

# Train-pick up collision kills 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Three people, including a college student, were killed and six others injured as a train hit a pickup truck parked near a level crossing at Majipara of Sreepur upazila yesterday. The dead are Shikhar Ahmed, 19, son of Kolim Uddin of Nigoary village in Mymensingh's Gafargaon upazila, ice cream hawker Mostafa Kamal, 55, son of Abdul Berek Bepari of Shaheed Nagar village of the same upazila, and Jahangir Alam, 40, son of Mohammad Ali of Baliapara village in Sreepur upazila. Shikhar was a third-year honours student at Bhowal Badre Alam University College in Gazipur. A Dhaka-bound commuter train from Jamalpur hit the coal-laden truck around 11:00am. On impact, some passengers who were at the doors fell off the train, said Salauddin, sub-inspector of Sreepur Model Police Station. Shikhar and Mostafa died on the spot and seven others were hurt. Of the injured, Jahangir died on his way to Sreepur Upazila Health Complex, added the police official.

Locals alleged that the pickup truck driver was talking over his mobile phone after parking the vehicle along the rail line. He fled the spot soon after the accident. Initially, the injured were taken to the health complex. Three of them were shifted to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor), widely known as Pangu Hospital, in the capital later.

## MANZUR MURDER PROBE

# CID gets two more months

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted the Criminal Investigation Department two more months to complete further probe into the murder of Maj Gen Abdul Manzur in 1981. Judge SM Saiful Islam of the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court asked the CID to complete the probe by May 14. The court passed the order after CID Special Superintendent Abdul Kahar Akond, also the case's investigation officer, submitted a petition seeking more time for further investigation. That was the sixth time when Akond sought extension of time in the case.

In his petition, Akond said he visited the USA in June last year and recorded the statement of Manzur's daughter Lubna Manzur. But he failed to record the statement of Manzur's wife as she was sick that time. Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad, also a special envoy to the prime minister, is the main accused in the case. Advocate Sheikh Muhammad Serajul Islam represented Ershad in his absence while two other accused in the case were present at the court yesterday.

On January 8, the same court asked the CID to complete the investigation by yesterday. Maj Gen Manzur, who was the commander of sector-8 during the 1971 Liberation War, was killed at the Chittagong Cantonment on June 1, 1981, just two days into the assassination of the then president Ziaur Rahman.

## UK worried

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approval) and a new broadcast policy, the report added that some using digital media to criticise the government have been detained under the information and communication technology act. The report in a part titled "Bangladesh - Political Violence" also said, the government also restored parliament's authority to impeach judges, which, depending on how it is implemented, could compromise the independence of the judiciary. On political issue, it said after the January 5, 2014, elections, the BNP committed to peaceful protest, although political tension at the end of the year led to the re-emergence of widespread political violence. The report said three British ministers visited Bangladesh last year and they urged Bangladesh's political parties to work together to strengthen democratic accountability, and to build wider confidence in future elections. Allegations of involvement by the Rapid Action Battalion in the death of seven men in Narayanganj drew domestic and international criticism, it said. The report also said British Prime Minister David Cameron met Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July 22, 2014. "He noted our disappointment over the conduct of the election. Both agreed on the importance of an open society and political system in which democratic political participation and media freedom are respected."

# Arson attacks on court

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On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the flames. Many important documents of the office were burnt, said a fire service man. In another incident, the divisional office of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education on Gora Chand Das Road in the city came under an arson attack early yesterday. Mustafizur Rahman, director of the office, said criminals threw a petrol bomb inside the office around midnight after breaking a window. Computer monitor, printer, furniture and documents of the room were damaged, he said. Abu Taher, a sub-inspector of Barisal Kotwali Police Station, said two bottles used for carrying petrol were recovered from the spot. A general diary was lodged in this connection.

In Jhalakathi, criminals torched the Ponabalia union land office building in Sadar upazila early yesterday, gutting land-related documents. Four rooms out of five of the building and all its furniture were completely burnt, said Majid Ali, superintendent of police in Jhalakathi. Abul Hossen, a night guard of the area, said he saw smoke billowing from the office building before dawn. "I rushed there and saw fire and called people to douse the blaze," he said. A case was under process to be lodged with Jhalakathi Police Station in this connection, the SP said, adding that the pro-BNP chairman and two members of the union were detained for interrogation.

