

## PM flies to Sofia

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The flight is scheduled to touch down at Sofia International Airport at 1:15pm (Bulgarian time).

Minister of Culture of Bulgaria Vezhdi Rashidov and Bangladesh Ambassador in Sofia Allama Siddiki will receive Hasina at the airport. From the airport, the premier will go to Hotel Marinela Sofia where she will be staying during her visit to Bulgaria.

Hasina will attend the opening ceremony of the Global Women Leaders Forum at the National Art Gallery, Sofia this afternoon and deliver the keynote speech as the chief guest.

During the visit, she will call on Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev at the presidential palace.

Foreign ministry sources said the two premiers will witness the signing of some agreements and deliver a joint press statement after holding official talks on Friday.

The PM, who reached London on Sunday en route to Bulgaria, is scheduled to return home at 6:30am (BST) on Saturday.

## Humiliation

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students of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology yesterday formed a human chain holding their ears and stood there for half an hour in the rain around 11:30am near the library building for "saying sorry to the teacher".

"We can't bear the shame of seeing the humiliation of a teacher -- the teacher who taught us in our childhood," said Jahangir Noman, a student of the university.

"We are ashamed. This is not only a protest, it is a token of apology to our teacher," he said.

Legal aid and rights organisation Ain o Salih Kendra issued a statement, saying such disgraceful behaviour with a teacher was not acceptable in a civilised society.

ASK demanded that the authorities concerned and law enforcement agency take lawful actions against the persons involved after a fair investigation.

In a statement, the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the perpetrators after investigation.

The whole nation is shocked and ashamed, the association said, urging all involved including Selim Osman to apologise in public. "The teaching community will not accept anything else," the release added.

## Careless walk

FROM PAGE 3  
In February 17 this year, Tanvir Cawhar Topu, 23, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), died as a train hit him while doing the same in the capital's Moghbazar-Wireless Gate.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds: A man was killed as a Dhaka-bound intercity train ran him over in Satkuri village under Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The deceased was Swadhin Mondal, 25, of Boigran village.

Khokan Chandra Saha, station in-charge of Hakimpur Rail Station, said the man was crushed under Druotojan Express as he did not move from the rail track despite repeated hooting from the train.

## 'Ashol BNP'

FROM PAGE 3  
The "Ashol BNP" convener, who claims to be a member of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal in Jessore's Chowgacha, said he wanted to occupy the BNP central office to implement his plan to "reform and reorganise" BNP.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Nasim said he would make fresh attempts "any moment" to take over the office.

Rizvi said Nasim was in no way involved with BNP or the party's associated bodies. "He is just a street boy. He has gone mad. Who is he to demand such reform in BNP? In fact he is a government agent."

## Ruta postpones

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Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Haque assured them of apprehending the criminals. They also told them the investigation into the killing had reached a final stage. The home boss urged the demonstrators to withdraw their programmes. A day later, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim made the same request at a programme in the RU senate building.

## Niger minister

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technical school to train girls of their countries to reduce population growth. Imams [Islamic leaders] have been playing significant roles in reducing population growth of Bangladesh, she said, adding they will train Imams of their respective countries to face excessive population growth.

UNFPA's coordinator of West and Central Africa N'Guessan Justin Koffi and its Bangladesh representative Aregentina Matavel Piccin also addressed the press conference.

## Err-dogan!

FROM PAGE 1  
Erdogan however did not consider the execution of Nizami as an "internal legal matter" of Bangladesh.

Immediately after execution of Nizami on May 10, Erdogan denounced the execution. According to him Nizami has no "earthly sin".

He went further calling his ambassador to Dhaka for consultation.

So, we note, in case of Saudi Arabia it is an internal matter, but in case of Bangladesh it is not and the Turkish president thinks nothing of intervening in the matter. If this is not "double standard then what is?"

It is well known that Turkish economy with its large current account deficit is highly dependent on Gulf money. Is that why the difference of views in the two instances?

His outburst against Europe is equally outrageous.

There is a fundamental difference between European countries and Turkey in case of holding trial of war criminals in Bangladesh.

European countries have supported trial of war criminals, let alone making move to save any war criminal.

