city 2 The Daily Star DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2016, KARTIK 17,1423 BS

Breaching Discipline

Quader warns party men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday warned that organisational actions would be taken against those who would breach party discipline.

Referring of the expulsion of two Dhaka city unit Chhatra League leaders for brandishing arms in broad daylight, he said party action had already begun to take effect against the errant party activists for tarnishing the image of the government.

"It's our first action. Wait, you will see more," Quader, also minister for road, transport and bridges, said while addressing an extended meeting of Dhaka city (north) AL unit in Mohammadpur, held as preparations for observing the Jail Killing Day.

Besides expulsion, law enforcement agencies would also take measures against them, the AL second-incommand said.

He also said the achievement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would

in no way be tarnished by some errant party-men. "Miscreants will not be spared. Sheikh Hasina will reward those who will be involved in only AFP. good deeds."

The minister said the government has two years left of its current tenure as the national election will be held within the last three months of its five-year tenure.

through our good behaviours by this

for wasting time as in politics there is no alternative to hard work.

cated to the party got positions in the new committee. "I am an example ... As I never leave the party president, I have got rewarded," he said.

going on against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. "If Sheikh Hasina is not alive, the flow of development and progress of the Awami League and Bangladesh will be halted."

SUICIDE OF SCHOOLGIRL

UP member sued for instigation

Another UP chairman, member beat up housewife

STAR REPORT

upazila of Tangail.

Police recovered the body of ninth

Meanwhile, the chairman and a ily feud on Saturday.

bours about the matter.

intervention from Sabur Uddin, UP member of ward-7 at Hadira union. Sabur on that night put forward a schoolmate. But the boy's mother

Sabur later hurled abuse at Sathi and assaulted her physically, locals alleged.

The following day, Sathi called Selim, but he did not pick up the phone. Neighbours also made indecent comments about Sathi. Failing to

"We should win the hearts of people

He added that there was no scope

About the new party committee, Obaidul said those who were dedi-

He alleged that conspiracy was still

A union parishad member and five others have been accused of instigating the suicide of a schoolgirl in Gopalpur

grader Samia Akter Sathi from her house at Hadira union of the upazila on Saturday night.

member of Mathirapur union in Naogaon's Badalgachhi upazila allegedly beat up a housewife and her mother during arbitration over a fam-Locals said Sathi was in a relation-

ship with her schoolmate Selim Miah of Bhadurir Char village. The boy, a tenth-grader, went to Sathi's house at the same village around 10:00pm on Friday. At one stage, two locals padlocked the door and informed neigh-

Selim's father Abul Hossain sought proposal to marry Sathi off to her

rejected the proposal.

stand the insult, the schoolgirl committed suicide around 2:00pm on Saturday.

Her mother filed a case with Gopalpur Police Station on Sunday night, accusing Selim and five others of instigating Sathi's suicide. OC Mohammad Abdul Jalil of the

police station said the six accused went into hiding following the incident.

The autopsy of the schoolgirl was performed at Tangail Medical College Hospital on Sunday. She was buried at a graveyard in the village on the same Despite making repeated attempts,

this newspaper could not reach Sathi's parents over the phone for their com-In Naogaon, Mathirapur Union

Parishad Chairman Abdur Rahman and member Shahidul Islam of ward-8 allegedly beat up housewife Champa Begum and her mother Sonavan Begum during arbitration on Saturday.

Locals said Champa's husband Rubel Islam had a rivalry with his sister Ruma Parvin over the ownership of a | New Delhi. piece of land. During the arbitration, the chair-

man was hearing the statement of Rubel. At on stage, Champa spoke up for her husband. But Rahman would not listen to her.

He asked the housewife to keep mum, but she did not comply.

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Police gun down

that "they had weapons and crossfiring took place". TV images showed crude pistols lying next to the bodies, triggering scepticism in some quarters about the police version of events. "Security forces have the right to

but it appears in this case that the suspects may not have been armed," Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director for Human Rights Watch, told "The entire incident should be

use proportionate force to save lives,

properly investigated. A take-noprisoners approach to policing is dangerous and harms efforts to create a rights-respecting police force." After using their sheets to climb

and descend several walls inside the

prison, the inmates made their way

on foot to a village 15 kilometres south of the city centre, despite a massive search. Police said local residents had alerted them about suspicious movements in the village, leading to the

raid in the late morning.

