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candidates.

tive committee.

leaders, he added.

BNP struggles

The BNP central leaders tasked five

and secretary general; president,

secretary general and organising

secretary of union -- and the party's

national polls with suggesting the

names of UP chairman candidates.

But the six leaders from many dis-

tricts could not recommend single

"As we received several names

from the six leaders, it has become

very difficult for us to pick one chair-

man candidate for each union," said

a member of the BNP national execu-

The problems could not be sorted

Besides, the party's MP candidates

out immediately as the party high

ups never talked with the union level

in the 2008 parliamentary polls sug-

gested names of their personal

**BNP Joint Secretary General** 

dinating with party leaders on UP

polls, yesterday told this correspon-

dent that the emergence of multiple

chairman aspirants would not be a

would be not easy for BNP to take

The BNP is going to hold the

of the first phase of the UP polls. If

the party takes strong actions against

the rebels, it would affect the prepara-

tions for the party's national council,

CCC Executive Magistrate Najia

Shirin, also the coordinator of the

over 9,000 billboards, including

drive, said they had already removed

Hopefully, the rest of the work

would be completed within a week,

This correspondent visited many

areas in the city, including Number-2

Gate, GEC intersection, Lalkhan

Dewanhat intersection, Badamtoli

intersection, Oxygen, Jamalkhan,

Market, and Probartak intersection

recently but did not see a single bill-

Chumki Akter, a resident of

Jhautola area, said the entire Tiger

Pass Intersection area had almost

been covered by billboards just a

Ariful Islam, a resident at

month ago. But, there is no billboard

there now, which is very refreshing,

Nunmber-2 Gate area, thanked the

CCC for making his locality free of

"It [the drive] is undoubtedly a

praiseworthy job by the CCC," said

Prof Engr M Ali Ashraf, a town plan-

ner and also chairman of Bangladesh

Different organisations, including

Chittagong Metropolitan Police and

been assisting the city corporation in

flat on the ground floor of the four-

around 8:00pm. Two members of the

Baharuddin was hacked with sharp

Police recovered bags and packets

from the flat. It could not be known

what was there in those bags.

up house owner Hanif, a former

engineer of Bangladesh Television,

his son, and another person for ques-

one managed to flee during the raid,

two men fleeing the scene during the

Next to the house is Baitul Mamur

several eyewitnesses said they saw

Jame Masjid and president of the

Mohammad Abu Taher, said he

mosque's management committee,

reached in front of the house around

8:00pm and saw locals handing a

handcuffed man over to the police.

Soon two men came running and

Wishing anonymity, another wit-

one of them had firearms in his both

hands. He fired several shots from

the guns before fleeing, Abu Taher

ness said he heard the fleeing men

The attack on police happened

Metropolitan Police formed "Counter

Meanwhile, following the Badda

raid, police were raiding a house at

Terrorism and Transnational Crime

unit" for combating militancy and

shouting, "Allahu Akbar."

three days after the Dhaka

Although Monirul claimed that no

storey building at Badda's Purbo

Para, a police team raided the flat

gang were present in the house, he

weapons by militants in a scuffle

during the raid, he said.

Power Development Board, have

the drive, said sources.

Cop injured

Institute of Planners, Chittagong

Chawkbazar, Kazir Dewry, New

Bazar, Tigerpass intersection,

strong action against any rebel candi-

national council just three days ahead

Another senior BNP leader said it

Mohammad Shahjahan, who is coor-

favourites, said the leader.

big problem for the party.

date.

he added.

Beauty

many giant ones.

board anywhere.

she said.

billboards.

chapter.

added.

tioning.

raid.

added.

terrorism.

she added.

FROM PAGE 16

MP candidate concerned in the 2008

grassroots leaders -- district president

she wanted to say in "Mockingbird" and vowing never to publish another book. But in 2015, she upended the literary world by publishing the unedited manuscript of "Go Set a Watchman" a first

tially the first draft of "Mockingbird." The manuscript was an instant bestseller but its release sparked torrid speculation that she was not of sound mind and was mauled by critics who

Born Nelle Harper Lee in April 1926, she was the youngest of four children. Her father was a lawyer and a

Robert E. Lee.

A precocious child, Lee learned to read early and had devoured all kinds of literature by the time she started school.

were scarce in Monroeville.

"Now, 75 years later in an abundant society where people have laptops, cell phones, iPods, and minds like empty rooms, I still plod along with books,' she wrote.

Train fare

The fare of lower class like Shovon

Shovon class stands at Tk 420 from Tk 390 and Shovon chair at Tk 505 from Tk 465. The fare of AC chair is now at Tk 961 from Tk 891, AC seat at 1,156 from Tk 1,070. A passenger has to spend now Tk 1,731 instead of the

On Dhaka-Sylhet route passengers have to pay Tk 265 for Shovon class, Tk 320 for Shovon chair, Tk 610 for AC chair, Tk 736 for AC seat, Tk 1,099 for AC berth.

present Tk 1,599 for AC berth.

