

## Sramik League runs amok in Sreepur

4hrs factional clash over domination of 'extortion racket' at human hauler stand blocks road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Vehicular movement on a half a kilometre stretch between Mawna Chowrasta and Peyar Ali College in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur district was suspended for around four hours yesterday during a factional clash of Sramik League over "running" a human hauler stand.

Wielding bamboo and hockey sticks and throwing brick chips at each other, some 100 activists of the ruling Awami League's (AL) front organisation for labourers engaged in sporadic clashes till 12:30pm when police arrived and dispersed them.

Locals fled in panic while the camera of a local journalist, Shihab Khan, was snatched only to be returned later.

Witnesses said one group led by Mujibur Rahman, general secretary of the organisation's Sreepur unit, took position on the eastern side of the stand in Mawna while the other led by Liton Fakir, an executive member, on the west.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mujibur and Liton made contradictory claims, each stating that it was him that local AL leaders asked to "ensure proper running of the stand for they were local transport workers".

Locals and transport workers, requesting anonymity fearing retribution, informed that the "running of the stand" was a ploy to extort money from them, something both the leaders denied.

The unit AL President Advocate Shamsul Alam Pradhan denied telling anyone to look after the stand. He also refuted locals' claims that it was AL leaders of the lower tiers giving

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Mahalaya celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hindus yesterday celebrated the Mahalaya, the ceremonial invocation of Durga to welcome the advent of the goddess and her children.

This auspicious occasion is observed seven days before the Durga Puja, the largest festival of Hindu community.

The four-day Durga Puja will begin on September 30. This year, Mahanabami and Bijoya Dashami will be celebrated on the same day—October 3.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Puja Uddyan Parishad yesterday demanded a three-day public holiday for Durga Puja instead of a single holiday.

Their demands also include sufficient security measures, uninterrupted electricity and water supplies to puja altars, colourful decoration of government buildings including Gono Bhaban and Nagarbhaban, and distribution of delicious food in prisons.

"We also demand a Hindu foundation similar to Islamic Foundation to protect our rights," said Taposh Kumar Paul, acting general secretary of the Parishad, at a press conference at Dhakeshwari National Temple in the capital.

Idols of nine goddesses were vandalised across the country, he informed, demanding punishment for the perpetrators.

This year, worship of the goddess will be held at around 28,458 pandals (pavilion) while the number was 27,800 last year, said Parishad leaders.

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya

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Bangladesh Railway demolishes a shop built on its land in Kuril with a bulldozer. The rail authorities have started a drive to reclaim its land near rail lines after a recent accident in Karwan Bazar left four people killed by a train. Inset, son of the shop owner failing to hold back tears. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Start movement for democracy

Mahmudur Rahman Manna urges students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students ousted governments in the past and they should wage a tough movement to restore democracy, speakers told a discussion of Nagorik Chhatra Oikya in the capital yesterday.

"To establish democracy and the spirit of the Liberation War, movements of the students can play a vital role. But it requires solid unity of the students," said Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of Nagorik Oikya.

"They should first decide what they will do -- will they support the January 5 polls or express their views against it," he told the programme at Jatiya Press Club marking the '62-education movement'.

Students of the then East Pakistan had led the movement protesting the Sharif Commission report, stating

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## TACKLING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE Industrialised countries must pay victims

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman tells event in Dhaka as UN Climate Summit kicks off in New York

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The industrialised nations mainly responsible for climate change must keep their pledges of paying the countries affected by its impacts, said Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman yesterday.

"They pledged to disburse \$100 billion by 2010 but only seven percent of it has been released so far," he told a human chain, organised by TIB and ActionAid Bangladesh at Teacher Student Centre of Dhaka University.

The event was organised while the UN Climate Summit kicked off in New York, USA yesterday where more than a hundred world leaders gathered to commit to action on climate change. This is the largest ever gathering of heads of governments and states on

finding ways to tackle global warming.

Iftekharuzzaman said both the receivers and givers of climate funds should publish reports of financial transactions voluntarily to ensure transparency, accountability and honesty. He also emphasised the participation of the coastal people, the worst sufferers, in planning adaptation programmes, fund allocation, and implementation.

