

## Unwanted

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distribute the press release and the envelopes containing money to reporters of 20 outlets.

He, however, stopped handing the money to journalists after The Daily Star correspondent refused to accept it. A reporter of another English daily also returned the envelope on seeing money inside.

The incident stirred a negative reaction among the journalists who went to cover the event. Later, another official distributed only the press statement among the reporters.

The incident happened at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre where the National Board of Revenue arranged the discussion. Among the top guests were Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed.

Contacted, NBR Chairman Nojibur Rahman said, "I am unaware of the incident.... But if it is an honorarium for the participants, one can take it or not take it. But I am not aware of it."

The NBR boss added, "It is unbecoming of any officer. We will take action against the officials involved." Khandaker Muhammad Aminur Rahman, convener of the steering committee to observe the Customs Day, also claimed to be unaware of the money distribution plan. "I inquired into it after I came to know it. And I was told that some of you [journalists] demanded money."

On whether a state organisation can offer money to ensure press coverage, he said, "It is not a right thing to do.... But it is a problem that while one group demands it, the other group rejects it."

## When Modi

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about the mindset of the man," said Shehzad Poonawalla, a supporter of the main opposition party, Congress.

Modi's long-time tailor said the suit was specially made for Obama's visit.

"We were told that he had loved it because it was something exclusive," said the Gujarat state-based designer who has worked closely in designing Modi's wardrobe since 2001. The tailor declined to be named.

India's leader has long been known for his flair for fashion, often sporting short-sleeved versions of the kurta, the Indian knee-length loose shirt.

The look has become so popular that the "Modi Kurta" has become its own label in India.

Obama himself lauded Modi's style at a state dinner held on Sunday in New Delhi, comparing it to his wife's sartorial elegance.

"So he's tough. And he also has style," Obama said.

"One of our newspapers back home wrote, 'Move aside, Michelle Obama. The world has a new fashion icon.'"

## GDP to see 2pc

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the minister dismissed the fears of a long-term impact, but said it might harm the flora and fauna of the forest.

Replying to a query over newspaper reports that 12 NGOs have not worked even after receiving money from the climate fund, he said it was better not to discuss the issue because this happened before he took the helm of the ministry.

In another reply, the minister said those who cut trees in the lead-up to the last national election were sued.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said the present government would do whatever needed for the development of farmers.

She criticised the BNP-Jamaat government for "weakening" the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, which "this government has strengthened".

## Another arson

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on Sunday morning during the 36-hour hartal enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

Earlier on Saturday, Jatrabari police in Dhaka filed another case against 68 BNP-Jamaat leaders for the arson attack on a bus in Jatrabari Friday night, which left 28 people burnt.

Though the BNP chief was not accused in the case, the first information report filed with Jatrabari Police Station mentioned that the accused carried out the attack on instructions by Khaleda to enforce a nationwide indefinite blockade from January 6.

## Insults fly as British MEP leaves anti-EU party for Tories

AFP, London

Britain's anti-EU UKIP party, which threatens to split the right wing vote and hand victory to Labour in 2015 elections, has suffered a reverse with the defection of one of its members to the Tories, triggering a war of words Sunday.

Amjad Bashir, a little-known member of the European Parliament, described his former party in The Sunday Telegraph as one of "ruthless self-interest" with a "ridiculous" lack of policies, while UKIP said it had already suspended Bashir after becoming "alarmed" by his behaviour.

## BANASHREE SHOOTOUT

# One victim identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the two killed in a "shootout" between Rab and reported criminals in the capital's Banashree area on Sunday has been identified.

Shahinur Begum claimed the body, which had a shirt and a pair of jeans on, as that of her husband Abul Kalam Azad at DMCH morgue around 7:00pm yesterday.

The other body remained unclaimed.

Azad, a father of three daughters, was a driver by profession and had been missing since December 22, Shahinur told reporters at the morgue.

Two people including Azad had been shot and critically wounded during a "gunfight" with Rab around 2:00am on Sunday. Rab claimed that the duo had shot at law enforcers and they retaliated.

The "criminals" were pronounced dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) around 4:00am, Rab said.

After performing autopsies yesterday, the bodies were kept at the

morgue for identification and subsequent handover.

Azad's sister-in-law Yasmin told The Daily Star a man called to Shahinur's phone from an unknown number and asked her to look for Azad at DMCH.