In Dhaka, a crude bomb exploded at the corridor of Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, spreading panic among people. None was wounded in the explosion, police said. The bomb went off with a bang at the court building's ground floor around 4:10pm, said Aminur Rahman, assistant commissioner of police (prosecution) posted at the CMM Court. Chief Justice SK Sinha visited the spot and asked the police to beef up security in and around the court. He also asked the law enforcers to allow the litigants into the court premises after checking them, a metropolitan magistrate told reporters.

Alleged pickets torched a bus parked at Biswa Road in Mughda around 7:00am. Members of Border Guard

# Stage all set

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smart phone to show Friday's weather forecast and deny one of the teammate's claim that there would be rain on the day. He even tossed a coin for fun. Interestingly, Shakib was given the captaincy during the Tigers' tour of West Indies in 2009 after skipper Mashrafe was sidelined with injury. He continued until July 2010 as Mashrafe's injury problems prolonged. The left-hander then stepped down to focus on his personal performance. Mashrafe returned but broke down again during the first ODI against New Zealand in October 2010 at home with Shakib once again taking over and initiated the first "Banglawash" over the Kiwis. So, it would be fantastic for the team if he could continue with the trend against the Kiwis under his leadership. The almost carbon copy scenario made everybody curious whether the destiny has brought Shakib back to create another history for Bangladesh, who however won the last series 4-0 without the superstar all-rounder -- he was serving out a suspension -- at home, cricket as they have never won a match against New Zealand at their home. So understandably, Shakib will be praying for the rain to keep away on Friday. Shakib may lead a different team as Nasir Hossain was in contention to replace Mashrafe and there were discussions, left-arm spinner Taijul Islam may finally get a match by replacing Arafat Sunny if the weather doesn't force the management to go in with three pacers by including Shafiqul Islam in place of a left-arm spinner. It was however hard to understand from the faces of the players who were going to play and who were not as everybody except Mashrafe was in happy mood and enjoyed Thursday's rain, that started falling from early morning, in this calm and quite city after a practice session at the Seddon Park. It was unusual to see Mashrafe in a gloomy mood as like yesterday's weather. "You know I love to play but for the greater interest I have to accept it," said a dejected Mashrafe. But it's not today's match for what Mashrafe can take risk. Today's result will not make much of a difference as the Tigers have already fulfilled their first dream of reaching the quarterfinals. What is more important for the captain is that he is under the threat of a one-match suspension following the first warning for slow over-rates after the game against England on Monday. For New Zealand it's not only their mission to remain unbeaten but also to take a revenge of their last two series whitewashes. And though the Tigers also know that the high-flying Kiwis will go for the kill, they are ready to bring them down on earth.

Bangladesh detained a man, Dulal Mia, while he attempted to blast a crude bomb at Gate-4 of BGB headquarters in the capital. In Rajshahi, alleged pickets exploded a handmade bomb in front of the district Central Jail around 9:00pm, leaving a prison guard injured. A pedestrian was injured as criminals blasted a crude bomb on Nawabpur road in the capital around 7:30pm. In Munshiganj, three people were injured when a crude bomb they were allegedly making went off at a house in Sadar upazila around 9:00pm. They were admitted to the DMCH, said Sentu Das, assistant sub-inspector of DMCH Police Camp. In Cox's Bazar, alleged hartal supporters vandalised eight vehicles at Peka area between 8:00pm to 10:00pm, police said. At least 86 people have so far been killed and over 1,200 vehicles were torched and vandalised since the BNP-led 20-party alliance began its blockade on January 6. Most of the deceased were victims of mindless arson attacks on vehicles. LONG-ROUTE BUSES RESUME PLYING AT NIGHT Night-time services of long-route buses resumed yesterday after remaining suspended for over a month amid arson attacks. The move came after a meeting between the State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan and transport leaders at the home ministry yesterday. "The bus operators have decided to resume night-time services from tonight [last night]," said Khandaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity. On February 9, the authorities had decided not to operate buses on highways after 9:00pm as arson attacks on vehicles continued unabated across the country. "The government will beef up security on the highways at night and provide police protection if the bus operators seek it," said Enayet Ullah after the meeting. Osman Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, told The Daily Star last night that long-route buses started plying towards their destinations from 9:00pm. [Our correspondents from the districts concerned contributed to the report]

