

**Did you know?**  
 It is believed the pyramid was built as a tomb for Fourth dynasty Egyptian pharaoh Khufu and constructed over a 14 to 20 year period. The Great Pyramid was originally 280 Egyptian cubits tall, 146.478 metres (480.57 ft). Each base side was 440 royal cubits, 230.37 metres (755.81 ft) in length.



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## Life in an ignored village

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Khadija, a class nine student, takes a laborious journey on her way to school, as she has to cross a submerged road at the Hundir Beel of Shugandhi village under Sadar upazila.

About 50 students from the tiny huts of the locality use this road to go to different schools and madrasas.

Forty families have been living in this small village for about 60 years now.

The huts are only 1,200 metres away from the pucca road. Work of 800 metres was finished three years ago, while the rest remains incomplete due to objections from two landowners.

Azad Bhuiyan, one of the landowners, said he is dependent on his land for his livelihood, adding that he would give his land if he were compensated for that.

The villagers could only

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This is how the students of Hundir Beel in Chandpur sadar upazila go to school during the rainy season.

PHOTO: ALAM PALASH

## Torture before divorce, acid attack after

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A garment worker who divorced her husband to relieve herself from his torture is now crying in pain at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's Burn unit with her face fully burnt by acid her former husband threw.

Yar Mahmud, her former husband, threw acid on her face on Friday night, as she rejected his proposal to be his wife again, she said, sobbing.

Salma Akhter, the victim, asked for a divorce in March this year after Yar took a second wife.

Project Director of DMCH Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit Dr Samanta Lal Sen said Salma's full face has been burnt. She also sustained 10 percent burn injuries on other parts of her body.

Salma, 24, married Yar Mahmud, 28, about five years ago following a romantic relation. The two were working at a garment factory in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital.

Within two months after the marriage, Yar started to physically torture her for money. He never allowed Salma using her monthly income of Tk 7,500 for herself, she said.

"He [Yar] used to keep me confined in the house by locking the door from outside," she told The Daily Star yesterday.

Learning about the torture, Salma's family has long been



Salma Akhter

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## Two girls drown at Ashulia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two cousins died after a slab of underground sewerage tank caved in and they fell inside the reservoir while bathing at their residence in Ashulia yesterday.

The dead, Jhuma Paul, 16, and her cousin Babita Paul, 15, used to work in two garment

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Prayer Timing		
October 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-38	5-41
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## 20 killed in blast at Chinese mine

17 trapped

BBC ONLINE

An explosion at a coal mine in central China has killed 20 miners and trapped another 17 underground.

Rescue efforts are underway at the pit in Yuzhou, Henan province, which state media said had been hit by a "sudden coal and gas outburst".

China's mining industry is the most dangerous in the world - more than 2,600 were killed in accidents in 2009.

The government has shut down more than 1,000 illegal pits this year as part of efforts to improve safety standards.

The blast happened in the early morning at the Yuzhou pit, which is owned by Pingyu Coal & Electric Co Ltd, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The national work safety agency said 239 miners had managed to reach the surface but that 20 had been found dead and a further 17 were still missing.

Rescue operations are continuing to find the missing men, but an official surnamed Li told the Associated Press news

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## Bangladeshi killed in Indian enclave

Houses torched in reprisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A mob torched and vandalised several houses at an Indian enclave in Sadar upazila of Panchagarh early yesterday in retaliation for the overnight killing of a Bangladeshi villager.

However, none was hurt, as the enclave dwellers had left their houses in anticipation of an attack, local police said.

Bangladeshi villagers alleged that locals of Garati, the Indian enclave, beat 50-year-old Ramzan Ali to death

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## NATORE UPAZILA CHAIRMAN MURDER

# Main accused says he is innocent

Zakir Hossain tells The Daily Star he will surrender soon, wants 'neutral' probe

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and BULBUL AHMED, from Natore

Zakir Hossain, the prime accused in Baraigram upazila chairman Sanaullah Noor Babu murder case, yesterday said he would soon come out of hiding and surrender before the court to prove his innocence.

In an interview with The Daily Star over cell phone, Zakir said he wouldn't hesitate to walk the gallows if his involvement in the murder was proved.

"I'm sure the murder charge against me will be withdrawn if a neutral probe is carried out,"



said the member of Bonpara Awami League's executive body, adding he was preparing to seek bail.

Zakir said he was not on bad terms with Babu. "We weren't political rivals. Why would I kill him?"

Babu was always very desperate to bring himself into focus, added Zakir.

"His [Babu's] main rivals were his party colleagues," he said, adding Babu had filed a general diary with Baraigram Police Station two months back alleging his life was under threat.

"Babu hinted his party rivals

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**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think BNP's preparation for tougher agitation to protect Khaleda Zia's cantonment house is justified?

Yes (47.7%)  
 No (52.1%)  
 No Comments (0.2%)

**Total votes: 2889**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think SCBA chief's demand for the out-of-court settlement of the Khaleda Zia's Cantt house issue is justified, whereas BNP itself took it to the court?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

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উপস্থাপনায় : খোন্দকার ইব্রাহিম খালেদ



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