

**PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE**



**MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER**



# Man behind a miracle

'Mofiz sir' working wonder with girl footballers in Kalsindur

MIRZA SHAKIL from Kalsindur

In Bangladesh's 44-year history, sporting success has not been a regular tonic for the hardships the average person undergoes. In fact, it is that very economic hardship that often pushes sporting endeavours to the backburner, especially if the sport is not cricket.

Now imagine what the scenario may be like for women who want to get into sports. Go a step further and think of schoolgirls in a remote village, for whom even going to school is a kind of achievement. So much for imagination; the fact remains that an under-14 team of schoolgirls from such an area have achieved unprecedented international success in the sports arena, something which their male counterparts are yet to achieve. It took a man of vision and determination to bring this happy tale about.

Mofiz Uddin has proved that if you are committed and caring you can bring the best out of latent talents capable of winning anything and everything. The teacher of a nondescript primary school in remote Kalsindur village at the foot of the Garo hills is now not only a role model for others to follow but also the architect behind a never-before-experienced success story of Bangladesh by any measure; that of the Under-14 girls' football team on the international front.

The Bangladesh team clinched the AFC U-14 girls' title in the Tajikistan capital of Dushanbe last week in style, scoring an amazing 25 goals against just two on their way to retaining their South and Central Zone crown against the likes of India, Nepal, Iran and the two central Asian teams including the home side.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Mofiz Uddin giving a motivational speech to young female footballers in Kalsindur village of Mymensingh. Eight members of the Bangladesh team that clinched the AFC U-14 Girls' Regional Championship title in style in Tajikistan capital Dushanbe on May 1 are from this village and its nearby regions. The girls learnt about football from this very man who has never been in the limelight. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

**CHANGE MAKERS**

## 'Framed' twice

ANANTA YUSUF, back from Tangail

He was apparently framed twice -- when he was alive and then after his death.

Nikhil Joardar, the tailor hacked to death in Dubai under Gopalpur upazila of Tangail on April 30, had landed in jail on allegation of making "derogatory comments" about Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) four years ago.

After his brutal murder, the so-called IS statement issued to claim credit for the killing also described Nikhil as a person who "blasphemed" against the Prophet.

But according to his family members, friends and neighbours, he never said anything against the Prophet.

People who knew him believe he was framed for making "anti-Islam" comments in April 2012 after he had got into an altercation with two persons in the locality.

Abdus Salam, a homeopathy doctor and Nikhil's neighbour, told The Daily Star last week that he had once asked the tailor about the 2012 incident.

"His reply was simple: 'I respect Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) just as I



Nikhil Joardar

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5  
RELATED STORY ON PAGE 13

## Republican unity not essential

Says Trump, brings up Bill Clinton's affairs to confront Hillary Clinton

AGENCIES

There may be much Republican hand-wringing over Donald Trump's presumptive nomination to face the Democratic candidate for the White House, but the boastful billionaire says he doesn't care, and it doesn't matter.

A growing chorus of senior Republican leaders have joined the "anyone but Trump movement," including 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and the last two Republican presidents, George W Bush and George HW Bush.

"Does it have to be unified?" Trump asked about the Republican Party.

"I'm very different than everybody else, perhaps, that's ever run for office. I actually don't think so," he told ABC's "This Week" in excerpts provided ahead of Sunday's broadcast.

"I think it would be better if it were unified, I think it would be -- there would be something good about it. But I don't think it actually has to be unified in the traditional sense."

A group of conservatives opposed to Trump's candidacy meanwhile announced it had launched a "formal effort" for an alternative candidate, though it stopped short of backing a contender from a third party.

"This is not just a fight for the heart and soul of the Republican Party; it is a battle for the future of our country," Conservatives Against Trump said in a statement.

"This week, Conservatives Against Trump launched a formal effort to identify an acceptable alternative candidate to run for president against Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## Girl abused in classroom

No action against accused BCL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two Chhatra League men forced all the students out of a classroom except for one girl, shut the door and allegedly abused her verbally and physically.

When the incident happened on May 2 in broad daylight at Dinajpur Textile Institute, teachers and students were around. But when the duo came out of the room a few minutes later, the teachers simply warned them and let them go after they "apologised" for the incident by holding the legs of the teachers.

About a week on, no action has been taken against the two -- Sultan Mahmud Shihab of Gaibandha and Imran Hossain of Jamalpur. Both are students at the Institute.

Principal Abdul Mojib said the two were members of the campus unit BCL.

