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SEE PAGE 5

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ATTACK ON GHORAGHAT UNO

BURGLARY it was?

3 including Jubo League man held; one suspect claims it was 'theft attempt'; Rab says further probe needed to find actual motive

STAR REPORT

A suspect said he and others broke into the home of Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam with the intention to steal property, but officers believe that the actual motive behind the gruesome attack was unclear.

One of the three arrestees, Asadul Huq, 40, told Rab officers yesterday that another arrestee, Nabirul Islam, masterminded the burglary and he was the one who hit Wahida and her father.

Reza Ahmed Ferdous, commanding officer of Rab-13, told reporters at a briefing in Rangpur last night that an in-depth investigation would be needed to know the actual motive.

Asadul told interrogators that they broke into the officer's house to loot cash and valuables.

"It is Asadul's claim and we do not have enough information to come to a conclusion. We need an in-depth investigation," Reza Ahmed said.

Rab arrested Asadul, Nabirul and Shantu Kumar Biswas in connection with Thursday's attack on the UNO and her father, freedom fighter Omar Ali Sheikh.

Asadul is a member of Ghoraghat upazila unit of ruling Awami League's

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Wahida Khanam



Tired and exhausted after waiting for hours, women sit in a queue outside the capital's Mugda General Hospital to give samples for Covid-19 testing. Inset, people line up without maintaining social distancing. The photos were taken around 8:00am yesterday, about an hour before the start of sample collection.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



WEBSITE REGISTRATION

Govt gives pry approval to 92 dailies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has granted primary approval for registration of online portals of 92 daily newspapers. The country's major dailies have been included in the list.

Of the 92 dailies, 57 are published from Dhaka, two from Mymensingh, 10 from Chattogram, four each from Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barishal and seven are brought out from Sylhet.

The information ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard on Thursday.

The gazette said portals of 92 daily newspapers were primarily given permission to register as part of the ongoing registration process of news portals.

The news portals have been requested to complete the registration within 20 working days (September 23) from the date of the publication of the gazette notification by submitting

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

OC Pradeep's clip viral with torture claim

Rab denies allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A video clip has been doing the rounds on social media showing suspended Teknaf OC Pradeep Kumar Das and Inspector Liaquat Ali telling someone that they had been tortured in remand.

In the 2:27-minute long footage, the accused in Major (retd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan murder case are seen alleging that they were undressed, beaten up and administered electric-shocks in Rab custody.

The Daily Star could not verify the authenticity of the video.

The clip, apparently shot in a police vehicle, shows Pradeep and Liaquat, both handcuffed, talking over the phone and calling the person on the other end "sir". It is not clear who was filming and how the duo could get mobile phones in a police vehicle.

"Sir, you have to see this. They are saying different cases have been filed at different places and the Rab will take over the investigation of the cases. Then they will get us again and take strong measures against us..." Pradeep said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

HOSPITAL OXYGEN SUPPLY

Samaritans step in

Young professionals use their expertise to upgrade facilities

NILIMA JAHAN

When the country's hospitals were struggling to ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply to critical coronavirus patients, a group of 14 Buet alumni came to their aid three months ago by installing central oxygen systems for treating Covid-19 patients.

They are engineers, architects and planners, from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology's graduating class of 2012, who united under an initiative called "Projtone Canvas".

The team developed the small centralised oxygen supply systems and installed them in around 30 beds at each of nine public and private hospitals.

They will soon activate the systems in two more hospitals.

"We wanted to best use our technical skills to help the country meet the growing demand for oxygen supply," Mithun Raha, coordinator of the initiative, told The Daily Star.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the limelight the need for uninterrupted oxygen supply for the treatment of patients

suffering from respiratory distress, whereas many public hospitals do not have a nonstop supply of oxygen and use oxygen cylinders instead.

"We made up our mind to do something and started collecting funds from our batch mates for the first project that we did at Chattogram Field Hospital after Eid-ul-Fitr. When this project was successfully done, it inspired us to do more," he said.

The initiative received support from donors for their next projects -- including from the Ispahani Group, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Child Health Awareness Foundation, and another Buet alumni group.

At government upazila health complexes, "Projtone Canvas" only provided technical assistance, Mithun said.

They installed a central oxygen system connected to around 30 beds at each hospital at a cost of Tk 6-10 lakh, without technical costs. If installed commercially, it would have taken around Tk 25 lakh, he said.

Since all Covid-19 patients at a hospital don't require oxygen at a time, the project

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



'Won't take the club I love to trial'

Messi to stay at Barca

STAR SPORT DESK

Lionel Messi broke his silence, giving Goal an exclusive interview at his house in Castelldefels and saying that he was going to "continue at Barcelona" and continue to do his best.

"I am going to continue at Barça and my attitude is not going to change no matter how much I wanted to go. I will do my best.

I always want to win, I'm competitive and I don't like to lose anything. I always want the best for the club, for the dressing room and for myself," he said, adding

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BANGLADESH UPDATE



1,929

New cases in 24hrs



3,21,615

Total cases



4,412

Deaths



2,16,191

Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



875,198

Deaths



26,591,762

Total cases

COVID CASES

20pc of over 16 lakh samples tested positive

29 more die, 1,929 infected in a day

UNB, Dhaka

Coronavirus testing laboratories in the country have tested 16,05,111 samples till Friday and 3,21,615 or 20.04 percent have turned out Covid-19 positive.

Health authorities in the last 24 hours have detected 1,929 new cases of Covid-19 after testing 13,073 samples. Daily infection rate decreased to 14.7 percent.

Since March 18, 4,421 people have died in the country and 29 died from the disease in a day. The fatality rate in Bangladesh is still 1.37 percent.

The country saw the recovery of 2,211 Covid-19 patients during the period pushing the number of total recoveries across the country to 2,16,191.

A press release sent by Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) provided the latest

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Lying on a pavement, a protestor recreates the scene of a "shootout" incident during a demonstration in front of TSC at Dhaka University yesterday. Drik, a multimedia organisation, staged the protest and an exhibition on the occasion of its 31st founding anniversary demanding an end to extrajudicial killings in the country. However, it could not finish the exhibition due to other scheduled programmes there. Rights groups blame law enforcement agencies for killing people in so-called "gunfights" between them and alleged criminals.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BNP needs to move forward without allies

Many party leaders say it should sever ties with Jatiya Oikyafront

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Many BNP leaders and activists believe that the party must move forward without its partners from the 20-party Alliance and Jatiya Oikyafront.

The BNP should cut its ties with the Jatiya Oikyafront and reduce its dependency on the 20-party Alliance, key leaders said.

The party has the strength to move on, they added. Oikyafront has been inactive after the parliamentary election and it held no programme or meeting since the election, leaders said.

Most of the BNP standing committee members agree that they should cut ties with Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, but the party has yet to make a decision.

The leadership of Jatiya Oikyafront was discussed when the BNP standing committee members met Chairperson Khaleda Zia on the Eid day.

"Even though the party will not officially cut ties with any of the alliance partners it will move on," said a standing committee member, wishing not to be named.

BNP grassroots leaders and activists said that they have strong organisational strength on union levels.

"From the very beginning, I was against the Oikyafront and I think we should sever the tie. There are ideological differences and that's why forming the platform with the partners of Oikyafront was a wrong decision. The BNP has suffered because of this platform," BNP Organising Secretary Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1