# Quest for justice turns

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either victims of corruption or having knowledge about it, 13 officials of service-providing agencies and local government representatives, and group discussions with 27 women. The main service-providing organisations in the surveyed areas include community clinics, union health centres, union parishads, union land offices, Krishi Bank and different NGOs, including Grameen Bank. "It should not be generalised that our findings reflect the overall picture of the country, but we believe a similar situation prevails elsewhere as well," said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh. "Corruption is being increasingly institutionalised. As a result, people, in this case women, are being forced to accept it as a way of life, being victims, agents and in some cases beneficiaries of corruption," he told reporters at the TIB office. Sultana Kamal, TIB trustee board member, said women often became victims of corruption due to their helplessness. "However, it is not right to assume that women would not indulge in corruption just because they are women." Some of the interviewees also spoke of facing sexual harassments. The study quoted a Hindu woman as saying, "The chairman said, 'I gave you a job without taking any money, don't you understand what I want?'" The report adds: "He [the chairman] has done it not only with Hindu women but with Muslim women as well." Another woman seeking legal assistance said a police sub-inspector gave

# City polls by early May

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The education ministry will suggest a suitable voting date when there will be no public examination as the HSC exams will begin on April 1 and continue until June 11. In the meeting, officials of law enforcement agencies assured the EC that they were confident to keep law and order under control during the polls, meeting sources said. A top police official in the meeting suggested that elections to Dhaka north and south city corporations are held on two different dates as a large number of law enforcers would be needed to ensure security if the elections were held on the same day. This might create security problems in other parts of the country as a large number of law enforcers would be brought in to Dhaka from other districts, he viewed. Rejecting the proposal, the EC said elections to both north and south city corporations would be held on the same day. In the meeting, law enforcement and intelligence agencies cautioned that BNP-Jamaat men might carry out subversive activities during the polls if they do not participate in the election. Regarding deployment of armed forces personnel, the CEC told reporters that it would depend on the situation prevailing ahead of the polls. The last election to the undivided DCC was held on April 2002, and its

# Death anniversary

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of Journalists in 1972. Mustafa worked for the Pakistan Observer (later renamed the Bangladesh Observer) and later served as the joint editor of the Bangladesh Observer in 1972, as the founding editor of the daily Purbokone of Chittagong in 1980s, and as a member of the Editorial Board of the weekly Dialogue. Mustafa was also the acting editor of the daily Sangbad before becoming the first editor of the daily Muktokantho (now-defunct).

# THE COST OF JUSTICE

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| For filing a case                                | Tk 2,000-5,000   |
| For refreshment when cops come for investigation | Tk 300-600       |
| For placing the case before court                | Tk 5,000         |
| Conveyance and fuel cost of police vehicles      |                  |
| for arresting the accused                        | Tk 20,000-40,000 |
| For each hearing of the case                     | Tk 10,000-15,000 |

SOURCE: TIB

# Jannati finally gets bail

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over the moon," said Jannati's mother Shakila Hossain after the High Court bench led by Justice Md Nizamul Huq yesterday granted the bail. She said Jannati might step out of jail on Sunday. Last year, during the hearing of the bail petition, a HC judge "felt embarrassed" while another one refused to hear the petition without mentioning any reason. Lower courts also denied her bail twice. On July 11 last year, Jannati while driving Mostamsir's car crashed into a parked police van near Mohakhali flyover. Mostamsir, who was beside her, was gravely injured and died on the way to hospital, police said. Tejaon police sued her for reckless driving. Mostamsir was the son of Khan Mohammad Abdul Mannan, a former district court judge and now serving as the inspector general of registration (of land). Ten days after the accident, Mostamsir's family lodged a murder case against Jannati, her brothers Jubair and Junaid, father Delwar Hossain and husband Raymen Siddique, alleging that the five had

murdered Mostamsir in a planned way to take over his business. Of the 15 people named as prosecution witnesses, four are high-profile government officials. CID Inspector Uttam Kumar Biswas, the investigation officer of the murder case, claimed yesterday that he has made a good progress in the investigation and expected to conclude the probe soon. He however refused to give any timeframe. Jannati and Mostamsir launched Echo Sparks, a music cafe and gaming zone, in Uttara in December 2013. Jannati has other businesses in partnership with her husband Raymen Siddique, according to her family. Ever since Jannati landed in jail, her family has been alleging that she was denied justice as Mostamsir's family is influential. Mostamsir's uncle Hannan Khan, the complainant, however, says he will accept whatever comes out of a proper investigation. Jannati and her husband had founded Velocity, a car modification company. She also became managing editor of automobile magazine Torque.

