

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
 Hundreds of girls, women have disappeared in Peru
SEE PAGE 6

The Daily Star

Premium Exterior Paint
BERGER
 Weather Coat
ANTIDIRT SUPREME
 10 YEAR DURABILITY

REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXX No. 194 | SRABAN 22, 1427 BS | **Your Right to Know** | ZILHAJ 15, 1441 HIRI | 12 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE : Tk12.00

BANGLADESH UPDATE **2,654** New cases in 24hrs **2,46,674** Total cases **3,267** Deaths **1,41,750** Recoveries **GLOBAL UPDATE** **706,464** Deaths **18,807,106** Total cases

A murder in cold blood

Slain Major (retd) Sinha's sister says in statement to magistrate; police asked to register it as regular case; Rab tasked with probing the incident

STAR REPORT

Around 9:25pm on Friday, Inspector Liaqat Ali of Baharchhara Police Investigation Centre and Sub-inspector Nandadulal Raxit of Teknaf Police Station stopped Maj (retd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan's car at Shamlapur police checkpoint on Marine Drive in Teknaf.



While continuing to abuse Sinha and Shifat, Liaqat made a phone call to Pradeep Kumar Shaha, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station. At one point, the inspector told the OC, "Alright. [I] am going to finish this scoundrel."

Before Sinha could realise anything, Liaqat fired several shots at him in cold blood.

In that car were Sinha and one of his associates Shahedul Islam Shifat. After Sinha revealed his identity to the policemen, the cops flung open the passenger door of the vehicle and dragged Shifat out.

As Shifat also told them who they were, the two policemen became furious. At this, Sinha came out with hands up and yet again said he was a former major of Bangladesh Army.

"I have seen many majors like you. I'll now show you how the game is played," Inspector Liaqat yelled at Sinha.

This is how Sinha's elder sister Sharmen Shahria Ferdush narrated the sequence of events that led to the death of her brother, in a case filed with Teknaf Senior Judicial Magistrate Court around 11:30am yesterday.

She accused nine people, including Liaqat, Pradeep and Nandadulal. Liaqat is the number one and Pradeep is the number two accused. The case mentioned 10 witnesses.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Tamanna Farha directed Teknaf Police Station to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A view shows damages at the site of Tuesday's blast in Beirut's port area, Lebanon, yesterday. The death toll from the huge blast has risen to at least 113, Lebanon's Health Minister Hamad Hassan said. At least 4,000 people were also wounded, while dozens of people were still missing as rescue efforts continued, he told reporters.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Teknaf, the valley of 'gunfight'

Marine Drive is a 'favourite spot'

ZYMA ISLAM

At least 87 people have been killed in 48 incidents of "gunfights" involving Teknaf police alone between August 1, 2018 and August 1, 2020.

An analysis of reports published by The Daily Star during this period shows this figure.

Pradip Kumar took over as officer-in-charge of Teknaf Model Police Station on October 19, 2018.

A total of 107 incidents of "shootouts" in Cox's Bazar, including 48 in Teknaf, were recorded by this newspaper during the same two-year period. At least 184 people, including 65 Rohingyas, were killed in those incidents.

Apart from Teknaf police, Border Guard

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Death of ex-major 'isolated incident'

Says army chief; IGP says 'crossfire' is an NGO term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The killing of ex-major Sinha Md Rashed Khan is an isolated incident and it will not cause a rift in the relationship between the army and police, said Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed and Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed yesterday.

General Aziz and Benazir made the remarks at a joint briefing at Cox's Bazar Army Rest House

Sinha was shot at a police check-post on Marine Drive road in Teknaf upazila of the district on Friday.

A reporter at yesterday's briefing pointed out that "crossfires" took place frequently on Marine Drive road.

Benazir then said he would not use the word crossfire. NGOs use the word, he added, they bring money from abroad talking about different issues. There are many things they can say to justify that, and crossfire is one of them, he said.

About the investigation into Sinha's killing, he said, "We can assure you that the government-formed probe body will conduct the investigation impartially."

The relationship between army and police has been good for almost 50 years as both forces have confidence in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Aziz Ahmed Benazir Ahmed

HC can't ask JS to enact or amend law

Says top court in verdict in a river grabbing case

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court does not have the jurisdiction to ask parliament to enact or amend any law, said the Supreme Court in the full text of a verdict regarding river grabbing and pollution.

It said the HC Division had exceeded its jurisdiction while delivering a verdict on the recovery of the land of the Turag from two companies.

