

**BSRM** the ultimate steel

Chemical Test, Yield Strength Test, Ultimate Strength Test, Diameter, Elongation, Elongation at Maximum Force, Bend Test, Re-Bend Test, Surface Geometry Test, Fatigue Test

**BSRM Xtreme**  
Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

SAFETY'S 10 MEASURES

www.bsr.com

**TRANSKOM DIGITAL**

**Inverter Technology**  
from Hitachi Refrigerator

INVERTER x Dual Fan Cooling

**HITACHI**  
Inspire the Next

Up to 9 EMI @ 0% Interest

R-V470PG3 395 Litres Tk. 96,500  
R-V610PG3 510 Litres Tk. 127,900  
R-WB480PG2 405 Litres Tk. 135,000

For More Information: 09613 700700

eco CHOICE

TRANSKOM Care 16212

# Case backlog piling up

People suffer from hartal-blockade on legal front too

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Although the number of cases disposed of in a year has increased, more than 30 lakh cases were pending with courts across the country causing litigants to endure long waits for justice.

The number of cases settled by the Supreme Court's Appellate Division and lower courts had risen over the years. But it was quite the opposite at the High Court, even though new judges had recently been appointed to it.

Hartals and blockades were to blame for this. An SC study showed that 30,07,860 cases were pending as of December 31 last year. Of the cases, 15,346 were at the Appellate Division, 3,61,038 at the HC, and 26,31,476 at the lower courts.

Assistant Registrar of the SC Abu Sayed on March 19 told The Daily Star that the HC cleared fewer cases in the last two years than it had done in the previous years as some HC judges could not sit in courts amid hartals and blockades called by the 20-party alliance.

But the judges of the Appellate Division sat in their benches regularly amid the programmes, he said.

Sayed said Chief Justice SK Sinha, after being appointed in January, had taken several measures, including maintaining fair case management and close monitoring, to increase the number of disposal of cases.

He said the chief justice had also taken initiatives to encourage the HC judges to sit in courts regularly, ignoring hartals and blockades.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

# Protests anger stalkers

Acid thrown at grandmother in Rangpur, mother-daughter attacked in Habiganj

STAR REPORT

Stalkers attacked a school-going girl and her mother in Habiganj, and threw acid on a woman in Rangpur in the last four days. Both the attacks were carried out in retaliation for the victims' protest against the stalkers.

On Friday night, Saju Miah, 24, and his friends stormed the house of Saleha Begum (not her real name), 40, and beat her up along with her elder daughter Rahela Begum (not her real name), 14, in Surabhay village of Sadar Upazila in Habiganj, leaving them severely injured, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Saleha said Saju, who lives in the same village, stalked and harassed her younger girl Reshma (not her real name), 12, regularly on

her way to school. As she lodged a complaint against him with the Union Parishad, Saju attacked her house in retaliation.

Saleha and Saleha suffered chest, back and hand injuries, and were admitted to the upazila health complex. As their condition deteriorated, they were transferred to Habiganj Sadar Hospital yesterday morning.

The family fears further retaliatory attacks.

Contacted, Gulam Mostofa, sub-inspector of Habiganj Police Station said a police team visited the village and could not trace the stalkers who went into hiding.

Earlier on Wednesday night, stalkers threw acid on a woman while they attempted to abduct her granddaughter from Najjar Mamud village under Pirgachha

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Opener Martin Guptill salutes the Wellington crowd as he leaves the field on 237 not out, the most by any batsman in a World Cup match, after New Zealand's innings against West Indies on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Kiwis fly with Guptill wings

REUTERS, Wellington

New Zealand opener Martin Guptill sent the ball soaring and the records tumbling by striking a cricket World Cup record of 237 not out on Saturday to set up his team's crushing 143-run victory over West Indies in the final quarterfinal.

New Zealand scored 206 off the closing 15 overs to reach 393 for six then dismissed West Indies for 250 from 30.3 overs.

Their reward was a seventh World Cup semifinal appearance, this time against South Africa in Auckland on Tuesday, and another opportunity to reach a final for the first time.

Australia play India in the second semifinal in Sydney two days later.

After captain Brendon McCullum had won a rare toss and opted to bat on a sunny afternoon at the Wellington Regional Stadium Guptill struck the ball cleanly from the outset.

He became the first New Zealander to score

consecutive World Cup centuries, bettered his own national record of 189 not out then overtook Chris Gayle's World Cup record of 215 set against Zimbabwe at the current tournament. His innings took 163 balls and included 24 boundaries and 11 sixes.

