



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A woman with her two children exiting Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka last night. They are among 165 Bangladeshis who returned home from war-torn Yemen via Djibouti yesterday.

### 165 more

FROM PAGE 16 other. We were very scared," said Mohammad Milon, one of the returnees. He said the people in Sanaa were suffering immensely due to the crisis of electricity, food and water. Kanchon, another Bangladeshi, said they got stuck in Sanaa for days as there was no "air connectivity between the city and Dhaka". "So, we had to stay in Sanaa despite the heavy bombing and firing between the two groups there," he added. SM Mahbubul Alam, counsellor at Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait, said they would continue to run the temporary mission in Djibouti until it was needed. Yemen has been in turmoil for months since the rebels took over the capital, Sanaa, after bursting out of their northern stronghold, according to international media.

### President, GS

FROM PAGE 16 Tikadar and Abu Syed Konok, both fourth year mechanical engineering students. Protik Dutta, a third year electrical and electronics engineering student, was expelled from the university for two semesters while Golam Saqlain Ratul, a third year computer science and engineering student, was expelled from Ahsanullah Hall. Abu Aanaf Ibn Samad, a fourth year mechanical engineering student, was served with a warning notice. On April 12, BCL men assaulted Prof Jahangir Alam of the civil engineering department for his "provocative" Facebook post on the execution of war criminal Muhammad Kamaruzzaman. The university authorities probed the incident and made the decision on Monday, Buet Vice-chancellor Prof Khaleda Ekram told this newspaper. Shuvro said they did not get justice from the Buet authorities. The BCL will form a human chain on the campus today protesting the decision, he added.

**THE INCIDENT** Talking to this correspondent, Prof Jahangir said some 20 BCL men, led by Shuvro and Konok, entered his office and asked him to explain his Facebook comment. As he refused to explain, the BCL members slapped and punched him and vandalised his room. They locked the room from inside to prevent his colleagues from saving him. The students then forcibly took him to the cafeteria and later to the VC's office. The VC said Prof Jahangir looked very distressed and was sent back home in an ambulance. The BCL leaders, however, denied the allegation of assaulting the teacher.

### Robber killed

FROM PAGE 16 According to police, Milon stood accused in three cases, filed for arms recovery and robbery, lodged with Mirpur Police Station. Milon's family alleged that two officials of the police station -- Sub-Inspector Abdul Halim and Assistant Sub-Inspector Atiqur Rahman -- picked up Milon on Saturday night and cooked up the "gunfight" story. Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided Chuniapara field where some seven to eight armed robbers, led by Milon, were preparing to rob vehicles on Kushtia-Meherpur highway by placing logs around 4:00am, said Kazi Jalal Uddin, officer-in-charge of the police station. Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the criminals started opening fire to flee. Police chased the robbers and also retaliated, triggering the "gunfight", he claimed. During the half an hour "gunfight", Milon was hit by bullets and died on the spot. Others fled the scene. Two policemen -- SI Shaidul Islam and constable Mainul Islam -- suffered bullet injuries. They took first aid, the OC said. Police claimed that they recovered three locally made sharp weapons and a saw from the spot. Selim Uddin, a member of Dhubo Union Parishad, said two plain-clothes men introduced themselves as SI Halim and ASI Atiqur and entered Alim Shah's Mazar at Laxmidhardia village where a religious festival was going on Saturday night. They came to the spot on a motorcycle around 11:30pm and looked for Milon, Selim added. "They then detained Milon and left the spot with Milon on the motorbike." Contacted, SI Halim denied the allegation. Proloy Chisim, superintendent of police in Kushtia, said they would investigate if they received any allegation that Milon was picked up.