The fare for different size of wagons

running between Dhaka and Chittagong ports has increased between Tk 700 and Tk 1,600. The government has raised the

four years.

FAMILIES STILL IN SHOCK

on Wednesday, five days after they had

According to the district police chief, Abdul Ali leads one of the two

teacher, heads the other group. All the victims belonged to families loyal to

Khaleque until he was expelled from the panchayat following a row with the leader.

To exact revenge, Bachchu then

Khaleque Master a lesson". They decided to kill either Abdul

Habiganj SP Joydev added. the three other victims went to the playground to watch a football match,

which was later abandoned due to As they were returning home in the

afternoon, Bachchu tricked them into his auto-rickshaw.

joined Bachchu. They made the children unconscious using anaesthetic drugs and strangled them inside the three-wheeler.

They kept the bodies at Bachchu's garage for the night and buried them in a sand extraction area on Saturday

After conducting autopsies, Debashish Das, resident medical officer of Habiganj Sadar Hospital, said, "Marks of torture were found in differ-

weapon was used." As of Thursday night, five people -including Rubel, Arju, Abdul Ali and his son -- were arrested in connection

with the incident, according to the Rubel and Arju have already been

placed on 10-day remands.

Meher Afroz Chumki, state minister for women and children affairs, visited the victim families at Sundrateki yesterday afternoon.

with the bereaved family members, be tried at a special tribunal.

she told journalists that the case would Police were hunting for the culprits who had gone into hiding following

the "heinous" murders, she said. "No one will be spared."

The state minister also said Tk 50,000 would be given to each of the victim families from the prime minis-

Local lawmakers Amatul Kibria Juraisi said.

The Iraqi interior ministry also issued a statement on the fighting, saying that tribesmen had seized parts

Harper Lee no more For decades after that she lived out of FROM PAGE 16 South and became standard reading the public eye, claiming to have said all in classrooms across the world. "Mockingbird" tells the story of a black man wrongly accused of raping a white woman and the courageous lawyer, Atticus Finch, who defies his novel written in the 1950s and essencommunity to defend him. It remains a seminal work of 20th century American literature and Finch one of the best-loved characters in American culture. Drawn from Lee's experiences as a child, the novel sold 30 million copies and won huge critical acclaim for Lee, thrusting her into the limelight amid an avalanche of publicity. Her fame was sealed when the novel was adapted into a Hollywood film

suggested she had tarnished her reputadirect descendant of Civil War general

She counted author Truman Capote among her childhood friends, and worked as an assistant on his novel "In Cold Blood," which examined a multiple killing in Kansas, and was dedicated to Lee.

In 2006 Lee wrote a piece for O

magazine about developing a childhood love of books, even though they

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"a gift to the entire world."

that won three Academy Awards in

1963, including an Oscar for leading

In one rare insight, Lee admitted in

"I hoped for a little, but I got rather a

whole lot and in some ways this was

just about as frightening as the quick,

merciful death I'd expected," she said.

and rarely made public appearances

but in November 2007 went to the

White House to accept a Presidential

Medal of Freedom from President

George W Bush, who called her book

Lee quit giving interviews in 1964

1964 she had been completely caught

off guard by being catapulted into the

nation's consciousness by her novel.

man Gregory Peck.

class on Dhaka-Chittagong route stands at Tk 285 from Tk 265 and Shovon chair at Tk 345 from Tk 320. The fare of upper class like AC chair is now Tk 656 from the earlier charge Tk 610, and AC seat Tk 788 from Tk 731. Ticket price for AC berth rises to Tk 1,189 from Tk 1,093. On Dhaka-Khulna route, the fare of

The fare will be Tk 285, Tk 340, Tk 656, Tk 782 and Tk 1,068 respectively for passengers on Dhaka-Rajshahi route.

railway fares for the second time in

Visiting Sundrateki village yesterday,

this correspondent found the mothers

Relatives and neighbours were

Torn apart by the gross display of

As a result, some fell sick and a

cruelty, some of the family members

had even forgot to change their clothes

medical camp has been set up in the

village by the Bahubal Health complex

authorities to treat them. The four

mothers were given intravenous saline

of the victims crying inconsolably.

trying to comfort them in vain.

or take daily meals.

on Thursday night.

