

Over 4.5 lakh women raped during War of Independence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 4.5 lakh women were raped during the War of Independence, says a study. Earlier, the post-independence government put the figure of rape victims at 2 lakh apart from 30 lakh martyrs.

The study says 2,02,527 women were raped in the country and of the total rape victims, 1,31,250 were refugees and over 1.31 lakh Hindus.

The study also revealed the percentage of the victims along religious lines: 56.50 per cent were Muslims, 41.44 per cent Hindus and 2.06 per cent Christians and others.

Sixty-three Pakistani army personnel have been accused of rape -- based on the statements of the victims -- as recorded in the book.

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Sheltech's 'comments' and our reply

Managing Director of Sheltech Private Limited Dr Toufiq M Seraj, in a letter to The Daily Star, commented on a news item and pictures published in this newspaper on March 13 under the caption "Rules are for the breaking" and "High rise chaos ... some buildings in the city with grossly inadequate or no parking space".

The letter says, " We thank The Daily Star for its interest in high-rise buildings. Like The Daily Star, we also think that the rules and regulations of RAJUK regarding approval of plans and construction of high-

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Mar 20		6-10 pm
Mar 21	6-02 am	

Prayer Timings

Mar 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-15	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Agargaon slum a den of city's criminals

ABUL KALAM AZAD

More than one lakh people in Agargaon and its adjoining areas are held hostage by hoodlums, who run phensidyl business and other criminal activities from the BNP basti (slum).

According to intelligence agencies and slum sources, more than 100 criminals belonging to several factions are involved in different kinds of criminal activities.

The criminals have used the BNP basti, one of the most crime-prone slums in the city, as their base for years to run illegal arms and drugs business. Firecrackers are also made and sold in the slum.

Hardly a day passes by without a criminal incident taking place in the slum or its adjoining areas. Gunfight between rival factions over control of phensidyl business, killing, abduction, explosion of crackers, extortion and mugging are regular features.

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Alamgir placed on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former state minister for planning and Awami League leader Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was placed on two days' fresh remand yesterday.

He was arrested on charge of instigating government officials and employees to join the anti-government movement led from a Janatar Mancha (people's dais) in 1996. Alamgir was a secretary to the government at that time.

Police produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court after expiry of a remand and prayed for seven days' fresh remand. The court granted two days' remand.

In the forwarding report, police said that they gathered information about his involvement in the Janatar Mancha movement while in government, and evidences of conspiracy against the present government during his stay aboard in the last five months.

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'Speed' invades pvt varsities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than half of the students of the country's private universities are addicted to 'speed', a pill taken for addiction, while 90 per cent of the students are familiar with the illicit drug.

Young BNP lawmaker Mahi Badruddoja Choudhury disclosed this in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Mahi, the only son of President AQM Badruddoja Choudhury, also informed the House that 'speed' is produced in Myanmar where it is better known as 'yeaba'. Such tablets are smuggled into the country through the country's border with Myanmar.

Besides, he added, many airlines are also used for smuggling the addictive tablet into Bangladesh from Thailand.

"Some unscrupulous businessmen are also trying to produce

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Govt has exposed its fascist face: Hasina

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalgarj

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina said the BNP-led coalition government has created a reign of terror across the country.

The government has exposed its 'fascist character' within five months of its term, she said.

Sheikh Hasina was addressing a workers' meeting here yesterday afternoon.

She said the government is repressing the opposition activists to eliminate Awami League and destroy democracy and the spirit of the War of Liberation.

She urged the countrymen to come forward to protest the misdeeds of the government and take a fresh vow to put an end to 'the

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PM reportedly unhappy with Moyeen Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is reportedly unhappy with Science and Technology Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan who neither joined the last cabinet meeting nor took charge of his new ministry.

Khan was changed to the science and technology ministry from information on March 11.

It now seems that the minister is not 'very happy' at the shuffle and did not join his new assignment. Even, he is abstaining from attending the parliament session.

Some BNP leaders, who talked with Khan on his refusal to join work, said he is 'determined' not to take charge of the new ministry and may resign any time.

Khan is learnt to have already conveyed his decision not to accept the new portfolio to the prime minister as he felt 'offended' by the change, sources close to him said. He feels that the new portfolio is inferior to the previous one.

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Alleged top terrorist dies after ambush attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alexander, a top terrorist, succumbed to his injuries Monday night after he was ambushed Sunday at Green Road area.

Alexander and his wife Shamim Akther Liza, travelling on a rickshaw, came under attack in front of New Al-Razi Hospital at Green Road Sunday afternoon. The attackers sprayed bullets on both of them.

The couple was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Alexander died at about 11:00pm Monday. His wife is still under treatment.

Police said Alexander was an accused in over a dozen of cases including that of the killing of Humayun Kabir Milon, who was gunned down on the premises of the Dhaka District and Session's Judge's Court.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offering munajat after commissioning a new Naval base at Mongla, Bagea hat, yesterday.

New Naval base, two vessels commissioned

UNB, Mongla

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said her government wants to proceed in a planned way in procuring vessels and modern equipment for the naval force.

"We don't want recurrence of past misdeeds, like wastage of public money and corruption. Our aim is to build up a self-dependent and strong naval force utilizing our limited resources," she told the naval officers and sailors.

The Prime Minister was addressing the commissioning ceremony of a new naval base, BNS Mongla, and two naval vessels, BNS Agradoot and BNS Salam, at the country's second seaport in Mongla, Bagerhat in the morning.

BNS Agradoot is a hydrographic survey ship and BNS Salam a modern speedy warship named after a martyr of the great Language Movement.

BNS Mongla, located on more than 100 acres of land, is the sixth naval base in Bangladesh. Other five bases are: BNS Isha Khan in

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Ahad murder Charges against 13 framed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday framed charges against 13 people in the Sergeant Ahad murder case.

Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmad fixed May 4 for trial.

The accused are -- Jakir alias Kangali Jakir, Abu Taleb alias Rana, Jakir alias Kana Jakir, Bachchu Bepari, Azizul Haque, Syed Lalmiah, Zakir, Sahidul Islam, Shah Alam, Neshan alias Selim, Mohammad Kabir, Abul Karim and Abdur Rouf.

The accused pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after hearing charges against them.

All the accused except Abdur Rouf were present in the court during the hearing. Rouf has been

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AL conspiring to disrupt peace: PM

BSS, Bagerhat

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said yesterday Awami League was engaged in conspiracy to disrupt peace and warned that if any one resorts to acts of terrorism and violence, action would follow as per law.

Addressing a public meeting at Khan Jahan Ali College ground, Khaleda Zia said her government is

determined to control terrorism with an iron hand.

Referring to Awami League's boycott of Sangsad sessions, the prime minister said AL is welcome to speak on any issue it wants on the floor of the House. She said in democracy there is victory and defeat and one should accept either of this gracefully.

She said AL was not joining the

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