#### Nasir, Manjur

The RO requested the officers-incharge (OCs) of Double Mooring and Pahartali police stations to investigate the allegations and take legal action.

In another complaint, Ishak said the chairman and officials of an NGO, which is implementing a poverty alleviation project in Ward 4 (Chandgaon), were distributing money among the voters in favour of Manjur. He also alleged that the people who declined to receive money were being threatened to be deprived of the benefits of the pro-

The RO instructed the assistant returning officer (ARO) to investigate the matter and give the report within 72 hours.

A fourth complaint accused Manju of having four election offices in Ward 28 (Pathantuli). The ARO was asked to file a probe report within 48 hours.

#### JP'S SOLAIMAN SETH

Jatiya Party-backed candidate Solaiman Alam Seth yesterday filed one complaint saying his banners strung at different points of Ward 7 (Raufabad) had been ripped off.

The Panchlaish OC was requested to take legal action after investigation.

#### MANJUR

Chhattagram Unnayan Andolon, a platform backing Manjur, yesterday lodged two complaints, one against ruling party lawmaker Dr Hasan Mahmud and the other accusing law enforcers of harassing pro-BNP campaigners.

The respective AROs were asked to file two investigation reports within 48 hours.

In one complaint, SUM Nurul Islam, the platform's member secretary, said Hasan Mahmud blocked a busy road by building a stage on Monday and sought votes for Nasir at a mass rally of battery-run rickshaw owners and drivers there.

He also assured that the batteryrickshaws, now operating illegally, would be allowed to run if Nasir was elected. Hasan Mahmud was also accused of whipping up the drivers and owners' opposition against Manju. Both are electoral violations, says the complaint.

The same complaint accuses the adherents of Nasir of using a government office and a government vehicle in the campaign in AK Khan area.

The second complaint says the law enforcement agencies are hindering Manjur's campaign by harassing BNP leaders and activists through raiding their houses. Fearing arrest, BNP men are not staying at home and not taking part in campaigns, it adds.

#### PM flies

FROM PAGE 16

Jakarta and Bandung from April 19-24. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said the three-day visit would bring opportunities for the PM to exchange views with leaders from Asian and African countries on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

"The visit symbolises Bangladesh's continued support and commitment in strengthening cooperation with other developing countries, especially in Asia and Africa, with the sole purpose of promoting world peace and prosperity through South-South cooperation," he told a press conference yesterday.

Shahriar also said though the government gradually strengthened bilateral ties with African countries, there is still room for meaningful cooperation with the 54-member African Union.

Bangladeshi troops are deployed in several African countries under the UN Peacekeeping operations and they have earned commendation for their service, he said.

Considering this, Bangladesh has planned to open its mission in various African countries, the minister said, adding that the government initially plans to open embassies in Ethiopia and Nigeria.

The theme of the 60th anniversary of the Asia-Africa Conference is "Strengthening South-South Cooperation to Promote World Peace and Prosperity." The summit aims to conclude three outcome documents.

Hasina is leading a 59-member delegation comprising ministers, MPs, civil and military officials and others, Shahriar told reporters at the foreign ministry.

Besides a seven-member business delegation will accompany the PM during the visit, but they will go at

their own expense, he said. Hasina is expected to return home

on April 23. Shahriar also said the heads of states and governments from 10

African and 18 Asian countries, including leaders of China, Japan, Brunei, Iran, Malaysia and Myanmar, would attend the conference to discuss independence, peace and economic prosperity.

On the sidelines of the conference, the PM would hold bilateral meetings with the heads of states and governments from Japan, Singapore, Nepal, Myanmar and Palestine, he added.

## Nuclear deal could open door to regional cooperation: Iran

AFP, Washington

Iran yesterday pushed its call for peace talks to end the fighting in Yemen, and offered assurances that a nuclear deal would pave the way for greater cooperation with its neighbors.

"With courageous leadership and the audacity to make the region decisions, we can and should put this manufactured crisis to rest and move on to much more important work," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote, referring to global suspicions about his country's nuclear program.

