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Innocent RU student in jail for 2 months

Police arrest wrong person after Jubo League leader killed in clash

ARAFAT RAHAMAN, RU

A Rajshahi University student has been languishing in jail for more than two months after police wrongfully arrested him in a murder case.

His family members tried hard to get him released, but all their efforts went in vain.

The victim is Shahinur Rahman, an evening MBA student at accounting and information systems department and son of the university's Deputy Registrar Nur Mohammad Sardar. He is from Rajshahi city's Shiroil Colony area.

Police arrested Shahinur from the city on the night of November 13, while trying to arrest an accused in the murder case -- Shahin Ahmed, son of Nasir Uddin of the same area, said the victim's family and the plaintiff of the case.

The case was filed over the murder of a local Jubo League leader named Sanowar Hossain Russell. He was killed earlier in the day during a factional clash of Awami League in Rajshahi. The clash broke out over getting work orders from the railway authorities.

Russell's brother Monowar Hossain Roni, the case's plaintiff, accused 17 named, including Shahin, and eight unnamed people of committing the murder.

After the RU student was arrested, Monowar was asked to identify him at the police. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Monowar said on that day he informed police

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In most situations, vehicles have to wait when a train approaches and let it pass by. But on Kalurghat bridge in Chattogram city, it is the train that often has to wait until the traffic is cleared on the narrow bridge constructed in 1930. People of the region have long been demanding a new bridge to ease their commuting woes. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

2 Rohingyas killed in Myanmar army shelling

Says Rakhine MP

REUTERS, Yangon

Two women, one pregnant, were killed and seven other people injured after Myanmar troops shelled a Rohingya village yesterday, according to a lawmaker and a villager, two days after the UN's highest court ordered the country to protect the minority.

Maung Kyaw Zan, a national member of parliament for Buthidaung township in northern Rakhine state, said shells fired from a nearby battalion hit Kin Taung village in the middle of the night. Government troops have been battling ethnic rebels in the state for more than a year.

"There was no fighting, they just shot artillery to a village without a battle," he told Reuters by phone, adding it was the second time this year that civilians had been killed.

The military denied responsibility, blaming

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Hawk of streets running for councillor

He is accused in 2 cases for grabbing footpaths, extortion

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

He was accused of occupying footpaths and extorting traders. The Dhaka South City Corporation sued him over extortion nearly three years ago.

Traders allege that he still collects extortion money from them in the city's Motijheel AGB Colony area. Nearly 100 hawkers pay him at least Tk 100 each every day.

The man in question is Saiful Islam Tarafdar. He now wants to be the councillor of ward-53 of the DSCC. The 52-year-old is going to contest the February 1 city polls. His posters have been put up in Jurain and Muradpur areas.

Ironically, Saiful in the posters claimed himself to be a friend of the poor people. He also vowed to root out extortion from the ward, if elected.

In his affidavit submitted to the

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Revisit relations with Myanmar

Speakers at a discussion urge the international community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The provisional ruling to protect the persecuted Rohingyas by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) should make all countries, especially those close to Myanmar, to revisit their relationship with the country, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

The ICJ's recognition of the Rohingyas as a "distinct" ethnic group has made it obligatory for the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to protect this group, they said at the discussion held at the North South University (NSU) in Dhaka.

They also said that the ruling paved the way for countries to work with the international community, irrespective of bi-lateral relations with Myanmar, without hesitation.

The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) at the university organised the event titled "Accountability and Justice in Rohingya Crisis: ICJ order on The Gambia vs Myanmar Case".

"May be this first ruling of the ICJ will change the positions of some other countries... of some other players," Benoit Préfontaine, high commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh, said while speaking at the event. On Thursday, in a landmark ruling, the top court of the United Nations ordered Myanmar to prevent acts of genocide against the country's persecuted Rohingya minority and to stop destroying evidence.

A panel of 17 judges of the ICJ, ruled order read by presiding Judge Abdulaqawi Ahmed Yusuf, upheld the provisions of the 1948 Genocide Convention saying Myanmar had "caused irreparable damage to the rights of the Rohingyas".

