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Rising from the ashes

Gobindaganj Santal families forcefully evicted four years ago are back now, cultivating crops this winter

KONGKON KARMAKER and MOSTAFA SHABUI

Olivia Hembrom, 33, was left wanting for food and work in March when coronavirus and a nationwide shutdown hit Bangladesh.

On April 1, Olivia had told this newspaper that she was enduring hardship, with no work and so no food for her husband and three children who live in the Sahebganj-Bagda farm area of Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila.

Her husband, 39-year-old Dijen Tudu, had lost sight in his left eye four years ago, when police, local administration, and Rangpur Sugar Mill authorities, with the help of local politicians and goons, evicted 2,500 Santal and Bangalee families from the farm area.

In that eviction drive on November 6, 2016, three Santals were killed and 20 others, including nine policemen, were injured.

Dijen still bears some splinters of rubber bullets in his body and cannot tolerate much exposure to sunlight or the cold in winter.

Olivia has had to add farming and providing for the family to her duties since then. But her desperate circumstances have changed in the last six months.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Olivia Hembrom tending to her pumpkin field in Sahebganj-Bagda farm area of Gaibandha's Gobindaganj. Like many Santals, she has started cultivation to run her family after her husband lost sight in his left eye four years ago during a clash over eviction of Santals from the farm area.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

7 Ctg cops test positive for drugs

Process of their dismissal underway; dope test conducted on 32 cops

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Seven police personnel of different units of Chattogram Metropolitan Police have tested positive in dope tests since the Bangladesh Police ordered all its units to test police personnel to identify members who use drugs.

Senior CMP officials said the process of dismissing the seven was underway and they had already been suspended.

CMP sources said the suspended policemen are from assistant sub-inspector rank to constable rank.

Seeking anonymity, a police official of CMP headquarters told The Daily Star, "We have conducted the dope test on 32 police personnel from SI rank to constable rank so far."

"The dope tests have been done at SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

4 Bangladeshis killed in road accident in Mauritius

Another injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four Bangladeshis expatriates died and another was critically injured after a bus carrying 52 Bangladeshis hit a roadside bus bay in Mauritius yesterday.

The dead have been identified as Sanjay Das from Faridpur, Rakib Molla from Kishoreganj, and Faruque Islam and Abdur Razzaque from Chapainawabganj.

The critically injured victim was undergoing treatment in the ICU of a hospital in the Mauritian capital Port Louis, said Ohidul Islam, labour welfare counsellor at the Bangladesh High Commission in Mauritius.

The incident left eight other Bangladeshis injured to different extents. They SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangabandhu greets October Socialist Revolution

November 6, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

FRIENDSHIP WILL BE STRENGTHENED

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today sends greetings to the government and people of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. In a message to the Soviet prime minister, Bangabandhu says, "This day which led to the emergence of the first Socialist State continues to inspire the progressive and peace-loving people all over the world. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the great support by the government and the people of the USSR during our War of Liberation and the assistance provided by the government of USSR in the task of rebuilding our economy."

He further says, "We feel confident that the bonds of friendship and understanding existing between our two countries will continue to be maintained

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



UP member, mosque imam arrested on rape charges

STAR REPORT

Rab arrested a union parishad member on charge of raping a woman in Joypurhat early yesterday, while an Imam of a mosque in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila was sent to jail for raping a 10-year-old girl on Wednesday night.

The Joypurhat arrestee, Abdul Kuddus, 46, of Chawkshyam village under Sadar upazila, is a member of ward-8 of Dogachhi union.

MM Mohaimenur Rashid, additional SP of Rab-5 in Joypurhat, said a team of his unit arrested the UP member after getting a written complaint from the victim on Wednesday night.

A month ago, Kuddus offered to get the victim, who was desperately looking for a job,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

'Can't accept useless people'

As Suu Kyi denies genocide, opponents up anti-Rohingya rhetoric

AFP, Naypyidaw

As Aung San Suu Kyi is vilified internationally for denying genocide against the Rohingya, her opponents in Sunday's Myanmar election are ramping up the rhetoric against the Muslim minority.

