



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781 | Vol. XXIX No. 348 | Poush 23, 1426 BS | **Your Right to Know** | JAMADIUL AWAL 10, 1441 HJRI | 20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 12.00

"EVM [electronic voting machine] is a method for stealing votes silently."
BNP LEADER AMIR KHASRU MAHMUD CHOWDHURY AFTER A MEETING WITH THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

"We will charge them sanctions like they've never seen before ever."
TRUMP THREATENS TO SLAP SANCTIONS ON IRAQ IF US FORCES ARE EXPELLED

"I would keep it [Test cricket] to five days if it's up to me... As a player who has played, I wouldn't change it."
FORMER SOUTH AFRICA BATSMAN HASHIM AMLA ON THE ICC'S PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE TEST FORMAT



Students under the banner of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) hold a candlelight vigil on the Central Shaheed Minar premises, demanding justice for a fellow student who was raped in the capital's Kurmitola area on Sunday night. *Inset*, demonstrations in the TSC area. The photos were taken last night.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

LPG prices up by 20pc amid instability in global market

JAGARAN CHAKMA

The price of liquefied petroleum gas has increased by 20 percent at retail stores in the country on Sunday, around four days after the prices rose in the international market amid a looming supply shortage.

Users have been paying an additional Tk 200 per 12kg cylinder.

Yesterday, a 12kg cylinder of the Bashundhara LP Gas, widely used in households, was sold for Tk 1,200 in Dhaka and Tk 1,100 elsewhere. The company raised the price by Tk 150.

LPG prices went up in the international market on January 1.

According to market players, the number of LPG users reached 20 million in the country last year.

In the international market, the price of each tonne rose on January 1 to \$589 from \$440, said Fazlur Rahman, managing director of the state-run LP Gas Limited.

"We increased the price to match that of the international market,"

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

কেউ আমাদের দাবাতে পারবেনা

Star MOTTO ON MUJIB BORSHO



Bangabandhu along with Dr Kamal Hossain arrives at Claridge's Hotel after reaching London on Jan 8, 1972.

The words were magical, the news was electrifying and the effect euphoric -- Bangabandhu has been released and he, along with Dr Kamal Hossain, were on their way to London after a torturous nine months in Pakistani prison with the threat of execution hanging over his every breath. The wave of joy was universal and the happiness complete knowing that our leader was safe and would soon be amongst us -- the people he loved so dearly and risked his life to free.

For those who did not live through those moments it will be difficult, perhaps impossible, to understand the almost hypnotising impact of this man who had so captivated our hearts and minds that our independence felt incomplete without him. Thus his return was central to our dream of a Sonar Bangla.

The Daily Star, through its own observance of "Mujib Borsho", the centenary of his birth, will attempt to tell the story as to why Mujib is so important for us to build a democratic, secular, freedom ensuring prosperous Bangladesh.

DU erupts in protest

Students issue ultimatum for arrest of culprits; rape evidence found; victim under treatment at One-Stop Crisis Centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rape of a Dhaka University student on Sunday night has sparked outrage with the incident once again raising concern over women's safety in the capital and elsewhere.

The crime scene near the Kurmitola General Hospital is several yards from the Airport Road, one of the busiest thoroughfares in the capital.

Fellow students of the victim, 21, took to the streets yesterday, demanding justice be delivered to her.

The students in their hundreds and irrespective of their political affiliations demonstrated throughout the day. At one point, they gave the authorities a 48-hour ultimatum to arrest the rapist(s). Otherwise, they warned they would wage a tough movement.

Police could not identify any suspect till early today.

Yesterday, officials from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) collected evidence, including a wrist watch and a keyring, from the crime scene,

about 150 yards off the hospital's gate in Kurmitola.

In other developments, doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) found evidence of rape following forensic tests on the victim, and her father filed a rape case against unknown accused with Cantonment Police Station.