"The High Court Division may pass necessary directions to the authorities concerned to protect the biodiversity, ecological balance and environment of Bangladesh. But, the High Court cannot direct the parliament to enact or amend a law or declare any principle to be part

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

BEIRUT EXPLOSION

Four Bangladeshis among the dead

80 others including 21 navy personnel injured; death toll tops 100

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

At least four Bangladeshis have been killed and around 100 others, including Bangladesh Navy officials, have been injured in a deadly warehouse explosion in Lebanon's capital Beirut on Tuesday.

Bangladesh embassy in Lebanon's Head of Chancery Abdullah Al Mamun confirmed this to The Daily Star at 8:00pm yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as Mehedi Hasan from Brahmanbaria, and Mizan from Madaripur. Both of them were working as cleaners in an area close to the warehouse where the explosion took place.

Mamun said they had both been working in Lebanon legally for the last several years.

The other two were identified as Rezaul and Rassel Miah, both from Brahmanbaria. The blast, which was possibly caused due to huge amounts of explosives being stored together, killed around 100 people and injured around 4,000.

The tragedy struck while the country is still suffering from months of political and economic crises and a global pandemic.

Of the injured Bangladeshis, 21 are from Bangladesh Navy ship "Bijoy", which was deployed under peacekeeping mission United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Maritime Task Force.

One Navy official was injured severely in the explosion, said a press release by Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR).

All the injured navy officials were undergoing treatment at the

MORE ON PAGE 6

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Hasina seeks more Japanese investment

Talks to Abe over phone on pandemic assistance, Japan-funded projects

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought more investment from Japan to further bolster economic ties as well as put emphasis on further strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two friendly nations.

The PM was talking to her Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe over phone yesterday afternoon.

During the nearly 25-minute conversation that began around 1:05pm, the two leaders discussed issues related to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BANGLADESH GETS FIRST TRANCHE OF \$1B JAPANESE LOAN - PAGE 12

Several cities, large towns see spike in Covid cases

Says WHO report on Bangladesh; 33 die, 2,654 infected in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some large towns and cities have been witnessing a spike in Covid-19 cases.

The World Health Organization in its latest situation report divided the country in five segments according to the severity of the outbreak, below 250 per million people being the lowest and 2,000 per million the highest.

Bhola, Bagerhat, Jashore, Kushtia, Pabna, Natore, Sirajganj, Chapainawabganj, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Sherpur, and Netrakona districts are in the segment with the lowest number of cases.

The number of people per million infected with the coronavirus gives a glimpse of the severity, officials said.

The highest rate is in Dhaka where about 14,824 people per

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



People arrive in the capital after spending the Eid in their hometowns. Train and bus terminals were crowded over the last couple of days with people returning to work after the holidays. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Fun trip turns into tragedy

17 drown as boat sinks in Netrakona haor

STAR REPORT

At least 17 people drowned as a boat capsized in Gobindasree Haor in Madan upazila of Netrokona yesterday.

Forty-eight people were on the boat and enjoying a post-Eid get-together programme before the accident took place around 12:00 noon, said police.

The victims are teachers, students and guardians of Kunapara Markajul Sunna Madrasa in Sadar upazila of Mymensingh, said AKM Manirul Islam, additional superintendent of Mymensingh police.

Shamsul Islam, sub-inspector of Madan Police Station, said 17 bodies were recovered as of 4:30 pm. The divers of fire service conducted the rescue operation there.

Freedom fighter Idris Ali lost his eldest son in the boat capsizing. The 85-year-old was wailing, "Even yesterday I was telling my son that he might have had to say my Janaza prayers soon as I was not doing well."

The people who died in the incident are Hafez Maulana Md Mahfuzur Rahman, 35, principal (Mohtamim), his two sons Masqur Hasan, 11, and Mahub Hasan, 17, both madrasa students; Mahfuz's niece Lubana Akter, 12, and Julfa Akter, 9; Maulana Zakir Hossain, 25, Mujahid, 16, and Hafez Jubayer, 25; Hafez Maulana Hamidul Islam, 35, Saiful Islam Ratan, 30, Jahidul Islam, 20, Shafiqul Islam, 40, Shahidul Islam, 35, and Ichha Mia, 40.

All of them hailed from Konapara and its adjacent villages in Char Sirta union of Mymensingh Sadar upazila. Meanwhile, the death toll in two other boat capsizing incidents in Manikganj and Habiganj rose to eight.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1