His New York Times op-ed piece entitled "A message from Iran" came ahead of new political director talks in Vienna this week as global powers chase a full deal on Iran's nuclear program by a June 30 deadline.

our constructive engagement extends his war-torn country.

far beyond nuclear negotiations," Zarif

City

"Our rationale is that the nuclear issue has been a symptom, not a cause, of the mistrust and conflict," he argued, adding it was time for "Iran and other stakeholders to begin to address the causes of tension in the wider Persian Gulf region."

"It is not a question of governments rising and falling: the social, cultural and religious fabrics of entire countries are being torn to shreds."

Iran last week presented a fourpoint peace plan for Yemen to UN chief Ban Ki-moon, demanding international action to end the "senseless" Saudi-led air campaign against Huthi Shiite rebels backed by Tehran.

But Yemeni Foreign Minister Riyadh Yassin on Monday rejected "Iran has been clear: the purview of Iran's offer to mediate in the crisis in

### Continue search

FROM PAGE 1

progress of the search to the home secretary on the first day of every month for the next six months or until his recovery, whichever is earlier.

The HC bench of Justice Quamrul Islam Siddique and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Salahuddin's wife Hasina Ahmed.

During yesterday's hearing, Deputy Attorney General Bashir Ullah informed the HC that the government had formed a three-member committee headed by the joint commissioner of Criminal Investigation Department (crimes) to find out whether the BNP leader had been abducted or not.

After the HC delivered the judgment, DAG Bashir told The Daily Star that law enforcers would continue searching for the missing BNP leader if he was not recovered in next six months.

During the hearing, petitioner's counsel Khandker Mahbub Hossain prayed to the HC to order the government to punish the law enforcers for their failure to find Salahuddin and to warn them so that incident of missing does not take place in future.

Salahuddin's wife Hasina Ahmed, who was present in the courtroom during its proceedings, told reporters that she wants her husband to come back alive.

up my husband and why he was picked up. I just want my husband back," she tion in this regard.

Following her petition, the HC on March 12 asked the government to explain as to why it should not be sion to resign." directed to produce Salahuddin before it by 10:30am on March 15.

The petitioner prayed to the HC to direct the government to produce her husband before it in 24 hours, saying law enforcers picked up her husband from a house at Uttara on the night of March 10.

Later, her lawyers urged the court to order to the government to form a commission to probe the incident of Salahuddin's missing and to locate his whereabouts.

In reply to the rule, offices of inspector general of police, director general of Rapid Action Battalion, Criminal Investigation Department, Special Branch of Police, and the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police submitted five reports to the HC through attorney general's office on March 15, saying Salauddin was not under their custody, as they did not detain him.

Meanwhile, several thousand people yesterday formed a 300km-long human chain in Cox's Bazar, demanding the "return" of BNP joint secretary general Salahuddin Ahmed.

Organised by the Cox's Bazar district BNP, the human chain, formed for around half an hour, started at St "I don't want to know who picked Martin's Island around 11:00am and covered almost all villages, unions, upazilas, wards, roads, bazars, stations said. She sought everyone's coopera- and mahallas in the district.

from the spot of the incident.

wishing not to be named.

treatment here," he added.

men during the incident.

136 more

Djibouti the following day, Md

Shahriar Alam, state minister for

foreign affairs, told a press conference

The junior minister said the total

Haque earlier said the number could

number of Bangladeshis would not

exceed 700-800 in Yemen. But

Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul

in Ethiopia, SM Mahbubul Alam,

through via an e-mail yesterday.

counsellor at Bangladesh embassy in

Kuwait and now with a Bangladeshi

team in Djibouti, told The Daily Star

On Sunday, 363 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 1

yesterday.

None of the injuries was serious.

People injured in such clashes usually

go to public hospitals for treatment,

sensing police case, said another staff

"But we had to admit the injured to

State Minister for Home

Asaduzzaman Khan visited the injured

at the hospital. He told reporters that

"Khaleda's security staff" beat up AL

## AL, BNP trade blame

FROM PAGE 1

security staff opened fire on AL men without any provocation and created a dreadful situation, reports UNB.

"This is how she has been destroying the electoral atmosphere," said the

The BNP, however, complained that the hospital as they wished to receive AL men fired shots at Khaleda's SUV.

