3 students

FROM PAGE 5 the youths locked in the clash with them, claimed Rashedul Islam, president of CMC unit BCL. At one stage, many other youths with sharp weapons joined them and attacked the students leaving the three injured, he

charge of Panchlaish Police Station, said hearing the altercation, many students from CMC main hostel, about 2km away from the two dormitories, rushed in and searched local youths in the alleys of the housing society that led to the clash. The three students were hacked when they were isolated from their group, he added.

Mohiuddin Mahmud, officer-in-

CMC Principal Prof Selim Mohammad Jahangir said the CMC Academic Council at a meeting yesterday urged the law enforcement agencies to take legal action after investigation into the incident.

Encyclopaedia

FROM PAGE 5

About two lakh people live in the country, and 80 percent of its population depend on agriculture. Vanuatu won independence in 1980 and became a member of the United Nations in the following year. It is considered a great tourism destina-

Sifat Rahman, who teaches geography at a school, bought a copy of the encyclopaedia.

"We've learnt many things. And many of these are available on the internet. But these are put in a nice order in the encyclopaedia, and it helps," he told The Daily Star.

"Whenever I need any information, I could get it readily."

Every day the stall sells seven to eight copies of the encyclopaedia, said Rakib, a salesman.

Meanwhile, 84 new books were published at the book fair yesterday.

S'pore polytech FROM PAGE 3

said the NPI had provided special skills development training to 420 teachers and officials in 2014, and hoped the technical education in the country would receive further boost once the training was completed.

"Around 12 percent of the total students in Bangladesh are studying at different technical institutes, and the government has planned to increase the number to 20 percent by 2020, "Nahid added.

Mahmudul Islam

"His relentless and unique contributions to the defence of human rights and establishment of the rule of law will serve as guidelines for future generations," he added. As a lawyer, he will be remem-

bered by justice-seekers, Sinha said.

In a separate statement, former chief justice ATM Afzal said, "I deeply mourn the passing away of Mahmudul Islam, an outstanding lawyer and scholar of our time. I always looked forward to his appearances in court. He was always a great help and truly an officer of the court. Loss to the profession is irreparable.

My sincere condolence to the bereaved family. May Allah grant him peace and mercy."

Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandker Mahbub Hossain and Secretary AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Bangladesh Bar Council

Chairman and Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Vice Chairman Abdul Baset Majumder also mourned his death. The body of Mahmudul Islam will

be brought to the Supreme Court premises at 1:15pm today for namaze-janaza, and he will be buried at his home town Rangpur, Manzur-al-Matin, a junior assistant of the late lawyer, told The Daily Star.

FROM PAGE 5 "The baby was stillborn but we took

time to be sure," he added. Officer-in-Charge of Mohammadpur Police Station Jamal Uddin Mir said the body was sent to Dhaka Medical College for an autopsy. If the family files any complaint, steps

will be taken for DNA matching.

Dhamrai school

advantage of the situation by extorting money from the family. They demanded Tk 20,000 to inform about Shofiquel's whereabouts. The family sent the money through a money transfer service over a mobile phone, which was later recovered by the cops after tracking the number,

said Bishnu Brata Mollik, inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department, also the investigation

officer of the case.

underway." "We want to know if he is alive or not," said Shahidul, doubting the law

enforcement agency's performance.

When asked about the progress of the investigation, he said, "It is still

'Criminal' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An alleged criminal was killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion in Tongi of Gazipur early yesterday.

The dead, Jewel, 28, of Tongi Madhyapara, stood accused in five cases, including murder, according to Tongi police.

Of the five cases, he was an accused in a case filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act for gouging out his wife's eyes, police said.

Poachers use

Prof AM Saleh Reza of Zoology department at Rajshahi University echoed the same.

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"The birds are dying mainly because of the illegal poaching," he told The Daily Star. Prof Saleh, who has been research-

ing on the migratory birds for over a decade, said due to increasing awareness, poachers are not able to hunt birds openly with guns or nets these days.

