

Bhadra 26, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

UPDATE 1,827
New cases in 24hrs Total cases









2,30,804





# Justice catches up with killer cops

In a landmark verdict, court sentences 3 to life term for a 2014 custodial death

ZYMA ISLAM and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Yesterday afternoon before a Dhaka court, Imtiaz Hossain Rocky, brother of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny who was tortured and killed in police custody in 2014, was constantly on his feet.

He ran from one end of the courtroom to the other to talk to this lawyer, greeted familiar faces to his left and right, gave interviews to all who asked, and even sat down with this journalist to narrate in detail the many harassments he faced. He looked brisk, efficient and sound in dealing with legal proceedings

But when the judge finished reading



out the verdict -- that the three accused policemen will have to serve life sentences --Rocky stood shell-shocked. A few minutes passed and the courtroom started clearing out, but he just stood there in silence, sobbing.

As everyone prodded him for his reactions, he whispered barely audibly -- "I am satisfied, sir" -- over and over again.

His mother came up to him to comfort her crying son. Even though she too had just received justice for her murdered son, it was Rocky who shouldered the burden of waging a landmark case against the police, and Rocky had just had a historic win.

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#### The culprits must be punished

PM says about attack on Dinajpur UNO STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said perpetrators of the attack on Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam must be punished as an investigation was underway to find out the real cause and identify the masterminds behind the heinous act.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Silt dredged from the Padma being dumped in an area close to the Padma bridge yesterday to restore navigability of ferries between Shimulia and Kathalbari ferry terminals. Ferry services have been suspended there for a week, forcing vehicles to make a detour and use the Aricha-Doulatdia ferry terminals.

"The highest punishment allowed in this law is life-sentence

-- not death -- and that is what I am serving today."

KM EMRUL KAYESH

The Bally Star

"In a country like ours, where there is no witness protection, filing a case against law enforcers and then winning it is a momentous step.

> LAWYER SALMA ALI

## This will encourage people to file case

Legal experts say, hail first verdict in custodial death case

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Eminent jurists and rights activists yesterday welcomed the first ever verdict in a case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act 2013 and said it will encourage people to come forward to file cases under this act.

Giving their reaction to this newspaper following the judgement of the case filed over the custodial death of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, in which three policemen were sentenced to life imprisonment and two other accused to seven years in jail, they said this judgment carries a message of hope for anyone filing a case with the court

After the law was enacted, police several times demanded that it be repealed and even sought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention during a meeting with her at the police week in 2017.

In 2015, the police department sent a proposal to the home ministry to bring major changes to the law and wanted safeguards from prosecution for custodial deaths

Eminent jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik said this first conviction is a very welcome development.

In spite of numerous cases of torture and extrajudicial

killings, this was the first case under this act, he said. SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

#### Vaccine safety top priority

Says WHO; AstraZeneca halts trial after volunteer falls ill

AGENCIES

Safety of a prospective Covid-19 vaccine comes "first and foremost", the World Health Organization's chief scientist said yesterday, as a trial of a leading candidate from AstraZeneca was paused due to concerns over side effects.

Rollout of an effective vaccine is seen as a crucial step in helping battered economies recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

"Just because we talk about speed...it doesn't mean we start compromising or cutting corners on what would normally be assessed," Dr Soumya Swaminathan said in a social media event.

Stay tuned for September 20, 2020

The process still has to follow through rules of SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## Lupa, a woman of many avatars

ZINIA ABDUCTION FROM DU

Police probing her possible links with traffickers

MUNTAKIM SAAD

She is a woman of myriad disguises.

Nur Nazma Akhter Alias Lupa Talukder, 42, who was arrested on charges of abducting nine-year-old Zinia, used to tell people that she was a journalist working for different media outlets.

Her Facebook profile says she is a political leader, a budding poet and an NGO employee. Some photos SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Lupa

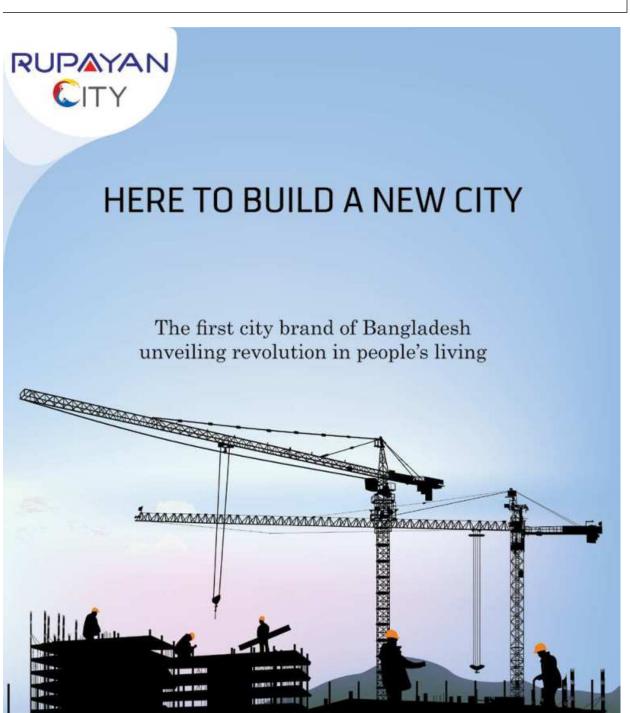
### Pay Tk 5 lakh for each victim

HC orders Titas over N'ganj mosque blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court yesterday directed Titas Gas Ltd to give Tk 5 lakh as initial costs in seven days to each family of the victims,

who died and suffered burn injuries in the Narayanganj mosque blast. Titas Gas will hand over the money to the deputy commissioner of Narayanganj and then the DC will distribute the money

to the victims' families, the HC said. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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