Maj Gen (retd) Fazle Elahi Akbar, the former PM's security and defence affairs adviser, claimed that a bullet hit the window of the vehicle.

"The BNP chairperson escaped the attack as the vehicle was bullet proof," he told reporters at Khaleda's Gulshan residence around 9:30pm.

He also showed the newsmen "a bullet mark" on the right-hand win-

dow of the vehicle. Many journalists including this correspondent who witnessed the incident doubted the claims of both the parties as no shots were heard during the incident and there was no

attack on the AL men. AT HOSPITAL

Visiting the AL-Raji Hospital around 9:30pm, this correspondent found some injured lying in beds, with their hands and legs bandaged. AL leaders claimed the injured to be their party

men. "The incident took place around 5:40pm, but the injured came here around 7:30pm. Where had they been in the meantime?" questioned a hospi-

#### be 1,500-3,000. Meanwhile, 29 more Bangladeshis, evacuated from capital Sana on Sunday, were flown to Addis Ababa

tal staff.

#### returned home from Yemen and The hospital is just 10 minute's walk Djibouti.

Bangladeshi woman FROM PAGE 16

Station in Faizabad. Police with the help of locals on March 16 sent back Anowara and her

grandchild to Benapole. But their passports were with Nargis. Victim's aunt Rahela Begum said

Khulna police informed them on March 20 that Nargis was killed. Her body was found beside a railway track near the railway station. Three passports were also recovered from the bag.

Uttar Pradesh police informed the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi about the recovery of the body. The Bangladesh mission communi- Indian police filed any case in this cated this to the foreign ministry in connection.

Dhaka.

Contacted by the foreign ministry, the home ministry asked Khulna police to take necessary action.

Sonadanga police then asked the victim's family to arrange money for bringing the body home. But the family could not arrange the money and the body was kept at the morgue of an Indian hospital, said Rahela.

Finally, it was brought home yesterday under government arrangement.

Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Benapole Immigration Police Station, said they had no information if the

### Arrestee

FROM PAGE 16

Jatrabari police on March 24, six days before the murder, in an arms case, added the sources.

In his statement, Saiful mentioned of a "big brother" who was the mastermind behind the killing and was present during the planning. But he did not give the name.

After recording the statement, the court ordered to send Saiful to prison.

Oyasiqur, 27, was hacked to death by three cleaver-wielding youths in the capital's Tejgaon on March 30.

Zikurullah and Ariful were caught by locals while running away, but the third attacker managed to flee.

During police remand, Zikurullah and Ariful confessed to the killing. After his arrest in an arms case,

Saiful was shown arrested in the Oyasiqur murder case. A staunch critic of religious fundamentalism, Oyasiqur was active

mostly on Facebook though he used

to write in Bangla blogosphere.

#### 35 SUST

FROM PAGE 16

He said their next programmes would be announced later and classes would continue as per the schedule.

Eminent science fiction writer Dr Zafar Iqbal, who also resigned from his post, said, "Other teachers did not feel honoured because of the way the VC behaved with some teachers. I too did not feel honoured and took deci-

"I believe if VCs are appointed from within the university instead of the current practice of appointing someone from outside, all problems will be solved," said Iqbal who resigned as the director of the institute of information and communication technology.

A total of 37 administrative posts have been vacated, including the dean of life science faculty, director of teachers and students counseling centre, provost of five dormitories and the proctor (in charge).

According to sources in the administration, the chairmen of applied physics, and geography and environment along with some other teachers went to meet the VC without any prior appointment on April 13 to discuss the distribution of classrooms among departments. But the VC did not give them enough time and became embroiled in an argument.

Contacted, VC Prof Dr Md Aminul Haque Bhuiyan told The Daily Star, ' was busy that day due to my wife's sickness. That's why I could not give them much time. But their move is unexpected and I think all the teachers should reconsider their resignations."

Another pro-Awami League and left-leaning teachers' platform under the banner of Mahan Muktijuddher Chetona O Muktochinta Chorchai Oikyaboddho Shikkhokbrindo, led by Prof Akhtarul Islam, is also active in the university.

### CIA chief

FROM PAGE 16

strategic relationship as well as their commitment to promote relations," a statement from the president's office said.