"But they become active as soon as the guest birds start to arrive," he

He said poachers now use food grains mixed with poison to hunt the birds. As the birds die after eating the bird feed, poachers collect and sell those secretly in the city or elsewhere as slaughtered birds. The professor suggested that the

authorities collect the carcass of the birds and examine those in laboratories to find out the reason for their deaths.

Naimul Hasan, a member of an 500 this year. amateur bird watchers' team, said he had seen six dead Ruddy Shelducks on the chars near Majhardiar a week ago. He posted a chars.

said acting on a tip-off that some criminals were meeting in Tongi Nodi Bondor area, the elite force raided there around 3:30am. Sensing the presence of the elite

director of Rab's legal and media wing,

force, the criminals opened fire on them, he said.

In retaliation, the law enforcers returned fire, triggering the "gunfight". At one stage, Jewel was hit by bullets and died on the spot. The others fled, the Rab official added.

His body was handed over to police Commander Mufti Mahmud Khan, in the morning.

> photo of one dead bird on his Facebook account.

Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division) Mozammel Haque Shah Chowdhury said those eating the dead birds are at health

He too blamed the use of insecticides and pesticides for the deaths of these birds.

power was the reason why they could not strengthen vigilance against poaching. However, he said they arrested one poacher and destroyed some

Mozammel said a shortage of man-

hunting materials around two weeks Due to the illegal poaching, the number of migratory birds visiting the chars has dropped this year com-

pared to that of last year, Prof Saleh

He said he saw at least 2,000 Ruddy Shelducks at the Padma chars last year, while the number came down to around

He said bar-headed goose, common shelduck, black stork, and greylag goose, among others, come to the

Private recruiters

FROM PAGE 1

The Daily Star has a copy of the letter, which also claims the government had promised that all Baira members would be involved in the recruitment process, but the expatriates' welfare ministry has not even consulted Baira about the MoU or how Bangladeshi recruiting agencies would be involved. "We went to the minister and secretary

[of expatriates' welfare ministry] to learn about it, but they did not give us the cabinet-approved draft MoU," Baira said.

According to the platform, those who deceived Bangladeshi workers in the past are out to control the business again.

Moreover, the economic condition in Malaysia is not good now, and a racket is trying to make money out of the recruitment process. The workers will have to count two to three times the government-fixed cost and yet many may not get jobs once there, it said.

Baira urged the PM to instruct the authorities concerned to include provisions in the MoU so that all Baira members can be involved in the hiring process.

Labour relations with Malaysia, home to some 6 lakh Bangladeshi workers, have long been fraught with tension. In 2009, Malaysia imposed a ban on recruiting Bangladeshi workers, following malpractices in recruitment, joblessness, low wage, non-payment and bad living conditions when private recruiters were solely responsible for recruitment in 2007-08.

Involvement of too many middlemen and charging each worker around Tk 2 lakh in migration cost were cited as major reasons behind the problems then.

That prompted both the governments to go for the G2G (governmentto-government) arrangement in late 2012. Under the system, migration cost was fixed at Tk 32,000, but workers were hired only in plantation jobs.

So far, some 10,000 workers have been recruited through G2G system. Industry insiders say powerful lobbies made it a failed project.

However, after Malaysia's announcement of recruiting 1.5 million workers via private sector in June last year, several Malaysian companies, including Bestinet, Real Time Networking and Synerflux allegedly lobbied the two governments to win contracts for management and monitoring of recruitment.

Finally, Synerflux was reportedly short-listed by Malaysia.

Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur on December 6 wrote to the expatriates' welfare ministry in Dhaka, explaining that appointing a single Malaysian company would establish its absolute control over labour recruitment from Bangladesh.

The Daily Star tried to reach Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam by phone for his comment over Baira's concerns yesterday, but his phone was found switched off.

However, earlier on February 8, one ministry official said, "It is up to Malaysia if it would appoint a private company or do the job itself. Whether there would be monopoly could be known only when the recruitment starts.'

