

# JS budget session from June 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 10th Parliament goes into its third budget session on June 1, says a Parliament Secretariat press release. President Abdul Hamid yesterday convened the session exercising his power bestowed upon him by article 72 (1) of the Constitution. The budget session, which will be the 11th session of this Parliament, will begin at 5:00pm. Finance Minister AMA Muhith is scheduled to place the budget for the next fiscal 2016-17 on June 2. Before the House goes into the session, a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee will be held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair to discuss duration and businesses of the session. The last session of this Parliament ended on May 5 having 9 working days.

# Two youths murdered in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two youths have been hacked to death by unidentified criminals in Ershadnagar area under Tongi of Gazipur city. Police recovered the bodies of Jumman Miah, 26, and Shariful Islam Sharif, 32, yesterday morning. Jumman, son of Harun, and Sharif, son of Alauddin, are inhabitants of the area. Jahirul Islam, sub-inspector of Tongi Police Station, said locals spotted the bodies in the morning and informed them. The throat-slit bodies also bore several injury marks, he said, adding that they were investigating the murder.

# Khaleda sued

FROM PAGE 3 Jananetri Parishad, filed the case against Khaleda for her alleged remarks about Joy, which was "defamatory and false". With this, two cases were filed against the former prime minister on the issue. On May 3, a Tk 1 crore defamation case was filed with a Comilla court against Khaleda for her comment. On May 1, Khaleda at a rally in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan alleged that senior journalist Shafik Rehman was arrested for "collecting information on his (Joy's) involvement in siphoning off Tk 2,500 crore". The BNP chief said Rehman as a journalist had gathered the information. "But he neither disclosed the information nor written anything on it. You [people] couldn't have known about Tk 2,500 crore had he not been arrested." The government arrested Rehman on "false charges" of his involvement in a plot to abduct and kill Joy, said Khaleda. "Now they're implicating Amar Desh [acting] editor Mahmudur Rahman in it."

# HC clears

FROM PAGE 2 Other accused in the case are Harris Chowdhury, Khaleda's former political secretary, Ziaul Islam Munna, assistant private secretary of Harris, and Monirul Islam Khan, APS of former Dhaka city mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka. Harris is on the run.

# IS suicide

FROM PAGE 16 clashed with the security forces, an official said, adding that 27 troops were wounded. The IS-affiliated Aamaq news agency credited a group of "Caliphate soldiers" for the attack, reports AP. In a statement, Deputy Oil Minister Hamid Younis said firefighters managed to control and extinguish a fire caused by the explosions. Younis said technicians were examining the damage. Elsewhere in Baghdad, three separate bomb attacks targeted commercial areas, killing at least eight civilians and wounding 28 others, police added. Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information. IS extremists still control significant areas in northern and western Iraq, including the second-largest city of Mosul. It has declared an Islamic caliphate on the territory it holds in Iraq and Syria. The group has recently increased its attacks far from the front lines in a campaign that Iraqi officials say is an attempt to distract from their recent battlefield losses. Since Wednesday, more than 100 people have been killed in a string of bombings in Baghdad and elsewhere.

