

## The Steel Revolution Continues

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the tough steel



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# Blamed, shamed

Survivors using legal channels of reporting rape encounter bias, abuse in male-dominated settings

NILIMA JAHAN

If the public and legal channels through which a survivor can report rape are not gender-sensitive, the consequences can be disastrous.

When a young woman of Nagarpur upazila in Tangail was raped by her stalker on July 12, 2018 after refusing his proposal, she was not just denied help but also publicly harassed by local Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee head, who called her a "sex worker".

The committee head, Dhubria Union Parishad chairman, issued a notice claiming the rape survivor did "sex work" at her home and her father sold drugs.

In the notice, a copy of which was seen by The Daily Star, UP Chairman Md Motiar Rahman urged the landlord to evict the rape survivor and her family to "put an end to their sex-work business".

"I don't know how the chairman himself could do that. After the incident, we went to him several times but he did not take any action," said the survivor, a college student.

Getting no help from the chairman or the committee, she filed a case with Tangail District Court by herself in November 2019.

But the chairman's agenda against the survivor wasn't over. Motiar also sent the earlier notice, written on his official notice pad, to the deputy commissioner, police superintendent, and bar association of Tangail.

After he came under media and official censure, the chairman said he was duped. "Since I live far from the village of the girl, I couldn't verify the matter. Some influential people of that village came and told me that she does sex work and that it must be stopped."

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Auto rickshaws are triple parked and the pavement is occupied by hawkers selling mostly shoes at the bottom of a staircase for a footbridge in Court Point area of Sylhet city yesterday. This makes it very difficult for pedestrians to access the bridge. The situation is almost identical at the other staircases of the bridge.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## UZ CHAIRMAN'S 'MISDEEDS' Govt offices ask DC to take action

18 offices in Aditmari file complaint

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

All 18 government offices in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila have filed a complaint with the deputy commissioner about the upazila chairman's alleged indecent and abusive behaviour to officers.

In the complaint submitted to the Lalmonirhat DC on Thursday night, the offices said carrying out normal official activities has become impossible due to threats from upazila Chairman Farooq Imrul Kays.

They prayed to the DC to take necessary administrative actions against the chairman as his activities "clearly deviated from Upazila Parishad Act and are harmful to the country".

This newspaper has obtained a copy of the complaint.

According to the two-page complaint, Farooq puts pressure on officers to work in defiance of related rules and regulations during the implementation of government allowance programmes under the social safety net.

He has been doing so

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## Bangladeshi teen wins prestigious global prize

Makes anti-cyberbullying app

AFP, The Hague

A Bangladeshi teenager made an impassioned plea Friday for stronger global action against cyberbullying and online crime involving children as he received a prestigious global children's award.

Sadat Rahman, 17, won the 2020 KidsRights International Children's Peace Prize for developing a mobile app to

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Supply 7 lakh tonnes of food grains to Bangladesh

November 15, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

UN APPEAL

Sir Robert Jackson, United Nations under secretary general and chief coordinator of the United Nations relief operations in Bangladesh, told newsmen yesterday that the UN secretary general had appealed to donor countries to make available 7 lakh tonnes of food grains for Bangladesh. He estimated next year's food grains deficit in Bangladesh at 9 lakh tonnes. Aman Crop is expected to be around 2 lakh tonnes. He said that the United States had already responded to request and promised to provide 1 lakh tonnes of food grains to Bangladesh government. Due to failure of monsoon, next year crops production was going to be average, he added.

TAGORE'S PAINTING PRESENTED TO BANGABANDHU

An original painting by Rabindranath Tagore and some other items of fine arts are presented to Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by Ranu Mukherjee, president of the Academy of Fine Arts,

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## Dhaka-Delhi have multiple engagements next month

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and India will draw up plans to take the Dhaka-Delhi relations to the next level expanding areas of cooperation between the two countries with a number of engagements next month, officials say.

To that end, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen will visit New Delhi in the second week of December to get engaged in consultation with India ahead of the prime minister-level virtual meeting next month.

"The purpose of his [foreign secretary] visit is mainly consultation ahead of prime minister-level talks as the two countries

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## Students build electric car from recycled materials



RELITERS, Eindhoven

Dutch students have created a fully functioning electric car made entirely out of waste, including plastics fished out of the sea, recycled PET bottles and household garbage.

The bright yellow, sporty two-seater which the students named 'Luca', can reach a top speed of 90 kilometres (56 miles) per hour and has a reach of

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### PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 15

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-25 7-00

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Scraps from the ship-breaking yards in Chittagong being sold under a flyover in Kadamtoli area of Chattogram city yesterday. While other flyovers in the port city get some attention regarding beautification, the one in Kadamtoli has been deprived of it, allowing hawkers to move in.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## WHO warns of vaccine distrust

Says trust in vaccines vital to halting pandemic

AFP, New York

As the world celebrates advances in vaccines against the novel coronavirus, a top WHO expert warned that public distrust risked rendering even the most effective treatments useless against the pandemic as global death toll from the virus topped 1.3 million yesterday.

