



**Sergeant Mustain of DMP's Traffic South Division assaults and takes away the camera of photojournalist Nasir Uddin of Daily Manab Zamir near Motysa Bhaban intersection yesterday afternoon after an altercation over riding a motorcycle without a helmet. The policeman also kept him confined to a police box there. Nasir claimed that he had requested the traffic police not to fine him as his helmet was stolen a couple of days ago. Mustain was later withdrawn.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## BNP briefs

FROM PAGE 16

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Moudud said they talked about various matters, including the chief justice's leave. "We think he [Sinha] is not sick. We told them that he has been sent on forced leave forging his signature."

Diplomats from the UN and 23 countries, including the USA, the EU, Sweden, China, France, Canada, Germany, Turkey, Denmark, Norway, the UAE, Morocco, and Vietnam, attended the nearly two-hour meeting that began around 4:00pm.

A BNP official who attended the meeting said their leaders criticised the diplomats of the warrant for the arrest of their chairperson Khaleda Zia in a "fake" case and the mass arrest of their party leaders and activists across the country.

At the beginning of the meeting, party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam delivered the welcome speech.

## CJ 'gets

FROM PAGE 2

the gazette notification is linked to that. Expressing dissatisfaction, the SC extended time 25 times for the government to issue the gazette notification. The government sought time again and again on different grounds.

During hearing of the case on August 20, Chief Justice SK Sinha said the judiciary had shown enough patience.

## War crimes

FROM PAGE 1

his original workplace, as he intended to return there.

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum told The Daily Star last night: "After reconstitution of the tribunal, we hope the trial will resume now. We will try our best to recover the loss incurred due to the three months' impasse."

Sanud Huq, co-coordinator of the tribunal's investigation agency, said they would speed up their efforts to complete investigation in the pending cases.

"We will provide 100 processes to complete the trial of the ongoing cases quickly," he told this newspaper.

Currently, nine cases are at the trial stage and 22 others at pre-trial stage. Besides, the investigation agency is now collecting evidence in connection with around a dozen more cases.

Earlier on May 9, the ICT-1 completed the trial proceedings of a case in connection with the crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971 and kept the verdict waiting.

It is not clear if the tribunal would now hear the closing arguments again.

As per the war crimes law, a tribunal can resume trial from where it stopped even after any change in the composition of the tribunal, at least two precedents when the tribunal rehired closing arguments.

The war crimes trial has made no headway in last three months for the government's failure to appoint someone to the chairman post, eliciting criticism from all quarters associated with the long-cherished trial.

Campaigners, prosecutors and investigating agencies had earlier urged the trial to be held as early as possible and likely to be witnesses in the under-investigation cases might feel discouraged from giving testimony for the delay.

"It is beyond our understanding why it is taking so much time to appoint the chairman and reconstitute the tribunal," Sharif Kabir, a former advocate of war crimes trial, told this newspaper last month.

The government should not consider the war crimes cases like any other cases, said Sharif, president of Ekatoro Chhatak Dal Nirmul Committee, adding, "It would be a glaring example of impunity if the perpetrators are not brought to book due to the delay in trial proceedings."

He added that the government on several occasions issued similar directives that bore little fruit, he added.

## Gone, like in a movie!

FROM PAGE 1

go to the bathroom.

According to SMA Mozammel, sub-inspector of the station, at the time Rubel was being guarded by four police officers: Mofazzol Hossain, Manik Mian, Masud Rana and Kamal Islam.

After being escorted to the bathroom, where Rubel did not re-emege after 20 minutes, the police officers knocked on the door. Receiving no response, they went around to the back of the bathroom and saw that there was no one in there.

The almost two feet wide window of the bathroom had one railing bent and broken, allowing a large space for Rubel to climb out of.

Officer-in-charge of Purbadhola police station, Ovi Ranjon Deb, said the accused fled from his custody through a small hole in the window of the police station.

The rusted iron rod of the window and Rubel's thin and short stature allowed him to escape, Ranjon claimed.

When queried as to why the window of the station's bathroom was left in such bad condition, Ranjon said he had just joined three months earlier and did not know, "I had not noticed the state of the window," he said.

The convict is yet to be found. In the meantime, no action was taken in this regard against those police personnel who have shown negligence.

**BRTA to get slow vehicles**

FROM PAGE 16

The non-government organisation said traffic rules violation was one of the main causes of the crashes.

According to police data, which experts say are under reported, around 3,000 crashes every year claim almost 2,700 lives and leave 2,400 injured.

The directive about low speed vehicles was issued last week by Road Transport and Highway Division. It was signed by Kamru Mian Alsan, joint secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges.

Citing section 4 (ga) of Highway Rules 2001, Kamru told The Daily Star that vehicles not capable of 60km per hour speed cannot ply the highways.

Besides, the government banned all three-wheelers in 22 highways in August 2015. Nisommon and Karimon were banned on all highways.

"Our aim is to ensure road safety and that is why we issue such directives from time to time to remind people of the matter," he said.

For the first time, October 22 is going to be observed in the country as National Safe Roads Day to create awareness about road safety.

"The [latest] directive was given keeping the matter in mind," Kamru said.

Kazi M Shifin Newaz, assistant professor of Accident Research Institute at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said if implemented, the number of overtaking, which is a major reason behind crashes, would reduce.

But, no highway, except for a part of N-5 (Hatkumru-Banpara) has a separate lane for low speed vehicles. Buses often define as a result of that, he said.

Besides, it is not possible for trucks laden with goods to go 60km per hour. "I think, without a dedicated lane for slower vehicles, it will not be possible to implement the directive."

Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Jati Kalyan Samity said as long as there is no lane for low speed and non-motorised vehicles, drivers would continue to violate the directive.

