### Culprit

FROM PAGE 1 punished," the PM told parliament in her closing speech in the 12th

session of the current Jatiya Sangsad. She blasted bystanders for not saving Khadiza and some BNP leaders for trying to explain the incident from

a political perspective. "It's my conviction that people have learned carrying out such atrocities from the movement of the BNP and Jamaat in 2013 and 2015 when they

brutally burnt people and police alive in broad daylight," she said. About the recent tensions between India and Pakistan, the premier said the leaders of the two countries should exercise restraint for saving South Asian people from any kind of sufferings.

"We want peace in South Asia. We never want any conflict or a tense situation in the region as Bangladesh would also be a victim of any such situation.'

The leader of the House said her government was striving to guide the country towards peace and prosperity and so it doesn't expect any conflict in the region.

During her 31-minute speech, Hasina reiterated her government's firm stance on militancy and terrorism. She sought support, particularly from guardians and teachers, to keep track of the children.

Highlighting the country's progress in different sectors, she said many internationals agencies now acknowledge this.

The country's per capita income has risen to \$1,466, which would grow further in future. The number of "abject poor" has come down while the poverty rate has declined below 22.4 percent, she told the House. Referring to her interactions with

General Assembly in New York, Hasina said every world leader praised the successes of Bangladesh and gave recognition through many awards. She congratulated Speaker Shirin

world leaders during this year's UN

Sharmin Chaudhury on her 51st birthday. She also greeted the opposition and independent lawmakers for their cooperation in making parliament functional.

#### Ex-army officer FROM PAGE 2

The trio were at the flat during the incident, said police, quoting relatives.

Fuad said he was sleeping in his room. When he woke up around noon, he found his room door locked from the outside. He later came down via the balcony.

Breaking the lock with help of security guards, he found that the TV set on the living room wall was missing. Later, he found his father lying on

the floor of his bedroom. His throat, hands and legs were tied, added Fuad. They rushed him to nearby

Combined Military Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 1:30pm.

Sources at Dhaka Medical College morgue, where an autopsy of the body was conducted, said the victim was strangled to death. Marks of bruises were also visible on the body.

Shikder Shamim Hossain, officer-incharge of Kafrul Police Station, said the house help went into hiding after the incident.

Plaintiff of the case, Reshad Ahmed Chowdhury, a nephew of the victim, said Ahad, from Biswanath of Sylhet, had been working for Wajih for three

months. He said a cousin of Ahad worked for about eight years at Wajih's flat and that Wajih had sent him abroad for a better

Reshad said it was beyond his understanding that Ahad could do such a heinous crime only to steal a few

valuables. A security guard of the flat claimed

that he had heard sounds from Wajih's

# India foils

FROM PAGE 20

Pakistan denied such a strike had taken place and accused India of fabricating the raids for political easons.

Pakistan's military chief said Pakistan would not hesitate to respond

"Any aggression, born out of deliberate intent or even a strategic miscalculation, will not be allowed to go unpunished and will be met with the most befitting response," said General Raheel Sharif, the head of Pakistan's military.

India said it has ample evidence to prove that a strike was conducted but concerns regarding national security will be assessed before releasing any

On Wednesday night, militants from Pakistan unsuccessfully tried to breach the Line of Control at two

points in the Nowgam sector and one at Rampur, an Indian army spokesman said. Another army officer said that when soldiers fired at them, the suspected

militants fled back to Pakistan. The two sides traded artillery fire across the Line of Control in Nowshera, Pallanwala and Mendhar

sections overnight, the Indian army

said. Pakistan said India initiated the shelling, which often increases along the Line of Control during periods of

### Matthew claims 140 lives

It was too soon to predict where Matthew might do the most of its damage in the United States, but the National Hurricane Center's hurricane warning extended up the Atlantic coast from southern Florida through Georgia and into South Carolina. More than 12 million people in the United States were under hurricane watches and warnings, according to the Weather Channel.

stores ran out of supplies as the storm

approached with high winds, strong

warned there could be "cata-

strophic" damage if Matthew

slammed directly into the state and

urged some 1.5 million people there

just think about all the people...

already killed," Scott said at a news

conference on Thursday. "Time is

running out. This is clearly either

going to have a direct hit or come right

along the coast, and we're going to

sand National Guard troops to help

deal with the storm, warned that

Scott, who activated several thou-

have hurricane-force winds."

