

## Khaleda slams govt for 'misrule'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday came down heavily on the ruling Awami League (AL), accusing its leaders and activists of creating an anarchic situation in the country.

Referring to an incident of beating up the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Parshuram in Feni by allegedly some ruling party men during the 4th phase of UP polls, Khaleda claimed that the government officials were assaulted when they try to oppose unjustified and unrealistic pleas of the AL men.

She also demanded an exemplary punishment for those who beat the UNO up. "The AL destroyed all operational systems in the administration and law enforcement agencies through shameful politicisation," Khaleda claimed in a statement. "Nowadays, people are worried as the government is imposing its barbaric rule on them," added the BNP chief.

A representative democratic government is therefore needed through holding a competitive national election to get rid of such situations, she emphasised.



These burnt out debris used to be people's belongings, destroyed due to a fire at a slum in the capital's Green Road area. It has been over eight days and the piles of wreckage remain untouched occupying almost an entire side of the street, amidst the city corporations' campaign for a cleaner city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Rare works go on display at Galleri Kaya tomorrow

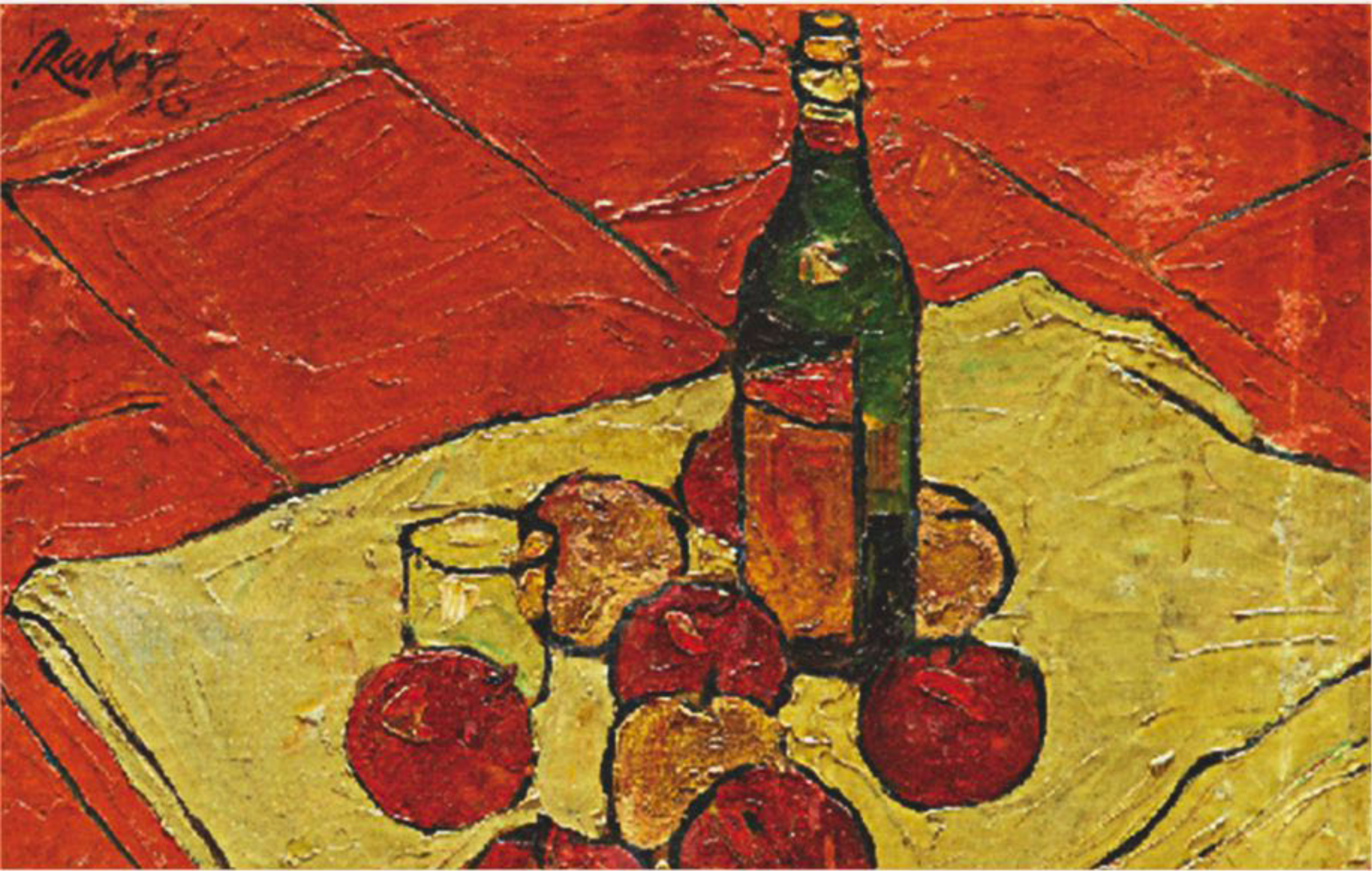
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Galleri Kaya will hold a two-week painting exhibition of 28 artists of the country starting tomorrow on its premises to celebrate its 12th founding anniversary.

