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# The unvanquished

NAIMUL KARIM

Exactly five months ago, a correspondent from this paper spotted a teen-aged boy mesmerising the folks of Mazharbari, Kamalgate with some towering sixes at their local play ground. Not that whacking tennis balls over the pavement is an uncommon scenario in a cricket-crazy nation, but that it came from the bat of the 16-year-old Mohammad Sharif -- whose legs and right hand had to be amputated after an electrical accident -- was a sight to behold.

Sharif, who displayed immense courage as both the leader of his team and a human being, soon received acclaim from all over the country after his story was published the following day.

One thing led to another and a week later non-governmental organisation Center for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), approached to help Sharif.

Five months on, Sharif today can walk with the help of two artificial legs and shake hands with his friends with the artificial hand provided by the CRP.

After undergoing three months of physiotherapy at the CRP, Sharif walked out of the NGO yesterday along with his teary-eyed parents, who were still in the process of coming to terms with the immense change in their son.

"I am really happy, I can walk now and most importantly, I can finally wear pants," was the first thing that he said. "I bought new clothes today because this is a new start to my life. There is so much that I feel like doing now."

Sharif, who earlier used to help his father by selling fruits, wants to take things a step further.

"I can walk now and I can be of more help to my father. I hope to get a job. Secondly, I want to get back to playing cricket. I know that this is going to be difficult, but I will work hard for it," he said.

Working hard is something that goes with Sharif's character. As CRP's prosthetic department head Sumon Das put it, Sharif's work ethic was the main reason why they could complete their most 'intense' project in good time.

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Sharif, an amputee, was seen playing with other kids at the dusty Collegiate School ground in Chittagong only five months ago. His indomitable spirit and love for sport touched a lot of hearts as The Daily Star ran a report on him along with his photo. And yesterday when he walked out of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in the port city, it was a dream come true for him and a triumph of human endeavour.



PHOTOS: ANURUP KANTI DAS



## Shahidullah defends Bangla

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

There is little question that the death of Mohammad Ali Jinnah in September 1948 created a vacuum in Pakistan's politics. For decades Jinnah had been the spokesman of the Muslims of India and had, in almost single-handed fashion, created Pakistan. None of the Muslim League politicians around him matched him in talent

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## PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS

# The poor bear the brunt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday demonstrated in Dhaka in protest at the recent increase in the prices of essential drugs.

Through interviews with patients, the organisation had found that prices of a number of medicines for gastric and ulcer and antibiotics rose up to 20 percent in the last six months, said Humayun Kabir, general secretary of CAB, at a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

"With such an irrational price hike of medicines, the poor patients are struggling to bear their healthcare cost," he added.

Golam Kibria, director of the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), however, told The Daily Star that there was no scope for a price hike, as a committee was designated to determine prices of such drugs.

Humayun said the pharmaceutical companies were so influential that they cared none before hiking the prices.

Lax government regulation also leads to such price hikes, he said. "In reality, the drug administration serves the interests of the medicine companies, not of the people."

Adulterated and counterfeit medicines are flooding the market but the drug administration is not taking stern actions against the manufacturers, speakers at the human chain said.

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## UPAZILA POLLS PHASE-2

# AL, BNP try hard to keep rebels at bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League and the BNP are still trying to confirm single candidate for each post in the second phase of polls to 117 upazilas slated for February 27.

In the last few days, both the parties have held series of meetings with their dissident candidates to talk them into quitting the race and supporting party-backed candidates, report our district correspondents.

In response, some rebel candidates have already withdrawn their candidacies while some more have pledged to do so today, the last day for nomination withdrawal.

However, in many areas rebel candidates have refused to step aside. They are still being pursued by their political parties.

AL and BNP had failed to choose single candidates in many areas for the first-phase election to 97 upazilas scheduled for February 19. For this phase, both camps have dissident candidates in more than 50 upazilas.

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## 'PANAMA FARUQ' OF BARISAL

# Jubo League cadre killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Jubo League man was killed in a "shootout" between his cohorts and members of Rapid Action Battalion in Barisal city yesterday.

The dead, Faruq Ahmed alias Panama Faruq, 46, was son of Yaqub Ali Mia of Bazar Road area.

He was a listed criminal and accused in over one dozen cases for murder, extortion, grabbing public and private properties and other criminal activities, said Sakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

Nizamul Islam Nizam, convener of Barisal city Jubo League, said Faruq was an active member of the unit but did not hold any post.

Rab-8 sources said a patrol team in Chawak Bazar area tried to intercept a group of people around 6:30am, seeing their suspicious movement.

Instead of halting, the people started firing, triggering a gun battle with the Rab members, the sources added.

Faruq was caught in the line of fire at one stage and died on the spot.

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## Prof Rangalal Sen no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

National professor and internationally renowned social scientist Prof Dr Rangalal Sen passed away at a hospital in Chittagong city yesterday.

The 81-year-old educationist had been suffering from kidney disease and old age complications. He left behind two daughters, a son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Former chairman at sociology department of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

TEARS FOR TAMANNA ... After 17 long days of searing pain, little Tamanna breathed her last at the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital early yesterday. At an age when kids go to school and play, she had to toil as a domestic help at a house in the port city's Shulakbahar area. This photo was taken on January 25, a day after the 10-year-old girl suffered severe burns while lighting a gas oven to boil water for her employer.

## TAZREEN FASHIONS DISASTER

# Owner Delwar denied bail

## Wife gets conditional bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again rejected bail to Tazreen Fashions owner Delwar Hossain but granted conditional bail to his wife and chairman of the company Mahmuda Akhter for one month.