The home ministry had earlier issued a nationwide red alert over the jailbreak, while police had released mugshots of the prisoners. PRISON BOSS SUSPENDED Police insist there was no breakdown in security at the prison, a supposedly maximum security facility which has a round-the-clock electronic surveillance system.

However four officials, including the prison's superintendent, have been suspended and an inquiry launched into the escape.

Madhya Pradesh's Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan told reporters the breakout posed a threat to national security and authorities swiftly mobilised all law enforcement arms to track the fugitives. He said the National

Investigation Agency had been asked to open an inquiry into the breakout and anyone found to have acted incompetently would be prosecuted. Most of the inmates had been

awaiting trial for "terror-related activities, sedition and robbery" for more than three years, although two of them had only been detained since February. The breakout happened on the

night of Diwali, a major Hindu festival when revellers traditionally set off fireworks which can shroud the night skies. Seven SIMI members escaped

from a jail in the town of Khandwa in 2013 and were arrested last year after being on the run for over two years, later prompting the government to house all the arrested SIMI members in the high-security facility in Bhopal.

Indian authorities have accused SIMI of carrying out several deadly bombings and of having links with Pakistan-based militant groups.

Police blamed the group for the serial bombing of Mumbai commuter trains in 2006 which killed 187 people, as well as bomb blasts in

The government banned the group in 2001 in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Hundreds of its members have been arrested in the past decade, but the group says it merely propagates an "Islamic way of life" for Indian Muslims.



(in the pink shirt) and its Wari Thana unit general secretary Ashiqur Rahman are seen brandishing firearms during a hawker eviction drive in Gulistan on Thursday. They have been expelled from the student body.

2 gun-toting BCL leaders

FROM PAGE 1

photographs showing Sabbir and Ashiqur brandishing firearms during a clash between hawkers and an eviction team of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC). The clash broke out after the DSCC

team launched the drive to remove illegal makeshift shops from pavements and the underpass market area

OC Rafigul Islam of Paltan Police

in Gulistan.

Station said magistrates of the city corporation along with a mobile court went there to conduct the drive. But they didn't have police with them. Hawkers alleged that some BCL

men accompanying the DSCC officials fired blank shots to drive them away.

World's first bionic eye

visual stimulator chip in the brain of a 30-year-old woman.

The patient, who has been totally blind for seven years, saw coloured flashes, lines and spots when signals were sent to her brain from a computer.

Her doctors are now planning to send footage from a tiny video camera to the brain, which could provide the world's first bionic eye and restore sight to millions.

The technology bypasses the eyes, meaning it has the potential to restore sight even to those who have lost an eye or become blinded by cancer.

During six weeks of testing, the patient has consistently seen the exact signals the scientists sent to her visual cortex, the section of the brain which

Doctors at the University of California Los Angeles are awaiting permission from US regulators to connect the system to a camera, worn in a pair of glasses, which they hope will send moving images directly to the brain.

Dr Nader Pouratian, who performed the operation, said: "The bridge of a pair of glasses.

moment she saw colour for the first time was a very emotional experience. It touched us all very deeply as human beings. Based on these results, this system has the potential to restore sight to the blind. The patient, who has asked to

remain anonymous, began to lose her

sight eight years ago due to a rare disease called Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada syndrome, which attacks the pigment in the eyes. Within a year of starting to lose her sight she was completely Dr Pouratian inserted the stimulator - an array of tiny electrodes

- into the back of her brain in August In a four-hour procedure, surgeons cut a small hole in the back of her skull and laid the stimulator on the surface of her brain. A small antenna receiver was

usually receives images from the optic implanted into the gap in her skull, which receives signals sent from a computer.

When the team receives approval from the US Food and Drug Administration, which they hope will be early next year, they will try sending video signals from a system called the Orion I, which captures images in front of the eyes using a camera on the

8,500 children die each year

Over 8,500 children die every year in Bangladesh from diseases caused by household air pollution (HAP) and 89

Bangladesh has one of the largest burdens of child mortality associated with indoor air pollution, according to a new Unicef report titled "Clear the air for children: The impact of air pollution on children".