The victim, a second-year student, was undergoing treatment at the DMCH's One-Stop Crisis Centre. She was taken to the hospital early yesterday.

She was still traumatised, said doctors last night.

The rape took place while the victim was walking from Kurmitola bus stop to a friend's house in nearby Sheora area around 7:30pm on Sunday. She had just got off a university bus.

Her friends said she was supposed to get down at Sheora bus stand, but left the bus in Kurmitola area mistakenly. She was going to the house to study with her friends ahead of exams.

A few minutes after she got off the bus, someone grabbed her from behind, gagged her and took her to an isolated place nearby.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3
"RAPE INCIDENTS RISING BECAUSE OF IMPUNITY" -- PAGE 3



HOW IT WENT IN 2019

RAPE

- 1,413 gang-raped or subjected to rape
- 76 of them killed after rape
- 10 victims died by suicide

SEXUAL ASSAULT

- 258 became victims
- 18 of them died by suicide
- 17 people, including four women, killed in attacks for protesting such incidents

SOURCE: AIN O SALISH KENDRA

Murder attempt on Sarwar Ali

War museum trustee unhurt, his 3 family members injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two criminals attempted to kill Liberation War Museum Trustee Dr Sarwar Ali at his home in the city's Uttara on Sunday night.

Although Sarwar escaped unhurt, his wife Makhduma Nargis, daughter Sayma Ali, son-in-law Humayun Kabir and two of his neighbours sustained minor injuries in the incident.

Police detained the security guard of the building and a driver of one of the residents of the building for interrogation.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Liberation Leader walks free

WASIM BIN HABIB

Liberty was in the air.

The newly-liberated country was floating in the high waves of jubilation over the historic victory in the War of Liberation through the surrender of the Pakistani occupational forces on December 16, 1971.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Star INITIATIVE ON MUJIB BORSHO

IN COLLABORATION WITH



Ban single-use plastics

HC asks govt to implement it in coastal belts, hotels, eateries across country in a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to ban single-use plastic products in coastal areas, hotels, motels and restaurants across the country in one year as they are health and environmental hazards.

The throwaway plastic products include drinking straws, cotton buds, cigarette butts, food packaging, food containers, bottles, plates, plastic cutlery and plastic bags.

In response to a writ petition, the HC also ordered the government to strictly enforce the ban on polythene or throwaway plastic bags across the country through regular market monitoring and closure of polythene manufacturing factories.

The government was ordered to submit, by January 2021, a report on the progress of the implementation of the directives.

In spite of the January 2002 ban on polythene bags, throwaway plastic bags have been freely available across the country.

The HC bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman came up with the order following a writ petition jointly filed by 11 rights organisations, including Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), seeking necessary order.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Sayeed Ahmed Kabir represented the writ petitioners.

The rights organisations submitted the writ petition as a public interest litigation on December 17 last year, saying that the hazardous effects of plastic -- particularly single-use plastics -- on ecology, aquatic and marine life,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



The wreckage of a microbus and a bus on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Faridpur Sadar's Mollikpur area yesterday. Earlier in the day, a head-on collision between the vehicles left six people, including four of a family, dead. All the victims were in the microbus.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Road crashes claim 11 lives in 5 districts

Four of a family among them

STAR REPORT

At least 12 people, including four of a family, have been killed in five road crashes and a train accident since Sunday night.

In Faridpur Sadar, six people were killed and one sustained injuries as a Dhaka-bound microbus collided head-on with a Magura-bound bus on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Mollikpur area.

Saifujaman, additional superintendent of Faridpur police, said six passengers of the microbus died on the spot.

The dead are Shariful Islam, 42, his six-year-old daughter Tabassum, his niece Tanjila, 18, and his sister-in-law Takia, 12, his friend Faruk, sub-inspector of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, and the microbus driver Nahid, the police official added.

Shariful's wife Suraiya Islam Rimi, 30, was injured in the accident and undergoing treatment at Faridpur Medical College

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5