

## Omar Faruq's bank accounts to remain frozen: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday affirmed a High Court verdict that upheld the freezing of bank accounts of Omar Faruq Talukder, the sacked assistant personal secretary of former railways minister Suranjit Sengupta, where he deposited over Tk 70 lakh.

Chamber judge Justice MA Wahhab Miah refused to halt the HC verdict after hearing a petition filed by Omar Faruq seeking a stay on the verdict.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) counsel Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Omar Faruq could not withdraw money from the accounts following the SC order.

On July 29, following an ACC appeal, the HC ruled that Omar Faruq's bank accounts would remain frozen, as a corruption trial was going on against him.

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**Hindus under the banner of Moth-Mandir O Debottar Sampatti Rakkha O Punruddhar Jatiya Committee demonstrate at the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday, demanding cancellation of the draft Endowment Property Management Act 2013, which they say clashes with their religion.**

PHOTO: STAR

## Govt trying to humiliate Yunus: Ershad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday lambasted the government for its "hateful and vindictive attitudes" towards Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

In a statement, Ershad, a key leader in the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance, said it was very unfortunate that the cabinet had decided to take legal action against the Grameen Bank founder.

He demanded that the government stop its "hateful attitudes" towards Dr Yunus and show proper respect to him.

The JP chief said he was deeply concerned that out of an ulterior motive, the government had moved to humiliate Dr Yunus before the world by suing him.

In the statement, Ershad said the entire world revered Dr Yunus. "On the contrary, the government of his country has moved to

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## AVOIDING UNGA MEETING PM wants to evade answer on polls

Say senior BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior BNP leaders yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had decided not to attend the 68th UN General Assembly (UNGA) meeting due in end-September, as she could not give any satisfactory answer to the UN authorities over the upcoming general election.

Addressing a rally of the party's Dhaka city unit at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan, the leaders also alleged that the decision had hurt the country's dignity.

The prime minister disclosed the decision at the cabinet meeting on Monday.

BNP standing committee member Khandker Mosharrar Hossain said the prime minister did not follow the UN's proposal for holding dialogue to ensure all parties' participation in the polls. "She could not answer when UN chief Ban Ki-moon would ask her about the proposal."

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir and the party's city unit convenor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, among others, spoke on the occasion.

They also accused the government of hatching a conspiracy to file "fake" cases against Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

Meanwhile, BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday demanded scrapping of the proposed

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## WOMEN IN 20-24 AGE GROUP 64pc victims of child marriage: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 64 percent of all women aged between 20 and 24 in Bangladesh were the victims of child marriage, shows a nationwide survey.

The occurrence of child marriage is higher in rural areas than in urban areas, and education significantly contributes to the elimination of this curse, says the report, which was launched at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Plan International Bangladesh and International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) jointly carried out the survey between July and August last year, when 5,367 married women were interviewed across the country.

Around 86 percent women of this age group who did not go to school were married off at early age and the wish of the parents or family was the reason for their marriage, said Dr Quamrun Nahar, associate

scientist of ICDDR,B, while presenting the findings. Based on the report, she placed a series of recommendations to end child marriage. These include strict enforcement of existing laws, implementation of online birth registration, and improvement of girls' safety.

The other recommendations are increasing awareness of families and communities, fostering children's agency in preventing child marriage, involving men and boys as key agents to stop child marriage, investing in girls' education and adolescents' sexual and reproductive health.

Addressing the function as chief guest, Meher Afroze Chumki, state minister for women and children affairs, said lack of awareness and poverty were the key reasons for child marriage. She emphasised awareness building and training of community leaders to eliminate child marriage and dowry system.

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## 'BANGLADESH FIRST' QUIZ CONTEST Second round starts Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second round of "Rin presents Bangladesh First" - powered by Standard Chartered Bank" will begin on September 13.

The second round, which is a jury round, will start at Rangpur Zila School, Rangpur and Barisal Zila School, Barisal on the day. The second round will continue in the divisional cities till September 21 ending in Dhaka.

Each participant will demonstrate his or her presentation skill, knowledge and understanding of Bangladesh-related topics in this round. The jury will select a total of 128 contestants, 2 students in a pair from same school, who will assemble in Dhaka city for the televised round to be shown on Maasranga TV.