The Uttara based art gallery will present some rare works at the exhibition, said Gautam Chakraborty, director of Galleri Kaya.

"These include a 1956 oil on canvas by late Rashid Choudhury, a 1962 oil on board by late Aminul Islam, a 1992 water colour by late Debidas Chakraborty, a 1975 oil on canvas by late Hashi Chakraborty, a 1980 water colour by late SM Sultan, a 1980 etching by late Mohammad Kibria, and a 1953 water colour by Murtaja Baseer," said Gautam. A 1978 national award winning woodcut by Ratan Mojumder will also be showcased.

The event will also feature works of Qayyum Chowdhury, Monirul Islam, Rafiqun Nabi, Samarjit Roy Choudhury, Ranjit Das, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Chandra Shekhar Dey, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Hashem Khan, Kalidas Karmakar, Kamaluddin, Kazi Rakib, KMA Quayyum, Mahmudul Haque, Masuda Kazi, Mohammad Iqbal, Nagarbasi Barman, Shambhu Acharya, Ashraful Hasan, and Shishir Bhattacharjee. The exhibition opens at 6:00pm tomorrow, and will remain open for all from 11:00am to 8:00pm every day till May 28.



A rare 1956 painting by Rashid Choudhury will be exhibited tomorrow at Galleri Kaya for visitors' enjoyment.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Ailing mother losing hope for justice

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"Ananta used to give me medicine everyday, made sure I was feeling okay," she said.

"He grew up here, in this area, swam in Dastidar Pond, played in the field; and finally got killed beside the pond," said Pijush Rani Das, bottling up her emotions. "They are killing our sons at or beside our home; whom do I ask for justice, questioned Ananta's mother."

"I miss my son so bad," she started wailing, unable to contain herself any longer.

"Ananta is my youngest son, my beloved. He is gone and I don't want to ask the government to ensure justice," said the dejected mother tired of demanding justice again and again. "They can't give back my son. No one can."

One year into the murder, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is yet to submit a charge sheet in the case.

The CID, however, arrested two students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Mannan Rahi and Abul Khair, as suspected killers.

Mannan admitted before a Sylhet

court that he, accompanied by Khair and three others, hacked Ananta to death for his write-ups "that promoted freethinking", CID sources said.

"Four were involved in the murder pursuant to the confessional statement Mannan made before the court. We have not been able to arrest the rest of the killers yet," said Mirza Abdullahel Baqui, CID special superintendent, adding that once all the four were arrested, they would submit a charge sheet.

When asked, why they would need to wait till the arrest of all the accused to submit the charge sheet, the CID special superintendent in a seemingly evasive way just reiterated the previous statement.

On May 5 this year, both Mohaimin Noman, younger brother of Mannan Rahi and one Rashid Ahmed, accused murderer of Ananta, got released from Sylhet Central Jail getting bail from the High Court and were arrested again hours after their release on another case of rampage, said Sohel Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police

Station.

Meanwhile, marking Ananta's death anniversary, a monument, "Gyaner Jyoti Chorabe Ananta, Anantakal" (Ananta will radiate the light of knowledge for eternity), was unveiled yesterday noon at the same spot near the pond, where he was killed.

Ananta Bijoy Smrity Raksha Parishad, Gonojagoron Mancha Sylhet, Nagarnat and Sylhet district unit Chhata Union paid tribute.

Gonojagoron Mancha arranged a cultural programme "Ananta Shwaran" at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar and published a previously unperformed play "Bruno's Death" written by Ananta as a book.