"The two sides agreed to continue consultation and coordination on issues of mutual interest, particularly with regard to areas witnessing conflict in the Middle East and international efforts to eradicate terrorism."

Egypt has been battling jihadists in the Sinai Peninsula who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group which controls swathes o Iraq and Syria.

### Mob beats

FROM PAGE 16

Locals caught Sumon from a paddy field in the afternoon and beat him to death on the spot.

Quoting locals, police said Sumon married Sharmin five years ago following a love affair with her. Sharmin and her sister were living in Barisal at the time.

Sumon, an unemployed youth, however started torturing his wife soon after the wedding.

Meanwhile they had a daughter. Recently Sharmin returned to her parent's home as she was unable to bear his continuous abuse and decided to end the marriage, a decision Sumon opposed.

On Sunday night, Sumon came to his in-law's house in Chandpur from Barisal and engaged in a heated exchange with Sharmin's parents over the divorce.

At one stage, Sumon attacked his parents-in-law and his wife, hacking them indiscriminately with a sharp weapon, leaving Iqbal dead on the spot around 3:00am yesterday.

As the family raised a hue and cry for help, locals rushed to the spot but Sumon managed to flee. Critically injured Sharmin and her

mother were rushed to Hajiganj Upazila Health Complex where Mamtaj succumbed to her injuries. Arisul Haque, officer-in-charge of Chandpur Sadar Police Station, said

they recovered the bodies and sent those to Chandpur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies. A case was filed.

## Welfare of the poor

FROM PAGE 16 explaining the reasons for his decision to contest the polls.

He expressed the hope the DSCC could be an exemplary local government body in terms of accountability and fighting graft through people's involvement.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, he sets his priorities and promises to winning the voters' confidence.

"Lack of safety for movement of women, children, elderly and people with disabilities, scarcity of public toilets, irrational housing rent, and waterlogging are my top priorities to address," he noted.

"If elected, I will form a city council involving citizens, urban planners and experts who would hold regular dialogues on what the administration should do to solve the city's age-old problems," he said.

Does the city corporation have the power to make all the changes he is dreaming of? "Sadly, no," he replied. "Like any other local government bodies, the city corporation needs empowerment. But the shortcomings can be overcome with people's support and by curbing graft. I will garner public support and mobilise communities to change the city."

A leader of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Firoz became a member of its central committee in 2009 and donated all his property and assets to the party as per custom.

public is my only goal in life. This added.

election gives me an opportunity to do that," he observed.

He believes that people would vote for him considering his decades-long commitment to solving issues affecting the Dhaka dwellers.

"We waged movements to save Osmani Udyan, fix minimum wage for the workers, lower house rent and save the rivers, to name a few," he asserted. Money and muscle power, he said,

comes to choosing a public representa-Firoz, however, slams the Election Commission for not "treating all con-

should not be considered when it

testants equally". "It becomes difficult, at times, to understand whether the commission is helpless, or if it deliberately turns a blind eye when the rich aspirants breach the electoral code of

conduct. "Besides, the commission's reluctance to take action against contestants who spent crores of taka before the polls proves its weakness," he

Talking about his vision of Dhaka after a decade, he said, "Seeing the four rivers around the city freed from illegal encroachment and pollution is my dream. It would be a paradigm shift for the capital known as one of the least liveable cities in the world."

"Making the city friendlier towards women and children is possible in less "Doing something for the general than ten years, if one is committed," he

## Poorer children

FROM PAGE 16

Using socioeconomic questionnaires, brain surface area measurements and high-resolution MRI scans, investigators from nine universities found a link between household income and brain structure.

The correlation was strongest at the lowest end of the economic range, the paper published in Nature Neuroscience found, showing that children whose families earned less than \$25,000 (£17,000) a year had 6 percent less surface area than those whose household earned \$150,000 (£100,000) or more.

Elizabeth Sowell, part of the Institute for the Developing Mind at the Children's Hospital, said: "While area in no way implying that a child's socioeconomic circumstances lead to immutable changes in brain development or cognition, our data suggest that wider access to resources likely afforded by the more affluent may lead to differences in a child's brain

structure." The differences in brain surface area were most prominent in regions supporting language, reading, executive functions and special skills, the team found.

