



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

**STAR**  
WEEKEND



**A SINGER'S LIFE**

"We couldn't dream of being professional singers," says Kumar Bishwajit

PAGE 10

**'MUSLIMS ALWAYS WELCOME'**

Mark Zuckerberg says after Donald Trump's anti-Muslim comment

PAGE 9

# River training all too crucial

*Slightest improper job may ruin future of Padma bridge*

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The future of the Padma bridge will depend largely on how river training is done to keep such a meandering river under control during and after its construction.

River training is the most challenging job for building the country's largest bridge because of the Padma's unpredictable characteristics, riverbank erosion, riverbed scouring and flash flood, say experts.

A meandering river, like the mighty Padma, flows in a zigzag, continuously eroding its banks and changing its course.

Local and foreign experts have conducted a lengthy and strenuous research on the river's past as well as its nature for designing river training, which mainly includes riverbank protection and checking scouring of the riverbed.

Planning and implementing river training for the Padma bridge would be more difficult than that in previous bridge projects in Bangladesh, reads a design-phase document of the Bridges Division.

Initially it was thought that a small-scale river training would be required for the Padma bridge construction and that too only on the south bank (Janjira end). But after research, experts decided to conduct a massive river training along a 12.4km stretch at Janjira point and 1.6km at Mawa.

According to a study, about half-a-km stretch of the south bank has eroded since 2005.

The protection of riverbank is the most crucial part in river training, especially in the case of Padma bridge, said Prof Md Sabbir Mostafa Khan of water resources engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Under the ongoing river training, concrete blocks and boulders (large-size stones) are being put on the riverbanks to protect them from erosion.

"If the bank protection fails, the river course will change, threatening the bridge," said Prof Sabbir, a hydrologist with knowledge on the nature of the Jamuna and Padma.

He said the width of the Jamuna was

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Concrete blocks are being made on the bank of the Padma at Mawa. Thousands of such blocks will be used in river training for construction of the Padma bridge. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Eight robbers killed in N'ganj mob beating

RAFIUL ISLAM, back from N'ganj

A mob, brought together by a call over loudspeakers from mosques, beat eight robbers to death when they were taking away rice sacks at Araihaazar of Narayanganj early yesterday, police and locals said.

The locals also wounded four robbers when they broke into a shop in Purindabazar market on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway and were loading the rice sacks on their truck.

Police recovered seven bodies from the spot while another died at the Araihaazar Upazila Health Complex hours later.

Ghotok Rony alias Ghoton, 30, Rubel Hossain, 52, Jewell Titu, 30, and Shawkat, 30, were identified by police as four of the eight deceased. Their bodies were sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsies.

Mob killings continue unabated in the country with more than 100 people getting killed every year. The offenders seldom face trial in a society that seems to be plagued by a culture of impunity, said rights activists.

According to rights body Ain O Salish Kendra, 104 people were killed in mob beating between January and September this year alone. At least 127 were killed in 2014, at least 128 in 2013, and 126 in 2012.

People's lack of respect for the law and their growing distrust in law enforcement agencies were also major reasons behind extra-judicial killings, the rights activists said.

**THE ROBBERY**

Zaman, a security guard of the market, was tied up along with his co-worker Motalib by the robbers.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## PAKISTAN LYING, STILL

*Pakistan went to the International Court of Justice and presented notorious Nazi murderer Eichmann's defense argument rejected a decade ago to rescue the 195 officers Bangladesh wanted to try. It also promised the court to set up a judicial tribunal to try them for their atrocities, a promise it never intended to keep.*

# Pakistan used Nazi killer Eichmann's argument

INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON

When Pakistan found its back against the wall on the issue of trying its war criminals, it swiftly moved to the International Court of Justice in The Hague and argued on the line of defense of notorious Nazi killer Adolf Eichmann to deny Bangladesh's right to try the 195 Pakistani army officers held prisoners of war (POWs) in India.

Before going to The Hague, Pakistan had also promised to set up a judicial tribunal to try the accused persons, a promise it broke at its convenience. It was a statement made solely to deceive The Hague court.

One main objective of Pakistan was to stop at any cost the transfer of the POWs to Bangladesh which was preparing for trial of these killers including passing of a law named International Crimes Tribunal Act in 1973. Evidences were so enormous that there were no doubts



about their conviction.

It is at this point that Pakistan went to the International Court of Justice in May 1973 and argued that only Pakistan and no other country had the exclusive right to try these military personnel.

Pakistan put forward the flawed argument that since these army officials had committed the crimes in Pakistan territory as Bangladesh did not exist then, only Pakistan had the right to try them,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# 2 hurt in Dinajpur temple gun attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Unidentified gunmen last night hurled a crude bomb inside a Hindu temple in Dinajpur and opened fire at its entrance, injuring two people.

The attackers first threw the bomb at a religious gathering inside the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple in Kaharol's Bahuchi village.

"However, it did not explode," said Monindra Nath Roy, president of the temple management committee.

Quoting witnesses, Monsur Ali Sarker, officer-in-charge of Kaharol Police Station, said five men on two motorbikes went to Bahuchi and hurled the bomb, which did not explode but triggered a hue and cry.

When curious people started to go into the temple to see what was going on the criminals fired two shots injuring Mithun Chandra Roy, 27, and Ronojit Chandra Roy, 45. They were admitted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital with injuries to the chest and leg.

The criminals then exploded two crude bombs to make way for their escape, the OC said.

But locals caught one of them -- Safayet Hossain -- in possession of a crude bomb, said Rabiul Foysal, UNO of Kaharol. Safayet has been arrested.

The incident triggered panic among the Hindus in the area as it was just five days after the bomb attack at Kantaji temple in the same upazila.

On November 30, Birendranath Roy, a priest of ISKCON, was shot at Ranibandar village of Chirirbandar upazila in Dinajpur, and criminals shot Piero Parolari, 67, an Italian doctor and priest, in Mirzapur area of Dinajpur town on November 18.



# Final four enter exciting phase

SPORTS REPORTER

Three weeks on and the Bangladesh Premier League has entered its final and arguably most exciting phase. From six teams, the battle will now be fought between the last four: Comilla Vikings, Rangpur Riders, Barisal Bulls and Dhaka Dynamites.

While the top two teams, Comilla and Rangpur, will face-off in the first qualifier, Barisal will take on Dhaka in Eliminator One. Both the matches will be played tomorrow after a well deserved day's rest from a competition that understandably lacked runs, which are the heart of any glamorous T20 competition.

However, the best parts of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Nazma Begum breaks down in tears as she phones someone immediately after identifying the body of her husband Ghotok Rony at Araihaazar Police Station in Narayanganj yesterday. Her seven-year-old daughter stands shell-shocked, holding her mother. Rony was killed in a mob beating.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# 3 Christian siblings stabbed

*Cops suspect failed burglary attempt*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three siblings were injured in an attack inside their home in the capital's Mohakhali early yesterday.

The injured are Lawrence Ranjon D'Cruz, 37, Alexander Rajesh D'Cruz, 35, and Bipasha D'Cruz, 40.

Lawrence and Alexander, who were hacked and shot, were being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Bipasha had a cut in her left arm. She was released from the hospital after primary treatment, said DMCH sources.

Officer-in-Charge Majharul Islam of Tejgaon Police Station said it was a burglary gone wrong.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



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