Infections are surging throughout America and Europe, with governments forced to take more drastic action despite fears about the devastation inflicted on their economies.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 1,305,039 people since emerging in China late last year, according to a tally compiled

by AFP from official sources at 1100 GMT yesterday. At least 53,438,640 cases have been registered.

On Friday, 9,995 new deaths and 660,538 new cases were recorded worldwide. The countries with the most new deaths were the United States with 1,596, followed by France with 932 and Mexico with 568.

Bars and clubs in New York, the epicenter of the US's spring outbreak, were ordered to close at 10pm on Friday and the state governor warned schools could move to online only teaching as early as tomorrow.

Even with a vaccine expected to receive approval soon, the head of the WHO's immunisation department warned that

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## 'Time will tell'

Trump comes closest yet to admitting defeat; Biden projected to win Georgia pushing his electoral tally to 306

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump said Friday that "time will tell" if he remains president, in a momentary slip of his unprecedented refusal to concede his election defeat and help Democrat Joe Biden prepare to take power.

Trump broke his silence after a week without on-camera comments, speaking at a Rose Garden event to herald the imminent authorization of a coronavirus vaccine.

During a short speech about the vaccine work, Trump insisted that he would never again call for a lockdown to curb the virus' spread.

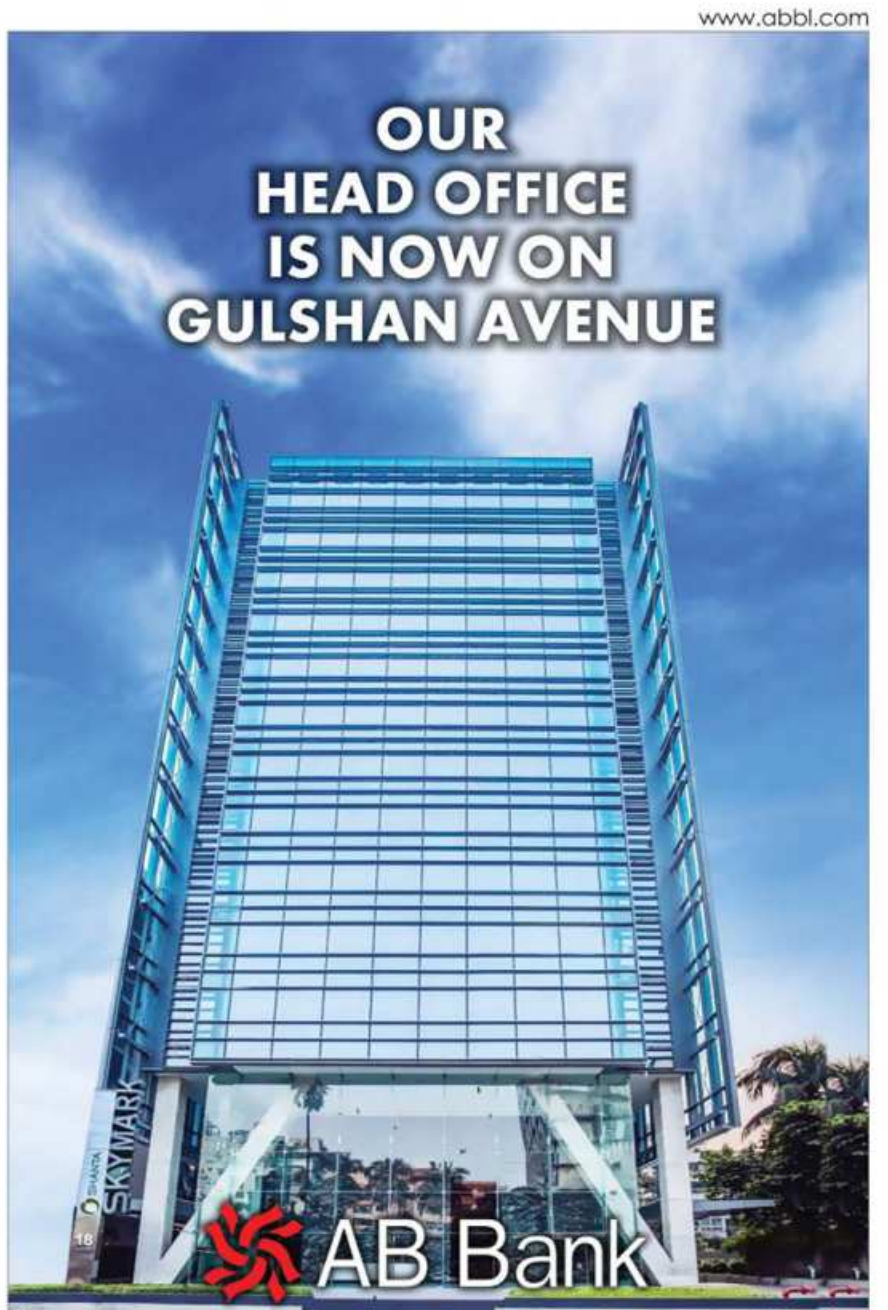
Then he added: "Hopefully the, uh, whatever happens

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