The European Parliament passed three resolutions supporting the trials in March 2013. They however stressed the need for accountability and justice for the crimes committed during the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

The resolutions also strongly condemned the violence of Jamaat-Islami supporters against law enforcement officers and against those who supported the verdicts of the war crimes tribunal.

European Parliament member Jean Lambert, who forwarded the resolution had mentioned about EU's support to Bangladesh efforts to try war criminals and expected that trials would confirm to the highest standards possible.

Peter Custers, president of International Committee for Democracy in Bangladesh, reminded that the EU had passed at least three resolutions supporting the war crimes trial and hoped that the EU would continue its support to bring justice.

Since then the EU has been closely observing the trials.

What did Turkey do?

Since the beginning of the trials of top Jamaat leaders including Ghulam Azam, Nizami, Ali Anshan Mojaheed and Abdul Quader Mollah, Turkey has been making various efforts in favour of the Jamaat leaders.

Turkish foreign ministry's statement issued on May 10 condemning Nizami's execution also acknowledged it by saying "We have in the last three years repeatedly called upon the leaders of Bangladesh at the highest level to suspend the execution of death sentences."

Erdogan's predecessor Abdullah Gul in December 2012 also sent a letter

## Parents now see hope

FROM PAGE 1  
Anwara Begum, mother of the victim.

"We hope we will get justice."

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone, Anwara said she was satisfied with the latest findings in the case. She, however, expressed her fear that "vested quarters" would try to interfere in the investigation.

The mother also called for ensuring transparency in the probe.

Tonu's father Yaar Hossain told The Daily Star that the DNA test results finally exposed the truth. He said attempts had been made to conceal the truth in the police inquest and the first autopsy reports.

"Whoever the killers are, I want their trial."

Yaar also expressed his dissatisfaction over the delay in preparing the second autopsy report.

Meanwhile, replying to a reporter's query at a programme in the capital yesterday, Law Minister Anisul Huq

## Court orders

FROM PAGE 16  
Miah, Anisul Islam Raja, Mohammad Ali, Farid Miah and Samir Hossain, and former Jubo League leaders Alamgir Hossain Chan, Nasir Uddin Nuru, Sanwar Hossain, and Masudur Rahman, a former commissioner of Tangail Sadar municipality.

Of them, Anisul, Ali, Samir and Farid are now in jail.

On April 6, the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Tangail issued arrest warrants for the 10 fugitives.

Judge Aminul Islam passed the order after accepting a charge sheet against the 14 accused.

The police stations concerned had received copies of the court order, The Daily Star learnt.

Amanur last attended parliament on July 5 last year.

Faruk, a freedom fighter, was shot dead on the night of January 18, 2013. Police submitted the charge sheet on February 3 this year.

According to the charge sheet, Faruk decided to contest the post of Tangail AL general secretary in 2012 when he

to then Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman requesting him not to pursue the trial of war criminals. Gul requested clemency for former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam and the other accused.

His letter intensified tension between the two countries as Ankara summoned Bangladesh ambassador to Turkey a day after Dhaka summoned Turkish ambassador in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh foreign ministry stated that the letter from Turkish president is "not acceptable" and it is a "clear interference" in the internal affairs of Bangladesh.

By blasting Europe on Sunday and accusing them of doing politics of double standard, Erdogan proved his lack of knowledge about the facts of our independence struggle and Jamaat's role in it.

By making the claim that "we believe Nizami has no earthly sin" Erdogan also exposed his ignorance about Nizami's personal role in 1971.

Nizami, the then chief of Islami Chhatra Sangha, was chief of infamous Al Badr, a paramilitary force raised by Pakistan army during Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

The Al-Badr, as part of General Tikka Khan's scorched earth policy, made a list of intellectuals and picked them up around mid-December when they felt Pakistan was losing.

They shot and bayoneted the best minds of the country--writers, teachers, editors, physicians and intellectuals on December 14, 1971 at Rayer Bazar and Mirpur.

Nizami was sentenced to death for masterminding the killings of intellectuals, murders of 450 civilians and rape in Bausgari and Demra, Killings of 52 people in Dhulauri, killings of 10 people and the rape of three women in Karamja in Pabna.