Lead author Kimberly Noble, professor of Paediatrics at Columbia University Medical Centre, said: "Specifically, among children from the lowest-income families, small differences in income were associated with relatively large differences in surface area in a number of regions of the brain associated with skills important for academic success."

Among children from higherincome families, tiny increases in income level were associated with much smaller differences in surface area, and affluence was also associated with better performance in cognitive skills that could be partly accounted for by greater brain surface

Dr Sowell said income was linked to factors including nutrition, health, education and play, adding that everything in a child's environment shapes

the development of their brain. The study offers two possible theories about what is causing the apparent links - a lack of access to good nutrition, healthcare and other factors helping development, and the fact that increased family stress leads to a lack of "cognitive stimulation".

# Verdict any day

unit Razakar in Kishoreganj subdivision, had set up a camp of the antiliberation force at Tarail Police Station on April 23, 1971 and got involved in acts of genocide and crimes against

humanity during the war. After hearing the arguments from both the sides, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chairman of the tribunal, said: "Hearing concluded; judgement CAV." CAV (Curia Advisari Vult) is a Latin legal term which means the court wishes to be advised (judgement is

reserved). Justice Jahangir Hossain and Justice Anwarul Haque are the members of

the tribunal. Referring to the testimonies of prosecution witnesses, prosecutor Mohammad Ali said Hasan was "directly involved" in acts of genocide and crimes against humanity and the prosecution has been able to prove the seven houses of Hasan Ahmed and charges.

"So, only death sentence, death sentence and death sentence can be his punishment," he added.

Defence counsel Abdus Shukur Khan said although the prosecution labelled Hasan the Razakar commander of Tarail upazila, Hasan's name was not in the list of Razakars in court by the prosecution.

Hasan's name was in the Razakars' list of Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila, he added. The lists were prepared by the Muktijoddha Sangsad. Shukur argued that neither the

prosecution nor its witnesses said anything about the whereabouts of Hasan in 1971, his educational qualification and other relevant information. The tribunal also expressed discon-

tent about the information provided by the prosecution on the whereabouts of the accused. BACKGROUND

Hasan of Machihata village in Brahmanbaria had been living in accused. Tarail with his family for many years. Then 24, he was there during the ninemonth-long war, according to the prosecution.

His father Syed Musleh Uddin was the vice-president of the East Pakistan

unit of Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP) and chairman of the Peace Committee in Kishoreganj subdivision in 1971.

The PDP and Peace Committee opposed the country's independence.

after the war, he was once involved with Nezam-e-Islami, another antiliberation organisation. The tribunal on April 3 last year had issued an arrest warrant against Hasan,

but police submitted a report to the

Though he was not active in politics

court declaring him a fugitive. The tribunal put the accused on trial in absentia. On November 11 last year, the court indicted Hasan on six charges. The prosecution produced 26 witnesses, including the investigating officer of

the case, before the court. The defence,

however, did not produce any. Charges: Torching and looting of Sadot Ali of Sachail Purbapara village on April 27; Killing of one Tofazzal, abduction of two other people and burning of two houses at Konabhawal village on August 23; Act of genocide in Palpara of Shemulhati village on September 9 that left 12 people killed; Act of genocide at Borgaon village on September 27 that left eight people the upazila which was submitted to the killed and abduction of 10 others; Abduction and murder of Kamini Kumar Ghosh and Jibon Chakravarty and looting of Ghosh's house at Araiura village on October 8; and local units of Bangladesh killing of Rashid Ali Bepari and torching 100 houses at Sachail village

on December 11. TRIBUNAL-2

The prosecution yesterday completed its closing arguments in the case against Mahidur Rahman and Afsar Hossain Chutu, two alleged Razakars from Chapainawabganj.

In his closing arguments, prosecutor Sahidur Rahman urged the International Crimes Tribunal-2 to hand "exemplary punishment" to the

The court asked the defence counsels to present their arguments today. Mahidur and Chutu face three charges,

but the prosecution did not produce any witness in support of the third charge. The two are now behind bars.

# FROM PAGE 3