There was global revulsion at military-backed operations in 2017 that saw hundreds of thousands of people flee burning villages into the squalor of refugee

camp in neighbouring Bangladesh.

The horrifying violence -- including widespread reports of murder and rape -- has left Suu Kyi's international reputation in tatters and sees Myanmar facing genocide charges at the UN's top court.

But Than Htay, leader of the military-aligned Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), insists Myanmar has nothing to be sorry for.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 6

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
JAMAAT 5-00 12-30 3-45 5-25 7-00
AZANAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

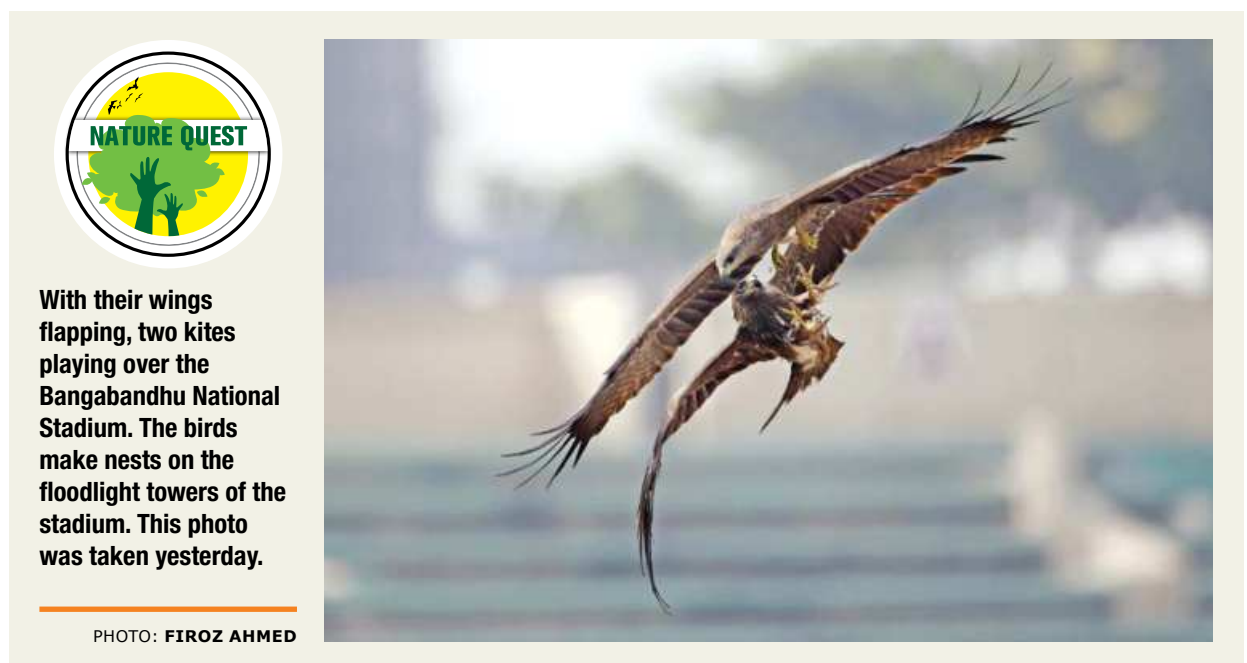


PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

LALMONIRHAT LYNCHING

Police yet to track down key suspect

2 more held; mosque khadem, 3 others remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Eight days into the brutal killing of Abu Yunus Md Shahidunnabi Jewel in the district's Patgram upazila, police are yet to arrest Abul Hossain who allegedly first spread the rumour about desecration of the Holy Quran by the victim.

Yesterday, police picked up two more people, accused in the Jewel murder case, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19

Entire England put under lockdown

US sees record-high daily cases

AFP, London

England's 56 million people joined much of western Europe in a second coronavirus lockdown yesterday, as the United States set a fresh daily record with close to 100,000 new infections.

European governments are struggling to contain a fresh wave of the pandemic, which has now infected more than 11 million across the continent.

The new stay-at-home orders from London came as Denmark said it would cull its entire population of more than 15 million minks after a mutation of the virus was found to have spread to people from the otter-like mammals.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced an England-wide SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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