Describing the Tk 200 crore climate fund allocated in the 2014-15 budget as inadequate, Iftekharuzzaman urged Bangladesh government to "reconsider" the amount.

He added that the interests of Bangladesh and other affected countries should be regarded with utmost importance in the global discussion on climate financing.

DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Shahid Akhtar Hossain presided over the event.

PHOTO ON PAGE 4

## Gazipur robbery leaves 16 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A gang of robbers took away valuables, including 20 tolas of gold, after injuring some 16 people in two incidents, in Kaliakoir upazila early yesterday.

Police said about 1:30am some 25 to 30 robbers attacked Majhu Khan Bazar and beat up two security guards, tied up their hands and legs and threw them beside a road near the bazar.

Later, they halted at least 16 passers-by, snatched their nine mobile phones and Tk 6,000 and left them beside the road after tying up their hands. Locals later rescued them.

The gang also halted a motorcycle at Kathalbari Chala village, about one

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## HANGING OF 13 FF ARMY MEN Ershad to blame

Memorial discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Blaming former military dictator HM Ershad for the 1981 court martial which led to the hanging of 13 freedom fighter (FF) army men and imprisonment and sacking of many more, speakers yesterday demanded justice for those who had been wronged.

The demands came up at a discussion, "The hanging of 13 freedom fighter army men in the farcical trial of the so-called coup of 1981 and related issues", in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

It was organised by 23 September Smriti Sangsad, a platform of the victims and their families. Jatiya Party

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## RANA PLAZA SITE

# More human remains found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

After the recovery of human remains on several occasions at the Rana Plaza site late last year, there has been a demand that the government carry out another drive there since many victims of the building collapse still remain unaccounted for. The call went unheeded, but more remains keep coming out from the rubbles, with the latest recovery being made yesterday.

As before, street boys came across one human skull and eight bones, and said there were more.

Labour rights groups say over 158 people are still unaccounted for following the collapse on April 24 last that killed 1,136 and wounded hundreds.

Md Anarul Islam, 14, one of the boys, said, "I've seen many bones in the last few days but did not inform anyone because they would tell police and police would scold me and would not allow me to scavenge in the rubbles."

Police visited the spot, forcibly dispersed the onlookers, and received the remains.

Mohadeb Saha, a local vendor, who witnessed yesterday's recovery, said police always threatened people against such recoveries. "Police always try to hide this."

With the latest recovery, about 350 bones and four skulls have been found since December 13 last year.

Sub-inspector of Savar Model Police Station Md Nahid Hosen told The Daily Star that necessary steps would be taken in accordance with law.

## Man severs wife's hand in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A hand of a woman was chopped off and another hand's wrist was lacerated by her husband following a feud over the man's another wife at Laltec area of Chapain in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital on Monday.

Police and local sources said Heera Miah, 28, an employee at a sweater factory, hailing from Sherpur, married Sabina Akter, 24, a school teacher one and half years ago hiding his earlier marriage.

Sabina was rushed to Enam Medical College Hospital. A case was filed.

## Case against SQ Chy's

FROM PAGE 5

showed Farhat, Humam and Mehedi fugitives and appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against them. The other four were arrested earlier. On October 1 last year, ICT-1 gave the BNP leader capital punishment for crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

Joj Mia's sister accuses 2 CID officers of harassing him Testifies at Dhaka court in Aug 21 grenade attack cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The sister of petty criminal Joj Mia, who was falsely implicated in the August 21 grenade attack cases, testified before a Dhaka court yesterday, accusing two former CID officials of harassing her brother.

Khorseda Akther, the 103rd prosecution witness in the two cases, gave her deposition before Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 for an hour.

Her mother Jobeda Khatun testified before the court on September 8.

Khorseda was cross-examined by the counsels of several accused.

The Criminal Investigation Department

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## Guidelines for the Divisional Round:

- Students must carry their school ID and wear uniform on the day of Divisional Competition.
- No travel allowance/daily allowance will be provided for the participants.
- Students must bring a printed copy of the confirmation letter of registration.
- For Poster/Painting: Paper will be supplied to the participants. Participants must bring their own painting materials (e.g. pen, pencil, water color, oil paint, crayon etc.)
- Divisional round will be a whole day event.

For any query, please call:

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