"If you're reluctant to evacuate,

Florida Governor Rick Scott

storm surges and drenching rain.

to heed evacuation orders.

FROM PAGE 20

and North Carolina declared states of emergency, empowering their governors to mobilize the National Guard. President Barack Obama declared Roads in Florida, Georgia and a state of emergency in Florida, the North and South Carolina were White House said, a move that jammed, and gas stations and food authorised the Department of

Scott said.

Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief efforts. Hundreds of passenger flights were canceled in south Florida, and the cancellations were expected to spread north in coming days along the storm's path, airlines including American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines said. A FedEx spokes-

Homeland Security and the Federal

millions of people were likely to be

Carolina opened shelters for evacu-

ees. As of Thursday morning, more

than 3,000 people were being

housed in 60 shelters in Florida,

Florida, Georgia, South Carolina

Florida, Georgia and South

left without power.

ruptions to package services. Theme parks and other attractions in the central Florida city of Orlando such as Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Florida and SeaWorld were closing yesterday afternoon and would remain closed through today, according to their

woman also warned of possible dis-

#### Mirpur set FROM PAGE 1 importantly after a bold and forward-

websites.

Wales Cricket Board (ECB). There is no denying that the VVIP security arrangements that Bangladesh has promised to the visiting England team and a demonstration, which was on display at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, would have meant little

had England not considered 'security

looking stand by the England and

fears' a global phenomenon. And make no mistake; the moment the first ball of the series is bowled, cricket will triumph pushing all the other issues including the heavy security arrangements, which are of course a necessary distraction, into

the background.

The series, especially the one-day part will also test the two most attractive teams to the limit since their last meeting was in the 2015 World Cup down under, where Bangladesh pulled of a stunning 15-run win and threw England out of the showpiece event from the group stage.

That win in Adelaide started the journey of a vibrant new Bangladesh, who not only made it into the World Cup quarterfinals but also transformed their home into a fortified den -- winning a stunning six series on the trot. And this kind of consistency has made the Tigers from pretenders to predators.

England, on the other hand, took that painful Adelaide blow to transform into a completely different side, which compromised conventionalism with aggression. And the evidence of that aggression was aplenty over the last one year or so culminating in the highest ODI total of 443 for three against Pakistan barely two months ago.

England, under stand-in-captain Jos Buttler, has already shown that they are here to carry on with that attacking intent, comfortably chasing the down BCB XI's 309 despite a middle-order wobble in the lone practice game in Fatullah.

But it remains to be seen if the fresh wickets in Mirpur, which were not used against Afghanistan, would suit English stroke-makers.

For the home side everything looks in order apart from the puzzle of who will open the innings with Tamim Iqbal, who geared up for the series with a fantastic hundred against Afghanistan in what was Bangladesh's 100th ODI win last week. With Soumya Sarker repeatedly failing with the bat, Imrul Kayes stakes a rightful claim to open the innings with Tamim after hitting a fabulous 121 off 91 balls in the practice game against England. The home team think tank are yet to make up their minds regarding the final eleven, understandably to be guided by the nature of the wicket in Mirpur, which tends to play a bit differently in overcast conditions.

There may be still a close-door debate on whether there will be a sporting wicket or the home side will try to tweak it to gain some advantage. But from the perspective of a true cricket lover, exciting cricket and not the kind of cricket they played against Afghanistan, is the demand for the Tigers if they are to carry on the momentum that started with that famous Adelaide victory.

## Children inherit

FROM PAGE 20

genes" are thought to work only if they come from the mother in some cases and the father in other cases. Intelligence is believed to be among the conditioned genes that have to come from the mother.

Laboratory studies using genetically modified mice found that those with an extra dose of maternal genes developed bigger heads and brains, but had little bodies. Those with an extra dose of paternal genes had small brains and larger bodies.

Researchers identified cells that contained only maternal or paternal genes in six different parts of the mouse brains which controlled different cognitive functions, from eating habits to memory.

