

## FUEL PRICE CUTS

Govt may bring down prices of petroleum products by 15-25pc

PAGE B1

## OBAMA ADMITS

Failing to prepare for Libya aftermath was the worst mistake of presidency

PAGE 8

# Public bus, not autorickshaw

### Traffic police, experts oppose ministry's move to allow 5,000 autos on clogged city roads

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Instead of introducing more buses, the government is moving to allow 5,000 more CNG-run auto-rickshaws on Dhaka streets, which has the potential to worsen the perennial congestion.

"A decision was made in principle to give 5,000 licenses against the withdrawal of as many three-wheeler mishuks from the city streets last year, which deteriorated the transport crisis," said a senior official of the road transport and bridges ministry, seeking anonymity.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



- Traffic police against smaller vehicles, suggested buses
- More auto-rickshaws to contribute to congestion
- Over 40,000 asked for auto-rickshaw licences
- Applicants include politicians, businessmen, associations, journalists, celebrities
- A city requires 25 percent of its area as road space, Dhaka has 8 percent
- Average 317 new vehicles hit city streets daily



# HILSA

delight for hoarders

### Call to strike the frozen fish off Baishakh menu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Comes Pahela Baishakh, comes opportunity for hilsa hoarders.

As the whole nation is preparing with great enthusiasm to welcome the first day of Bangla New Year, a section of unscrupulous fish traders is out to exploit the rising demand for hilsa ahead of the festival.

These profit-hungry traders, who hoard the fish all year round, sell those at four to five times the normal prices before Pahela Baishakh, dampening the festive mood of many.

A couple of big hilsa now  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

# Change tactic for fighting extremism

### Int'l Crisis Group urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should change its present strategy to contain violent extremism and political threats, says Brussels-based think-tank International Crisis Group.

In a report released on Sunday, the non-profit organisation suggested that the government should be reconciled with the opposition, should make political compromises, end the repressive use of law enforcement agencies and stop targeting opponents and silencing critics.

"The government needs to recognise that it is in its interest to change course, lest it fail to either contain violent extremism or counter political threats," said the think-tank that seeks to prevent or resolve deadly conflicts.

Heavy-handed measures  
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# TONU MURDER

## Father saw head injury, inquest found none

RAFIUL ISLAM, from Comilla

Yaar Hossain, father of Sohagi Jahan Tonu, rejects the inquest report as it does not mention some injury marks he saw on his daughter's body after finding her murdered on the night of March 20.

The report, prepared by Sub-Inspector Saiful Islam of Cantonment Police Outpost in Comilla, reads, "No sign of injury or assault was seen on any part of the deceased's body."

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Yaar Hossain said, "The back of her head was smashed, and there was injuries in her nose."

He went on, "I saw it very clearly. Some others, including police and the woman who bathed the body before her burial,

saw it too."

Besides, he noticed that blood had come out from Tonu's nose and ears. This too is missing in the inquest report.

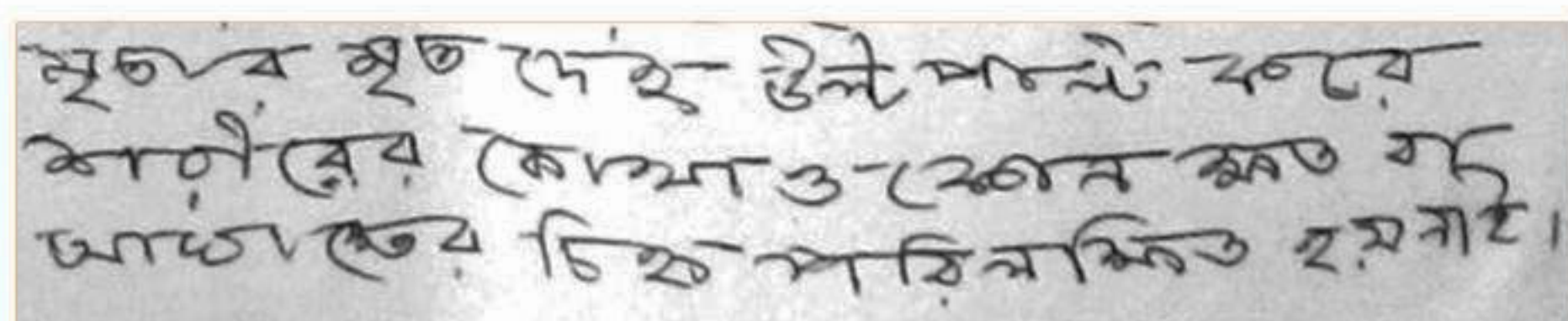
Yaar Hossain said he told investigators of the Detective Branch and Criminal Investigation Department about the wounds. "I will tell it to the court also," he added.

One of Tonu's relatives told this correspondent that he saw the face and there was injury in the nose.

On the fateful night, Yaar Hossain was the first to find her daughter dead in a bush in Comilla Cantonment area.

He took her to Combined Military Hospital in Comilla with the help of some others. According to the death certificate

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A scanned image of part of the inquest report that reads "No sign of injury or assault was seen on any part of the deceased's body."



# TOP QUOTE

"I can't accept that our jute mill workers who put in so much hard work will be in the streets to realise arrears when the entire nation will celebrate Pahela Baishakh. So pay them the arrears before Pahela Baishakh."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA AT THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY

# No load shedding despite heat wave

SHARIER KHAN

Even a couple of years ago, it was unimaginable to think of a sultry April day without power outages.

As the mercury peaks up with the pre-summer heat from March, the time when ponds almost dry up and rivers run narrow, farmers across the country turn to use electricity heavily for irrigation. This has been invariably triggering load shedding during March to May for the last two decades.

However, this year's story is different: there is no load shedding.



According to the Power Development Board (PDB), power supply now stands at a historic high. It is now supplying around 8,300 megawatt of power -- a sharp 800MW jump from last year's corresponding period. And if this figure is compared to that of 2009, one will be impressed. Back then the country could avail just around 3,500MW power.

"Power supply situation is so far so good," said a power board official. "We still cannot generate around 1,000MW power

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

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