Yasmin and Shahinur went to the DMCH around 11:00am yesterday. Keeping Shahinur outside the mortuary, Yasmin went into the room but could not identify a body as it became swollen.

Then they contacted Rampura police and came to know that two bodies had been kept at the morgue. This time Shahinur identified one of the bodies as her husband.

"The other body will be preserved at the mortuary for a week for identification," Prof Md Habibuzzaman Chowdhury, chairman of the Forensic Medicine department of DMCH, told The Daily Star.

"If no one claims the body within this time, we will collect DNA sample of the body and hand it over to Anjuman Mofidul Islam for burial," he said.

## Commuting in fear

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left several hundred injured.

"Our political leaders do not bother about the ordinary people. If they really did, they wouldn't have continued with such a chaos for so long," said Sharmin, who works for a private bank.

Her journey to and from office has become quite troublesome nowadays. "To catch a direct bus to Gulshan-1, I need to go to the Mirpur-10 intersection from my house at Mirpur-11 and wait in a long queue there."

But on hartal days most buses go off the streets and she has to take two rickshaws to reach her office, which costs her way too much.

The experience of Sajeda Khatun, an employee at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, is not different.

After reaching Khilkhet by a rickshaw from her Nikunja home, she waits for a bus. But very rarely she would avail one as most of the buses are crammed with passengers.

Also she cannot afford riding a CNG-run auto-rickshaw as they charge much higher than their regular fares during political programmes.

"If we die from political violence,

we are gone. But if we are hurt and become physically challenged, who will look after us? How will we manage our treatment costs?" she asked.

For Anjuman Ara of Wari, the journey to her office in Gulshan-2 is not an easy one.

"Sometimes I am late in my office as it takes time to get a bus," she said. But she is more worried about returning home in the evening after knowing about the arson attack on a bus in Jatrabari recently.

"I can't afford quitting the job as it is not possible for my husband to run the family with his income alone," mentioned Anjuman Ara.

Farhana Islam, who works for a private firm in Mirpur, has been facing a problem off late. Her office has stopped the pick up and drop-off service.

"My travel costs have soared as I go to office by CNG-run three-wheelers. When I don't get any, I take a bus somehow," said the resident of Zafarabad in Rayerbazar area.

A garment worker of Mugda, Mahfuza takes buses every day to reach her factory in Kakrail.

"Even if there are bomb attacks on buses, I've no other alternative to it. We want peace," she said.

## Tender for Metro rail

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Under the act, Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 route will be constructed from Uttara to Bangladesh Bank via Pallabi, Farmgate and Shahbagh. It will cover 16 stations on its route.

Six districts --Dhaka, Gazipur, Munshiganj, Narsingdi, Manikganj and Narayanganj--will come under the purview of the law.

Quader said eventually MRT lines 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 would be constructed to connect the entire capital with its adjacent districts.

Japan has approved \$2.1 billion in soft loan for the \$2.7 billion project. The three-year delay has increased the project cost to \$2.7 billion from \$1.7 billion. According to a Jica study, the trains will operate every three minutes and carry 60,000 passengers an hour.

The metro rail project, the country's second largest infrastructure project after the \$2.9 billion Padma bridge project, has faced complexities in the last few years over modification of routes following objections from the air force and to avoid overlapping with the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover.

As per law, a metro rail traveler will be fined ten times of the respective ticket price if found without ticket or legal permission to board the service.

Anyone obstructing metro rail operation will face five years of imprisonment or a Tk 50,000 fine. Besides, there is Tk 1 crore penalty and 10 years of imprisonment for operating metro rail without license.

In November last year, the cabinet approved the draft of the metro rail act.

## Koko's body arrives today

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collecting the death certificate and visas have been completed. A flight of Malaysia Airlines is scheduled to leave Kuala Lumpur for Dhaka at 9:00am [BST] today, carrying Koko's body. His wife and two daughters will be accompanying the body," a close relative of Koko told The Daily Star.

A five-member BNP delegation composed of Moyeen Khan, Nazrul Islam Khan, Abdullah Al Noman, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf and Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury will receive the body.

From the airport, the mortal remains of Koko will be driven to Khaleda's Gulshan office where his mother, close relatives, senior BNP leaders, political leaders and distinguished dignitaries will pay their last tribute to him.

The second namaz-e-janaza of 45-year-old Koko, who died of a cardiac arrest at his rented house in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, will be held at Baitul Mukarram national mosque after Asr prayers at 4:15pm today.