West Indies were left ruing a dropped chance in the opening over from Jerome Taylor when Guptill, on four, hit the ball straight to Marlon Samuels who was slow to react and dropped the ball at square-leg.

Gayle, who had been in doubt for the match because of a painful back complaint, set off as if he were determined to reclaim his record after Trent Boult had bowled Jonathan Charles for three with his second ball.

He swung Southee for a six and four to leg before turning his attention to the customarily frugal Daniel Vettori whose economy rate took a battering when Gayle heaved three consecutive sixes over mid-wicket.

Boult continued to take wickets at the other end and Vettori took a stunning catch on the third-man boundary, leaping high to haul down the ball with his left hand to dismiss Marlon Samuels (27).

Gayle, now in obvious pain, was on borrowed time and the fun ended when fast bowler Adam Milne, returning to the side after missing the final group match against Bangladesh through a shoulder injury, dismissed the left-hander for 61 with eight sixes.

The remaining West Indies' batsmen peppered the boundary but capitulating swiftly. Boult finished with four for 44, overtaking Australia's Mitchell Starc as the tournament's leading wicket taker with 19 victims.

McCullum started the day-night match by whipping a four through square-leg followed by a six, the 400th of the tournament, which was caught in the crowd.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

# Six killed as truck rams auto-rickshaw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Six people were killed and two critically injured yesterday in a road accident on Mymensingh-Tangail road at Muktagacha upazila.

The dead are Alal Hossain, 40, son of late Kadar Ali; Samir Talukder, 35, son of Ahd Ali; Akbar Ali, 40, son of Noor Mohammad; Jalal Uddin, 40, son of Helal Uddin; Mohammad Selim, 40; and

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



Teenagers from a local school/college jump over the central reservation on Airport Road in the capital's Uttara, as vehicles whizz by. They risk their lives despite a footbridge being just a few hundred yards away. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# AL-Shibir friendship!

GD reveals how AL leader threatened OC to have Shibir man freed

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Politics in districts is very different from what is preached in the capital.

An Awami League leader in a district recently threatened a police official with dire consequences for arresting a leader of Chhatra Shibir, student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, a party blamed by the government for orchestrating recent violence across the country.

Considered the most powerful law enforcement official in the field-level, the officer-in-charge of a police station found the threat so menacing that he went on to file a general diary. The matter is now lying with the home ministry for action.

As recorded in the GD and in a report prepared by the Special Branch of police, the AL leader demanded the immediate release of the Chhatra Shibir man for ensuring safety of the AL leaders and workers in the area.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the SB report, marked "secret".

"When we won't be in power we will need some Jamaat-BNP workers. We also have some of our men in the Jamaat-BNP. We'll have to ensure that we can live here [the name of the district taken out] once we aren't in power in future," the report quotes the AL leader as telling the OC.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

# SALAHUDDIN MISSING FOR 12 DAYS

## Family plumbing depths of anxiety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family members of missing Salahuddin Ahmed are passing their days in extreme anxiety as 12 days have gone by since the BNP leader went missing.

Although police said their investigation was on, they were yet to find Salahuddin who had gone missing on the night of March 10.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

# Hillary asked to hand over email server

REUTERS, Washington

A Republican-led US congressional panel has formally asked Hillary Clinton to hand over her private computer server, ramping up scrutiny over her use of a personal email address while secretary of state.

Hillary has come under pressure for using a private address and email server rather than government systems while the country's top diplomat from 2009-2013.

The revelations reinvigorated an investigation by a Republican-led House of Representatives committee into the 2012 attacks on a US facility in Benghazi, Libya. Republicans contend Clinton did not do enough to prevent the incident.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

# Unparalleled under the water

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

The semi-nomadic Moken people, living along the coasts of Burma and Thailand, are hunter-gatherers who for centuries have harvested the sea's bounty. They use traditional diving methods

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



**The Daily Star**

Integral Energy Limited

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think Bangladesh Cricket Board should file a complaint to the International Cricket Council for poor umpiring in Bangladesh-India quarterfinal?

Yes (77%)  
No (23%)

TOTAL VOTES: 106

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think there is any chance that the 18-party alliance may withdraw hartal and blockade and participate in Dhaka, Chittagong City polls?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**KONKA LED TV**

01755661188

**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 22**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-45 6-16 7-45

JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 5-00 6-20 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

electromarttd  
Electro Mart Limited