On the same day, Cabinet Secretary M Shafiul Alam said the migration cost would be Tk 37,000 at best, and that Malaysian employers would pay workers' security deposits, levies, visa fees, and health and compensation insurance.

Asked how Baira could make sure that migration cost would not go high like that in 2007-08, when all the 1,200 Baira members are allowed to recruit workers, its president said as the employers would recruit workers only from the government database and that there would be strong monitoring, there is no scope for charging

"We send workers to 139 countries by following certain regulations, and there is no foreign company monopolising the business. So why should it happen in the case of Malaysia?" he said.

Publisher, printer

Granthamela shut down a stall of Ba-Dwip Prakashan for bringing out the book. The arrest was made that night. Metropolitan Magistrate Amirul

Haider Chowdhury passed the remand orders after Inspector (investigation) of Shahbagh Police Station Zafarullah Biswas produced the trio in court.

Talking to journalists at the police station, Deputy Commissioner (Ramna division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Abdul Baten said, "An investigation is going on. We will

arrest anybody found to be involved (with the publication)." Police will make more arrests and take more actions if they find other

books of similar kind, he added. A case was filed with the police station under the Information Technology and Communication Act

against the three on charges of hurting

religious sentiments.

Asked why the case was filed under the act, Abdul explained that the whole book was available on the internet. "It will create confusion among

people across the country. There will be reactions." Edited by Manik, the book was first published in 2010 and brought out in

the Ekushey book fair in 2012. Police came to know about the book and its publisher from the social

media and intelligence, Abdul said. Six copies of the book were seized from a stall (no 191) of Ba-Dwip

Prakashan in this year's book fair and 75 more copies during different raids. "We have read parts of the book. We hurt religious sentiments," Abdul said,

thought the content could seriously adding that no sensible person should write anything indecent about any prophet or religious leader.

Media

FROM PAGE 16 a High Court bail granted to him in a sedition case.

The former energy adviser to a BNP government was expecting to be released from jail as he secured bail in all 74 criminal cases filed against him with police stations and courts across the country since December 2012.

[Mahmudur] arrested in another case is audacious and tantamount to contempt of court as he already secured bail in the last case from the highest court," said Khaleda. She blasted the government for "stopping the publication of Amar

"I think the step to show him

Desh and broadcast of a few private televisions stations". No fair investigations are being conducted into the killings and oppression of journalists, complained the BNP chief. Media and newsmen are being

harassed with threats, attacks and cases, she said. "Thus the ruling party wants to cover up its evil efforts and detachment from people." She also warned of bad conse-

quences of the "evil efforts" to repress journalists and suppress dissent. She demanded the government

free Mahmudur, Shawkat Mahmud and all other journalists who have been behind bars.

Probe on

FROM PAGE 1

They are seen in the pictures installing the devices at the ATM at 7:53am on February 6. They entered the ATM booth again at 9:32pm the same day to remove the devices.

At least 66 transactions took place at that booth during that time. The City Bank accountholders

concerned received text messages on Friday that their cards were used for withdrawing money, even though they had not used them. The City Bank got claims from its

customers that money went missing from their accounts.

In the case of UCB's ATM, fraudsters installed the skimming devices at 10:42am on February 7 and withdrew money from people's accounts on February 11, according to the first information report of the case the bank filed with Banani Police Station.

Skimming devices were installed a two ATMs of EBL around February 8 noon and the devices were removed around 8:00pm, according to the bank.

Later, the fraudsters took away money from different ATMs using cloned cards.

Primary investigation conducted by the Bangladesh Bank found that over 200 card users had their data copied from four ATMs last week. The total amount stolen could be ascertained once the central bank gets details from all banks.

Ex-info minister

FROM PAGE 3 fate that I didn't get an answer to my

question." "The question I submitted has

been deferred thrice so far. How will the accountability and transparency of a ministry be ensured then?" he lamented. Speaker Shirin Sharmin

Chaudhury who was presiding over the sitting at that time asked Azad which was the ministry he submitted the question to.