# BNP's Aslam arrested

FROM PAGE 1 Soon after the arrest, Aslam was taken to the DB headquarters on Minto Road, said Shahidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Khilkhet Police Station. Known to be a trusted lieutenant of BNP's senior vice-chairman Tarique Rahman, Chittagong-based businessman Aslam came under severe criticism both in and outside the party after several photographs went viral in social media showing him with Mendi N Safadi, a leader of Israel's Likud Party and chief of International Diplomacy and Public Relations. Several photographs posted in the Facebook page "Mendi N Safadi Center -- for International Diplomacy and Public Relations" show the two attending programmes in India early this month. Recently, a Bangla daily ran a series of reports where it was alleged that the BNP was involved in hatching a plot to topple the AL government by joining forces with Mossad, Israel's secrete service agency. The reports mentioned that Aslam met Safadi in New Delhi early this month. The newspaper also published two photographs of Aslam with the Israeli leader. In one photograph, Aslam is seen standing next to Safadi, who is sitting on a chair, at a programme on India-Israel relations. Since the issue was first reported, Awami League leaders and ministers have been alleging that the BNP had been trying to come to power with the help of Mossad. The BNP denies this allegation, saying it was cooked up. Amid swirling controversy, Aslam on May 11 told The Daily Star that he met Safadi in New Delhi "accidentally" and he didn't know if the Israeli politician had any links with Mossad. Aslam, convener of BNP's Chittagong district (north) unit in 2014, became the party's one of the joint secretaries general this year. Already close to Tarique, he earned further trust of the senior vice-chairman after the violent anti-government movement in Sitakunda in late 2013 and in the first three months of 2015, party sources said. The Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sitakunda area virtually became a death zone for drivers and transport workers due to frequent arson attacks on vehicles during the BNP-led opposition's countrywide agitations. Tariqul Islam, assistant superintendent of police (Sitakunda circle), said Aslam is accused in 18 cases filed with Sitakunda Police Station for subversive activities, attacks on people and law enforcers, vandalism and arson attacks on vehicles. Police so far submitted 17 charge sheets against Aslam and he is now on bail in every case, added the official. The arrest of Aslam came hours after Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the BNP has teamed up with Israeli secrete agency to destabilise Bangladesh. "The BNP leader's meeting with Mossad is a proof of the party's stance against the country," he said, adding that hunt was on for Aslam and others

involved. Talking to reporters at his office in the afternoon, the home boss also said police would go for further action after collecting more information about Aslam. Earlier in the morning, Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Iqbal Bahar told reporters that Aslam would be held wherever he would be found, reports our correspondent. While replying to a query at a press conference, he also said a ban was imposed on Aslam's leaving the country. "WE ARE NOT DENYING IT" On the issue of Aslam's meeting with the Israeli politician, Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah, standing committee member of BNP, yesterday said, "We are not denying it; he [Aslam] is not denying it either. "But he [Aslam] didn't realise that Indian agents were out to malign the BNP using the photo." Rizvi Ahmed, BNP's senior joint secretary general, last night said the allegation that the party was conspiring to topple the government with the help of Mossad was nothing but a cooked-up story. Talking to BBC Bangla Service, Rizvi also said Aslam had already clarified in a statement that he went to India on a personal trip. "How would he know if a delegate from a particular country is present in a programme?"

# PM reaches

FROM PAGE 2 hold high-profile meetings on the sideline of the conference. After coming back to Dhaka on May 21, the premier is scheduled to leave for Japan on May 26 for a four-day visit to take part in an outreach meeting during the G7 Summit on May 26-27 at Ise-Shima. She has another scheduled visit to Saudi Arabia in early June. In Bulgaria, the PM would lead a 59-member delegation, which includes officials, security personnel, eminent personalities and media persons. Hasina is the only head of government who is taking part in the Global Women Leaders' Forum. On the first day of her Bulgaria visit, she would call on Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev at the Presidential Palace. She would also deliver a keynote speech in the opening ceremony of the women leaders' conference the same day. On May 20, the premier would hold an exclusive meeting with her Bulgarian counterpart Bouko Borissov. The premiers are set to hold a delegation level bilateral meeting, which would be followed by signing of several deals. Foreign ministry sources said the two prime ministers, after the official talks on May 20, would witness signing of some agreements and deliver a joint press statement. Tssetska Tsacheva Dangovska, president of the National Parliament of Bulgaria, would also call on the prime minister.

# People suffer in 21 dists

FROM PAGE 16 Chudanga Deluxe Paribahan. The other case was filed against Green Line Paribahan by a daughter of a person, who was killed in road accident on October 25, 2012 in Sylhet, claiming Tk 131.7 million as compensation. Despite public sufferings and business losses, transport operators have threatened to wage a tougher movement if their demand is not met. At least 300 cross-border passengers and around 50 goods-laden trucks got stranded at Benapole Land Port in Jessore amid the strike yesterday. "I was totally surprised after I saw that there was no bus available. Now I am looking for a house of any of my friends or relatives to stay there for the next two days," said Abbas Ali, who had just arrived at Benapole. Ali, who lives in Tongi of Gazipur, went to India for treatment. "I have imported fish from India. Now, I fear that the fish will rot and I will have to face a huge loss," Abul Momin told The Daily Star at the port around 12:45pm yesterday. Our correspondents from Kushtia and Satkhira reported similar incidents of public sufferings. Talking to The Daily Star, Osman