# The scaly strange thing

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slowly moving around. We noticed that it did not have any mouth as we are used to know. Rather it had a long, slender tongue like a snake which it started pushing out and in of a hole where its mouth should have been. There was an ant colony in our garden. The Bonrui wondered towards it and started picking up the ants with its sleek tongue. Sometimes it would scratch open the colony with its sharp claws. It took about 15 minutes to finish up the whole colony. Then the man neatly put the mysterious animal back in its wooden box and left. Later I came to know that it was a pangolin, a kind of ant-eater. It is the only mammal wholly covered in scales. When under threat it can coil itself and make itself invincible to predators. With its extraordinarily long tongue which measures almost its body length, it draws up ants and termites from ant hills. Although it is a slow moving animal, it still needs about seven million ants and termites a year to survive. Since they have no teeth, they ingest small stones while sucking up insects. These stones then grind up the food. These beautiful animals are becoming extinct in Bangladesh and elsewhere for two reasons -- hunting for meat and trafficking. Globally it is the

most trafficked animal. But in Bangladesh they are hunted for meat. About two years back, I got a call from someone in Modhupur that a Garo man had caught a pangolin. Dr Anisuzzaman and I went there and found the poor animal tied to a tree. It was injured in its front feet. It looked scared. The Garo man described how delicious its meat is and how they hunt it at night. "But these days we hardly get them," the Garo said. "It's become so rare." After much persuasion we convinced the man to hand the animal to us to be released in the forest. We took it to Nalitapbari and released it in the forest. The animal was all rolled up when it put it on the ground. Then it slowly unrolled and looked at us with its dreary eyes. Then it turned around and ran as best as it could into the forest. I have no idea whether it survived. But it should have enough food in the forest. Pangolins actually play a vital role in maintaining forest health. They eat up the ants and fireflies and keep the trees healthy. I imagine our pangolin is playing its role in the Nalitapbari forest and that it has found a partner. We can only hope they will breed and keep the number up.

# Gaza farmers export first produce to Israel

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza farmers exported produce to Israel yesterday for the first time since the Jewish state imposed its blockade on the Palestinian territory in 2006, officials and an NGO said.



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

CARE Bangladesh invites "Expressions of Interest" from eligible national NGOs for possible partnership for implementing a large scale food security program. Detailed instructions and eligibility criteria, profile format and other associated information are posted on the CARE Bangladesh website [www.carebangladesh.org](http://www.carebangladesh.org) (Career/EOI). Deadline for submission of EOI is March 26, 2015.

**ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড**  
**DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD**  
 (An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Memo No- DPDC/SE(DPC)/2015/422 dt: 11/03/2015

**"Corrigendum"**

As per decision of DPDC's authority the tender receiving place is changed as follows:

| Sl. No | Tender No.                           | Name of the Tender  | Name & Address of the office for receiving of Tender Document   |   |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|        |                                      |   | Previous place  | New place   |
| 1.     | DPDC/SE(DPC)/2015/357 dt: 07/01/2015 | Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11 kV Switching Station at Bangabhaban, Ganabhaban & Prime Minister's Office on Turnkey Basis. | i) Office of the Superintending Engineer, Distribution Planning Circle, DPDC, Biddut Bhaban (11 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000<br>ii) Office of the Company Secretary, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC), Biddut Bhaban (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000 | i) Office of the Chief Engineer, Development, DPDC, First Floor, House No.-47, Road No.-135, Gulshan-1, Dhaka - 1212<br>ii) Office of the Chief Engineer, NOCS North, DPDC, House No.-73/1, Road No.-5/A, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. |

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

(Engr. Md. Zahid Hossain), Superintending Engineer & Project Director  
 Construction of 11 kV Switching Station at Bangabhaban, Ganabhaban & Prime Minister's Office Project, DPDC.