In a statement yesterday, BNP has made an appeal to all its activists and people to attend the namaz-e-janaza and burial of Koko at the Army Graveyard in Banani.

Since Khaleda was informed on Saturday afternoon about the sudden demise of her younger son, she has isolated herself from most others except for the wives of her two broth-

ers, her physicians, niece and in-laws of Tarique, a close relative of the BNP chief said.

"Whenever I met her in the last three days, I found her either in prayers or asleep under the influence of sedatives. After waking up from sleep, she enquired of Koko several times," said the source.

Khaleda was sobbing and very upset. She lamented that she could not take care of her younger son's health issues. She had last met her two sons together in July, 2013 in Singapore when she went there for treatment.

Koko's first namaz-e-janaza was held at the central mosque of Kuala Lumpur. His elder brother Tarique Rahman joined a gayebana janaza (funeral prayers in absentia) at a local park in London where he has been staying since late 2008.

Gayebana janazas of Koko will be held at 10:30am today across the country sans the capital, said BNP.

The party will hold milad mahfils and Quran Khawani today and tomorrow as part of its three-day mourning programme.

Meanwhile, diplomats of different foreign missions in Dhaka, political and business leaders, former national cricket and football players, among others, visited Khaleda's Gulshan office yesterday to sign the condolence book opened by BNP on Sunday.

## Pranab warns

FROM PAGE 16  
Modi issued most of the decrees after opposition parties prevented parliament from functioning in protest at comments against religious minorities made by members of the ruling party.

Mukherjee's message might be of interest to Obama, who was in town as chief guest for the 66th Republic Day celebrations. At home, Obama has sidestepped a fractious Congress by issuing executive orders.

Mukherjee said there can "no governance without a functioning legislature."

Elected last May, Modi has broken logjams in the economy and foreign relations.

Obama sat behind Mukherjee as he saluted soldiers at a military parade in the capital New Delhi yesterday. Obama is the first US president to attend the annual Republic Day celebrations, part of a three-day visit that aims to cement ties between the world's two largest democracies.

The ceremony featured marching contingents of women soldiers and a woman officer led the guard of honour that greeted Obama, although India has become notorious for abuses and violence against women.

In his speech, Mukherjee expressed anger that women are "fearful even in their own homes" because of widespread rape, murder, harassment on the roads, kidnapping and dowry deaths.

## 3 more

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after the meeting held at the Secretariat.

The decision to constitute new divisions was taken to ensure better governance and take public services to the doorsteps of people, he said.

Before making a final decision, Musharraf said, the cabinet division will form an inter-ministerial committee to examine the implications of creating a new division and then put forward a proposal to Nicar.

During the discussion, LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam and State Minister for Labour and Manpower Mojibul Haq Chunnun, both from Kishoreganj, strongly opposed the plan to include their home district in the proposed Mymensingh division.

"We told the prime minister that people of our district want to belong to Dhaka division," Chunnun told The Daily Star at his office yesterday.

The cabinet meeting expressed deep condolence to the family of Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz who died on Friday.

The meeting also approved in principle the draft of "Bangladesh Tea Bill, 2015" and "Bangladesh Tea Workers Welfare Fund Bill, 2015" for the development of tea industry and welfare of tea workers.

Finance Division placed a comparative report on socio economic advancement and macroeconomic status for the period of 2009-2014 and 2001-2006, saying there was macroeconomic stability in the last five years due to a steady growth.

## Ancient forest

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experts believe they have been hidden off the coast of Norfolk since the Ice Age.

The forest is believed to have become exposed following the stormy weather last winter.

Watson, who runs the Marine Conservation Society's survey project, Seasearch in East Anglia, said she was "absolutely thrilled" with the find.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing at first. The sea was quite rough by the shore so I decided to dive slightly further out and after swimming over 300 metres of sand I found a long blackened ridge.

"When I looked more closely I realised it was wood and when I swam further along I started finding whole tree trunks with branches on top, which looked like they had been felled.

"It was amazing to find and to think the trees had been lying there completely undiscovered for thousands of years. You certainly don't expect to go out for a quick dive and find a forest."

Watson, who has been diving in the North Sea for about 16 years, said the trees are thought to have formed part of a huge forest, measuring thousands of acres.

But it is believed the forest was drowned when the ice caps melted and the sea level rose 120 metres.