Chanda Nriyalaya, Udichi Sylhet, Nagarnat, Charjapath, Theatre Murarichand, Mrititkay Mahakal, Tarunyo and Bangladesh Gonoshilpi Sangstha also performed on stage.

Later, Gonojagoron Mancha brought out a torch procession protesting the brutality of killing writers, bloggers, teachers and other freethinkers.

## DSCC leaps for WiFi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visitors looking for WiFi access to reach and visit the centuries-old Lalbagh Fort in old Dhaka will no longer need to be worried as Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) brought the historical place under uninterrupted internet service.

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday inaugurated the WiFi service at the fort, and announced that the same facility would also be ensured in 50 more places of DSCC.

"We will hopefully start launching the services in those areas in the next six months," said the mayor.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited and DSCC are jointly providing the service at Lalbagh.

The places where DSCC are going to provide free WiFi service include Bangabandhu Avenue, Bangabandhu Museum, Russel Square, Central Shaheed Minar, Aporajeyo Bangla, Ahsan Manjil, Curzon Hall, Kamalapur Railway Station, Bahadurshah Park, Osmani Udyan, Ramna Park, Boldhagarden, Central Shishu Park, Dhanmondi Lake, Mohanogor Natyamanchya, Nagar Bhawan, Sayedabad Bus Terminal, Fulbaria Bus Terminal, Sadarghat Launch Terminal, Dhaka Mohanogor General Hospital, Dhaka Mohanagar Shishu Hospital, New Market, Nababganj Sat Shaheed Community Centre, Haji Golam Morshed Community Centre, Haji Khalil Sardar Community Centre, Azimpur Mini Community Centre, Haji Jummon Community Centre, Majed Sardar Community Centre, Sutrapur Community Centre, Dhalpur Community Centre, Fakirchand Community Centre, Sarafatganj Community Centre, Jatrabari Community Centre, and Zahir Rayhan

## Farmers to get GM brinjal seeds this winter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 5,000 farmers would get genetically modified Bt brinjal seeds in the coming winter as part of the government's plan to scale up cultivation of biotech crops in the country.

Alongside, agro-research institutions concerned are fast-tracking field trials of three more biotech crops -- late blight resistant potato, Bt cotton and vitamin-A rich Golden Rice.

Officials and agriculture scientists present at a seminar in the capital said this, while Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury called upon all to give a further push to the country's agro-sector through best applications of cutting-edge technologies.

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and global agro-biotech monitor International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) jointly organised the seminar in BARC auditorium, marking the 20th anniversary of the commercialisation of biotech crops.

On the occasion, ISAAA also launched its latest report titled "Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2015" in presence of the minister.

ISAAA Global Coordinator Randy Hautea, BARC Executive Chairman Dr Abul Kalam Azad, and BARI Director General Dr Md Rafiqul Islam Mondal were present, while Additional Secretary to Ministry of Agriculture Nojmul Islam chaired the session.

Bangladesh introduced its first and so far the only biotech crop -- shoot and fruit borer

insect resistant Bt brinjal -- in 2013. Over the last two years, fewer than 500 farmers could try it, in want of sufficient stock of seeds.

BARI DG Rafiqul Islam Mondal and its biotech division's chief scientific officer Dilafroza Khanam said yesterday that with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), they would be able to reach out over 5,000 farmers with the seeds of the biotech brinjal. They have produced 875kg of Bt brinjal seeds in 2015-16.

Dilafroza Khanam said apart from four Bt brinjal varieties released in 2013, three more GM brinjal varieties were now in the pipeline for regulatory approval while they were field-testing two more.

She added that field trials on biotech potato, cotton and rice were at the advanced stages now.

Referring to doubling of Bt brinjal acreage from 12 hectares in 2014 to 25 hectares in 2015, ISAAA credited the success to Bangladesh's political will, particularly from Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury.

It said, "Importantly, the seed [of Bt brinjal] is now being multiplied to meet the growing needs of substantially more farmers in 2016."

In her speech, Matia Chowdhury said biotechnological interventions in agriculture happened for development of many stress-tolerant and disease and pest-resistant crop varieties. She sounded tough against propaganda that misinforms and misguides public about the benefits of frontier sciences in agriculture.

Matia urged scientists to help develop brown plant hopper (BPH) resistant rice. BPH is one of the most harmful pests of rice.

## Compact township stressed

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Rural Development Planning" jointly organised by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) of BUET and CTF at the DURP seminar hall.