### Maglev train hits

FROM PAGE 16 company recorded a top speed of 590 kph, breaking its own 2003 record of 581 kph. The maglev hovers 10 centimetres (four inches) above the tracks and is propelled by electrically charged magnets. About two hundred train buffs gathered for yesterday's record-setting run, with the crowd cheering as the train broke through 600 kph per hour. "It gave me chills. I really want to ride on the train," an elderly woman told public broadcaster NHK as the carriage rocketed past her. "It's like I witnessed a new page in history." An AFP reporter who previously rode on the super-speed train said the experience was like taking off in a plane, with the feeling of g-force gathering as the speedometer is pushed ever higher. "The faster the train runs, the more stable it becomes -- I think the quality of the train ride has improved," Yasukazu Endo, who heads the maglev test centre southwest of Tokyo, told reporters yesterday. JR Central wants to have a train in service in 2027, plying the 286-km route between Tokyo and the central city of Nagoya. The service, which would run at a top speed of 500 kph, is expected to connect the two cities in only 40 minutes, less than half the present journey time in Japan's already speedy bullet trains. By 2045, maglev trains are expected to link Tokyo and Osaka in just one hour and seven minutes, slashing the

journey time in half. However, construction costs for the dedicated lines are astronomical -- estimated at nearly \$100 billion just for the stretch to Nagoya, with more than 80 percent of the route expected to go through costly tunnels. **VC, 41 others** FROM PAGE 16 Kanti Roy, were named as witnesses in the case statement. Judge Md Nazmul Hossain of Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court directed the Dinajpur Sadar police to record the case against the accused and submit its probe report by May 6. In his complaint, Moksedur alleged that the accused BCL leaders entered the campus on Thursday night to look for Iftekharul Islam Real and Arun Kanti Roy, president and secretary of the university's BCL unit. Later they found the bodies of Zakaria and Milon, both of whom had been stabbed to death. Contacted, ATM Khalequzzaman, OC of the police station, said he heard about the case, but was yet to receive the court order. On Monday night, Abdul Noor, a sub-inspector of the police station, filed a case in connection with the clash accusing 50 to 60 unidentified people. In the case statement, police mentioned that two groups clashed on the campus, which left two students dead.

### BNP, AL sue each other

FROM PAGE 1 Jahirul Haque Zillu in his case statement accused a member of the Chairperson's Security Force (CSF) of firing six shots in an attempt to kill him. However, the bullets missed him. On Monday, he claimed, around 100 BNP men, including CSF members, delivered provocative speeches against the activists who were campaigning for AL-backed Mayoral candidate Anisul Huq and councillor candidate Shameem Hasan. After a while, BNP leaders and activists wielding sticks and rods attacked the AL men, leaving five injured, said the case statement. As police reached the spot, the attackers ran towards Hatirjheel, it added. Talking to reporters at the secretariat yesterday, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the CSF members are responsible for the violence, reports BSS. "We must remember that this is the same Karwan Bazar, where innocent people were killed and their properties damaged in petrol bomb blasts and arson during the 79 days' hartal and blockade enforced by her [Khaleda's] party and alliance." So, it is normal for traders to stage demonstrations after suffering a severe blow in the non-stop blockade, he added. "At that moment, the CSF personnel were trying to pick up Zillu, a trader who suffered huge losses during the hartal and blockade, from the demonstration and force him into their car. This sparked agitation against Khaleda Zia."

attack on Khaleda Zia's motorcade, party sources said. A four-member BNP delegation led by standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan elaborately narrated the incident in a 45-minute meeting with the diplomats from around 4:15pm at Khaleda's Gulshan office. Ambassador and representatives of India, Pakistan, the EU, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Denmark, Netherlands, the UK, France, Australia, Canada, Turkey, Russia, Singapore, Qatar and Kuwait were present at the meet. After the meeting, Khaleda's security and defence affairs adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Fazle Elahi Akbar showed the foreign envoys a scratch on the glass of the BNP chief's personal vehicle caused by what he claimed was a bullet on Monday. BNP insiders said the delegation also showed the diplomats the "blood stains" on the vehicles and objects thrown into the cars. Four microbuses damaged in the attack were also shown the diplomats, they added. Journalists didn't have access to the meeting. **POLITICAL IMPACT** A number of BNP leaders said the attack on Khaleda Zia's car has exposed intolerance of the government and ruling AL. For this, the BNP-backed mayoral aspirant will have people's sympathy in the three city corporation elections. They added Khaleda Zia will not stop electioneering for the party backed mayoral aspirants in the two Dhaka city corporations. Some AL leaders yesterday termed the attack unexpected and said it would ultimately help the BNP gain more public support. They believe such attacks should not be repeated. According to insiders, the attack has also made BNP policymakers worried about grassroots leaders' participation in electioneering. BNP's senior leaders had thought that grassroots leaders who are on the run to avert arrest in different cases would come out and join electioneering. "But the attack on the party chief's motorcade has sent a fresh wave of panic among grassroots leaders. How can they appear in public when the party chief herself is facing attack in the streets?" one of the leaders said. A section of AL leaders believe the attack on Khaleda would not have any negative impact on voters as people already had rejected the BNP for its destructive politics. They believe the protest staged by the activists of the front organisation of the party will prevent the BNP's grassroots leaders from joining electioneering on a large scale.