"My question was related to the home ministry, and the home minister is sitting in front of me," the Awami League lawmaker replied.

He also said, "At first my question had been deferred until the next business day in November last year. Later on February 2, my question had been deferred again until the next business day. And today, my question has been deferred once again until the next business day. How is this going to help ensure accountability and transparency of the ministry?"

The former minister demanded the Speaker's ruling to get a reply of his question.

The Speaker assured him that she would look into the matter.

Iraq military helicopter crashes, killing nine AFP, Baghdad

An Iraqi military helicopter crashed

south of Baghdad yesterday killing nine people due to a "technical problem", a security spokesman said. "A military helicopter of the Mi-17

type crashed because of a technical problem," killing its crew of nine, two of them officers, Brigadier General Yahya Rasool told AFP. The Soviet-designed helicopter, which is intended for transport but

can also be equipped with weapons, was en route from Iraq's main southern city of Basra to the city of Kut, southeast of Baghdad, Rasool said. A Kut police captain said the crash

occurred in an area east of the city. Iraq has lost multiple helicopters to accidents and ground fire in recent years, while others have been damaged.

DMP sets up

FROM PAGE 1

HQ said.

unit as a police proposal for forming "Police Bureau of Counter-Terrorism" had been put on hold for years.

administration ministry after the home ministry sent it there in September 2013, officials at the police and data on militants and transna-

The police officers dealing with militancy had been demanding formation of such a unit so that its members could concentrate fully on controlling militancy and deal with the menace effectively.

It had earlier been difficult for the police to check militancy as they were also engaged in curbing other crimes like stealing, robbery, murder and what not, said a top police officer.

Officials working on militancy and counter terrorism in the DMP and the Detective Branch (DB) of police in particular would be incorporated into the unit, the official added. "The unit will work to mainly com-

bat cybercrimes, terror financing and mobile banking related crimes," DIG Monirul, also chief of the unit, told The Daily Star.

Officials of the unit will work under four divisions -- Counter Terrorism Division, Cyber Security and Crime Division, Crime Scene Management Division, and Transnational Crime Division. The unit will collect information

tional criminals at home and abroad, monitor their activities, and arrest them, police sources say. They add the officials with special-

ties and foreign training on counterterrorism will be posted in the unit.

unit, and the dog squad will also be included, they say. The unit will also have an addi-

ers, 10 additional deputy commissioners and 20 assistant commissioners. The rest would be inspectors, sub-

and constables.

Costs rise further

acquiring land pushed the project cost

up. Some roads had to be diverted and additional land was required, which also contributed to the cost going up, he said. Travelling on the highway early this month, The Daily Star reporter saw

workers laying the surface and building the central reservation and over-

the widened highway. Even though there were no tailbacks, vehicles had to stop or slow

Workers were constructing a two-

Cop faces

The following day, the police sus-

against the cops with the court. After holding a hearing, the tribunal judge sent the complaint to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sheikh Hafizur Rahman to conduct a judicial inquiry into the allegation and submit a probe report within seven work-

Protesting the incident, doctors and nurses at the hospital started a work stoppage immediately.

The next morning, SP Harun-ur-Rashid visited the hospital and ordered that the three detectives be withdrawn, leading to the withdrawal of the work stoppage.

EC Secretariat yesterday. A six-member delegation led by Rizvi yesterday visited the EC to submit a letter informing that the party had changed a provision of its

the party councilors. the party councilors, while the rest

were selected by its chairperson. yesterday informed the EC that JP Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin

Members from Special Weapons

inspectors, assistant sub-inspectors

FROM PAGE 16

entirety might be opened to public. The planning minister said delays in

passes at three level-crossings in Comilla, Feni, and Chittagong. All types of vehicles were using the newly constructed additional lanes of

down at every bazaar, intersection, and stretches of the highway where the widening work was still going on.

pended the cop. Later, the victim filed a case

Later the CMM tasked trate on February 9 recorded statements of five people, including the victim, and found the allegation against Ratan to be true.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, missioner (Tejgaon Division) of

If found guilty of sexual harassment, an accused might face a minimum three-year jail term and a maximum sentence of seven years.