Cells with paternal genes accumulated in parts of the limbic system, which is involved in functions such as sex, food and aggression. But researchers did not find any paternal cells in the cerebral cortex, which is where the most advanced cognitive functions take place, such as reasoning, thought, language and planning.

Concerned that people might not be like mice, researchers in Glasgow took a more human approach to exploring intelligence. They found the theories extrapolated from mice studies bear out in reality when they interviewed 12,686 young people between the ages of 14 and 22 every year from 1994. Despite taking into account several factors, from the participants education to their race and socio-economic status, the team still found the best predictor of intelli-

gence was the IQ of the mother. However, research also makes it clear that genetics are not the only determinant of intelligence - only 40 to 60 percent of intelligence is estimated to be hereditary, leaving a similar chunk

dependent on the environment. But mothers have also been found to play an extremely significant role in this non-genetic part of intelligence, with some studies suggesting a secure bond between mother and child is

#### intimately tied to intelligence. Durga Puja

FROM PAGE 20 The Maha Saptami puja will be held tomorrow; Maha Ashtami, Kumari Puja and Sandhi Puja on Sunday; Maha Nabami Puja on Monday and Bijoya Dashami on Tuesday.

Devotees and artisans are busy making final preparations and decorating the temples and pandals.

According to Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, a total of 29,395 permanent and temporary pandals have been erected across the country, including 229 in the capital.

Security has been beefed up at temples and pandals with deployment of additional squads of Ansar, police, Rab and other law enforcement agencies for peaceful celebration of the festival.

To mark the Sashthi, there will be recitation of verses from the Holy Chandi, blowing of conch shells and beating of dhak-dhols at temples and pandals.

A large number of devotees are expected to throng the pandals in the city, particularly at Dhakeshwari National Temple, and offer prayers seeking divine blessings for peace, prosperity and welfare of the country and its people.

On the eve of the occasion, leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, Mohanagar Sarbojonin Puja Committee and Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad conveyed greetings to the members of

### Police find Rab uniforms in abandoned microbus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday found a firearm, bullets, and Rab uniforms inside an abandoned microbus near Rajarbagh Police Lines.

Four sets of uniforms of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), a foreignmade pistol, 20 bullets, a pair of handcuffs and a walkie-talkie set were found inside the vehicle, Safigul Islam Mollah, officer-in-charge of Shahjahanpur Police Station, told The Daily Star.

He said they found the abandoned microbus yesterday afternoon.

"A case was lodge with the police station in this connection," the OC said.

"The identity of the vehicle's owner is yet to be known. We are investigating the matter and will brie media later on," he said.

#### Youth stabbed

FROM PAGE 20

brother Riyad had a fight with one Akash and his friends of West Karwan Bazar over who would bat first in a cricket match.

Munna went in front of Green Supermarket on Green Road yesterday afternoon to act as a mediator between Akash and Riyad. At one stage, Munna and Akash locked in an altercation and Akash and his accomplices stabbed Munna, Jhony claimed. He was taken to Dhaka Medical

College Hospital (DMCH) around 7:00pm where he died, said Sub-Inspector Bachchu Mia, camp-incharge of DMCH police outpost. Witnesses said around 6:00pm,

they heard screams and saw Munna with blood all over his clothes running upstairs of the market. They then discovered Munna lying on the first floor. Locals took him to the DMCH.

The youths who attacked Munna aged between 15 and 22, fled the

Jhony said Munna along with his mother and three brothers lived in Ambagan, behind Green Supermarket. Munna's mother Parul Begum is an employee of Dhaka University Central Library. His father Delwar Hossain was also a staff of Dhaka University before he died in

Tejgaon police picked up four youths from the spot for interrogation.

Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station, said police were trying arrest the attackers.

### Law ministry

FROM PAGE 2

sources said, adding that the ministry got approval from the president about Sirajul on October 5.

The ministry will act about the three other judges upon getting the president's approval, according to the sources.

Other three judges are former Comilla women and children repression tribunal judge SM Aminul Islam (district judge), former Thakurgaon district judge Ruhul Amin Khandaker and former Khulna additional district judge Moinul Haque. They have been attached to the law ministry.

