

**THAI DEMOCRACY PROTESTS**  
PM Prayut Chan-O-Cha vows to protect monarchy as protesters continue to defy ban  
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# The Daily Star

Premium Exterior Paint  
**BERGER WeatherCoat ANTIDIRT SUPREME 10 YEARS DURABILITY**

## Rape verdict in 7 working days

*Bagerhat court completes quickest trial to date; legal experts give mixed reactions*

STAR REPORT

A tribunal in Bagerhat has delivered its verdict in a rape case in just seven work days, setting a record for the fastest disposal of a criminal case.

The district's Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2 yesterday sentenced 53-year-old Abdul Mannan Sardar to life in prison along with a fine of Tk 20,000 for raping a seven-year-old girl in Mongla upazila.

Law Minister Anisul Huq said the quick disposal was a reflection of the government's sincerity in ensuring justice within a short period of time. But some legal experts said the accuracy of trial proceedings will come into question if they are conducted in a hurry.

The case was filed by the girl's uncle on October 3, after she was raped. A judge court referred the case to the tribunal on October 11, reports our correspondent in Bagerhat.

Yesterday's verdict was delivered by District and Sessions Judge Md Noor-e-Alam.

Rules stipulate that trial of any case filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act must be completed in 180 days.

Convict Mannan, resident of a government shelter for the homeless, was arrested soon after the case was filed.

The tribunal took cognisance of the charges on the day the case was

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An elderly woman stands resolute in the face of policemen trying to drive away jute mill workers inside the Eastern Jute Mill factory in Khulna city's Atra Gilatal area yesterday noon. The workers were demonstrating to press for their 14-point demand, including the reopening of state-run jute mills.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY



## Wear masks when you're out

*PM urges again*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has once again called upon people to always wear face masks while out of the home as it reduces Covid-19 infection risks.

She made the call during an unscheduled discussion at the cabinet meeting yesterday. The PM joined the virtual meeting from the Gono Bhaban through a video conference.

Briefing reporters after the meeting at the secretariat, Cabinet Secretary Khandker

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AKHAURA-LAKSHAM EXPANSION

## Rail project PD to be removed over graft

*Railways ministry acts after PMO directive*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The railways ministry has asked Bangladesh Railway (BR) to remove project director Ramzan Ali from the Akhaura-Laksham Dual Gauge Double Line Project after a corruption case was filed against him.

The ministry gave the directive recently following instructions from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), railway sources said.

In August, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed two separate cases against Ramzan Ali and his wife Dilruba Parvin Elora for allegedly amassing around Tk 4.28 crore beyond

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BANGLADESHI MIGRANTS

## Hundreds in distress in Bosnian woods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Yasin, a Bangladeshi youth, took a perilous journey from Oman to Bosnia and Herzegovina two years ago, with a dream of making it to a rich European country.

But things didn't go as planned, and he is now stranded in the woods of Velika Kladusa in the southeast European country near the Croatian border.

Over the last few months, he tried in vain to enter Croatia from there. Whenever he tried to enter that country, the Croatian police caught him, seized all his belongings and pushed him back to Bosnia, according to a report of Deutsche Welle (DW) Bangla published on Sunday.

"I reached Iran from Oman by a speedboat, and then travelled to Greece via Turkey. I entered Bosnia from Greece. I have been stranded in the woods for the past four months.

"Three days ago, I again tried to enter Croatia. This time, I almost made it to the country [Croatia] but was eventually caught by police. They snatched away everything I had and pushed me back," Yasin told German broadcaster DW.

He is one of the several hundred stranded Bangladeshis, now passing their days in inhuman conditions in the woods of Velika Kladusa near the Croatian border amid severe cold, mentioned the DW report.

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## Jute workers, cops clash; 25 hurt

*At least 9 workers' leaders arrested in Khulna*

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

At least 25 people, including three police personnel, were injured in a clash between police and jute mill workers on the Khulna-Jashore highway yesterday morning.

The clash broke out when around 1,000 former workers of the jute industrial belt in Khulna and Jashore took up position on the highway around 11:00am to press home their 14-point demand, which includes the

reopening of 25 jute mills.

Police arrested at least nine workers in connection with the incident.

Three police personnel were also injured. Worker leaders alleged that police foiled their peaceful blockade programme.

Police at first tried to negotiate with workers when they, under the banner of Sammilito Nagorik Parishad, blocked the road, said Kudrat-e-Khuda, convener of the

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## Why should Kajol not get bail?

*HC asks govt about incarcerated journo*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government's authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol should not be granted bail in a case filed under the Digital

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Motorcycles seized by DB police gather dust and rust under the Moghbazar Flyover in the capital. The law enforcers have kept around 200 such vehicles there this way, mainly due to a lack of space. In many countries such vehicles are impounded properly in a shaded car park and owners collect them following payment of fines or court orders.

RULING PARTY LEADER MURDER

## Family blames internal party feud

*Ruling AL points to the BNP; case filed against men of both parties in Mymensingh*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, MYMENSINGH

The family of slain Masudur Rahman Shuvra has alleged that a local faction of the ruling party was behind his killing while party leaders blame the BNP for the murder.

Unidentified assailants hacked Shuvra, secretary of Swedchasebak League

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## Ensnaring children in the dark web

*3 held for child pornography; cops move receiving complaints from US; suspects targeted children as young as nine*

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Girls as young as nine to 15 are first targeted on different social media, especially Instagram, and then they are provoked by different sexual content.

Once the child responds, she is then blackmailed for nude videos and photographs that could be sold on the dark web in exchange for bitcoins.

This is how people involved in child pornography usually get their dirty job done.

Upon receiving a complaint on Facebook from a victim in the United States against such child pornographers, the digital forensic team of

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**TEER**  
SINCE 1972  
ADVANCED  
FORTIFIED SOYABEAN OIL

তীর অ্যাডভান্সড  
সয়াবিন তেল

এখন  
নতুন  
বোতলে

দেশের প্রথম ও সর্ববৃহৎ  
অয়েল সীড  
ক্রাশিং প্ল্যান্ট

NRT

নিউট্রিফিকেশন রিটেইন্ড  
টেকনোলজি-তে তেল বিফাইন হয় বলে,  
সকল পুষ্টিগুণ থাকে অক্ষুণ্ণ

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ওমেগার ট্রিপল পাওয়ার

দেশের প্রথম এবং সর্ববৃহৎ অয়েল সীড ক্রাশিং প্ল্যান্ট বিশ্বের সয়াবিন বীজ হতে তেল একট্রাকশন ও বিফাইন করে যোনেজাত করা হয়

• ডিটামিন 'এ' ফটোফাইট এবং ডিটামিন 'ই' ও 'কে' সমৃদ্ধ সয়াবিন তেল  
• কোলোস্ট্রাল ফ্রি

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