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India honours Muazzem Ali posthumously

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh's former foreign secretary and high commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali was posthumously honoured tonight with India's third highest civilian title Padma Bhushan on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day today.

Noted historian and archaeologist Enamul Haque, another Bangladeshi, has been chosen for the prestigious Padma Shri title, the Indian Home Ministry said in a press release.

Muazzem Ali has been honoured in the category of Public Affairs, the Indian Home Ministry said. Ali is among 16 people chosen for this year's honour.

He died in Dhaka on December 30 after he returned on completion of his service as High Commissioner in New Delhi for five years,

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US Space Force's logo or Star Trek's?



AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump unveiled the logo of Space Force on Friday, attracting critics who said America's newest military branch had boldly gone where Star Trek went before.

With a central symbol resembling an arrowhead, ringed by an orbiting object and set to a starry backdrop, many users argued the design was pilfered from the famous science fiction franchise.

But a spokesman for the branch hit back, arguing the "Delta" emblem had been used by Air Force space organizations as early as 1961, before the first Star Trek show aired.

"After consultation with our Great Military Leaders, designers, and others, I am pleased to present the new logo for the United States Space Force, the Sixth Branch of our Magnificent Military!" wrote Trump of the branch that he championed and which came into being in December 2019.

It drew immediate mockery among social media users.

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Dhaka City Polls Politics is turning into a business

Says Shujan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the contestants in the coming Dhaka city polls own businesses, finds a report by Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik.

Terming the trend alarming, the civil society organisation said politics was gradually turning into a business because of the involvement of too many businessmen.

Shujan, which works on election affairs, prepared the report after examining

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:35 12:45 4:15 5:46 7:15
JAMAAT 6:10 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Three of a family killed in Barguna road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least three of a family, including a mother and her 10-year-old son, were killed and four more injured in a tragic road accident in Barguna's Amtali upazila town.

The accident took place around 11:30am yesterday at the AK School intersection of Amtali upazila on the Amtali-Patuakhali highway of Barguna.

The deceased -- Nupur Begum, 30, resident of Amtali municipality, her son Nishat, 10, and her 14-year-old niece Lamia -- were killed when the Amtali-bound passenger bus lost control on the highway. The injured were identified as Nupur's daughter Mamataz Begum, 6, Md. Abdul Jabbar, 54, and Shahabuddin Mridha, 56, of Chaitabunia village of Chawra union and Rubel Musulli, 30, of Chandra village. Police have seized

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A girl casts her vote during the election to students cabinet initiated by the education ministry in secondary schools and madrasas to promote democracy among children. With posters and flyers, inset, the girls launched a full-on campaign for the election. The photos were taken at Motijheel Government Girls High School in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Intolerant India'

The Economist says Modi and BJP 'endangering world's Biggest Democracy'

NDTV ONLINE

The Economist - whose sister concern Economist Intelligence Unit ranked India 10 places lower in the Democracy Index earlier this week -- has dedicated its latest cover to what it calls "Intolerant India" and criticised the Narendra Modi government over the new citizenship law CAA and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), commenting that it "imperils the inspiring idea of India as the world's largest democracy".

The Economist tweeted the cover Friday and wrote: "How India's prime minister and his party are endangering the world's biggest democracy."

The article, titled "Narendra Modi stokes divisions in the world's biggest democracy", says India's 200 million Muslims fear the prime minister is building a Hindu state.

Sketching the rise of the BJP with the movement for a Ram temple in the '80s, the article argues that "Mr Modi and the BJP are likely to benefit politically by creating divisions over religion and national identity".

"The plan to compile a register of genuine Indians as part of a hunt for foreign interlopers affects all 1.3bn people in the country. It could drag on for years, inflaming passions over and over again, as the list is compiled, challenged and revised" the article says.

Such subjects "also distract attention from awkward topics such as the economy, which has struggled since the BJP's thumping election victory last year", it notes.

The BJP hit back, with party leader Vijay Chauthaiwale calling The Economist "arrogant", with a "colonial mindset".

"We thought the Brits had left in 1947! But the editors of @TheEconomist are still living in colonial era. They are furious when 600m Indians do not follow their explicit

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