Three cops

FROM PAGE 16

chairman in UPs will be held in partisan lines. Elections to over 700 UPs will be held in first phase on March 22, while over 3,500 more UPs will go to polls in phases till June 4, according to the polls schedule announced by the EC on February 11.

tary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir will attest party-nominated chairman candidates for UP polls, BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed told reporters at

constitution for electing the senior

Howlader will attest party's aspirants in the polls. Awami League on Monday informed the EC that party President

dates.

and Tactics (SWAT), bomb disposal

tional DIG, four deputy commission-

May or June this year the highway in its

FROM PAGE 16

days. Metropolitan Magistrate Md Imdadul Haque with the inquiry. The magis-

Biplob Kumar Sarkar, deputy com-Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they conducted a probe into the incident and found that the SI talked to the girl on the street unnecessarily.

BGB

FROM PAGE 3

PARTY'S AUTHORITY BNP has decided that its acting secre-

vice-chairman through direct votes by As per the previous provision, only the party's chairperson was elected by

Meanwhile, Jaitya Party in a letter

Sheikh Hasina would attest AL's candi-

lane overpass at a level-crossing in Comilla. The job would be completed in eight to 10 months, they said. Other adjacent two-lane overpasses would be

completed by June.

"The first layer surfacing was completed a year ago while the second [final] layer has been done on about 100km so far," said director of the project Aftab Uddin Khan, adding that they were working to complete the job by June. Widening of this key highway was

delayed by at least three years, initially

due to a crisis of soil and then because

of problems with demolishing illegal structures. A crisis in importing stones from India last year added to the delays.

However, the poor performance of

the Chinese contractor Sino Hydro

was the main reason for the delay,

Roads and Highways Department officials said. The company was under contract to widen 140km of the 192km highway but it had stopped the work complaining of losses. It resumed the

work only after getting the river training job of the Padma Bridge project, according to sources.

49 charged

FROM PAGE 16 Magistrate's Court of Dhaka -- one for torching the vehicle and the other

for exploding the bombs. Of the accused, 22, including, BNP leaders Amanullah Aman, are now on bail while the remaining, including, Rafigul and Shahid Uddin

The IO showed them as fugitives and appealed to the court to issue arrest warrant against them.

Chowdhury Annee, are on the run.

The charge sheets will be placed before the court on March 6 for the

next course of action. Breakthrough

FROM PAGE 16

follow-up checks with no signs of the disease returning, scientists have revealed. In one trial of a patient's own Tcells – a type of white blood cell – that were engineered in the laboratory to identify and attack tumour cells, more

than 90 percent of the 35 patients with

acute lymphoblastic leukaemia went into complete remission. In two other clinical trials involving about 40 patients with either non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or chronic lymphocyte leukaemia, more than 80 percent of patients responded to the treatment. About half of them have been in complete remission for up to

Detailed findings of the clinical trials are to be published later this year, but summary results were discussed at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, whose annual meeting in Washington DC ended Monday. Cancer specialists urged caution

over the early trials of T-cell therapy,

saying that it did not work for every-

one and some patients experienced

18 months, scientists said.

toxic side-reactions and died. However, they said the improvements seen in some patients who had failed every other course of treatment were unprecedented. "In the laboratory and in clinical trials, we are seeing dramatic responses in patients with tumours that are resistant to conventional high-dose chemotherapy," said Dr

Stanley Riddell, of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle. "These are in patients who have failed everything. Most of the patients in our trial would be projected to have two to five months to live. This is extraordinary. This is unprecedented in medicine, to be honest - to get response rates in this range in these very advanced patients." T-cells form an important arsenal

in the body's immune defences. They help to identify invading viruses and bacteria and can keep a "memory" of previous infections in order to launch a rapid immune response when the body comes under a repeat attack.

The proposal for the bureau, which was sent to the home ministry in August 2011 from the police headquarters, remained shelved at the public