# 3 Patuakhali

FROM PAGE 3 Secretary Mojibur Rahman Toton, Youth Affairs Secretary Advocate Mozammel Hossain Tapon and Secretary for Small and Cottage Industry Affairs Abdul Latif. Patuakhali Police Station Officer-in-Charge SM Tariqul Islam claimed that they were arrested for attempting sabotage. Our correspondent from Chittagong, Feni, Rajshahi, Khulna, Bogra and Narayanganj reports that protest were held on a small scale amidst the presence of a few activists. Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, said, "Transport owners and workers are not the only ones who are solely responsible for accidents. So, we demand withdrawal of the cases." Abdur Rahim Dudu, general secretary of the federation's Khulna chapter, echoed Osman. According to police record, around 3,000 people die annually in road accidents in Bangladesh, while The World Bank claims the number is around 12,000, says statistics of Accident Research Institute (ARI) of BUET.

# Turkey now

FROM PAGE 16 "Have you heard anything from Europe? ... No. Isn't it called double standards?" Nizami, leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami, was hanged at a Dhaka jail early Tuesday for the massacre of intellectuals during the 1971 independence war with Pakistan. The former minister was the fifth war criminal to be executed since the government set up a war crimes tribunal in 2010. In protest, Turkey on Thursday recalled its ambassador to Bangladesh for consultations. Since coming to power in 2002, Turkey's ruling Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party (AKP) has sought to boost the country's power in the Muslim world. Last year, Erdogan condemned a death sentence handed to Egypt's deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, who was a close ally of Ankara until he was overthrown by the military in 2013. At the time he condemned the West for turning a blind eye to the "coup" by army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi who is now president.

# Robot to clean

FROM PAGE 16 The robot's two outer layers sandwich a material which shrinks when heated by the body. A pattern of folds and slits in the robot controls this shrinkage, allowing it to fold up like an accordion and inch its way around the stomach. Further control comes from its 'stick-slip' motion, in which it sticks to a surface when moving, but slips free again when changing direction. Tiny flippers on its body also allow it to swim around in the liquid-filled stomach. The researchers believe one of the robot's most useful applications is retrieving swallowed button batteries from the stomach. These batteries can be digested normally, but if they come into prolonged contact with the stomach lining, they can create an electric current which produces caustic soda, a substance often used in drain cleaners. Once lodged in place, the battery can burn through the stomach lining, causing horrific injuries which require intrusive operations to fix. The MIT team believe they could use the robot to retrieve a battery from a patient's stomach lining before it causes damage, helping the 3,500 Americans who swallow the batteries every year. In future, the team hope to use the robots to patch up wounds in the stomach, or deliver medicines to specific parts of the body. Origami robots were first developed at MIT in 2010, but their medical applications have only been explored recently.

# 3 arrested

FROM PAGE 2 said they were deeply shocked at the home minister's remarks. "The minister should be more sincere while making comments over the heinous killing," he said. The remarks hurt the bereaved family members of the deceased monk and the Buddhist community, Pannya added. Emerging from a programme in Rajshahi on Saturday, the home boss told reporters, "It's [the killing] a stray incident. Relatives might have been involved in it." Meanwhile, rights body Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) in a statement yesterday condemned the killing of the Buddhist monk and other people belonging to different faiths and demanded justice for the deaths. "The recurrence of the incidents proves that brutal killings of people have not stopped and the state has failed to ensure justice to the previous incidents," reads the statement. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in a separate statement also condemned the killing. DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF HOME MINISTER'S COMMENT Bangladesh Sangharaj Bhikkhu Mahasabha Secretary General Bhadanta S Lokjit Ther yesterday demanded withdrawal of the home minister's comment by next Baishakhi Purnima (May 21). Addressing a human chain in Chittagong city protesting the murder of the monk, he said, "We do not accept the home minister's comment on the murder. It must be withdrawn by May 21". Otherwise, Lokjit said, they would wage a movement demanding the resignation of the minister.