### Morsi jailed

FROM PAGE 16 the defendants on charges of inciting murder over the deaths of a journalist and two protesters during the December 5, 2012 clashes outside the presidential palace in Cairo. Defence lawyers said they would appeal the convictions. Egypt's first freely elected leader, Morsi came to power following the 2011 ouster of longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak in a popular uprising. But after just a year in power, Morsi was himself toppled by then-army chief and now President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi following mass street protests. Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood has been blacklisted and targeted in a government crackdown that has seen hundreds killed and thousands thrown in jail.

# Anxiety, uncertainty in Khasi villages

## Movement of Khasi people thru' govt road restricted

**STAR REPORT** Nearly 1,400 Khasi people in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila have been left stranded in their villages for the last one week, as the authorities of Jhimai tea estate are not allowing them to use the government road through the tea garden. The five affected villages are Pura choilta, Balaima, Amuli, Kalapahar (Notunchilta) and Jhimai Punjee. The villagers use the road that passes through the tea garden to go to markets or bring goods to the villages. The restriction is the result of a disagreement between the Khasi people and the tea garden authorities over the ownership of 300 acres of land in the tea garden, locals said. The tea estate was given 672 acres of land in 1937 by the then government but they planted only on some 300 acres. The Khasi people claimed the ownership of the land as they have been living on the land for years. They use the land for betel leaf cultivation, which is the main source of their income. The tea garden authorities, on the

other hand, claimed that the Khasi people grabbed the 300 acres of land which they took as lease from the government years ago for tea plantation. Dorina Dhar, a resident of Jhimai Punjee, said, "We feel insecure. They may evict us at any moment. Every day we pass in a state of panic." Rana Surong, headman of the Jhimai Punjee, said the indigenous people are scared to go out of the punjee after the tea garden management ordered the Khasi people not to use the road. Yesterday, the Khasi people sent a letter to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Kulaura, requesting him to solve the problem and open the road. Putting an iron bar on a government road and creating obstacle to movement of people was a violation of human rights, reads the letter. The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the letter. Father Joseph Gomes, a Moulvibazar-based central committee member of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), said the tea garden authorities had put an iron bar across the road and restricted all sorts of movement. He went to visit the indigenous

people of those villages on last Sunday, but the tea garden authorities did not allow his car to ply that road. The authorities, however, started allowing only pedestrians to use the road from yesterday, he added. Contacted, Motiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kulaura Police Station, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star. He said the Khasi people didn't file any complaint against the tea garden authorities. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon yesterday at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city protested the tea garden authorities' move to evict Khasi people from the land they have been living on for generations. Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud, vice-president of Bapa, said incidents of land grabbing of the indigenous people and evicting them from their ancestral land have increased in recent times. Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Sharif Jamil, joint secretary of Bapa, among others, were present at the press conference.