The fallen trees are now lying on the ground where they have formed a natural reef, which is teeming with colourful fish, plants and wildlife.

The forest bed is at the start of the chalk reef, which forms the proposed Cromer Shoal Marine Conservation Zone just to the East.

It is also near the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Cley Marshes reserve, which is famous for birdlife.

## New 20-year DAP

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The current DAP suggested reclaiming over 2,500 acres of flood flow zones and agricultural land from the grip of illegal property developers, relocation of 3,000 industries and scrapping of 16 development projects.

But none of the suggestions have been acted upon. The Pangaon Inland Container Terminal, a firing range of the armed forces and Jhilmil housing project by Rajuk in Keraniganj featured among the 16 schemes. While the Pangaon terminal has already been already implemented, works on the rest two are going on.

According to an estimate by experts, over 100 realtors have illegally developed projects by destroying conservable flood plains, retention areas, rivers, farmlands and rural homesteads in and around the capital.

Prof Sarwar Jahan, who teaches urban planning at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buett), said destruction of flood plains and wetlands would only spell environmental disaster, water-logging, and health crisis for the capital, regardless of its economic status.

Sheikh Abdul Mannan, Rajuk board member for planning and head of proposal evaluation committee on the new DAP, said, "In the light of reality, we will incorporate development schemes in the new DAP that were not included in the current DAP."

Mannan, who recently visited the US and Canada to learn about urban planning, admitted that conservable wetlands and flood flow zones in the city have been destroyed mindlessly, with Rajuk playing the role of a silent spectator. "It's true.... But it has been going on illegally."

Noted urban planner Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, who headed the preparation of the current DAP, said an estimated 83 percent of conservable flood flow zones and wetlands have

been destroyed and grabbed by influential businessmen for commercial ends.

Of the master plan area, conservable flood flow zone, water retention area and water bodies (canals, lakes, rivers) together constitute 405 square km while agricultural land covers 330 square km.

"I've given up hope.... I no longer bother about what's happening in this regard. Because nothing would happen to the planned urbanisation," he added.

"The business quarters that are dead against the planned urbanisation in the capital now dictate terms in planning affairs. Preparations of DAP had been a waste of laborious professional work," mentioned Jamilur.

Khondaker M Ansar Hossain, immediate past general secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), said the authorities concerned are preparing the new DAP very secretly without even informing a professional body like the BIP.

The DAP depicts every structure, lake, canal, wetland, retention pond, road, open space and all the topographical features of the master plan area. It is instrumental in controlling use of land with conservation of wetlands and environment, added Ansar who was the planning expert of the current DAP.

The first DAP was finalised twice and published in a gazette in June 2010.

But the government in the face of strong opposition from realtors and Dhaka lawmakers stalled its implementation, making it subject to another "final review" by a seven-member committee.

Then Rajuk chairman Md Nurul Huda in May 2013 had told this paper that they could not implement vital suggestions of the DAP as the seven-member cabinet committee did not give them any directives.

## Waiting for proof

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Although the BNP chief's name does not come as an accused in the cases, the first information reports mention that those who are implicated and accused carried out the attack following Khaleda's instruction to enforce a countrywide blockade since January 6, police sources said.

Jatrabari police station filed the case against 68 people; of them, 18 top BNP and Jamaat leaders were implicated for planning the attack and 50 were accused of carrying it out, they added.

Police have started investigating the cases. So who will be arrested depends on the findings of the investigation, said the DMP boss.

"We have not said that the arrest cannot be made. We want to say that investigation is a continuous process and any arrest will be made on the basis of evidence found in the investigation," he said, replying to another question whether Khaleda would be arrested.

He said police so far had arrested a total of 633 people including 67 BNP and 39 Jamaat-Shibir men in connection with 149 cases filed with different police stations in the capital for subversive activities in the name of enforcing the blockade.

Some 67 people were caught red-handed during arson and bomb

attacks. Mobile courts have jailed 28 people in different terms for their involvement in those attacks, he said.

The commissioner also announced rewards ranging from Tk 25,000 to Tk 1 lakh for information leading to the arrest of any anarchists in the wake of violence amid the non-stop blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-Party alliance.

"Tk 1 lakh will be rewarded for helping police arrest arsonists or anarchists red-handed, Tk 50,000 for information on crude or petrol bomb throwers and Tk 25,000 for helping the arrest of those involved in making or storing bombs or explosives," the commissioner said, adding that identities of the informants would not be disclosed.

