

## Ex-minister

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Born in September 16, 1945, Rahmat got into student politics at the tender age of 11. In 1962, at the age of just 17, he was arrested for a speech against the education commission. He was also detained in 1962 and 1966 for his outspoken activism. During the Liberation War, he was tasked with serving as a courier.

After the war, his political career proceeded amid more tribulations. In 1983, he was arrested and taken to the cantonment, where he was tortured incessantly, resulting in 17 broken teeth.

He was an elected lawmaker with AL ticket in 1991, 1996, 2001, 2008, and 2014. He was made state minister of local government and rural development and cooperatives in 1999.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Shankar Jame Mosque in Dhanmondi after Zuhr prayers, at the south plaza of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad after Asr, and then at Baitul Mamur Jame Mosque in Science Laboratory.

A fourth janaza will be held at Bangladesh Supreme Court ground today.

He will be buried at his family graveyard in Sreepur of Gazipur on Tuesday following the completion of the last janaza at Sreepur Freedom Fighter Rahmat Ali Government College, named in his honour.

President M Abdul Hamid mourned the death of Rahmat Ali.

In a condolence message, the head of the state expressed deep shock and sorrow at his death, reports BSS.

President Hamid also prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed profound sympathy to the bereaved family members of the freedom fighter, the message added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also paid rich tributes to Rahmat, reports UNB.

She placed a wreath at his coffin at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

After placing the wreath at the coffin draped in the national flag, she also stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of Rahmat Ali.

Later, accompanied by senior party leaders, Hasina as AL president, laid another wreath at the coffin of Rahmat.

She later talked to family members of the deceased and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Ministers, deputy speaker, chief whip, whips, MPs and leaders of different political parties attended his janaza there.

## ‘We can’t keep

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the banks were worsening day by day and the government was sustaining them by providing money.

“We can’t keep our eyes closed to this situation,” a four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain said.

The SC bench passed the order and made the observation during hearing an appeal filed by ILFSL, challenging the HC directive that asked the government to freeze bank accounts and seize passports of several people of ILFSL, including former managing director of NRB Global Bank and Reliance Finance Limited Proshanta Kumar Halder.

Following a petition filed by two depositors of ILFSL, the HC on January 21 directed Bangladesh Bank and all private banks to freeze the accounts of PK Halder, his five relatives, Bank Asia Limited’s former managing director Erfanudidn Ahmed and Halder’s cohort Uzzal Kumar Nondi on charge of embezzling Tk 3,000 crore from different leasing companies by taking loans in the name of fake companies.

The bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar also directed the government to seize passports of PK Halder, now abroad, his five relatives, his mother Lilaboti Halder, brother Pritish Kumar Halder, wife Susmita Saha, cousins Amitav Adhikari and Avijit Adhikari and Erfanuddin Ahmed and Uzzal Kumar to stop them from leaving the country.

The HC also appointed Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled as the independent director and chairman of ILFSL to run the company.

Later on, ILFSL filed the appeal with the SC challenging the HC verdict.

Advocate Ahsanul Karim appeared for ILFSL while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Additional Attorney General Murad Reza represented the state.

## Man killed

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Ruhul Amin, owner of the rice mill who received burn injuries himself, said the mill was inaugurated this season and he was clueless about what caused the explosion.

Neither police nor the fire service department could immediately identify the reason behind the explosion.

People who were burnt are: Sahul Alam Sanu, 60, Mantaj Rahman, 55, Badal, 28, Tulshi, 28, Alam, 45, Arfina, 16, Ruhul Amin, 65, his son Johorul Islam, 45, and pedestrian Arif, 15.

They were admitted at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.



Members of the emergency services evacuate residents from flooded areas by boat after the River Taff burst its banks in Nantgarw, south of Ponypriidd in south Wales yesterday, after Storm Dennis caused flooding across large swathes of Britain.

PHOTO: AFP

# ‘Workers will share profit of industries’

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After the meeting, in a conversation with newsmen, AL’s General Secretary Tajuddin Ahmad shares that they will respect the party constitution, which provides that a party member must resign his party office within 30 days of accepting any public office.