# Delay in finding

FROM PAGE 5 perpetrated by the law enforcement agencies, said Prof Rahman. "It is an alarming signal of a terrible consequence for any society," he said. "Therefore, this conference would submit recommendations to the government to help identify the problems in the justice system and resolve those." Effective coordination between the investigators and the prosecutors is a must to ensure maximum conviction rates to deter prospective offenders and protect the innocent -- the two core objectives of the criminal justice system, said Prof Yubaraj Sangroula of Kathmandu School of Law. Unbridled power of police to arrest any accused should be reduced, and one such action would reduce incidents of human rights violation by half, said Padmashree Prof NR Madhava Menon, former law commission member of India. All the offences that may entail less than two years' imprisonment should be dealt amicably through compensatory method, while the conventional investigation and justice system is expensive and damaging, he said. Noted lawyer Dr Shahdeen Malik and Vice-president of Indo-Pacific Association of Law Medicine and Sciences Prof Muzaherul Islam presented papers on the occasion.

# Crude bomb

FROM PAGE 16 Shafiqur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar Police Station, said the attackers might have some personal grudge or resentment against the jail superintendent, or it could be an act of sabotage. Police launched an investigation into the incident.

# No hope for Kutubdia

FROM PAGE 16 "If we had electricity in our union," says Al Azad, "We could have cold storage and ice factories to support our fishing industry. Electricity would give the whole island an economic boost." First efforts to bring electricity to Kutubdia occurred in 1980 when the diesel generator was installed. But following the 1991 cyclone even the generator was out of service for four years. Then in 2005, under PDB supervision a wind power plant was established on the coast adjacent to Puratan Shanti Bazar in Ali Akbar Deil union, with capacity to generate 1,000 kilowatts. The Tk 15-crore pilot project was implemented by Pan Asia Power Services Ltd. But the windmill infrastructure was battered by several natural disasters. A large part of the plant sank below the seabed due to continuous erosion. For ten years it was out of order. Then two months ago the plant was finally repaired. It now provides electricity to 111 subscribers in the Puratan Shanti Bazar area, but according to locals, the renewed supply runs without predictability: at times electricity is available for a twelve-hour stretch, at other times there is no supply for a week. Meanwhile, at Talebar Char two kilometres away work has commenced on a second wind power plant at a cost of Tk 8 crore. Director of the project Fazlur Rahman says Pan Asia Power Services Ltd is implementing this plant with joint financing jointly from Singapore and Bangladesh. "The new power plant will be operational within a year," says PDB engineer Mostafizur Rahman of the distribution department in Cox's Bazar. "Pan Asia will produce the electricity; PDB is responsible for distribution." The price of wind generated electricity has been fixed at Tk 5.5 per unit for residential connections and Tk 9.5 for commercial consumers, rates that former power and energy secretary AMM Nasiruddin who was born in Kutubdia believes are excessive. "In developing countries wind turbine electricity is generally available at much lower cost," he says. "It needs to be unearthed why the Kutubdia prices are so high." Nasiruddin also questions whether modern and sustainable equipment have been engaged in the project, with the necessary measures in place to protect the infrastructure from natural disasters. Local resident Sirajul Islam Chawdhury, who lives near the construction site, says the works are pro-

ceeding at a snail's pace, free from proper government monitoring. Even the project director does not stay at the station, he alleges. Ariful Islam, a local journalist believes large-scale corruption played a role in the construction of the first wind turbine power plant; and he's worried it's a scenario repeating itself. Despite the commitment to new infrastructure, Kutubdia's power crisis seems as intractable as ever. If and when the second wind turbine power plant comes online, with the proposed pricing it remains to be seen just how many of the island's school-goers will be able to finally hang up their kerosene lamps, hopefully, this time, forever.

# CMP to prepare

FROM PAGE 16 horns, loud hooters and beaoning lights in private vehicles. Hooter and beaoning lights can only be used in the vehicles of police and fire service and ambulances, the CMP commissioner said. The use of stickers would be a punishable act, he said. Opaque glass or tinted paper will not be allowed on microbuses but one can use "built-in" colour glasses on a microbus. "To bring discipline in traffic management and to implement traffic laws properly, the authorities took the initiative," Iqbal said. Urging all city dwellers to follow traffic rules, he said legal measures would be taken against anyone for violating them. The CMP commissioner also said city people must wear helmets while riding on a motorcycle and that not more than two people should travel on a motorcycle together.

