#### Banshkhali clash

### Iwo arrested in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two persons have been arrested in the capital in connection with the April 4 attack on police during a clash over the setting up of a coal-fired power plant in Gondamara union of Banshkhali, Chittagong.

Police yesterday claimed that one single-barrel gun and a locally-made gun had been recovered from a spot close to Gondamara Bridge as per confessions of the arrestees.

Gondamara House and Graveyard Protection Movement Committee, a platform of locals protesting against the proposed power plant, however, said law enforcers made up the story of the arms recovery to destroy the movement.

Ali Nabi, 45, and Shafiul Alam, 30, were arrested at Dhanmondi in the capital early Friday, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Banshkhali Police Station.

They are accused in the case filed with the police station over the assault on police, the OC said, adding that the arms were recovered acting upon the information the arrestees provided during their confessions.

Liakat Ali, convenor of the movement committee, said the allegation brought against Nabi and Shafiul was

"Now police are making up a story of recovering arms.... Locals are passing days with fear of arrest," he said, adding that such harassment would add to the tension in Gondamara.

On April 4, four people were killed and 30 others injured in a clash between law enforcers and locals in Gondamara union over the construction of a coal-fired power plant. Three cases -- two for murder and one for assaulting police -- were lodged with Banshkhali police.

### Turkey jails

FROM PAGE 16 Media identified the gunman who attacked Dundar outside the courthouse as 40-year-old Murat Sahin.

Brandishing a pistol, the attacker had fired at Dundar as he stood outside during a break as the court prepared to deliver its verdict.

Dundar was unharmed and the gunman, who fired two or three times in front of TV cameras assembled for the trial, was detained by police. NTV television reported that its reporter Yagiz Senkal was lightly injured by a ricocheting bullet.

"You are (a) traitor. You will pay a price," the attacker shouted at Dundar, according to CNN-Turk television.

Television footage showed Dundar's wife Dilek holding the attacker by his collar and handing him to the police, with bloggers on social media saluting her bravery.

Sahin was reportedly a former factory worker who had long been unemployed and had an unspecified criminal past.

"We know very well who showed me as a target," Dundar said after the attack, accusing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and pro-government media of whipping up a climate of hatred against him.

Fears over press freedoms have steadily grown since Erdogan became president in August 2014, with around 2,000 people, including many journalists, facing charges of insulting the president.

#### 35 tons

FROM PAGE 16

It's unclear what kind of fish it was, according to People's Daily. It described it as the size of a half palm, saying residents had not seen that type of fish at the lake before

Dozens of sanitation employees prevent it from being sold to con-

### worked for hours to trash the fish, to

#### HC judgment soon

FROM PAGE 16 The parliament passed the CrPC (Amendment) Act, 2009, on April 7, 2009, incorporating the rules that allowed the government discretion to empower executive magistrates to take cognisance of offences, and the gov-

ernment issued a gazette notification on the act on April 8 the same year. Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh on November 15, 2009, filed the writ petition as public interest litigation, seeking a directive from

the HC upon the government to

cancel the amended CrPC rules.

The petition stated that as per sections 145 to 147 of the amended CrPC, the executive magistrate decides issues of possession, grants ad-interim injunction, appoints receiver, restores possessions and grants permanent injunction in the cases until the cases are settled by the courts of the judicial magistrate, which are judicial powers.

The amended CrPC rules, which empowered the executive magistrates to discharge judicial functions, are against the provisions of the constitution and the principles of the Supreme Court judgement in Masdar Hossain case, popularly known as

Judiciary Separation Case, it said.

POLICEMEN TORTURING BOY

# They were actually having fun'

Says DMP boss; suspends cops concerned him up, he said. STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The photos of some policemen torturing a child at the capital's Chandrima Udyan about two weeks ago were actually of them having fun, claimed Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mohammad Asaduzzaman Miah yesterday.

"You have seen [policemen] torturing a child. It actually was not an incident of torture. They were having fun," said the DMP boss, adding that he saw a video clip of the incident on YouTube before reports were published by the media. A little later, he, how-

ever, contradicted with his statement and said instead of handling the situation softly, the policemen were rude towards the child and that he had suspended

The child had gone to the park for a swim when on duty policemen picked

the policemen involved in the incident



Asaduzzaman Miah

The photos went viral on social media about 10 days ago and some media outlets published reports on it later on.