He was also sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of involvement in the killing of Kasim Uddin and two others, and Sohrab Ali in Pabna, and torture and killing at the Mohammadpur Physical Training Centre in Dhaka, the Al-Badr torture centre where many intellectuals were taken before being killed.

What Nizami did in 1971 was not an "earthly sin"?

Turkey's outcry is surprising why it is hell bent against trial of war criminals may relate to its own part of action against the Armenians that may consider to be an act of genocide.

We seriously protest the role of the Turkish president, who appears not to be satisfied by his own protest, but is ready to condemn others for not supporting his stance. His "double standard" thesis stands on very "thin ice" and he may better serve his credibility by putting an end to his support of Bangladeshis war criminals.

said people wanted to see a fair trial in the case.

He said the home ministry would definitely consider any proposal, if made, to hold the trial at a speedy trial tribunal.

Tonu, a Victoria college student and a theatre activist, was found murdered inside Comilla cantonment on March 20, triggering a huge public outcry.

It was her father who first noticed the body. Tonu's head was smashed and there were injury marks in her nose.

However, the reports of police inquest prepared by Sub-Inspector Saiful Islam of Kotwali Police Station in Comilla and first autopsy performed by Sharmin Sultana of Comilla Medial College found no injury marks on the body.

A three-member medical board conducted the second autopsy on March 30 but the report is yet to be prepared.

was a member of the unit.

Amanur and his family were against it as his younger brother Shahidur was preparing to run for election to the post.

Amanur tried to persuade Faruk into quitting the race but failed. The MP and his brothers then ordered their accomplices to kill him, police said in the charge sheet.

Three days after the killing, Faruk's wife Nahar Ahmed filed a case with Tangail Model Police Station against unidentified criminals. Police initially investigated the case that was later shifted to the Detective Branch of police.

Law enforcers arrested Anisul and Ali in March 2014. During their interrogation, they named Amanur and his three brothers among those involved in the murder.

Former president and general secretary of Tangail district unit Chhatra League, Faruk was involved with the publication of "Ranagan", a newspaper published from Muktanchal during the Liberation War in 1971.

## Scientists clone

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Experts say a vaccine to protect expectant women, and others at high risk of infection, is one of the most effective ways we have of beating it.

The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases hopes to start human clinical trials on its vaccine candidate by September.

What's needed is a "safe" version of Zika that will be enough to make the body ward off the infection without actually causing disease.

The University of Texas team say their cloned virus should help with achieving this. They have published their findings in the journal Cell Host & Microbe.

Until now, researchers had known the structure of Zika, but they had not replicated it - at least not this strain.

UK expert Dr Tom Blanchard, from Manchester University, is using a safe derivative of an existing small-pox vaccine to try to make a new antidote for Zika.

He said: "The challenge for people like us who are developing vaccines is to separate out the harmful effects of the virus from the beneficial effects. We want to have something that will replicate but will not cause damage. Research such as this could help."

Prof Polly Roy of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said: "This is good. Scientists have everything to play around with now."

She said that as well as designing a vaccine, researchers would also be able to test antiviral drugs that might lessen the effects of Zika if someone was already infected.

## 3 bombings

FROM PAGE 16  
killed more than 100 people, the highest death toll in so few days so far this year, sparking anger and street protests over the government's failure to ensure security.

Security had improved in Baghdad in recent years as sectarian tensions waned and the city's perimeter was fortified. Islamic State, the ultra-hardline Sunni militants who control parts of north and west Iraq, have not tried to take the capital but carry out increasingly regular suicide bombings there, hitting Shia areas and government targets.

With the latest death tolls, fears are growing that Baghdad could relapse into the bloodletting of a decade ago when sectarian-motivated suicide bombings killed scores of people every week.

This has cranked up pressure on Abadi who is struggling to solve a political crisis or risk losing control of parts of Baghdad to Islamic State militants. Away from the capital, Iraq's military is waging a counter offensive against the group.

Abadi has said the crisis, sparked by his attempt to reshuffle the cabinet in an anti-corruption bid, is hampering the fight against Islamic State and creating space for more insurgent attacks on the civilian population.

A spokesman for the Baghdad Operations Command told state television the attacker in al-Shaab had detonated an explosives-filled vest along with a planted bomb. Initial investigations revealed that the bomber was a woman, he said.