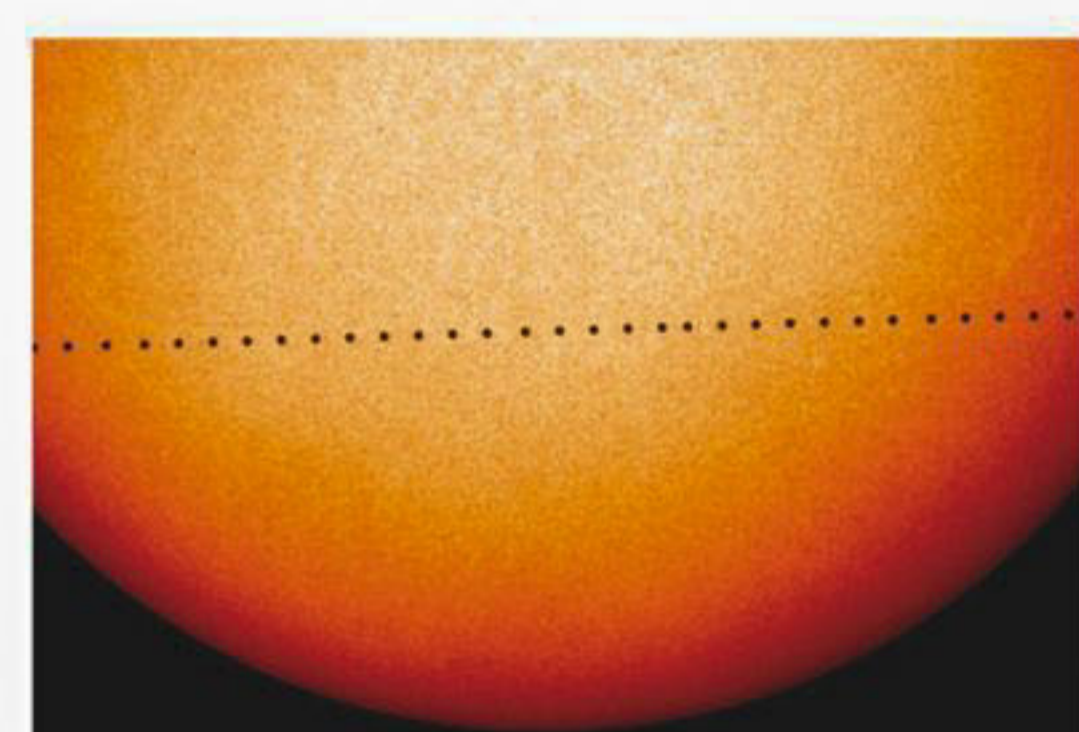
Asked why no action was taken against them, he said it was a minor incident and that the accused would be punished if the authorities received any complaints against them in future.

The whole incident left the girl, 16, traumatised and she has stopped talking, family members say.

"We took her home on May 6 from Dinajpur Medical College Hospital and

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

## Watch today rare transit of Mercury over Sun



REAZ HAIDER

A transit of Mercury over the disc of the Sun will take place this afternoon and be visible from Bangladesh.

A transit of Mercury across the Sun takes place when the planet Mercury comes between the Sun and the Earth, and Mercury is seen as a small black dot moving across the face of the Sun.

The transit of Mercury is relatively a rare phenomenon, occurs 13 or 14 times in a century, mostly in the months of May and November. But, the next will be visible after a long gap of 16 years in 2032, according to Nasa.

The transit will begin at around 5:00 pm and

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## MEDIA MONITORING CELL ASK worried over press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday voiced concerns about the government move to set up a "media monitoring cell", saying it feared that the step could curb media freedom.

In a press release, the human rights organisation, however, expressed hope that the government would take a well planned step, not a hasty one, over the matter

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



**SIBL**  
Social Islami Bank Limited  
Sobani Uloom

PRAYER TIMING MAY 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-20 12-45 4-45 6-29 8-00  
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-00 6-34 8-30  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Nizami brought to Dhaka jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemned war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami was shifted to Dhaka Central Jail from Kashimpur jail in Gazipur last night amid tight security.

Nizami reached the Dhaka jail around 11:50pm, said Jahangir Kabir, its senior superintendent.

On Friday, family members met the Jamaat-e-Islami chief at Kashimpur jail after the Supreme Court last week dismissed his petition for reviewing its verdict that upheld his death penalty given by the International Crimes Tribunal-1 in 2014 for war crimes.

The review plea was filed on this March 29.

Nizami was the president of Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha from 1966 to September 1971. He was also the chief of Al-Badr.

He masterminded the formation of the militia that unleashed terror on peace-loving Bangladeshes,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



A floating market of rice grains on the Sandha river. The market is open for business twice a week when farmers of the region gather there with their produce. Unlike before, traders from afar do not go to this market to buy their goods but the miniket variety of rice, produced by the farmers themselves, is extremely popular at the market.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

## Pak rights activist shot dead

Taliban claim responsibility

REUTERS, Karachi

Gunmen shot dead a prominent Pakistani rights activist, known for his outspoken stance against the Taliban and other radical Islamist groups, in the southern port city of Karachi late on Saturday night, police said.

The police said Khurram Zaki was killed at an outdoor cafe in central Karachi, while a companion was wounded.

A faction of the Pakistani Taliban, the Hakeemullah group, claimed responsibility for the attack in a phone call to Reuters, saying Zaki had been targeted for his stance against radical cleric Abdul Aziz.

The police could not verify the Hakeemullah faction's claim, and said the group has previously taken responsibility for attacks it did not carry out in Karachi, a teeming metropolis of 20 million people that is known for its complex mix of ethnic, sectarian and political violence.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Khurram Zaki