ADAMJEE REOPENS According to a decision taken under the advice of Bangabandhu, Adamjee Jute Mill starts production today. Syed Nazrul Islam, minister for industries, addresses the ceremony marking the resumption of production in the Mill. He calls upon the workers to change their traditional outlook of being

a mere employee and to work with redoubled vigour to increase production and earn more profits. He also assures the workers that a certain portion of the industry’s profit will be spent exclusively for their welfare and economic betterment and that their interest will be kept above all considerations. ASSESSMENT OF LOSS The inquiry committee set up by the government of Bangladesh for assessment of the loss of life and property caused by the atrocities of the Pakistan army from March 26 to December 16 finalises the detailed procedure and questionnaire for information collection. It is hoped

that the questionnaire will reach all villages by the first week of March 1972.

OVER \$565M NEEDED FOR BANGALEE REFUGEES UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim reports to the UN General Assembly that more than \$565million will be needed for refugees’ relief in Bangladesh for the remainder of this year. “Never in the history of the United Nations has international assistance been needed so urgently and in such great amounts,” he adds. The total aid requirement in Bangladesh for 1972 exceeds \$620 million, of which nearly 90 percent is for food imports, Waldheim’s report

informs.

54 COLLABORATORS SUMMONED The government of Bangladesh declares former Deputy Speaker of Pakistan National Assembly ATMA Matin and 53 others as absconders for avoiding inquiry under the Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunal) Order and directed them to appear before the magistrate by February 29. The immovable properties standing in their names or the names of their benamdars have also been attached under the same Order. SOURCES: February 18, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Daily Ittefaq, Azad, Morning News, The Bangladesh Observer and Purbodesh.

# 5,600 seek repatriation

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and consulate general would submit the documents of the applicants to Saudi labour offices.

The KSA authorities will then notify those who would be accepted for repatriation, said an official at the Bangladesh mission’s labour welfare wing.

Due to the nature of the procedure, the Bangladesh mission will have no scope to know how many applications were accepted unless the workers themselves inform the mission offices, he said, seeking anonymity.

He also said that the opportunity was limited to those who work at various companies in the Gulf country.

Saudi Arabia is home to around 2 million Bangladeshi nationals,

according to Bangladesh mission.

Mohammad Ashaduzzaman, a counsellor at Riyadh labour welfare wing, said the Saudi government did not mention any deadline for the programme.

So, the mission will continue receiving applications from eligible workers until further notice, he said.

“We will try to include every [eligible] worker in the initiative,” he recently told this correspondent over phone.

Ashaduzzaman said a vast region of the KSA falls under the jurisdiction of the Bangladesh embassy office at Riyadh and that is why they were setting up makeshift camps in the Bangladeshi migrants-inhabited areas to reach out to them.

# Darfuris rejoice as Sudan agrees to hand Bashir to ICC

AFP, Nyal

In the sprawling Camp Kalma, refugees displaced by the Darfur conflict are overjoyed at the decision by Sudan’s new authorities to finally deliver president Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court.

Bashir, who was deposed in April 2019 following mass protests, has for the past decade flouted International Criminal Court arrest warrants on charges of genocide and war crimes in the ravaged Darfur region of western Sudan.

On Tuesday, Sudan’s transitional authorities agreed to transfer him to stand trial before the court based in The Hague.

“There was rejoicing across the camp after people heard Bashir is being handed over to the ICC,” 65-year-old refugee Adam Ali, a longtime resident of Kalma camp in Nyal, capital of South Darfur state, told AFP.

Darfuris and rebel groups have repeatedly demanded he be handed over to the ICC over alleged war crimes in a conflict which according to the United Nations left 300,000 people dead and displaced 2.5 million others. Local community leader Yaqoob Mohamed said the decision was “a victory for the victims” and would go a long way towards “rebuilding trust” with the leadership in Khartoum.

Hundreds of thousands of those displaced by the conflict that broke out in 2003 in Darfur, a vast region made up of five states, still live in camps and remain dependent on aid provided by the UN and other international organisations.