The DMP commissioner was address-

ing an event arranged by non-

government organisation Aparajeo

Bangladesh on "Improved Institutional

Responses to Children in

Conflict/Contact with the Law" at the

A photo showed a policeman trying to gag the child, aged about 10, with his right hand while holding a pair of flip-flop in his other hand.

Sitting next to him, four other policemen were watching indiffer-

Another photo showed the child

According to Bangla daily Amader Somoy, the photos were taken on April 21

and the paper published those in its webpage on April 27.

## 'Pir' killed in Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 1 last few years.

for their behaviour.

Between April 6 and 30, machetewielding attackers killed at least five persons -- online activist Nazimuddin Samad, Prof Rezaul Karim Siddiquee of Rajshahi University, LGBT activist Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Mahbub Tonoy and Hindu tailor Nikhil Joardar of Tangail. On April 23, Prof Rezaul was brutally

murdered in Rajshahi city's Shalbagan area. The 58-year-old professor of English was hit in the neck with a scissor-like sharp weapon. Islamist militants are suspected to

have committed these murders. Nisarul Arif, superintendent of police

in Rajshahi, told The Daily Star that police were investigating the murder of Shahidullah, focusing on two possible reasons.

Shahidullah's involvement in Sufism might have "hurt" somebody, or it was a consequence of land dispute, said the police official. Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of

Tanore Police Station, said that on information from locals, police recovered the body around 10:00pm Friday. The assailants might have hacked

Shahidullah first and then slit his throat, he added. Police also recovered a bag containing

someland-related documents near the body. An autopsy was performed yesterday at Rajshahi Medical College (RMC)

morgue. The victim's son, Russel Ahmed, 26, said his father received repeated mobile calls on Friday morning and came home hurriedly shutting the shop. He left around 8:30am saying he would go to

Chapainawabganj. "Several disciples had talks with him over mobile phone till noon. Afterwards, his phone was switched off," Russel told

this correspondent. From the brief phone conversations, it could be only learnt that his father was on

the way to Chapainawabganj, he added. Family members quoted locals as saying that Shahidullah was seen on a

motorcycle with two unknown youths. Russel filed a murder case against unnamed persons with Tanore Police

Station yesterday. The case statement mentioned Shahidullah as a "spiritual Sufi leader" and saidhealso had knowledge about land affairs.

Russel said people who are against Sufism in Poba and Chapainawabganj had threatened Shahidullah several times in the past. "Anti-Sufism people in Chapainawabganj asked him not to meet his followers in the district," he told reporters at the RMC. Sufism is a mystical belief and practice

among a section of Muslims.

A father of five, Shahidullah became a disciple of pir (spiritual guide) Nur Muhammad of Rajbari district about two and a half decades earlier, said his brother Shariful Islam. Later, he got his own followers in

to hold discussions with them regularly at his grocery and home, added Shariful. "He was a very good person. He had

Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj. He used

no enmity with anyone," said his another brother, Bazlur Rahman.

Bazlur, however, heard about the threats his brother had received from some people of Chapainawabganj a few months ago over his spiritual practices.

"He was not a famous Sufi," Rajshahi district police chief Nisarul Arif told AFP. "But there was a possibility that he was killed by Islamist militants." The police officer said the killing of the

self-proclaimed Sufi master was "similar to other recent hackings of religious minorities carried out by attackers with machetes or cleavers", wrote the news agency. On April 30, unidentified assailants

hacked Hindu tailor Nikhil Joardar to death at his shop in Tangail in broad day-

Global terror outfit Islamic State (IS) reportedly claimed responsibility for the murder of Prof Rezaul and Nikhil.

On April 25, unidentified assailants hacked to death Xulhaz Mannan and Mahbub Tonoy in a flat in the capital's Kalabagan. Militant outfit Ansar al-Islam reportedly claimed credit for the dou-

ble murder. Besides, Ex-PDB chairman Muhammad Khizir Khan, who was also a pir, was murdered at his Madhya Badda

house in Dhaka on October 5 last year. Members of the banned militant outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen (JMB) are

suspected to have killed him.

The Daily Star found that between December 2013 and October last year, five pirs and six of their family members and assistants were murdered by assailants.

FROM PAGE 16 For Bangladeshis and Indians, their first introduction to Tagore comes through the national anthems of the two countries.