Islamic State said in a statement distributed online by supporters that one of its fighters had targeted Shia militiamen with hand grenade and a suicide vest. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the other two bombings.

## Sorry state

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The museum displays different things belonging to late president Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated in that building in 1981.

Among other items, the museum displays the transmitter and microphone of the historic Kalurghat radio transmission centre.

The museum which charges Tk 20 for entrance had 1.15 lakh visitors in 2012, 1.21 lakh in 2013-2014 and 1.27 lakh in 2014-15.

Motiur Rahman, deputy keeper of the museum, thinks this year the number of visitors would decline.

"We applied for a budget of Tk 46 lakh for renovation of the museum in 2014-15 and 2015-16, but it was not approved. If done, the renovation would have attracted more visitors," he said.

The Tax Archive at the government office building in Agrabad of Chittagong displays more than 100 items including important documents of historic importance relating to tax. It has different documents of the East India Company.

Syed Mohammad Abu Daud, additional commissioner of taxes who established the museum in 2014, said, "We have established the museum to give people an opportunity to have a look at the rich history of tax in the Indian Sub-Continent."

The Railway Museum at Pahartali that shows different equipment and historic railway artefacts was found closed. Younus Sikdar, a railway guard, said it would remain closed for the rest of the year due to renovation work.

## 'I will fight until the last'

FROM PAGE 16  
the claim. According to Rizwana, her father was not an atheist. "Who could kill him? Why should they kill him?" she asked.

"He loved music. A concept is growing in Bangladesh these days that those who are interested in music, culture, are not believers in religion," Rizwana said.

Since the killing, there have been protests all over Rajshahi city with professors and students travelling from other parts of the country and joining in.

Rizwana told CNN, "The murderers didn't imagine such things would happen after killing him. He didn't have a political background."

## #sorrysir

FROM PAGE 1  
campaigns on Facebook and Twitter with hashtags #sorrysir, #lamSORRY, #weRSORRYsir, #shyamalkantibhakt, protesting the incident.

They demanded a fair investigation into the incident and that the perpetrators be brought to book.

On Friday, Shyamal Kanti Bhakta, headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Bandar area, was beaten up by a mob before he was made to do squats holding his ears in the presence of local Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Selim Osman.

After the incident, Gitiara Nasreen, prof of the mass communication and journalist department of Dhaka University, made an obscure photo of the teacher being humiliated as the cover photo of her Facebook page.

She also uploaded the photo on the same page and wrote, "This is my photo."

Another DU Prof AJM Shafiqul Alam Bhuiyan in a Facebook status wrote, "How do we resist the thugs who insult and kill humans? To Mr Kanti: I am ashamed dear colleague."

Popular actor Iresh Zaker and Rawnak Hasan put up photos as their profile pictures, in which they were seen holding their ears.

Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs, in a Facebook status wrote, "I am expressing deep condemnation over the humiliation of the Narayanganj teacher. The honourable education minister gave us the assurance of taking action upon an investiga-

## 4 JMB men

FROM PAGE 16  
The trio provided shelter to the killers but did not directly take part in the killing, the RMP boss claimed.

Based on Sakib's information, Police seized a motorcycle, which was used by the attackers at the time of the murder, from a house in Kharkhari area.

A machete and a cleaver were also found there but Sakib claimed that those were not used in the killing, Shamsuddin said.

Sakib in his statement said they were being called Eshabi in Arabic by their outfit members. They only executed orders of their high-ups, he claimed.

"We asked him [Sakib] the reason for killing Prof Rezaul but he could not tell ... 'We only execute orders,' he said," the RMP boss quoted him as saying.

"Sakib provided a detailed account of the murder and he also told how they planned the murder, when they executed it and who were involved ... he told us everything," he claimed.

Of the four, three hacked him to death while the other was waiting with a motorcycle, Shamsuddin said.

Sakib also hit the professor with a machete. After the murder, he left the scene on the motorcycle, the RMP official claimed.

He, however, could not specifically say how the two others left.

Sakib told the police about the places they took cover in and who had helped them.

"We are trying to arrest those involved, including the three other killers, and the people who planned the murder and assisted," Shamsuddin said.