# 7 people

gone missing from a playground in their village.

rival groups that have long been at loggerheads over establishing supremacy in the area. Khaleque Master, a retired school-

Bachchu used to be a supporter of

joined hands with Abdul Ali and they together worked out a plan to "teach

Aziz, who is considered Khaleque's right-hand man, or his son Tajel Mia, On February 12, Tajel along with

Rubel, Arju and some others soon

After the raid, law enforcers picked night.

ent parts of the bodies, but no sharp

Habigani SP.

'SPECIAL COURT TO TRY KILLERS'

After talking to spending some time

ter's special fund.

Chumki at the time.

# FROM PAGE 1

Keya Chowdhury and Munim Chowdhury Babu, Habiganj Deputy Commissioner Sabina Alam ad SP Joydev Kumar Bhadra accompanied

#### LOCALS PROTEST A few hundred locals yesterday formed a human chain at the spot where the kids were murdered. They demanded that the culprits be immediately arrested and hanged.

## Iraq tribesmen clash with IS jihadists in Fallujah

AFP, Baghdad

Rare clashes erupted Friday inside the jihadist stronghold of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, between the Islamic State group and Iraqi tribesmen, officials and a tribal leader said. The shootout pitted fighters from

multiple tribes against IS members known as Al-Hisba, who are responsible for enforcing religious strictures in the city, sources said. "Clashes took place between sons

tribes against the Al-Hisba group," Issa Sayir, the exiled official responsible for the Fallujah area, told AFP. Sayir said the gunfight reflected tensions resulting from increasingly difficult

of the Al-Mahamda and Al-Juraisat

living conditions caused by Fallujah's isolation by the security forces. A police lieutenant colonel gave a different account, saying the clashes

started after Al-Hisba members accused a woman in Al-Nizaiza market in central Fallujah of misconduct because she had failed to cover her hands with gloves. The officer said that members of a

third tribe, Al-Halabsa, were also involved in the clashes against IS, and that sporadic fighting was ongoing. Sheikh Majeed al-Juraisi, a leader in the Al-Juraisat tribe, described the

clashes as an uprising against IS in the city and called on the government and security forces to help residents who are fighting the jihadists. Tribesmen have seized part of Al-

Jolan, an area in northwest Fallujah,

of Al-Jolan and its outskirts but that IS later regained control.

#### both 20 years old and second year students of Economics Department, were admitted to local Community Based Medical College and Hospital

men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Four people were injured as two

groups of students clashed over a

Trishal of Mymensingh yesterday.

trivial matter on the campus of Jatiya

Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in

Of the injured, Obaidul and Bipul,

Quoting campus sources, police, however, said the two groups were factions of the university Chhatra League unit. Mohammad Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police

Station, said the clash broke out after students loyal to Anik, joint secretary of the BCL unit, asked two members of the group of Sabbir Hossain, president of the same unit, to leave Charudwip, a place on the campus,

around 5:00pm. Around one and a half hours later, the groups got involved in an altercation inside Aghnibina Hall over the matter and at one point that turned

into a clash involving sticks, he said. Four people, including Obaidul and Bipul who were loyal to Anik, were injured, said the OC.

Contacted, Mahbub Hossain, proctor of the university, said two student groups clashed over a "trifle'

matter but denied that the BCL unit was involved. Anik or Sabbir could not be reached over the phone.

Additional members of police were deployed on the campus to avert any untoward situation. The proctor said the situation was

### under control. Logo of new TV

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which will go on air soon, will present viewers with the latest news and views on contemporary issues. Information Minister Hasanul

Huq Inu attended the logo unveiling ceremony as the chief guest and Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan presided over the function. Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir was present as the guest of

honour. Hasanul Huq Inu said the government is currently working to achieve development on the basis of its internal resources, fight militancy, and establish a society free from discrimi-

nation and exploitation. He said the media has a great role in establishing the agendas of the government.

Referring to the statement of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and her daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he said, "Nobody will be able to suppress us Yes, we [the people of Bangladesh]

Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan said the journalists are enjoying freedom but they deserve more professional liberty. Sometimes, they are subjected to persecution by some vested quarters. He requested the information minister to stand beside journalists who are working for the welfare of the country and its people.

He underscored the need for concerted effort on the part of all stakeholders, especially the government and businesspeople, to achieve the national goal. He also recalled the pivotal role of

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in achieving country's liberation. Among others, Kaler Kantho Editor Imdadul Haq Milan, Bangladesh Pratidin Editor Naem

Nizam and Daily Sun Editor Jamilur

Rahman were present at the event.

# 4 hurt as BCL | China bans all foreign media from online INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

China is set to ban foreign media companies from publishing any content online without the government's approval from next month, it has been announced.

Poor people holding hilsha fries in Patharghata upazila of Barguna yesterday. The fish was distributed among them by

Bangladesh Coast Guard after the force seized around 20 maunds of hilsha fries in the upazila.