The conflict erupted when African minority rebels rose up against

Bashir’s Arab-dominated government in Khartoum that they accused of marginalising the region.

To crush the rebellion, Bashir’s government unleashed an armed militia of mostly Arab raiding nomads known as the Janjaweed, accused by rights groups of ethnic cleansing and widespread rape.

Thousands of the militiamen were later incorporated into the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, led by commander and current political powerbroker Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemeti.

The decision to surrender Bashir to the ICC came after protracted talks between rebel groups including from Darfur and Sudan’s ruling body who took power after Bashir’s ouster and arrest.

Three of his aides, including former defence and interior ministers, are also to be handed over to the court, although a timeframe has not been announced.

“If Bashir and his aides are not handed to the ICC, peace will never find its way to Darfur,” said Hassan Issac, another Darfuri living in Kalma.

Hassan Isaac Mohamed, a 72-year-old Darfuri, said he felt “relief” in the wake of a war that had decimated his family, killing his father and two brothers.

Government spokesman Faisal Mohamed told reporters on Wednesday that “details of how Bashir and others will be presented in front of the ICC will be discussed with the ICC and armed groups”.

Rights groups such as Amnesty International are pressing for a swift handover of the toppled strongman.

The effort has been taken against the backdrop of frequent detention and deportation of undocumented Bangladeshi migrant workers by Saudi Arabia.

In 2019, some 25,789 Bangladeshi migrant workers were deported by the Gulf country, according to Brac Migration Programme.

Many of them did not have the residence permit, locally known as “iqama”.

When a migrant worker fails to obtain the “iqama”, he or she is declared illegal and faces legal action, said an official at the expatriates’ welfare ministry in Bangladesh.

It is the responsibility of Saudi employers to arrange the “iqama” for foreign workers and renew it every

# Will ask ACC to investigate

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Minister AK Abdul Momen said the allegation that a Bangladeshi MP is involved in human trafficking, as reported in the Kuwaiti media, is fake news.

“We have heard it’s fake news. We don’t have any information,” he told journalists at his ministry yesterday.

“Our mission has not provided any information about him. We don’t know about it. One newspaper published it, but then it said its factuality was not verified,” Momen said.

According to media reports, Quazi Shaheed Islam alias Papul is one of the three Bangladeshis who have been involved in human trafficking in Kuwait.

He left Kuwait just before a crackdown on human traffickers began there, Al-Qabas newspaper of Kuwait reported, quoting the country’s home ministry.

The ring of the three amassed about Tk 1,400 crore through trafficking 20,000 Bangladeshis to that country, the CID in Kuwait claimed.

Kuwait’s Arabic daily Al-Qabas and Arab Times last Wednesday published a report against the Bangladeshi human traffickers.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Anisuzzaman, head of chancery at the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait, said following the media reports naming a Bangladesh MP, the embassy sought details from the Kuwaiti CID.

“We are yet to get any response,” he told The Daily Star.

Quazi Shaheed Islam is managing director & CEO of Marafie Kuwaitia Group of Companies, one of the largest companies in Kuwait.

Major work of the company is providing cleaning services and construction.

Kuwait is home to some three lakh Bangladeshi workers.

Recruitment cost for workers is around Tk 6 lakh, but the minimum

year, he said, seeking anonymity.

However, in 5 to 10 percent of the cases, employers refuse to pay the money for their employees’ “iqama”, he said, adding that in such circumstances it falls upon the Saudi authorities to hold the employer accountable.

Besides, there are some migrant workers whose “iqama” expired months ago, but they somehow continued working, he said.

There will be no bar on their re-entry to the Gulf country after their return to Bangladesh, he added.

Meanwhile, many Bangladeshi migrant workers have expressed their willingness to avail the opportunity after the mission issued notices on its Facebook page.

monthly salary is 75 Kuwaiti Dinner (Tk 20,000).

Including overtime, the salary stands at around Tk 27,000, which means it takes around two years to earn the money a Bangladeshi migrant spends as recruitment cost in Kuwait.