Earlier, the ministry investigated allegations against the judges and found those to be true, ministry sources said, adding that the ministry then sent the probe report to the SC for action.

According to sources, Aminul Islam was involved in a massive corruption as he granted bail to at least 20 non-bailable cases when he was a judge in Dhaka. Ruhul Amin was involved in cor-

ruption, including taking bribes from people for giving them jobs at lower level, when he was the district judge of Thakurgaon. Sources said Sirajul was involved

in corruption and irregularities, including illegal acquisition of a piece of land, when he was in Jamalpur.

Additional district judge Moinul Haque was also involved in corruption when he was an additional district judge of Khulna. Sixty-eight lawyers filed complaints against him for delivering verdict after taking bribes. Moinul kept 140 cases waiting for announcing verdict after completion of hearing in those cases.

The chief justice took the decision for dismissal after consultations with all the High Court Division judges, who were present at the full-court meeting in August.

### Khadiza's condition

FROM PAGE 1

A student of Sylhet Government Women's College, Khadiza Begum Nargis was brutally hacked by Badrul Alam with a machete on the campus of MC College on Monday. The 23-year-old had gone there to sit an examination.

Badrul is the senior assistant secretary of the Chhatra League unit at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust). He is a fourth-year student of economics. A part of the attack was filmed

presumably by a bystander with a mobile phone. The video clip went In the dip, a youth is seen repeat-

edly hacking a girl lying on the ground. There were some bystanders nearby. However, some students along with locals caught and beat up Badrul

before handing him over to the police.

On Wednesday, he confessed before a Sylhet magistrate trying to kill Khadiza. He was suspended by the Sust the same day.

Meanwhile, Sunamganj High

School yesterday sacked Badrul where he served as a part-time teacher. PROTESTS CONTINUE Students, teachers, rights activists and common people continued demon-

strations in Sylhet yesterday, demanding justice for Khadiza. Students and teachers of Sylhet Government Women's College held a rally in the city around 10:00am and submitted a memorandum to the district administration, urging the prime minister, home minister and education minister to transfer the case

The memorandum called upon the government to ensure safety of female students across the country.

to a speedy trial tribunal and hand

down exemplary punishment to

The protesters also blocked the Amberkhana-Zindabazar road in front of the college. The agitating students

said they would continue the movement until Khadiza got justice.

Fazilatunnesa, a student of the college and the convener of Khadiza Nirjaton Protirodh Mancha, alleged that an anonymous caller phoned her mother and threatened that she would be hacked the way Khadiza had been.

"I am now worried about my safety," she said. In another demonstration, thousands of people in Khadiza's village

Hausha in Sylhet Sadar upazila blocked Sylhet-Sunamganj highway from 10:00am for over an hour. Law enforcers and the district administration later cleared the highway, assuring them of meeting their demands. Students of MC College formed a

human chain in front of the college and blocked Sylhet-Tamabil highway in Tilagarh area for several hours. Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and Sylhet Women's College

Alumni Association also formed human chains in front of Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and leaders of different political parties visited the Square Hospital

yesterday to know about latest condi-

tion of Khadiza.

UNB reports: The home minister said the government would act to fasttrack the trial of Badrul. He was talking to reporters after inaugurating the new building of Bera Model Police Station. MOTHER WANTS SON PUNISHED Badrul's mother Dilara Begum said she

wanted to see her son punished. "How could he carry out such an attack?" she asked, while talking to a correspondent at her village home in Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj.

She prayed for Khadiza's quick

Badrul's younger brother Khalid

Hossain told this newspaper that he

## The rescuer of Herons

FROM PAGE 20

Badrul

"Poachers hunt the birds regularly here," says Akram Hossain, a local villager. "They sell a pair of herons for Tk 150." "They hunt herons in different areas of

Hossain, "and sell them openly." "We conduct regular mobile court drives against bird poachers," says Nairuzzaman, "We punish both hunters

the beel," agrees neighbour Delwar

and buyers of the birds." "If ever I hear of poaching activity I give it priority," he continues, "not only because it is illegal, but because in Bangladesh many bird species have already become extinct. Herons yet remain. They play a vital role in the ecosystem and if we don't protect them from indiscriminate hunting, they too

shall be lost forever." In catching herons, poachers usually construct camouflaged shelters in the wetland area, where they use a previously caught bird tied to a bamboo pole to attract yet more. With the heron atop the pole calling and flapping its wings, other herons are drawn to the spot, to be snared by hand.