Meanwhile, Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed yesterday said the elite force had rewarded some people Tk 1 lakh who reportedly had caught three blockaders red-handed in Narayanganj and handed them over to law enforcers.

The Rab DG, however, did not disclose their identities due to their security.

He was talking to reporters in the capital's Gulistan intersection after launching a leaflet and sticker distribution campaign against petrol bomb and crude bomb attackers.

Putin accuses Ukraine army of being 'NATO foreign legion'

AFP, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin sharply ramped up his anti-Western rhetoric yesterday, accusing the Ukrainian army of being "NATO's foreign legion" whose main purpose was to contain Russia.

Shortly after his spokesman warned the West against "black-mailing" Moscow with the threat of new sanctions over an upsurge in Ukraine violence, Putin accused Kiev of being unwilling to seek a peaceful settlement to a war that has claimed more than 5,000 lives.

"Who is really fighting there?"

Putin said in televised remarks during a visit to Saint Petersburg.

"These are partly official units of the armed forces, but to a greater extent these are so-called 'voluntary nationalist battalions'," he said.

**বিশ্বসাহিত্য কেন্দ্র** আলোকিত মানুষ চাই

Ref: bsk.mfp.02.2015-02 Date: January 25, 2015

**Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for hiring individual Consultant (National)**

"Expansion of Mobile Library Program of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro" project, funded by the Government intends to recruit an Individual Consultant for the project. Under the guidance and direct supervision of PD the Consultant is expected to advise and oversee the effective functioning of the project. The consultant will also maintain liaison closely with the government counterparts.

The positions of the Consultant will be filled in at the Project Office located in Dhaka and should have to travel in 56 districts of the country. Detailed description of services, qualifications and experiences of the Consultant has been mentioned in the TOR. The scope of work and expertise necessary to provide the services by the Consultant has been mentioned in short below:

**Scope of Work:** The Consultant will work closely with the project team and will be responsible for advising and supporting the Project Director (PD) in all aspects of project functions for implementation of the project successfully. The consultant as an expert in the field will provide advice regarding all aspects of the project including procurement maintaining highest degree of integrity and ethical standard. Specific tasks of the Consultant include but are not limited to:

- Provide technical advice in regards to coordinating with different stake holders.
- Prepare project operation guideline/manual
- Advice tracking of project progress with reference to plans and budget
- Guide proper materialization of procurement plan ensuring compliance of procurement rules/procedure
- Analysis progress and achievement of the project and suggest for improvement
- Guide preparing staff evaluation mechanism and guide its proper utilization
- Analyze monthly progress report and comments on it for review of project authority
- Guide preparation of reports as per requirement of Government counterpart and other stake holder

**Qualification and Experience:** The Consultant's qualification will be at least Master Degree in Social Science or Education with at least 10 years of work experience in the field of mobile library or any book-reading program or other social development activities. The Consultant should have strong communication skills in resolving difficult issues and ability to work efficiently and effectively in a multi-disciplinary team. She/he should be fully conversant and possessing skills in MS word, Excel and other software application/MIS on monitoring and project management system. Preference will be given to the consultant: having experience in monitoring and evaluation of project activities in non-formal education/cultural sector program, having experience in procurement management, having experience in community mobilization program, having experience/knowledge in drafting/preparing legal documents, having knowledge in creative books/publication, having experience in implementing Mobile Library program.

**Age limit:** The consultant will be between age of 35 and 55. Age limit may be relaxed for more experienced candidate.

**Duration of Appointment/Contract:** Duration of the consultancy service would be initially 12 months. It may be extended up to the end of the project subject to performance of the consultant.

**Remuneration and facilities:** Negotiable

The Project Director of EMLP now invites eligible individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the required services. Interested Consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in the position. The applicants have to collect the "TOR" and application format from the office of the undersigned to prepare the application. In addition to that, the intending candidates should attach 02 (two) copy of photograph and 01 (one) photocopy each of academic degrees/certificates, training and experience certificates along with the original application. Only the short listed candidates will be called for interview. Expressions of interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope, clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for the position of Consultant" on the top of the envelope and delivered to the address below by **February 15, 2015** during office hours (from 2pm to 9:30pm).

**Project Director, Expansion of Mobile Library Program of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro**  
17 Mymensingh Road, Banglamotor, Dhaka 1000. Phone : 9880812, 8618567