He added that the government on several occasions issued similar directives that bore little fruit, he added.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

## Four cops

FROM PAGE 16

Angry spectators then swooped on the policemen and began beating them.

Anik Sarkar, who attended the concert, told The Daily Star that Ansar Ali and his men confined the four policemen in a nearby house.

Kalipada Sarkar, union parishad chairman of Unia Union in Singair, said he sent a UP member and several others to Vatagarh around 1:30am on Friday to restrain the policemen being confined.

As the people refused to let them go, Kalipada took the initiative to go to free the policemen himself.

"Midway, I learnt that the policemen were freed," Kalipada told The Daily Star.

As it was late in the night, he then took the policemen to his residence where they stayed the night.

Kalipada said he did not know if the police demanded money or if they were beaten at the concert venue.

Asked, Rezaul Haque, officer in charge, Dharmati Police Station said he did not know anything about the incident.

Dhaka Additional Police Superintendent (Savar Circle) Khorsheed Alam said he had no idea about it, but that they were looking into the matter.

They said all the measures were temporary and a long-term plan for relocation of the refugees would be drawn up once the influx of refugees from Myanmar.

Initially, ten cattle, bamboo, rope and other materials were given to around one lakh Rohingya families for setting up huts inside the Balukhali camp. A 12-km road is under construction there. The work on five-km has already finished, said officials.

Visiting the Balukhali camp yesterday, these correspondents saw toilets and tubs being set up. Many Rohingyas were busy building their huts.

An official, seeking anonymity, said toilets were previously set up with just two to three concrete rings, but those were filled up within two to three days.

"We found that there was one toilet for around 126 families. Now under the supervision of army, several toilet complexes are being built inside the camp."

The Monar Ghona area in Balukhali camp-2 was highly congested. Latrines were being set up in an unplanned manner.

Sonjida Khatun, a Rohingya of the camp said her family along with their other families live in a 400-square-feet house. It provides shelter to 23 people.

"The four families are separated by just polythene sheets," said the newly married 25-year-old.

The camp has 103 houses for 460 people, said block community leader (Mahji) Abdul Fazay, a Rohingya leader from the families.

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As regards foreign-secretary level consultations, the Bangladesh high commissioner indicated that Bangladesh is open to hold the consultations at any mutually convenient time in Dhaka.

## Workers Party

FROM PAGE 16

Only Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a resident of Purbodhola of Goalpara village and also a motor cycle driver, was killed on August 25.

Kakon succumbed to his injury at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital the next day.

Police arrested Moinuddin, 22, on August 28 for his alleged involvement in the murder case while Rubel was arrested after Moinuddin's confessional statement.

It recommended that all the election officials should discharge their duties under the EC before and after a certain period of the election.

However, the left-leaving party opposed the EC's move to demarcate electoral constituencies afresh for the general elections, saying it might give rise to controversy.

It recommended that all of them be disapproved of deployment of armed forces during the polls.

Workers Party suggested stopping use of black money, muscle power and religion in the polls, including non-resident Bangladeshis in the voter list, ensuring a level playing field for all political parties, using an electronic voting system and introducing a system for submission of nomination papers online.

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Despite the mobile courts and issuance of similar directives time and again, he said low-speed vehicles remain on the highways as "people's tendency to violate law is very common. Besides, we have a lack of man-power."

Asked about having a lane for low speed vehicles, he said, "It will take time."

Despite the mobile courts and issuance of similar directives time and again, he said low-speed vehicles remain on the highways as "people's tendency to violate law is very common. Besides, we have a lack of man-power."

Locals and experts alike think the Kathalbari Swamp has the same potential to catch the fancy of local and foreign tourists.

Along with its picturesque settings, Kathalbari also boasts glorious past. The name of the deity of Raja Goribind, the last Hindu ruler, was "Hatkeshwar". In 1303 AD, when Raja Goribind defeated Hazrat Shahjahan, the Raja's deity went to a place where Kathalbari. During the rule of Raja Ilyas Shah (1708-1713), one of the prominent Ilyasina kings, the deity left for Sengram.

Mohammad Ashraful Kabir, coordinator of Bhumi Sontan Bangladesh, an environment and animal rights based organisation, said the Kathalbari Swamp forest is most spectacular during the rainy season.

The range of hills standing on the vast marsh, named 'Bara Haor', along with the naturally 'Bara Haor', with many water bodies, is a sight to behold, he added.

But the youths again stalked her on the day she committed suicide, Awlad added.

OC Awal said the girl's family did not file any complaint against those stalkers. Police lodged an unnatural death case.

Khorsheed Alam, additional superintendent of Savar police circle, said they would investigate the allegation of staking and also verify the handwriting of Shila to know whether the note was written by her.

If the allegation was found to be true and Shila had written the note, they would take necessary lawful steps against the youths.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

There are boating facilities available here on a limited scale, said Mizanur Rahman, an auto rickshaw driver. The number of locals visiting the swamp forest has increased recently, he added.

The Kathalbari swamp forest is a promising addition to the other established tourist spots in the largest tea producing region in Bangladesh.

Invoking Article 155 to ease Spain's

worst political crisis in four decades

would make prospects of a negotiated solution to the Catalonia crisis even more remote.

A spokesman for the Catalan govern

ment said earlier on Wednesday that Madrid went down this road, it would press ahead with independence.

"We have given up a totally .. which

leaders of Balukhali camp-3, said there were 157 houses in the camp and the families only got tents and ropes from the authorities.

John M. Mori from Maninglaw of Rakhine entered Bangladesh on September 2. His sons Younis and Shafiq and 12 other family members accompanied him. They now live in a 360-square-feet tent.

"We are three families here. We sleep in a single position all night," Shafiq said.

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Talking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, forest department officials said around 500 hillocks have

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