The reasons for relatively limited uptake of improved stoves to date compared to traditional stoves and competing development priorities, the

Seeking to overcome these barriers, the Bangladesh Country Action Plan

The target is to disseminate improved stoves to more than 30

It would also have a positive impact on women's health and time spent in the kitchen as Bangladeshi women on average spend four to five hours a day

Almost one in seven of the world's children, 300 million, live in areas with the most toxic levels of outdoor air pollution, six or more times higher than international guidelines, reveals

the new report. Clear the Air for Children uses satellite imagery to show for the first time how many children are exposed to outdoor pollution that exceeds global guidelines set by the World Health

The findings come a week ahead of the COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco, where Unicef is calling on world leaders to take urgent action to cut air pol-

"Air pollution is a major contributing factor in the deaths of around 600,000 children under five every year and it threatens the lives and futures of millions more every day," said Unicef Executive Director Anthony Lake.

"Pollutants don't only harm children's developing lungs - they can

areas where outdoor air pollution, caused by factors such as vehicle emissions, heavy use of fossil fuels, dust and burning of waste, exceeds minimum air quality guidelines set by the

million.

SC upholds HC bail for

Mahmudur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order granting bail to acting editor of the daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman in a case filed for an alleged attempt to abduct and murder PM's son Sajeeb Wazed

There is no legal bar to Mahmudur's release from jail following the SC order, his lawyer Tanvir Ahmed Al Amin told The Daily Star.

A five-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha upheld Mahmudur's bail, dismissing a government petition seeking a stay on the HC order.

Mahmudur Rahman, a pro-BNP journalist and a former energy advisor, has been behind bars since April 11, 2013. He was shown arrested in more than 70 cases and he secured bail in all of them.

Following a bail petition filed by him, the HC on September 7 granted him permanent bail in the murder attempt case. The government challenged the HC order. Responding to the appeal for a

stay on the bail order, the SC's chamber judge on September 18 stayed till October 30 the HC order, and sent the stay petition to the court's full bench for hearing.

After the hearing, the apex court yesterday dismissed the stay petition.

The ancient fort city in the North

FROM PAGE 1 city in South Asia.

Located about 16km north of Panchagarh, Bhitargarh is protected by four quadrangle walls made of earth and bricks -- each maintaining a considerable distance from another. Its outer walls accompanied by moats surround a 25-square kilometre area. These walls protected the city from flood as well as notorious thugs' invasion.

The civilisation was technologically so advanced that they had made stone dams and diverted the Shalmara rivercourse inside the fortified city to retain water for households and agricultural use during the dry season. Sadly, except for a few remaining stones, the large dam does not exist now. "The nine monuments date back to

the early medieval period, eight of them are temples and the rest is a residential complex," says Shahnaj Husne Jahan, professor and director of Centre for Archaeological Studies of Kichok tribes. "May be they were the named Maharajar Dighi, followed by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Shahnaj has been working there with her students since 2008. She also suggests that Bhitargarh

was an independent city state governed by a sovereign administration between the 6th and 13th centuries. Understanding the history of also found many items of daily use

Bhitargarh is difficult because it has no inscription or written records. Archaeologists must depend on the objects. ruins and myths that are still alive among the locals.

The city builders used bricks with mud to build the first, second and some strategic points of the third quadrangle walls, as those were built before

the introduction of lime and surki (brick dust) for constructions. The If you visit this place, you will get to

fourth one was built with mud only.

The city's monuments were built before people learnt to use lime and surki to build structures. Its long walls and temple bricks were stuck with mud. There is no use of medieval arches and domes. Instead, its architects used columns, lintels and beams to support the tiled roof. Archaeologists have found broken pieces of tiled roof there.

The site has 10 water reservoirs, including the notorious Maharajar Dighi. According to local myth, a king of this city named Prithu Raja along with his guards committed suicide in this water body when they were cornered by "unholy" Kichok tribe that had attacked the city. According to Prof Shahnaj, a refer-

ence to the Kichok tribe can be found in Mahabharata, which illustrates how Pandava brothers fought against the descendants of the Kirata who lived in the mountain country between Nepal and Bhutan. Now the Indian state known as Cooch Behar is actually the place where the Kichoks established their kingdom in the middle age." In the fortified city, archaeologists

such as pottery, earthen lamps, terracotta beads, and copper and iron The city had a significant role in trade, as its strategic location in the

ancient overland and river routes connected it to Tibet, Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan, Assam, Cooch Behar and lower valleys of the Ganges.