"Amar Sonar Bangla", the song written by Tagore in 1905, became the national anthem of Bangladesh after its independence in 1971. "Jana Gana Mana", written by the bard in 1911, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly of India as the national anthem of India in 1950. He was the first non-European to

win the Nobel Prize for Literature for "Gitanjali" in 1913. Tagore, in fact, means more than a poet or litterateur for Bangladeshis.

His presence in the Bangalee culture threatened the Pakistani military rulers who tried in vain to impose a ban on Tagore's songs in 1960. Rather, the bard became the Bangalee's weapon to protest against

the oppression of the Pakistani regime. Seventy-five years after his death in August 1941, Tagore still remains very much relevant to our contemporary cultural, social and literary issues. To celebrate the poet's birth anni-

versary, cultural organisations, music schools and the mass media organise different programmes, including music soirees, theatre performances, airing special programmes based on his works which touched almost all fields of literature and art, including poems, short stories, plays, novels, essays, songs, painting and sketching. Special programmes will be held

today in Kushtia's Shelaidah, Sirajganj's Shahzadpur, Naogaon's Potishor, Khulna's Dakkhindihi and Pithabhog -- places where the poet had spent time in his life.

This year's theme of the 155th birth anniversary of Tagore is: "The relevance of Rabindranath in the 21st century". President Abdul Hamid will inaugurate the state-level programme at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium this afternoon.

Besides, Shilpakala Academy and Bangla Academy will organise various programmes on the occasion. All educational institutions, including Dhaka University, will also observe the day.

#### Phase-four

FROM PAGE 2

phases of the union parishad polls will be held in more peaceful manner.

Voting in at least 51 polling centres out of 6,727 was suspended because the situation there went beyond the control of the presiding officers deployed at the centres, Kazi Rakibuddin said.

The EC took prompt actions upon receiving allegations of vote irregulari ties, he said in reply to a query.

He urged all including candidates and their supporters to comply with the electoral code of conduct to help ensure peaceful and fair polls in the next two phases.

Meanwhile, election monitoring body Brotee in a statement said the voting day atmosphere improved from that of the previous three phases. But allegations have been raised against supporters of political parties, especially the ruling AL, of committing irregularities.

According to The Daily Star reports 10 people were killed in violence on the voting day of the first phase UI polls on March 22.

The voting day death tolls in the second and third phase UP polls on March 31 and April 23 were eight and one while at least three were killed in polls related violence yesterday.

# Tagore's birth App to help share

FROM PAGE 1 alone the ridiculous amount of money they would demand turning off their

meters. What do you do?

From June onwards you could just pick up your smart phone, put in some information in an app and voila, a motorbike could be at your doorstep in minutes to take you to your destination threading you through traffic.

Datavoxel Ltd is going to launch this Uber-style motorbike service app called SAM tomorrow to utilise more than four lakh private motorbikes in Dhaka city to help cut down congestion. During a press conference at the

Spectra Convention Centre yesterday, the company said they would just act as a "matchmaker" between the pillion rider and the biker. This is the first ehailing platform in Bangladesh, said the company. "This is an e-commerce service and we are acting as a matchmaker between

of the company. "But it will never play like a taxi service."

a bicker and a rider, that will also help

reduce traffic congestion of the city,"

said Imtiaz Kasem, managing director

The idea is to Share A Motorcycle Google Play Store from Monday for (SAM) and the biker and the pillion android devices and the app for the rider would have to register with authentic information, said Imtiaz.

A passenger would be able to search for bikers in 2 kilometres radius with the app, mentioning the pickup point and the destination, and if a biker agrees, the passengers would be picked up and dropped off at the destination. The fare is Tk 6 every kilometre and

there is no cash involved since payments would be done through an ewallet. The money would be paid to Datavoxel Ltd and the bikers would get paid on every Thursday through banking channels. The company took Omera,

online network as their strategic partners for running the service.

Rahimafrooz, bKash, Getco & Always

some engineers from India and Bangladesh, all based in the US.