A new directive issued by China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has said that companies which have, at least in part, foreign ownership will be stopped from publishing words, pictures, maps, games, animation and sound of an "informational and thoughtful nature" - unless they have approval from the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.

This means only companies wholly Chinese owned will be able to publish online, subject to strict self-censorship in line with the government's views. The new regulation states: "Sino-

foreign joint ventures, Sino-foreign

cooperative ventures and foreign

business units shall not engage in online publishing services." It is the communist republic's latest move to tighten control over what its people can view on the internet and highlights the increasingly restrictive political climate in China, where the

leadership has sought to rein in public speech and thought. Chinese law has long required internet service providers to hold an operating license that can only be obtained in partnership with a

Chinese firm. The rise of new media - from social media messaging services to streaming television shows - has prompted Chinese censors to introduce new regulations in order for it to police

digital and social media as closely as it has traditional media publications. The country's top internet regulator

### cyberspace would pose a risk to domestic security and the government should decide who to allow into "its house".

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

City

"China is still focused more on maintaining the social stability and national security interests when it comes to making policies on the internet industry, while caring less about the commercial and individual interests," according to Zhang Zhian, director of the school of communication and design at Sun Yat-sen

University. Paul Gillis, a visiting professor at Peking University's Guanghua School of Management who studies Chineseforeign joint ventures, said China had introduced regulations in recent months that explicitly give authorities censorship powers under the law that they have long had in practice.

## Lions

FROM PAGE 16 where buffalo and rhino roam just seven kilometres from the bustling high-rise city centre.

under growing pressure as one of Africa's fastest growing cities creeps onto ancient migration routes and hunting grounds.

Sometimes the lions are killed by livestock farmers protecting their herds, other times they prowl leafy gardens giving residents a fright.

Udoto said two lionesses were last

district. Lions are estimated to have declined in number by as much as three-quarters since 1980, and occupy less than a tenth of their

sighted around Nairobi's Langata

### has repeatedly warned that an untamed historic range across Africa. This is not an attack

FROM PAGE 1

wrote on his Facebook page. "If Mahfuz Anam is feeling harassed, perhaps he should find out what spending 11 months in jail on false charges feels like. Several of our 'civil society' and newspaper editors are criticising the civil defamation lawsuits filed against Mahfuz Anam following his admission of running a false smear campaign against my

mother," Joy wrote. However, The Daily Star never ran any "smear campaign" against Sheikh Hasina, nor did the Star editor admitted of doing so, as Joy claims.

At a talk show on February 3, Mahfuz Anam made an introspective remark about a lapse in his editorial judgement in running a few reports, based on information given by the Task Force Interrogation (TFI) cell during the 2007-08 caretaker government tenure, without being able to verify those independently. Joy's claim that the cases are "civil in

pleas for sedition charges and the defamation suits were all filed under provisions of the penal code, and with magistrate courts that deal with criminal offences. The Facebook post came following statements of the Editors' Council and

nature" is also not based on facts. The

35 eminent citizens, condemning the filing of a barrage of cases against the Star editor. They demanded immediate withdrawal of all the cases. "Our government has not filed a single case against him. The cases are all civil in nature, claiming damages and

monetary compensation," wrote Joy. "Politicians have to abide by the law or go to jail, police have to abide by the law or go to jail, but there is no law against writing false stories. The only Hasina, thus defaming her.

recourse that politicians and famous personalities have is civil law by claiming damages. If nothing else, at least the pain of legal fees and time in court should make a journalist think twice before publishing something false and destroying a person's good name," he

So far 75 lawsuits have been filed against Mahfuz Anam in 50 districts since February 9. Of the cases, 17 involve pleas for bringing sedition charges against him, while the rest are defamation suits.

The case spree began days after the

Star editor's comment on the TV

programme about publishing some

reports without independent corrobo-

ration. During 2007-08, this newspaper ran 11 such reports -- seven on alleged corruption of Khaleda Zia, her two sons -- Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko -- and other BNP leaders. Three reports involved alleged graft of Hasina and one involving the then chief conservator of forests,

Osman Gani.

ments of some top Awami League and BNP leaders and businesspersons, who were interrogated by the TFI cell. Numerous cases were filed against senior politicians, including Hasina

The reports were based on the state-

and Khaleda, during the two years of the caretaker government. Khaleda and other BNP leaders still face many of those cases, but the cases against Hasina and most other AL leaders were either quashed or with-

drawn after the AL took office in 2009.

Presently, the cases being filed

against Mahfuz Anam allege that the Nabodoy Housing in the city's Mohammadpur as of filing of this reports published by this newspaper led to the arrest of AL chief Sheikh report at 2:00am, according to Mohammadpur Police Station.

### Local media reported as many as six lions might be on the loose. It is not the first time lions have prowled into town. The big cats are