Mahmuda has to appear before the court every Sunday throughout the bail period, said Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Ismail Hossain.

The order came a day after the couple surrendered to the court in connection with the country's worst factory fire in November, 2012, which killed 112 garment workers.

Delwar's bail petition was rejected due to his negligence as the owner of the garment unit in ensuring safety of his employees, the court said.

However, the Tazreen chairman got bail because she is sick and that she has a four-year-old son to look after, the judge added.

On Sunday, the duo appeared in the court and sought

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## CHIEF WHIP FEROZ HC questions legality of his holding office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of holding the office of Member of Parliament by Chief Whip ASM Feroz, following a petition over a default loan.

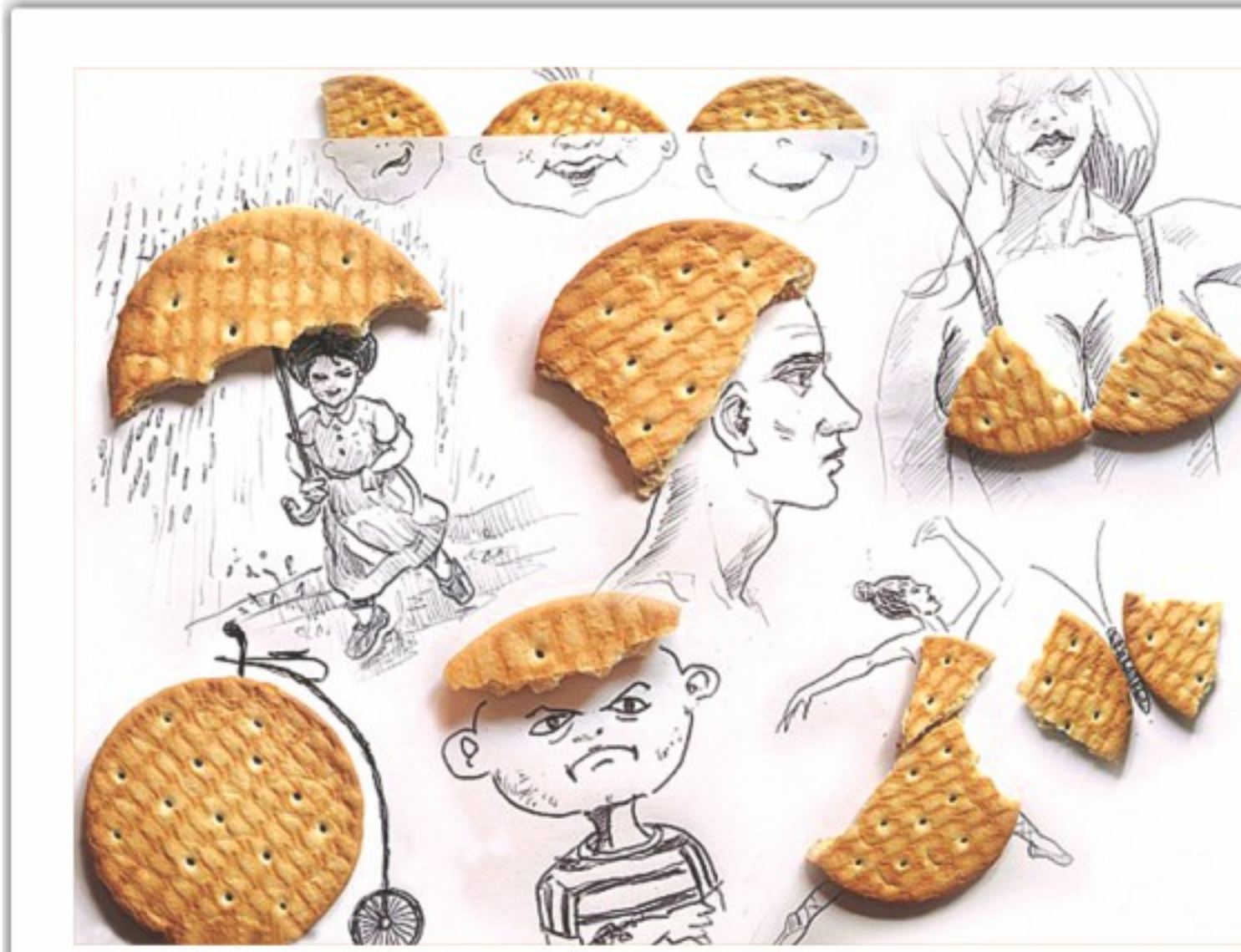
The court sought an explanation from the government, the Election Commission and Feroz in this regard in four weeks.

The bench of Justice

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PRAYER TIMING			February 11
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5:30	6:05	
Zahr	12:45	1:15	
Asr	4:15	4:30	
Maghrib	5:52	5:56	
Esha	7:15	7:45	

Source: Islamic Foundation



## Art you can eat!

MAIL ONLINE

An alternative artist uses popcorn, nuts and grape stems to create incredible portraits.

Victor Nunes, 65, from São Paulo, Brazil makes creative pictures of faces, people and animals by combining pen and paper with household objects.

The artist takes inanimate, mundane objects like nuts, scissors, fabric, foam, and food -- and then doodles

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the international cricket will be benefited from the ICC revamp proposal by India, Australia and England?

Yes

No

18%

82%

TOTAL VOTES: 193

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to give false figures on the killing of BNP-led alliance leaders and activists between December 26 and January 27 this year?

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