Compact township is an agglomeration of houses, hospitals, schools, markets, rural industries and local governmental units, which provides all basic services to a population of about 20,000, according to Dr Abul Hossain, general secretary of Compact Township Foundation (CTF).

It is to be largely self-governing and self-financing, and the size is small enough for traffic within the CT to be conducted by non-motorised vehicles, making it well connected as well as environmentally friendly.

"Instead of having houses scattered, the CTs will be centres of jobs and businesses. For example, the area that has potentials for dairy farming can be established as a compact town based on dairy," he said.

According to a CTF statement, the country's population will be 24 to 28 crore by 2050, while 1,500 people are migrating to

the capital every day.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, observed that living standard of people was degrading due to unplanned development in both rural and urban areas.

"We see many high-rise buildings, but often not adequate amenities," said Akbar, adding that the whole country would turn into slums if the authorities did not focus on taking proper policy and the concept of CT.

Prof Emeritus at the University of Illinois in the US and CTF Chairman Selim Rashid said compact towns could be built near the major roads, which would help reduce the need for too many sub-roads.

"As a result, the wetland and farmland will be protected," he said, adding that the government should be accompanied by private organisations in such projects.

Prof Ishrat Islam, head of DURP, Prof Shayer Ghafur and Prof Sarwar Jahan of BUET, Dr Akhtaruzzaman, economic adviser to Bangladesh Bank, and Prof Nurul Amin of economics department of North South University also spoke.



United Hospital in the capital brings out a rally on its premises yesterday, marking International Nurses Day-2016.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Lawyer, family in constant fear after suing cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Gazipur lawyer yesterday alleged that she and her family had received numerous death threats and were living in a constant fear following filing of a case against some policemen.

Dilara Sultana Shetu, a lawyer of Gazipur District Judge Court, alleged due to insecurity her father Delwar Hossain and brother Nahid Hasnat were in hiding ever since some media reports were published against the cops.

Dilara said her father filed a case with the Gazipur court on March 16 this year accusing 18 persons including Gazipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Harun ur Rashid, Officer-in-Charge of Joydevpur Police Station Khandaker Rezaul Hasan, Sub-inspector Akram Hossain and SI Mithu Sheikh of Detective Branch of the district.

Delwar alleged the accused forced him to register his property, eight and a half bighas of land located in Bhogra area, which cost around Tk 100 crore.

Dilara, who is the lawyer of the case, said a Gazipur court issued a rule against the validity of the registry process.

She said her family also filed a "content case" against some persons including the SP in 2013, accusing that despite being government employees they sided with a section of people to grab lands.

Police on June 11 last year arrested her under Section 54 from Gazipur court premises, she added.

SP Harun helped one Riazuddin to grab a three-storey building illegally in Bhogra area that belonged to her father, she alleged.

Contacted, SP Harun-ur-Rashid denied all the allegations and claimed he was not involved in any incident mentioned in the case.

## Family seeks punishment for Hridoy's killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of secondary school graduate Babul Shikder Hridoy, who was allegedly murdered over a cricket match, demanded yesterday that his killers be brought to book immediately.

They have to be given exemplary punishment, Hridoy's father Mostofa Shikder told The Daily Star.

Hridoy, 15, who secured GPA-4.89 in the SSC exams, was hit on the head with a cricket bat following an altercation with some youths over the match in Mirpur-1 Wednesday, said police.

A local youth, who hit Hridoy, went into hiding, they said.

### 4 JMB suspects

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Daily Star could not verify.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested at least 28 alleged Jamaat men on different charges.

In Bogra, 16 alleged Jamaat-Shibir men were arrested ahead of yesterday's hartal, protesting party ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami's execution.

Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (Media and B Circle) of Bogra, Gaziur Rahman claimed they were arrested in connection with vandalism, arson and sabotage activities.

In Gaibandha, police arrested an upazila level Jamaat leader from his Bengulia village residence, who was also the district unit Chhatra Shibir president.

In Chittagong, police arrested five Shibir men in connection with vandalism and explosions during Nizami's Gayebana Janaza in Chawkbazar area and filed a case against 22 named and 150 unidentified Shibir men, said OC Aziz Ahmed of Chawkbazar police. Moreover, four Jamaat men were arrested in Barisal and two party leaders in Cox's Bazar.