# Midwives to change

FROM PAGE 3 According to the SDGs, maternal mortality has to be brought down to 70 per one lakh live births and newborn mortality to 12 per 1,000 live births by 2030 globally. According to the June 2014 issue of The Lancet, a globally acclaimed medical journal, every year there are an estimated 139 million births globally. Of them, an estimated 289,000 women die during pregnancy, childbirth or soon after while 2.6 million suffer stillbirths and 2.9 million infants die in the first month of life. A majority of these deaths occur in the developing world, mostly in Africa and Asia. "Poor quality maternal and newborn care is a major factor," it said, suggesting expanding midwifery. The Lancet defines midwifery as skilled, knowledgeable and compassionate care for childbearing women, newborn infants and families throughout pre pregnancy, pregnancy, birth, postpartum and the early weeks of life. They are to conduct all normal deliveries but will refer pregnant women to gynaecologists only when complications arise. According to the UNFPA, professionally trained midwives can provide 87 percent of essential maternal and newborn care. The Lancet said even in low resource settings, maternal and newborn mortality and stillbirths could be reduced by 27 to 82 percent. "In that case, specialist doctors can handle only the emergency cases that eventually enhances the possibility of survival," said Dr Malin Bogren, an international midwifery specialist working for UNFPA Bangladesh. Besides, the total quality of maternal and newborn care improves, she told this correspondent. Rebecka Orrenius Alffram, senior programme specialist (education and health) of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), told the symposium that maternal mortality in Sweden was some 900 per one lakh live births in 1711, when the country introduced professional midwifery. Today, like most European countries, Sweden has maternal and newborn mortality of 0 to 3 per one lakh live births a year, she said, highlighting the profession's importance. According to the Bangladesh government data, maternal mortality is 170 per one lakh live births though the MDG target was 143, while under-five child mortality is 43 per 1,000 live births. Prof Habibe said doctors in Bangladesh remain mostly in towns, for which midwives could play an enormous role in improving maternal and child health. Some 700 to 800 students are enrolling in midwifery diploma course per year while 31 midwifery teachers were enrolled in the online master's programme of a Swedish university. "Our prime minister has announced providing scholarships if any midwife wants to do PhD in it," he said, adding that relevant laws and policies were also on the cards.

# Scientific

FROM PAGE 16 and preserve quality food. "When supermarkets are playing a visible role in ensuring safe food, mobile courts with the help of police, Rab [Rapid Action Battalion] and media outlets have been conducting raids repeatedly. And we are being fined based on the results of tests carried out unscientifically. "It appears that the supermarkets are being targeted," Zakir said while reading out a written statement at the conference. A wrong message is being sent out through these raids that the objective of these stores is to sell rotten or adulterated products. "It should be understood that the companies that have invested a lot in building infrastructures and branding will not do anything willfully, which leads to losing customer confidence," the association said in the statement. It is not possible to ensure safe food without effective steps to prevent adulteration in the production and supply chains, according to the association of 32 superstore operators. Supermarkets can easily be a partner in safe food movement but instead they have been made opponents unnecessarily, it said. The association added that it wanted the government to recognise the investments made in the last one and a half decades in expanding superstore businesses. At present, some 120 outlets are open in the country; most of them are in the capital. Shwapno, Agora and Meena Bazar are the main superstore operators, according to the association.

# 7 BSF men

FROM PAGE 16 Bangladeshi national died. "BSF has also confirmed that 7 BSF personnel who could be connected with the incident have been suspended to facilitate investigation and the inquiry by the court." On another report in local media about apprehension of some Bangladeshi nationals also on Saturday on the India-Bangladesh border (Meghalaya), the high commission said the BSF conveyed that the apprehended Bangladeshi Nationals were handed over to the BGB yesterday following due legal formalities. In the press release, the Indian government reiterated its commitment to upholding the provisions of the Comprehensive Border Management Plan to secure peace, safety and security on India-Bangladesh border. The plan aims at achieving the goal of bringing the number of fatal incidents on the border to zero.