The first round of "Rin presents Bangladesh First" - powered by Standard Chartered Bank", a nationwide quiz contest on Bangladesh launched by The Daily Star and e-learning portal champs21.com, was held in the country's seven divisional cities on September 6.

In the round, 8,000 students of classes VI to X from 80 champs21.com partner Bangla and English medium schools answered multiple choice questions. From the first

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## Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh



Pijush Pandit, 30, of Malidanga village in Mymensingh, has been suffering from transverse colon cancer.

His family has already spent Tk 21 lakh for his treatment. But his doctors have now advised him to go for chemotherapy which will require a further Tk 20 lakh.

Pijush Pandit fervently appeals to generous people to extend a helping hand for his treatment.

Anyone wishing to help can contact over mobile phone at 01918727295.

Contributions can be sent to Pijush Pandit, account no: 100251183, Janata Bank, Mymensingh Branch.

## 11 jailed for illegal herbal business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion yesterday sentenced 11 people to one-year imprisonment for running an illegal herbal medicine business and sealed three shops in this connection in the capital's Farmgate.

Sharif Forhad, executive magistrate of Rab-10, who led the court, said they recovered illegally-produced herbal items worth Tk 10 lakh from the three shops.

The arrestees used to campaign for the herbal medicines through singing songs and performing magic tricks. Once someone shows interest, they take him to their office "The Khan Kabiraj Ghar", he added.

The office was where the criminals used to instigate physical relationship between the customers and women as proof of how sexually powerful the client had become after taking their medicine, he added.

Some of the "medicines" are harmful to the skin, said Md Aziulla, an official of Drug Administration.

## Woman strangled in Ashulia

Body found at Jubo League leader's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A woman was found strangled at a house of a Jubo League leader at Bogabari in Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday. The deceased Farjana Akter, 19, daughter of Abdul Mazid of Fulbaria in Maymensingh, was wife of one Uttam, 27, of Dinajpur.

Ashulia police recovered the body yesterday morning from the house of Mansur Alom alias Mansur Madbor, joint-secretary of Ashulia Thana unit of Jubo League, the ruling Awami League's front wing.

Mansur, also a jhut (scraps of fabric) trader, used the house only for his business and political purposes.

Sheikh Badrul Alom, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, said Farjana and Uttam had been living separately for the last few months.

Shafiqul Islam, 27, a cellphone trader in the area, said Farjana came to Ashulia from Dinajpur with her husband one year ago and started a beauty parlour on the first floor of Mansur Market, owned by Mansur.

Shortly, Mansur, a married man, made a relationship with Farjana and she started living in a room of the house, at least half a kilometre off his family residence, said another local Monir Hossain, 35.

Recently, Mansur had a quarrel with Farjana as his family could not tolerate the relationship, said Mansur's younger brother Masud Ahmed Madbor.

Masud claimed Uttam fled the scene after killing Farjana.

Denying the allegation Uttam told The Daily Star over the phone that he was currently living in Sylhet as Mansur's accomplices beat him and got him out of the area.

Despite repeated attempts, Mansur could not be contacted for comments.

Sub-inspector Abul Kalam Azad said the woman might have been tortured before her death as several marks of injury were found in the throat and back.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy. Farjana's mother Hosne Ara filed a case with the police accusing Uttam in this regard.



Five youths received awards for their role in preventing child marriage at the launching ceremony of a survey report on child marriage in Bangladesh at Lakeshore Hotel in the capital yesterday. Plan International Bangladesh and International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), which jointly conducted the study, organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

## 13-yr-old girl left at DMCH unconscious dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 13-year-old girl died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday afternoon twelve hours after she had been left there unconscious allegedly by her two cousins.

The two are Shahabuddin Khan, constable of Rajarbagh Police Lines; and Lokman, aged around 38, brother of Shahabuddin.

Khilgaon police Sub-inspector Sheikh Matiar Rahman told The Daily Star that Lokman had brought the girl to Shahabuddin's house at Nondipara in Khilgaon a month ago from her Comilla residence without informing her parents.

At DMCH, when the girl regained her consciousness she told police that her

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