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Your Right to Know

PLUS 4 PAGES JACKET ON SAVING OUR RIVERS

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EXAMINATION OF RAPE SURVIVORS

SENSITIVITY

still missing



IMAGE: KAZI TAHSEN AGAZ APURBO

ZYMA ISLAM

The two-finger test, so called for its use of the doctor's index and middle fingers to check for the presence and status of the survivor's hymen, was banned in 2018 for being pseudo-science, as well as traumatic and humiliating for survivors.

But the physical examination carried out in hospitals is still not trauma-sensitive, as evidenced in survivors' accounts.

Remember the 13-year-old girl from

Kamrangirchar, who was raped for a year by her father's employer because her dad owed him Tk 6,000? According to her testimony, her physical examination was done at the gynecological emergency ward of Dhaka Medical College Hospital without any semblance of privacy.

"I was taken to a ward on the second floor where there were a lot of women lying on beds," the girl told this correspondent.

"I was taken to a bed, asked to remove

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In the midst of his everyday struggle for survival, Farhat, who sells flowers on the streets, seems to have been struck by a world he loves to explore. The little one, a class-I student at a school for underprivileged children, was stopping by the stalls of children's books at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela. A visitor bought him some books after noticing his interest in them. The photo was taken on the Bangla Academy premises yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BNP begins soul searching over DCC polls rout

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

After its mayor candidates' defeat in the February 1 city corporation elections, the BNP has launched an investigation to find out the reasons behind it.

It is also collecting information on alleged irregularities during the voting and the absence of its polling agents on the election day.

The BNP will decide its next course of action based on the information, several senior party leaders told The Daily Star yesterday.

They said party high-ups had already held several meetings to assess the results. On Wednesday, they met the councillor candidates backed by the party to know their views on why their polling agents did not show up that day.

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ISLAMI ANDOLAN BANGLADESH Blessed or just filling the void?

Curious rise of the party, its securing third position in Dhaka polls, draw questions

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Its presence was not strong enough in the run-up to the Dhaka city polls. In terms of campaign, it looked like a party with poor organisational capacity.

Yet, the Islami Andolan Bangladesh secured the third position in Saturday's elections, beating the Jatiya Party, the main opposition in Parliament.

The number of votes the IAB bagged was almost double what the party got in the last city elections, held in 2015, demonstrating the strength it has consolidated over the years.

Abdur Rahman, IAB's mayoral candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation, got 26,525 votes, pushing JP's Saifuddin Ahmed Milon to a distant fourth place with 5,593 votes. In the 2015 election, Rahman obtained 14,784 votes.

In Dhaka North, IAB's mayoral hopeful Fazle Bari Masud secured 28,200 votes. Its candidate for the same post got 18,050 votes in 2015. No

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ROHINGYA RETURN PM seeks EU support

Dhaka, Rome issue joint statement

BSS, Rome

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought continued support of the European Union to ensure safe, dignified, and sustainable return of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to Rakhine.

"The Bangladesh prime minister thanked the EU members, including Italy, for their support to the cause of the Rohingyas," said a nine-point joint statement issued on the outcome of the bilateral talks between PM Hasina

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CORONAVIRUS SCARE

Govt to assess impact on RMG, other sectors

STAR REPORT

The government has moved to assess the impact of coronavirus outbreak on various sectors, including readymade garments.

During a special meeting at the commerce ministry yesterday, representatives of Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association were asked to submit reports by Sunday.

The ministry would study the reports next week.

"We do not have any information about specific impact on exports. However, there is an apprehension there could be some," Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi told reporters after the meeting.

"We are observing everything. Our secretary has met with the stakeholders. We have asked them to file a report

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Tigers face Pak challenge from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The deck will be stacked against the Bangladesh cricket team when the first Test against Pakistan starts in Rawalpindi today.

Bangladesh have had a torrid time in Test cricket in 2019, losing all five matches, four of them by an innings. Even their best result was a humiliating one as they lost a home game against Test newcomers Afghanistan

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Bangladesh Under-19 players are overjoyed after beating New Zealand in the ICC Under-19 World Cup semifinal at Senwes Park in Potchefstroom yesterday. The young Tigers have qualified for the country's first final at the event, to be played against India on Sunday.

PHOTO: ICC

Young Tigers roar into maiden final

SPORTS REPORTER

The joy knew no bounds as the players and support staff bolted to the middle of the Senwes Park ground waving the national flag and dancing all the way. Commentators showered praises on Bangladesh's young cricketers for creating a historic moment for the cricket-crazy nation once Shamim Hossain drove a fuller ball from Beckham Wheeler-Greennall towards mid-on for the winning boundary in Potchefstroom yesterday.

The reason was simple: Bangladesh Under-19s created a small piece of history for the country in South Africa by reaching their first ever ICC U19 Cricket World Cup final with a resounding six-wicket victory over their New Zealand counterparts to book a clash with India Under-19s in

the final on Sunday.

Mahmudul Hasan Joy was the man of the special occasion as the young batsman hit a swashbuckling hundred to steer his side past New Zealand's 211 runs with 34 balls and six wickets remaining. The right-hander smote 13 sweetly-timed boundaries during his 127-ball 100.

Akbar Ali's side once again proved why they are considered the most mature Bangladesh youth team ever as they continued their dominance over their New Zealand counterparts after a 4-1 series victory in New Zealand last year.

In a clinical performance, Bangladesh did very little wrong after captain Akbar Ali decided to bowl first at the toss. Bowlers put in a disciplined effort and pacer Shoriful Islam was the pick of the bowlers with three for 45 runs. Spinners

complimented the lanky paceman perfectly. Off-spinner Shamim Hossain took two wickets for 31 runs, left-arm spinner Hasan Murad claimed two for 45 and another left-arm spinner Rakibul Hasan picked up one for 35.

In chase, Bangladesh lost their openers early, but Joy and Towhid Hridoy took the game away from New Zealand sharing 68 runs for the third wicket. The equation was skewed in their favour when Hridoy got out for 40 runs but Shahadat Hossain (40 not out) joined Joy to make a historic date with neighbours India in what is effectively a rematch of the Asia Cup final last year for these U-19 teams.

Now, 2020 can be a fantastic year in the annals of Bangladesh cricket if the youth team continue their merry run at the ICC U-19 World Cup final on Sunday.