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SHAH CEMENT

Abused at every turn

13-year-old rape survivor, her parents go thru' untold sufferings, humiliation time and again

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

A 13-year-old girl from a village in Bogura's Dhunat upazila was abducted, gang raped for more than a month, and then left unconscious by a road on August 24. Her sufferings, however, were still not over.

As her family sought justice, a group of influential locals humiliated them instead. They also isolated the family from other villagers, organised an arbitration and allegedly tried to "settle the issue" taking money from the offenders.

Police, on the other hand, all along remained reluctant to record a rape case over the incident. The family alleged some locals and a sub-inspector joined hands with the culprits.

Meanwhile, one of the main accused in an abduction case filed in this connection, Masud Rana, a 35-year-old from the same village, remains scot-free and frequently threatens the family over phone.

"Masud said he won't let us stay in the village if we did not withdraw the abduction case," said the girl's father, a low-paid garment employee who lost his job after the Covid-19 struck the country.

He said Masud along with 45-year-old Fazlul Haque Babu, member of the local union parishad, had been harassing his seventh-grader daughter on her way to school over the last couple of years.

Both of them wanted to marry the girl, but the family turned down their individual proposals, said the victim's mother.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Many buses, which are out of service, have been parked at the BRTC Kamalapur Bus Depot in the capital for a long time. Some of them are beyond repair and are being used as donors for parts. Buses that are in service often do not get the room to park there and are forced to park on the street. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Two 'confess' to defacing Bangabandhu sculpture

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

A Kusthia court ordered two madrasa students accused of vandalising a sculpture of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to be sent to jail after recording their statements under section-164 yesterday evening.

Accused Abu Bakr Mithun, 18, and Nahid, 20, are students of Ibne Masud (R) Madrasa in Jugia area of Kusthia town.

A senior judicial magistrate recorded their statements after a Kusthia Model Police Station inspector placed the accused before the court around 4:00pm on completion of their five-day remand.

On Saturday, two other accused in the case, teachers of the madrasa Al-Amin and Yusuf, made confessional statements under section-164. They too are in jail now.

A source in Kusthia police, who was present

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Ensure fees for medical tests are displayed at gates

HC orders govt to help Covid patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to ensure display of charts containing fees for medical tests of Covid-19 patients at the main gates of hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centres across the country.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Khairul Alam also gave a timeframe of seven days to execute the order.

During the hearing of a writ, the Directorate General of Health Services submitted a revised chart of the medical tests' fees before the court through the attorney general's office.

Human Rights Lawyers and Securing Environment Society of Bangladesh (HRLSES) filed a writ with the court seeking necessary directives regarding this.

Meanwhile, the HC bench also ordered the health secretary and director general of DGHS to submit a revised chart of other medical tests and a report on the progress of a health commission formation within a month.

The court fixed January 20, 2021 as the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

I am a proud man today: Bangabandhu

December 14, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CONSTITUTION AUTHENTICATED

Formalities for the commencement of the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on December 16 are being undertaken by the Gono Parishad (Constituent Assembly) at its two-day special session. This morning, Speaker Mohammadullah puts his signature to authenticate the constitution. The speaker then calls upon Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to put his signature on the original Bangla copy and on its English translation.

After signing the constitution, Bangabandhu says, "I am a proud man today. Our people are proud too at this moment."

He further adds, "Our people for the last 25 years had been yearning for a supreme law for the conduct of their own affairs. Now that has been achieved by them within a short period of 11 months of the Liberation."

Suranjit Sengupta abstains from signing the document. Manabendra Larma, an independent member for Chittagong Hill Tracts, has not joined the session.

BANGABANDHU'S CALL TO ARMED FORCES

In a message on the occasion of the publication of the Banglar Beer

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



BREXIT TRADE DEAL UK, EU agree to go 'extra mile'

REUTERS, Brussels

London and Brussels agreed to "go the extra mile" in coming days to try to reach an elusive trade agreement despite missing their latest deadline to avert a turbulent 'no deal' exit for Britain from the European Union's orbit at the end of the month.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the president of the EU's executive Commission, Ursula von der Leyen had given negotiators a deadline until yesterday to find a way to resolve an impasse on arrangements that would guarantee Britain zero-tariff and zero-quota access to the EU's single market.

Both said on Friday that a 'no-deal' was now the most likely outcome, but yesterday they mandated negotiators to continue.

"Despite the exhaustion

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Fossil hunter finds new type of 'sea dragon'



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A two metre-long fossil of a new type of prehistoric "sea dragon" has been discovered on a Dorset beach.

Amateur fossil hunter Dr Steve Etches found the ichthyosaur fossil buried head-first in limestone. The new type of creature has been called Etches sea dragon after Dr Etches. They are called sea dragons because of their very large teeth and eyes.

Dr Etches thought the teeth were unusual, so he passed it on to experts at the University of Portsmouth, where master's student Megan

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

'Profits over people'

Migrants share appalling experiences at Malaysian gloves factories

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Bangladeshi migrant worker Sheikh Kibria recalls with horror the filthy, overcrowded dormitory where he was housed by the world's biggest rubber glove manufacturer when a coronavirus outbreak erupted and infected thousands.

Malaysia's Top Glove saw profits soar, and its stock price jump as much as 400 percent this year as countries worldwide rushed to buy protective gear as the pandemic intensified.

But in interviews with AFP, the South Asian migrants working flat out to make the gloves -- who typically earn around \$300 a month -- described appalling living conditions, in cramped dormitories where up to 25 people sleep in bunk beds in a single room.

Some claim the company

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Virtual book fair plan scrapped

Boi Mela to get delayed start in February

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amar Ekushey Boi Mela-2021 will be held as usual, not virtually as previously reported, but will start later than the scheduled February 1.

Farid Ahmed, president of the Academic and Creative Publishers' Association of Bangladesh (ACPAB), told The Daily Star yesterday.

The decision was made in a meeting between Bangla Academy, the ACPAB, and the Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers' Association.

Bangla Academy will announce the book fair

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 14

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:15	12:45	3:45	5:19	7:00
JAMAT 5:50	1:15	4:00	5:22	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A man on his phone stepping on to the street head first amid oncoming traffic from a central reservation near Century Arcade in the capital's Moghbazar. Like him and the woman seen in the photo, people risk their lives to cross the street needlessly when there are zebra crossings nearby. This photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

US starts vaccination today

Germany to impose stricter curbs; S Korea hits new daily record for cases

AGENCIES

The Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine will reach hospitals and other sites across the United States by this morning, ready to be injected into the arms of millions of the most vulnerable Americans as the global death toll topped 1.6 million.

Doses will be shipped out in boxes containing dry ice that are capable of staying at -70 degrees Celsius (-94 degrees Fahrenheit), the frigid temperature needed to preserve the drug.

General Gus Perna, who is overseeing the massive logistical operation as part of the government's Operation Warp Speed, likened the moment to D-Day, a turning point of World War II.

"I am absolutely 100 percent confident that we are going to distribute safely, this precious commodity, this vaccine, needed to defeat the enemy Covid," he told reporters.

The imminent start of the mass vaccination campaign in the world's hardest-hit country came as Germany announced a partial lockdown from Wednesday with non-essential shops and schools to close in a bid to halt an "exponential growth" in coronavirus infections.

The restrictions will apply until January 10, with companies also urged to allow employees to work from home or offer extended company holidays, under the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5