

# Janmashtami celebrated with due religious fervour

STAR REPORT

The holy Janmashtami, one of the major religious festivals of the Hindu community, was celebrated in the capital and elsewhere across the country yesterday with due religious fervour and enthusiasm, marking the birth of Lord Krishna.

According to the Hindu Puran (mythology), Sri Sri Krishna was born on the eighth day (Ashtami) of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) in the Bangla month of Bhadra and he takes birth in ages in the world to safeguard the good and pious people from the hands of bad persons to establish truth, justice and beauty in all sphere of the society.

Different political, socio-cultural and religious

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Hindu Religious Welfare Trust presents a bouquet to President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday, on the occasion of Janmashtami, a festival to celebrate the birth of deity Krishna.

PHOTO: PID

# NATIONAL MOURNING DAY Elaborate events taken today

BSS, Dhaka

The ruling Awami League chalked out elaborate programmes to observe National Mourning Day today with paying rich tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his 42nd anniversary of martyrdom.

The killing of Bangabandhu and most of his family members on the fateful night of August 15, 1975 is the ugliest chapter of the nation's history. The self-confessed killers of August 15 did not assassinate Bangabandhu alone, but also killed 16 other members of his family, friends and relatives.

They include his wife Begum Fazilatunnessa Mujib, sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, daughters-in-law Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, brother Sheikh Naser, brother-in-law Abdur Rab Serniabat, nephew and eminent journalist Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni, his pregnant wife Arzoo Moni and Colonel Jamil.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, escaped the planned assassination with her sister Sheikh Rehana as they were staying abroad.

Different units of AL and its front and associate bodies, and different socio-cultural, political and professional organisations also have taken various programmes, including paying tributes, placing wreaths, holding

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

# SC VERDICT Govt cooking up drama Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government is contemplating staging a drama over the Supreme Court's verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution.

"The government is out to create a drama over the 16th amendment verdict as it [the verdict] has exposed that Awami League has no legitimacy to stay in power," he made the remark while talking to journalists during his visit to different flood-affected areas in Thakurgaon.

Fakhrul also said the truth has been revealed through the verdict as it manifested the AL leaders

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# Student 'killed over senior-junior issue'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A madrasa student was allegedly killed by fellow students in a hostel in the capital's Mohammadpur area early yesterday.

The deceased -- Mofazzal Hossain, 16, hailing from Matlab in Chandpur -- was a class-X student of Kaderiya Taiyaba Aliya Madrasa in Mohammadpur. He used to reside in the madrasa's dormitory.

Shafiqul Alam, house tutor of the hostel said earlier on Saturday a scuffle between some students of class-IX and class-X of the madrasa broke out over a matter.

On Sunday around 10:30pm, the students fought again over the matter and their teachers tried to solve it, he said, adding, later, Mofazzal was found inside a toilet in an unconscious state with a severe head injury around 1:30am yesterday.

Mofazzal was rushed to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead, said Jamal Uddin Mir, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station.

Victim's father Abul Kashem alleged that students of class-X might have killed his son over enmity as he accused them of stealing his mobile phone set recently.

The OC said the autopsy of the deceased was conducted at Dhaka Medical College. Police suspect that Mofazzal was killed.

The victim's father filed a murder case with the police. Students of class-IX went into hiding after the death, police said.

# TORTURE ON STUDENT Barisal madrasa closed after court sends two teachers to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A madrasa was declared closed for an indefinite period in Gournadi upazila of Barisal on Sunday after a court sent two of its teachers to jail in a case filed for physically torturing a minor student four days ago.

Eight-year-old resident student Kamrun Nahar Sumaiya of Khadizatul Kobra (RH) Mahila Qawmi Madrasa was whipped 160 times and needles were inserted under her nails on Thursday night allegedly for stealing Tk 100.

The court passed the order when the two female teachers -- Hafiza Begum and Fatema Aktar Liza -- were produced before it, said Manirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gournadi Police Station.

Renu Begum, mother of Kamrunnahar Sumaiya, filed the case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

They also looking for Khadiza Aktar, superintendent of the madrasa; Roksana Begum, another teacher; and Jahidul Islam, founder of the institution and husband of Khadiza, said the OC.

Besides, the law enforcers detained five people -- Jahida Begum, mother of Jahidul; Mainul Islam, Jahidul's cousin; Imran Haoladar, the madrasa guard; and Razia Begum and Sheuli Begum, its staff -- for interrogation, said Manirul.