Reaching the wetland by 7:00am the anti-poaching team is not shy to embrace the damp, muddy conditions. "As the son

of a farmer and a son of the soil, I feel quite at home when conditions are muddy,' says Nairuzzaman. "Besides, it's my duty." The terrain, however, makes a surprise

raid difficult, and hunters are able to flee the area as they see the mobile court approach. "The sole purpose of the drive is not to catch the hunters, though ideally we do. It also serves to raise awareness," explains

Nairuzzaman. "When they see us in the area, hunters can be sure we are serious about combating their illegal activity. They will be scared to return and continue."

Nevertheless the morning's work yields significant results: 11 herons are rescued from the middle of the water body. Five of the birds are found tied to bamboo poles which the hunters

dropped as they fled. According to local villagers, the remaining six would have been caught within the two hours since

dawn. While there, the mobile court officers destroy the hideouts of the hunters, before returning to town with the recovered birds. In the yard of the upazila complex at around 9:30am, 11 fortunate herons once again find their freedom. "To save the lives, even of birds, it feels so good," says

Nairuzzaman.

# East Aleppo faces

On Wednesday, the army said in a surprise announcement it would reduce its bombardment "to allow civilians

who want to leave to reach safe areas". "Anyone who does not take advantage of the opportunity to lay down their arms or leave will meet their inevitable fate," a statement said.

The Observatory reported fewer air strikes but heavy clashes in Bustan al-Basha, with the army now controlling key vantage points and half the neigh-

bourhood. Analysts dismissed the army

announcement as PR gimmick. "The regime and its allies have made a decision to conquer as much of eastern Aleppo as possible and they're moving ahead on that," said Emile Hokayem, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"I think such announcements are actually marginal. They are a PR gimmick."

Syria expert Thomas Pierret said the move could be intended to undercut growing international pressure for action over the plight of civilians in east Aleppo. The bombardment has damaged or

destroyed several hospitals, including the largest facility serving the more than 250,000 remaining residents, who have been under near-continuous siege since mid-July. Washington said this week it was

suspending talks with Moscow on Syria over Russia's involvement in the Aleppo assault. But the US acknowledged Secretary

of easing its support for Assad.

of State John Kerry had called his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov to discuss Syria despite the announcement.

Moscow blames Washington for the truce's collapse and has shown no signs

warned the ongoing assault would have dire consequences.

"In maximum two months, twoand-a-half months the city of eastern Aleppo may be totally destroyed", he told reporters. He urged fighters from the former Al-

Nusra Front, now known as Fateh al-Sham Front after breaking with al-Qaeda, to leave Aleppo under a deal to halt the regime's attack on the city.

"If you decide to leave with dignity.. I am personally ready to physically

accompany you," said the envoy. He also asked Russia and Syria's regime if they were truly prepared to bring about the ruin of Aleppo.

work" on a draft UN resolution calling for a ceasefire in Aleppo. The resolution was proposed by France, whose Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said during a visit to Moscow that "nothing can justify such a deluge of fire and of death" in

Russia yesterday said it was "ready to

Aleppo. More than 300,000 people have been killed since the conflict began with fierce repression of anti-government

protests in March 2011. It has since evolved into a complex multi-front war that has drawn in regional and international forces

including, most recently, Turkey. Ankara launched an offensive on August 24, saying its forces and allied rebels would fight both the Islamic State group and Kurdish militia in northern Syria.

Yesterday, at least 29 rebels involved in Ankara's operation were killed in a blast claimed by IS at the Atme border crossing between Turkey and Syria, the Observatory said.

It was the second deadly attack against rebels at the crossing in recent months.

At least 32 were killed in an August suicide attack there that was also Speaking in Geneva, De Mistura claimed by IS.