

**COTTON COSTLIER**

Prices rise 24 percent due to a fall in supply from China and India

PAGE B1

**FIRST TO GOLD**

US teenager Virginia Thrasher claims first gold of Rio Olympics in 10m air rifle event

PAGE 15

**TRUMP'S U-TURN**

The republican hopeful now backs Ryan as Clinton's lead narrows

PAGE 8

## Long list with many surprises

*BNP announces national executive committee; controversial figures, family members of war criminals, senior leaders find place*

RASHIDUL HASAN

More than four months after its national council, Bangladesh Nationalist Party announced the biggest ever executive committee of the party yesterday.

Surprising many, controversial leaders and sons of two war criminals have been included in the 502-strong national executive committee, according to the list announced by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at a press briefing yesterday.

Family members of some prominent BNP leaders also have got different positions in the committee.

Khaleda Zia and her elder son Tarique Rahman have long been holding the posts of chairperson and senior vice-chairman. They were reelected uncontested in the council held on March 19.

Khaleda formed the 502-member committee as councillors had empowered the chairperson to form all committees of the BNP.

The previous national executive committee comprised 386 members.

The new committee includes sons of executed war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and convicted war criminal late Abdul Alim. Hummam Quader Chowdhury and Foysal Alim are now the 104th and 85th member in the executive committee.

SQ Chowdhury's lawyer Fakhrul Islam too has a place in the committee.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Falu resigns

Amir Khasru, Salahuddin in standing committee

Aug 21 case accused in executive body



Fireworks explode over the Maracana stadium during the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

O, A levels exams to be held on time  
Assures British Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British Council Bangladesh yesterday said O-level and A-level examinations (Cambridge International Examinations and Pearson Edexcel) will take place as scheduled.

The council authorities are working on to deliver the exams services to the students, said a press release.

The registration deadline for the Cambridge International Examinations in November-2016 session has been extended till Wednesday.

School candidates are

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Hard to crack

*Arrested militants prefer to die than divulge information, says police chief*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Militants are hypnotised to such an extent that it is hard to extract information from them. And when they get caught, they tell law enforcers that they prefer death to life, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque said yesterday.

During interrogation, investigators tried to make the arrested militants understand they have chosen a wrong path and that they should shun it.

"But they are motivated in such a way that they say: 'Kill us. If you kill us, we will go to heaven,'" the police chief told a discussion on militancy at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

His comments come at a time when investigators are struggling to catch the masterminds and patrons of some recent attacks, including the Gulshan cafe siege and the Eid day Sholakia attack, and busting their networks.

Security experts say the IGP's statements show the difficulties law enforcers are facing to reach the militant network.

Contacted, Brig Gen (ret'd) Sakhawat Hussain said the police chief must have been well-informed about the situation.

"I do not think these [comments] are based on guess," he told The Daily Star by phone.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Shahidul Hoque

## SHOLAKIA ATTACK Little progress in one month's investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was around 8:45am of July 7, the Eid day. With police checkpoints set up all around the Sholakia Eidgah in Kishoreganj, people had already started to gather to offer Eid prayers.

But suddenly, some seven to eight youths -- all in Panjabi and in their 20s -- attacked policemen with sharp weapons, guns and bombs at a checkpoint near Azim Uddin High School. Police retaliated immediately by shooting back.

The incident left four people, including two police constables, an attacker, and a local woman, dead.

Bullet-hit Shafiqul Islam, one of the attackers, was caught from the scene and admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital under Rab custody.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Rio sets its own standard

*Spectacular opening of Olympics 2016*

ATICUE ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

The opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympics on Friday night did not feature any of the tech gimmicks or futuristic visual effects that we have become used to seeing in most sporting events since the turn of the millennium. It was unlike Beijing 2008 or London 2012 in regards to pomp and glamour and lavishness, yet the show at the Maracana left its audience feeling fulfilled with a soulful, vibrant and ingenious display of life -- the authentic South American life.

The four-hour spectacle took the 78,000 spectators and athletes at the venue through a journey from the dawn of civilization to modern-day Brazil. It highlighted the his-



tory of Brazil, in quite an unabashed way, portraying the country's colonial past and slave labour and the clash of its diverse cultures. The overriding theme of the ceremony was nature -- Brazil being home to the world's largest rainforest -- and an appeal to the people of the world to save planet earth from further degradation.

Paulinho da Viola sang the Brazilian national anthem to get the show running as laser lights and elaborate dances highlighted Brazil's history and its evolution through time.

Indigenous Brazilians performed native dances and created huts at the centre of the stage. A display of Rio's favelas was

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Police checking books at a student hostel in West Tejuri Bazar area. As part of an ongoing anti-militancy drive following the busting of a militant den at Kalyanpur, law enforcers have intensified raids at different students' messes in the capital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Single tenants alarmed as raids on messes go on

**"We are not allowed to bring in any guest or relative, let alone give them shelter at"**

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB, JAMIL MAHMUD and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Things were going well for Mohammad Mohsin, a private university student, until police raided his mess at the city's Farmgate a few days ago.

The happy-go-lucky youth was attending classes and spending quality time with friends.

But after the police raid, a fear of police harassment and a feeling of getting evicted haunt Mohsin.

"A few days ago, police came to our building and instructed our landlord to collect our information although we have already submitted our bio-data to him. Now he wants us to leave the house as soon as possible," Mohsin told The Daily Star on Thursday.

Worried sick, his parents asked him to return home in Rangpur to avoid police harassment.

A sense of panic has gripped thousands of single tenants like Mohsin living at several hundred residential messes in the city, as police are carrying out raids in different

city parts to nab militants.

The raids came following the July 1 attack at a Gulshan café and the operation at a Kalyanpur mess on July 26.

College and university students and those having jobs are now living in serious uncertainty as landlords are either serving notices to bachelor tenants or declining to rent out houses to them. They said they were doing so out of fear of harassment.

Following the Kalyanpur raid, a rumour spread in the area that house owners were asked not to rent their flats to bachelors.

However, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media and publication) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said on July 30 that they did not give any such instruction to house owners.

Police rather asked the landlords to keep detail information about the tenants, he added.

According to a DMP instruction, house owners have to submit detail information of their tenants to the local police stations.

Masudur Rahman said the police raids

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 16 SEE PAGE 2 COL 5