# Tunisia’s PM designate forms govt but future uncertain

AFP, Tunis

Tunisian Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh on Saturday formed a new government but it immediately hit major hurdles after members of the key Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party pulled out of the lineup.

Fakhfakh, a former finance minister, was tasked by Tunisia’s president with forming a government after a previous list proposed under the leadership of Ennahdha was rejected by parliament following October legislative elections.

Several of the ministers chosen by Fakhfakh to join the cabinet are from the ranks of the Islamist-inspired party.

But even before he officially announced the lineup, Ennahdha said it was pulling out of the government.

“Ennahdha’s decision places us in a difficult position,” Fakhfakh said.

He said he had agreed with the president to search for a solution through legal and constitutional means, implying that his lineup could be modified.

Ennahdha won more seats than any other party in October’s legislative election, but was still far short of a majority.

## Faster

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Jamaican star’s record, commentators have assumed that the farmer would have run 100 metres in 9.55 seconds, which is 0.03 seconds faster than the Olympian’s feat.

India’s junior sports minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday said that authorities have called Gowda to the capital New Delhi for trials under the country’s best coaches.

“Officials from Sports Authority of India (SAI) have contacted him. His rail ticket is done and he will reach SAI centre on Monday. I will ensure top national coaches to conduct his trials properly,” Rijiju wrote on Twitter.

Many users have however cast doubts on his performance, considering the high standards of the Olympics and the help received from the buffaloes, who during the races are lashed together with ropes and outfitted with a plough while a participant matches their speed and controls them.

Gowda is a regular participant in the popular buffalo races held in the farming belts of the southern coastal state during the winter.

“I did not think I would run this fast. The buffaloes were quick and I followed them,” Gowda told reporters.

The sport was briefly banned following petitions by animal rights groups who decried it as cruel, but races resumed in 2017 under government orders.

## Form DC-led

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explain as to why their inaction to bar unfit vehicles and unlicensed drivers should not be declared illegal and why directives should not be given to implement the relevant laws, including the Motor Vehicles Ordinance-1983.

During hearing the rule on February 12, the BRTA submitted a report to the HC bench, saying that only 1,65,764 vehicles renewed their fitness certificates till December 30 last year among 4,58,359 that the BRTA had identified to be without valid documents.

Therefore, 2,92,595 vehicles without valid fitness documents are playing the roads since December 30 last year, according to the BRTA report.

The same day, the office of the inspector general of police submitted another report to the HC and said notices had been sent to filling stations so that fuel is not sold to vehicles without valid fitness documents.

Deputy Attorney General Manik placed the report on behalf of the IGP office.

The HC bench on that day set yesterday for passing order on this issue.

## KSA sent back

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Brac Migration Programme, said government and non-government organisations’ efforts were needed to provide support to the deportees.

It should be ensured that the workers have jobs in Saudi Arabia and are able to earn more than what they had spent to migrate, he added.

## We’re something

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including Twitter and Alphabet’s Google have come under increasing pressure to better combat governments and political groups using their platforms to spread false and misleading information.

Zuckerberg said he now employed 35,000 people to review online content and implement security measures.

Those teams and Facebook’s automated technology currently suspend more than 1 million fake accounts each day, he said, adding that “the vast majority are detected within minutes of signing up.”

“Our budget is bigger today than the whole revenue of the company when we went public in 2012, when we had a billion users,” he said.

“I’m proud of the results but we will definitely have to stay vigilant.”

# 14 year old charged in stabbing death of New York college student

AFP, New York

A 14-year-old boy has been arrested and charged in the stabbing death of a New York university student, authorities said Saturday, in a case that is being closely watched due to its racial dynamics.

Tessa Majors, 18, a freshman at Barnard College, was attacked by three teens as she walked through Morningside Park on December 11.

The park separates the prestigious Barnard College and Columbia University from Harlem, the predominantly black neighborhood in Manhattan’s northwest.

Majors, who was white, was found just outside the park bleeding heavily, the criminal complaint said. She had been stabbed multiple times in the chest and died at a hospital.

Rashaun Weaver, 14, who is black, was accused of stabbing Majors. He had been wanted for several weeks and was arrested without incident Friday night.