda Zia for "rewarding" the killers of Bangabandhu and patronising anti-liberation elements in politics.

In his speech, BCL General Secretary Siddiqui Nazmul Alam said the student body had done many wrongs, consciously or unconsciously, and pledged no to do so again in the future.

He also threatened to "remove bricks" from the houses of BNP-Jamaat men across the country if they celebrated August 15 as birthday of Khaleda Zia again.

AL Presidium Member Obaidul Quader and Joint General Secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Vice Chancellors of Dhaka University and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Prof Pran Gopal Datta, and lawmaker Tarana Halim also spoke.



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