Sumaiya was admitted to Gournadi Upazila Health Complex of which doctors said now she needs psychological counseling.

Meanwhile, Pakhi Begum and Saheb Ali, two guardians of other students, said the incident of torture panicked them extremely.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# Showing the light

VERC educating 1,400 child workers in Savar

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

At age 12, all he knew was work. The boy never could picture a world outside of the workplace -- an electric switch factory -- until he enrolled in VERC School. Despite continuing work, Jenarul Islam has learnt how to dream.

"I want to study and become an engineer," said the boy, now in class III.

It was also inconceivable for his mother, Fatema Begum.

"I did not think my son could ever study," said the single mother, who works as a cleaner in a private hospital in Savar. "I thank VERC for taking such a good initiative."

Jenarul's father, Alam Mia, left her for another woman.

VERC (Village Education Resource Center), a social organisation, has set up 40 schools across Savar, outside the capital, since 2012.

Founded under the project "Ending Child labour in Bangladesh", these schools have arranged education for 1,400 working children free of cost.

The Terre des Homes - Netherlands, chil-

dren's organisation, supports the initiative.

Jenarul still works and earns Tk 2,500 every month. His mother uses the money to pay the house rent meet some other family expenditure because her income, Tk 4,500, is insufficient to bear the burden of the family of three.

"I give my mother all Tk 2,500," said the boy, who has a two-year-old younger sister.

The family hails from Faridpur and lives in Savar's Katlapur area.

A glimmer of light also shone on the mind of 11-year-old Sadea Akter. She does not think any more that her life would be confined to the house of her employer forever.

Now studying in class V, the former house help said, "I want to come to school regularly and become a teacher some day."

After enrolling in VERC School, she switched her work.

"Once I used to work as a domestic worker. Now I work for a tupi (prayer cap) making factory. I get Tk 3 per hat. By doing it, I earn Tk 200 to 300 daily."

From the abyss of poverty, 14-year-old Dulal Sheikh also sees light.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



# Nowhere to go

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

All she knows is her name and she hardly talks.

Poppy Akter can neither say her parents' names nor her address. But with her gesture she tells people that she wants to go home.

For the last eight months, the 14-year-old autistic girl has been living in a Barisal city safe home under the Department of Social Services.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# RAJSHAHI FLOODS

# Shib River levee breaches, inundates 220 hectares

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Nearly 220 hectares of croplands were flooded in Mohonpur upazila after a large section of the Shib river embankment was washed away Sunday afternoon in Ghasigram area.

The affected villages -- around Beel Kumari and a number of other small water bodies in the upazila -- include Bhimnagar, Melandi, Belna, Ghasigram, Baje Deopur, Deopur, Mohiskundi, Dangapara, Palsha, Goalpara, Amrail and Shibpur.

A brick-built flood control gate, among 11 in total, that became weak over time without any repair work, finally gave in after overflowing flood waters from the Atrai river swelled up the Shib, complained locals.

The flooding has dealt a heavy blow to thousands of farmers who invested in paddy, betel leaf, jute and other crops as well as in fish farming.

More than a dozen villages still remain without power supply as the electric line was snapped when a portion of the levee was washed away.

In the meantime, the situation has worsened as the embankment has breached at another point in Manda upazila of Naogaon.

As a result, flood waters are now gushing into low-lying areas from two sides in Mohonpur and Tanore upazilas, said locals.

This correspondent during a visit to Mohonpur upazila yesterday came to learn that so far, after the breach developed in the embankment of the Shib, more than 13 villages have gone under water and the number keeps rising every hour.

"The entire upazila is under the risk of getting flooded unless the water flow at the breach point is brought under control," said Mohonpur Upazila Chairman Abdus Salam after visiting the affected areas.

Syamol Biswas of Bhimpur said his fish pond on three bighas of land got washed away and he anticipated incurring a loss of Tk 8 lakh.

Mohonpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shukla Sarker also confirmed that some 220 hectares of croplands have been flooded following the levee break.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Uncertainty grips Aleya, a hajj pilgrim from Pabna, at the Hajj Camp in the capital where she has been waiting for the last 9 days to know when she would be able to fly to Saudi Arabia to perform the holy ritual. Her flight was scheduled for August 6; so she arrived at the camp the day before. But the agents have stopped communicating with her ever since. The elderly woman said she sold out land to perform hajj. The photo was taken yesterday.

## World of Endless Dreams

World's most preferred cement brand from Switzerland