The company has invested more than \$3 million for the service, Imtiaz

told The Daily Star. Datavoxel is already running a pilot project in the capital and plans for expansion in other cities after evaluat-

ing the situation in a few months. "Officially we will launch the service from June 1 and already we have registered around eight hundred bik-

ers," Imtiaz added. Before official launch, they plan to register 1,000 bikers and 6,000 riders. For registration, the company takes

information like that in the national identity card, pictures, copy of driving licences, and bank account details of

the bikers and the riders, which would help ensure security. A biker and a passenger would be

able to know each other through this information. "We are not confirming that no

incident will happen but we can assure that the system can detect both of them instantly and after completing the mobile SIM re-registration process, things will be easier," Imtiaz said on security. The application will be available on

iOS devices would be ready within the next month, they said. Datavoxel said SAM would be a new transport option for the middle and

lower middle income people. "SAM can help commuters go to their destinations faster, safer and in

comfort at a very affordable cost," said In future, Datavoxel Ltd plans to get into parcel delivery service, SAM fleet and even SAM pharmacy on wheels,

Datavoxel wrote to four different ministries and two divisions of the government about their business since there were no regulations about the ecommerce service.

the MD added.

"When the government introduces SAM was designed in the US by rules or regulations we will definitely Datavoxel Inc, US, and was made by comply with that," said Imtiaz.

### The light of education

FROM PAGE 2

"If parliament passes the bill," says Fardous, "then a vice-chancellor can be appointed." A proposal for Tk 156 crore in university funding, meanwhile, has been submitted to the executive committee of the National Economic Council.

For a campus, around 100 acres at Rautara in Shahzadpur has been selected, according to local upazila nirbahi officer Shamim Ahmed. "Tagore's family donated 1200 acres to their poor subjects in Shahzadpur to be used for cattle grazing," he explains, "The area is not in the possession of the land ministry but 100 acres of that land has been earmarked."

According to Ahmed, the site selection proposal was submitted to the education ministry last week. "The land can be handed over to the university following ministry approval," he says. "No further action can be taken without the passing of the university's act of parliament."

"People in this region have waited a long time for the Rabindra University to open," says renowned Tagore researcher Nasim Uddin Malitha. "It would be ideal if academic activities could begin in the 2016 - 2017 session; only dedicating a foundation stone is

not progress." Dr Khaleque similarly hopes academic activities can commence with admissions accepted for the next academic year. He suggests Shahzadpur's government college and Kacharibari,

the Tagore estate which is now a

museum, could be used as a temporary

It would seem that in Tagore's day spreading the light of education was a less bureaucratic endeavour. In 1921 the Nobel laureate invested his prize winnings to establish the college that would become the world renowned Visva-Bharati University.

"The highest education," Tagore wrote, "is that which does not merely give us information, but makes our life in harmony with all existence."

Tagore believed in the power of education to bring liberation to humankind. He introduced new ideas including that education should consist of training in all the senses, not only the mind; that learning through activity is more meaningful than bookbased study; that culture is far broader than academic knowledge. At Santiniketan he hoped to create an institution that would live up to the

world meets in a single nest." "I hope the university will be a general one run like Visva-Bharati," says Dr. Khaleque. With a unique Bengali legacy to draw upon, Rabindra University certainly has the potential to bring new life in Bangladesh, to

motto he chose: "Where the whole

Tagore's education ideals. But for now, the powers at be might do as well to recall the insightful Tagore quote, "You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the

#### 'It's an attempt to meddle ISI 'poisoned' CIA ex-official justice," said the International Crimes Shahriar, also the acting president of deep concern and anguish the dis-

FROM PAGE 16

missal of the review application on the death sentence, by the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, for Mr Motiur Rahman Nizami the leader of Jamaat-e-Islami.' "We have also been following the

reaction of the international community

and human rights organisations to the

controversial trials in Bangladesh, related

to events of 1971," the statement read. "There is a need for reconciliation in Bangladesh in accordance with the spirit of Tripartite Agreement of April 1974 which calls for a forward looking approach in matters relating to the events of 1971," it mentioned.

After the execution of Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury in November last year, Pakistan issued similar statements creating diplomatic tension between Dhaka and Islamabad.