# Electoral code violation

FROM PAGE 16 20 under DSCC, brought out a procession with around 60 to 70 people at Segunbagicha. At the procession, they were chanting slogan for Chowdhury and his electoral symbol "Latim" using a loud-hailer around 12:20pm. Asked about the procession, Chowdhury claimed, "It was not a procession. It was just a public campaign." Two supporters of JP-backed mayoral candidate of DSCC were seen conducting electoral campaign with loudspeakers in a rickshaw around 12:00noon near Shahbagh intersection. As many posters as possible were pasted on that rickshaw. Boundary walls of a large number of buildings including some government offices in Segunbagicha were covered with posters of Saifuddin Milon and Fariduddin Ahmed Raton, an AL-backed councillor candidate for ward 20, in violation of the electoral code of conduct. Similarly, posters of councillor aspirant, Juber Alam Khan, were seen pasted at the boundary walls of differ-

ent buildings at AGB Colony in Motijheel. Coloured posters of Mohammed Harunur Rashid, a BNP-backed councillor aspirant of ward 10 under DSCC, were seen hanging near Motijheel Colony Club area. Pasting posters, leaflets and handbills on walls, fences or vehicles is prohibited. Some larger posters of AL-backed councillor candidate Faridur Rahman Khan Iran were seen hanging at some points in his electoral area under ward-27. During their visits, these correspondents found most of the areas flooded by posters of the AL-backed candidates. Though the BNP-blessed candidates handed posters in some areas, those were heavily outnumbered by those of the candidates supported by AL. A number of residents of different wards told The Daily Star that the campaigning of the pro-AL candidates was visible all around, whereas electioneering of the pro-BNP candidates was very limited and confined mainly to posters. "We heard Amir Hossain is contesting the polls in our area [ward-32

under DNCC] with BNP support. But he has not yet come to me to seek vote," said Mohammad Esha, a shopkeeper on Dilu Road at Eskaton. He also said some other candidates including AL-backed candidate Mokter Hossain turned up several times in the last couple of days. **WHAT THE OFFICIALS SAID** EC Secretary Sirazul Islam said 12 mobile courts led by executive magistrates were working in the two city corporations to check any violation. Moreover, the returning officers (RO) and assistant returning officers (ARO) are also working to check violation of the code of conduct, he added. A total of 31 AROs are working in DSCC and DNCC to hold the elections. "Those who are on duty submit reports to us regularly. They take action wherever and whenever they found violation of rules," the secretary told reporters at the EC Media Centre on Monday. Shah Alam, returning officer of DNCC, said, "Whenever we get specific allegations of any violation of rule, we promptly investigate it and take necessary action."

# Tk 108cr remains unused, says TIB

FROM PAGE 16 Iftekharuzzaman said the figure of Tk 127 crore donated to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund was disclosed in parliament on July 13, 2013 which was covered by the media the following day. In the report, the TIB also questioned the transparency in disbursement of the fund. It said foreign brands and retailers deposited around \$19 million into the Rana Plaza Donors' Trust Fund, which is backed by International Labour Organisation and managed by Rana Plaza Coordination Committee. Around \$2.48 million has been disbursed from the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund to help the victims. According to the report, no disclosure has been made on the disbursement of the Donors' Fund. The list of

beneficiaries and the compensation amounts are yet to be made public. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), at a programme at the city's Brac Inn yesterday, put the unspent amount of the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund at Tk 105 crore. Speaking at the programme, Labour Secretary Mikail Shipar said Tk 21.4 crore has been disbursed from the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund. The nine-storey Rana Plaza that housed some readymade garment factories had collapsed on April 24, 2013, killing 1,138 people and injuring over 2,500, mostly garment workers. **TIB'S CLAIMS REFUTED** The prime minister's press wing in a statement yesterday said different individuals and organisations donate money to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund for helping the dis-

tressed people, reports BSS. From the fund, financial assistance is provided to the distressed people for treatment, study, construction of houses and maintenance of their families. Savings certificates of Tk 5 lakh to Tk 30 lakh have been given to those who have lost earning capacity or lost the breadwinners of their families, said the statement. "Donations came to the PM's Relief and Welfare Fund after the Rana Plaza collapse. But there is no separate fund in the name of Rana Plaza at the PMO, and any cheque in this name did not come." There is also no record of depositing money separately into the PM's Relief and Welfare Fund after the Rana Plaza collapse. The account of the fund is maintained with the corporate branch of Sonali Bank at the PMO, added the statement.