"It's our achievement that we managed to get all necessary information on the killing within 24 days."

He urged all to keep faith on police. "We will arrest all the culprits one by one, find out the real motive behind the killing and remain engaged with the case until its trial ends."

Replying to a query, Shamsuddin said Sakib did not confess to his involvement in any other killings, "yet we believe he might be involved since he was one of the executioners."

Unknown assailants hacked to death Prof Rezaul on the morning of April 23 when he was waiting for the university bus in Shalbagan area of Rajshahi city.

His son Riyasat Imtiaz Shourav filed a case with Boalia Police Station accusing unnamed people for the murder.

Law enforcers have so far arrested seven people in connection with the killing.

### JMB ACTIVITIES ON

At yesterday's briefing, RMP Commissioner Shamsuddin held the JMB responsible for the murder of Prof Rezaul. He claimed that despite a ban, the JMB was continuing with its criminal activities and following a secret chain of command.

The outfit now maintains strict

"He used to live alone in his own world. Now he is the symbol of honesty, purity. They cannot be murdered. Wherever he is, he [must be] feeling very proud," she said.

Meanwhile, police yesterday claimed that four operatives of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) took part in the killing of Prof Rezaul.

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tion. Hope, [action] would be taken soon."

A Facebook group has already emerged with the name "kandhorehokprotibad (Let us protest holding our ears)". Its members protested the incident uploading photos of them holding their ears.

## US envoy

FROM PAGE 16  
of former USAID staff Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Mahbub Toney in the capital's Kalabagan.

Diplomatic sources said Starr will begin his official engagement this morning. He will meet State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, senior home ministry and police officials and civil society members.

The visit of the US team is important as it is taking place after different diplomatic missions in Dhaka recently wrote to the Bangladesh authorities, seeking 24-hour security at the missions and residences of foreign diplomats, according to diplomatic and official sources.

Most of the diplomatic missions, including the US, the UK, Australia, Japan and European Union member countries, have sought gunmen for all diplomats. They also asked for providing guards at diplomats' residences.

The US Bureau of Diplomatic Security is responsible for providing a safe and secure environment for the conduct of US foreign policy throughout the world.

secrecy among its members who are divided into so many groups that they hardly know each other, he said, quoting the information gleaned from the arrestees.

They use motorcycles for their "operations" and use sharp weapons, particularly machetes, to kill the target. The murder followed a similar pattern witnessed in the recent killings of bloggers and online activist, he said.

They work in teams in a synchronised way to commit crimes and they have developed a separate communication network using different code names. This is why Sakib got two names -- Abdullah and Masud, claimed Shamsuddin.

Atheists, foreigners, and those who converted to other religion from Islam are the main targets of the JMB men. Law enforcers and journalists are also on their hit list, he said quoting Sakib.

The RMP boss, however, claimed that Sakib could not specifically tell them the names of other targets as he said he was only one of the executioners and that he did not know about JMB's plans.

Sardar Tomizuddin, additional commissioner of the RMP, said, the JMB members are now communicating with each other on social media platforms using different codes.

"However, law enforcers managed to decipher some of their codes," he claimed.

RMP Commissioner Shamsuddin claimed that the JMB executioners keep homemade bombs and grenades with them during operations to make their getaways easier.

The four JMB men had grenades with them when they killed Prof Rezaul, but they did not need to use them, he claimed.

However, police were yet to recover any of the grenades or other weapons used in the murder.

"We need more information on JMB's activities ... So, we need to quiz the arrestees," he said.

## US Senate

FROM PAGE 16  
found to be involved in terrorist attacks on US soil. It would allow survivors of the attacks, and relatives of those killed in the attacks, to seek damages from other countries.

In this case, it would allow lawsuits to proceed in federal court in New York as lawyers try to prove that the Saudis were involved in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Democratic Senator Charles Schumer of New York, a co-sponsor, said the bill is overdue and that, because it only applies to attacks on US soil, does not risk lawsuits against the United States.

"Today the Senate has spoken loudly and unanimously that the families of victims of terrorist attacks should be able to hold the perpetrators, even if it's a country, a nation, accountable," Schumer told a news conference.