Pakistan even denied committing any war crimes or atrocities during the 1971 Liberation War, triggering a huge outrage in Bangladesh. About Friday's statement, veteran

war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir told The Daily Star that Pakistan itself has committed genocide in Bangladesh

during the Liberation War and now it is siding with the their collaborators, who also committed genocide in 1971. The ongoing trial of the war criminal is Bangladesh's internal affairs and

Pakistani has no right to intervene, said

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, an organisation campaigning for the war crimes trial since early 90's. The government should react to the

"audacity" Pakistan had shown by issuing such a statement, he added. About the tripartite agreement, he said Pakistan itself violated the agree-

ment, as it did not take back the stan-

dard Pakistanis living Bangladesh. Besides, the agreement had no validity as neither Bangladesh nor Pakistan parliament endorsed it, he said. As per the Vienna Convention, to

which Bangladesh is a signatory, there are some crimes that cannot be forgiven by any government, and genocide is one of them, he added. The 2013 verdict in the case against Abdul Quader Mollah said, "Amnesty shown to 195 listed war criminals are

opposed to peremptory norms of international law. It is to be noted that any agreement and treaty amongst states in derogation of this principle stands void as per the provisions of on the Law of the Treaties, 1969].

international treaty law convention [Article 53 of the Vienna Convention "Despite the immunity given to 195 listed war criminals belonging to the Pakistan armed forces on the strength of 'tripartite agreement', the Act of 1973 [International Crimes (Tribu-

Tribunal-2. Mofidul Hoque, another veteran

war crimes researcher, said Nizami had been sentenced to death for killing intellectuals. The Al-Badr carried out the Pakistan army plan to wipe out the Bangladeshi intellectuals. So the Pakistani military high com-

mand, especially Rao Farman Ali, who is still alive, is deeply involved in the killing of intellectuals and Pakistan has the responsibility to bring him to justice, said Mofidul, also a trustee of Liberation War museum. "They [Pakistan] should ask for

rendering justice for the crimes o genocide and crimes against humanity [committed in 1971]," he added. Tureen Afroz, a prosecutor of International Crimes Tribunal, said Pakistan has absolutely no right to

collaboration from Bangladesh in

intervene in the internal affairs of Bangladesh. "Whether we have to reconcile with local collaborators [of the Pakistan

FROM PAGE 16 CIA station chief in Islamabad. It

> was partly out of anger at the US for implicating the ISI and its chief in the Mumbai terrorist attack. The situation was so bad that the first of those station chiefs, Jonathan

Bank, was actually spirited out the country by the US in complete violation of diplomatic norms, fearing Pakistani retaliation. "As then-CIA deputy director Michael Morell finished a series of

scheduled meetings in Islamabad, Bank escorted his boss to a waiting agency plane. Then, without any notice to Pakistani authorities and in violation of protocol, Bank stayed aboard as the flight crew closed the door," the Post said, citing unnamed officials. Bank was replaced by Mark

Kelton, a Russia expert who decided Pakistan could not be trusted and began preaching "Moscow Rules" upon arrival, meaning that the "ISI should be treated as a determined foe rather than a problematic partner." His seven month stint, the paper said, was in many ways a "parade of humiliation for his hosts," from the Raymond Davis episode to

He also signed off on many of the Drone attacks. The ISI disliked him

"On the first night in May, as midnight approached in Pakistan, Kelton, Munter and a senior US military official gathered in a secure

referred to him as a cadaver.

so much that its chief Ahmad Shuja

Pasha refused to meet him and

CIA room in the embassy to watch transmissions from a stealth drone circling over Abbottabad as the bin Laden raid began," the Post reported. "The trio had made secret preparations for possible Pakistani reprisals, officials said, drafting evacuation plans that called for employees at scattered US diplomatic sites to flee across the border into India or be scooped up by the USS Carl Vinson from the Karachi shore." Soon after the raid, the Post said, Kelton began to experience severe

stomach pains. It became so severe that he had to be evacuated after only seven months in his post even as the Pakistanis leaked his name in the media. Although Kelton recovered after he had abdominal surgery on this return to the US and is now retired from the CIA, "agency officials continue to think that it is plausible -if not provable -that Kelton's sudden illness was somehow orchestrated by the ISI," the paper wrote.

army] that is absolutely our internal matter, unless they [Pakistan] claim the local collaborators were their own people whom they left behind in 1971," said Tureen. Another prosecutor, Syed Sayedul Haque Sumon, said Pakistan in no way could make such a comment over the ongoing war crimes trials as the Abbottabad raid.

nals) Act-1973 still provides jurisdic-Bangladesh, as a sovereign country, is tion to bring them to the process of holding trials of its own people.