LEGENDS OF PRITHU RAIA

hear local folklores about the ruined city as the capital of a kingdom headed by Prithu. Most of the heaps of earth that survive the ravages of time are named after him -- Maharajar Bhita, Maharajar Kacharighar and Maharajar Dighi.

According to Prof Shahnaj, the genealogy of kings of Cooch Behar included one "Maharaja Prithu". She connects that history with local stories and believes that Prithu was the last king of this grand fortified city around 13th century. According to local myths, Prithu

Raja would rather let his kingdom go to ruins than see it surrendered to a savage tribe called Kichoks. Prithu was respected and deified by his subjects, and he could not stand seeing his "purity sullied" by such savages. So the king decided to end his life by throwing himself into a water reservoir his guards, thus leaving his kingdom to despair and plunder. NO PRESERVATION

Professor Shahnaj expressed despair at

the state of Bhitargarh, saying that lack of preservation efforts could result in the settlement being lost forever. Despite a High Court stay order prohibiting all sorts of construction

around the site, inhabitants of said. Panchagarh town continue to extend cultivation and habitation by demolishing the walls and monuments in Bhitargarh. "Bhitargarh is on the verge of col-

lapse, as locals are building structures within the site, violating the High go in vain.

Court's order imposing a suspension on all kinds of constructional work in the area," explained Shahnaj.

Commenting on the ongoing devastation of archaeological sites, Altai Hossain, director general of Department of Archaeology, admitted that they have limitations, and also said they have very little to do to stop this destruction.

which includes members of the district administration, cultural ministry and land administration. We are trying to acquire land with the help of the Ministry of Land. Now we are working to make people conscious about the heritage site," he said. However, there are over 700 acres of government-owned land, but the

department has apparently done noth-

"But we have formed a committee

ing to acquire them to preserve the site. The recent excavation and subsequent preservation efforts of a ghat at Maharajar Dighi bear the signs of sheer Part of it has been cut off allegedly by former lawmaker Mazharul Haque Prodhan to build a staircase. Now, after the said preservation began, roots of a huge tree still remain in the ghat wall. That might collapse along with the

ancient wall. "We asked the district

administration to cut it, and I am hope-

ful that they will do so soon," Altaf Instead of sitting idle like the rest of us, Dr Shahnaj and her team are actually working towards protecting a significant part of our history. All we need to do is support them in their endeavour, so that their efforts will not

dark, twisted film Man killed over SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Not scenes from a

extra-marital affair

Four years ago, Wahab and Sumon -two convicted criminals -- met in jail and became friends. One day, Sumon got released. When

he was about to leave, Wahab requested him to tell his wife Razia to come and meet him at the Dhaka Central Jail gate or on the court premises on a particular date to try for his bail. Sumon, however, did not pass on the message to Razia. Instead, he

eventually developed an extramarital affair with her. The relationship continued even after the husband got out of jail three years ago.

started to visit her frequently, and

One day, Sumon, 35, secretly filmed some of the "intimate moments" with Razia by his mobile phone and sold the footage to a CD store. Recently, Wahab, 36, came across

with Sumon. Though maddened, Wahab decided not to harm Razia, 30. He instead took her aboard in planning how to take revenge on Sumon.

He hired goons and slit Sumon's

the footage and identified his wife

throat in the capital's Kadamtoli area on October 25. This might look like straight out of a dark, twisted movie, but this is what has happened in the capital, said

police quoting confessions of the couple who has been arrested. SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Indoor Pollution

in Bangladesh Says Unicef UNB, Dhaka

percent of households use solid fuels, mostly wood, agricultural waste and cow manure, for cooking and space heating.

include a lack of awareness of health risks associated with HAP, higher costs report said.

for Clean Cookstoves is a governmental strategy to achieve the goal of 100 percent clean cooking solutions by

million households by 2030. If this goal is reached, it would significantly reduce the direct and indirect health effects of children's exposure to air pollutants.

on cooking, and six to eight hours a day in the kitchen.

Organization.

lution in their countries.

actually cross the blood-brain barrier and permanently damage their developing brains - and, thus, their futures. No society can afford to ignore air pollution. The satellite imagery confirms that around two billion children live in

South Asia has the largest number of children living in these areas, at 620 million, with Africa following at 520

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4