



## FLASH FLOOD IN BANDARBAN

Thousands marooned in several upazilas of the district

PAGE 13

## TURKEY EXTENDS OFFENSIVE

Strikes ISIS positions in Syria, Kurdish militants in Iraq

PAGE 8

## IPL SPOT-FIXING

Three accused, including Sreesanth, cleared of all charges

PAGE 14

# Mob murder or planned killing?

Victim's family claims of manpower tout's plot; imam held over 'use of mike to incite people'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Confusion reigns over the lynching of Monir as a "robber" in Comilla 11 days ago with the family members alleging it was a planned murder.

Monir's father Moslem Uddin Sarkar, a former officer of agriculture extension department, claimed his son had fallen victim to a travel agent's trap.

However, some locals contradict Moslem's claim, according to police.

The victim, Shamsul Islam Monir, was beaten to death by a mob in the early hours of July 14 in Kazitoli village under Muradnagar upazila. The incident came to light after photos of Monir being brutally tortured were uploaded on social media.

Locals said that before Monir was beaten, the imam of the local mosque announced through a loudhailer that a "robber" had been captured during the sehri hours, inciting people to mob violence.

Police, on the other hand, said they found no evidence of a robbery that night around the place where Monir was beaten. They said Monir was an addict and had criminal records.



Monir

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Passengers loiter around as their buses remain stuck in miles-long tailback yesterday on Dhaka-Tangail highway, used for travelling to and from as many as 26 districts, including all 16 of the northern region. With people returning to the capital in droves after Eid holidays, the highway yesterday experienced traffic jams as long as 65km.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

## 7 killed in road crash

STAR REPORT

Road crashes continue to claim lives as people return from their Eid holidays.

At least seven people were killed and seven others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a microbus in Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj yesterday.

In a separate accident, a schoolgirl was crushed under the wheels of a private car at Masterbari on the Dhaka-Mymensingh road around 3:30pm. Her identity could not be known, reports our Gazipur correspondent.

Quoting witnesses and the injured, our Faridpur correspondent reports that a bus heading for Gopalganj hit a rickshaw-van on the Dhaka-Khulna highway and tried to make a hit and run. The bus then collided with

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

# Law stumbles on mob

Three major reasons behind growing number of killings

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Mob killings continue unabated in the country, as the offenders seldom face trial in a society that seems to be plagued by a culture of impunity, say rights activists.

People's lack of respect for law and their growing distrust of law enforcement agencies for alleged corruption and discriminatory application of laws are also major reasons behind extra-judicial killings, they say.

According to psychiatrists, a person gets involved in such crimes for a lack of academic, religious, social and legal education. People harbouring violent attitudes often get infected with mob psychology and commit such offence.

Every year, more than a hundred people are killed in mob beating. Though the country's constitution gives all citizens the right to have equal protection of law, some people tend to take the law into their own hands.

In most cases, angry mobs beat people to death taking them for robbers or thieves without even verifying their identity. Consequently, many innocent people fall victims to mob killing.

Data of human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) shows at least 69 people were killed in mob beating in the first six months of this year.

Another rights organisation Odhikar puts the figure at 68.

Of the victims, 30 were suspected as robbers, 12 as thieves and cattle lifters, eight as muggers and snatchers, two as extortionists, two as criminals, and four others were suspected of committing crimes, according to Odhikar.

In its half-yearly report, it says, "Odhikar believes that due to a lack of respect for law, distrust of law enforcement agencies, and the weak criminal justice system, the tendency of taking the law into one's own hands is increasing."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



# No smile on highways

Rain, bad roads, reckless driving bedevil Eid holidaymakers' return

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and PANKAG KARMAKAR

Appalling state of roads, incessant rain, long tailbacks, and heavy traffic caused untold suffering to thousands of people heading towards the capital from their Eid holidays.

Reckless driving and unfit vehicles on highways with no visible step to prevent them continued to kill people on the roads.

At least 111 people have died and scores more were injured in road accidents across the country in the last nine days, including 11 people yesterday.

The figures were based on reported deaths. Many accidents and deaths are not reported to police.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Neutral govt, not caretaker, a must for free polls

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said that for a free and fair election participated by all, a caretaker government is not a must but a neutral government is.

Credible election was not possible under the Awami League-led government, she said.

"I won't say that a caretaker government is a must [for holding national elections] but the election has to be held under a neutral

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

# Aspirants caught off-guard by PM

Her instructions for election change course of Chhatra League committee formation

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's firm stance favouring election to form a new BCL committee has caught off-guard many aspirants for the posts of president and general secretary of the pro-AL student body.

Inaugurating the 28th council of Bangladesh Chhatra League in the capital yesterday, Hasina said the new BCL leadership would come through cast-



ing of ballots in transparent ballot boxes. She also advised BCL men to elect meritorious students as their leaders.

The last three BCL committees were formed through voting by BCL councillors from across the country.

Following Hasina's statement, many of the 64 president and 142 general secretary candidates started lobbying afresh to get their names included in the

MORE ON PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# Bah, BCL!

Barguna unit activists take away 5 buses to join council, leaving ticket holders to suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaving around 200 ticket holding passengers in Barguna high and dry, pro-ruling party student body Chhatra League men Friday night forcibly took five intercity buses so that they could reach Dhaka for their council meeting.

Chhatra League, however, claimed that it had requisitioned the buses and paid in advance.

The passengers had bought the tickets in advance to return to Dhaka after Eid holidays. As they went to the bus counters Friday afternoon, they were informed that their buses were on their way to Dhaka with Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders and activists.

The BCL men grabbed one bus each from bus service providers Abdullah, Sakura, Hanif, Sonartori and Eagle.

Desperate passengers, who were supposed to join work yesterday, were seen engaged in heated conversations with the employees of bus service providers there.

"I work for a private organisation. I had to attend office Saturday morning but I couldn't," said one of them.

Abdullah Paribahan, which operates four buses from

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



"We can't expect this Election Commission to hold a fair election. Elections would be fairer even if they were overseen by Chhatra League or Jubo League."

COLUMNIST  
SYED ABUL MAKSUD  
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE  
AT JATIYA PRESS CLUB



Rugs of different colours and with different motifs. Shafiqul Alam Selim, inset, the man who turned his small rugs weaving venture into a million dollar business.

PHOTO: STAR

# FROM RUGS to riches

## Karupannya weaving hope for country

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh was never seen in rugs business in foreign markets until Karupannya set foot in Europe to make a story of success.

The man behind Karupannya, Shafiqul Alam Selim began his journey in 1991 in Rangpur with just 15 craftsmen and now he has 5,000 workers and employees producing carpets, the majority of which are exported to

the European Union, the US and Asia.

Under the brand name Shatoronji, Karupannya Rangpur Ltd exports two containers of handmade carpets a day.

Talking about how the rugs business in the country was before he came to the business, Selim said a handful of families had been engaged in weaving floor mats in villages during the British rule.

Many of them withdrew from the business

CHANGE  
MAKERS



even before Bangladesh achieved independence in 1971.

One year after the birth of Bangladesh, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1