

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
Showbiz

TRIBUTE TO MARY SHELLEY

The creator of Frankenstein was born today, 217 years ago

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'BEHAVING LIKE NAZIS'

Putin blasts Ukrainian forces, threatens standoff in the Arctic

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Floods rage thru' north

100 more villages inundated as Bogra embankment washed away; erosion takes alarming turn

Affected districts	Affected people	Above danger mark
19	9 lakh	17 rivers

STAR REPORT

With the flood situation in the north showing no sign of improvement, more than one lakh people of 100 villages were freshly affected after a portion of the flood control embankment by the Jamuna river collapsed in Bogra yesterday.

Including them, about nine lakh people have now been hit by the monsoonal flood in 19 districts, according to government figures.

Marooned for over two weeks, many of these people have little or no food, drinking water and sanitation facilities. Authorities are distributing relief materials in the affected districts, but they are not adequate, according to flood victims and our correspondents.

It is highly unlikely that the situation will improve before the first week of next month, as the Brahmaputra and the Teesta rivers are swelling further, said officials at the disaster management ministry.

Water levels of all major rivers except for the Ganges are also increasing, and new areas of the central parts of the country, including the capital, are likely to be flooded in a day or two, according to the Flood Forecasting and

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Inundated houses in Rohodoha of Shariakandi upazila of Bogra after the Jamuna washed away 300 metres of a dyke, inset, early yesterday flooding homes of thousands and their cropland.

PHOTO: STAR

Picked up, they never return

74 enforced disappearances reported in first 6 months this year

JAMIL MAHMUD and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Abdul Quader Bhuiyan Masum always wanted to be an intelligence officer. And everything was going the way he wanted.

A final-year student of the capital's Government Titumir College, Masum was preparing himself for the recruitment test for field officers' posts at National Security Intelligence last year. But on December 4, just nine days before the test was held, he suddenly disappeared and never returned home.

He along with five others was allegedly picked up by law enforcers from the capital. His police record was clean.

Two days later, Masum's father filed a general diary, but the law enforcement agencies have yet to say anything about his fate or whereabouts. The same happened in case of the other five.

"He is the youngest among the five siblings and the most pampered one. My parents have been sick since the day of his disappearance," said Masum's elder brother Arzu.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

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JAN-JUNE '14
74 picked up
16 traced
23 bodies found
2010-13
229 victims
37 traced
31 bodies found
Impunity key reason for recurrence
Bangladesh not signatory to 2006 convention

NEWS ANALYSIS

A policy of hypocrisy

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The government has been portraying its move to restore parliament's power to impeach Supreme Court judges on grounds of misconduct or incapacity as an effort to return to the original constitution of 1972.

But it has no plan to return to the 1972 constitution regarding empowering the SC to have effective control and supervision over the lower judiciary.

In the view of Law Minister Anisul Haque, the existing provisions on the lower courts are excellent and there is no need to change those.

Such a policy may be termed hypocritical, and the reason behind it is clear. The government will lose control over the lower judiciary if the constitutional provisions are restored to their original form.

For this, it has paid no heed for the last four years to the SC's expectation of restoration of the provisions.

The Appellate Division of the SC, in its full judgment in the constitution's fifth amendment case, stressed the need for a restoration of the provisions for a meaningful separation of the judiciary from the executive.

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Extortionist gang with 'Bhola link'

Triple-murder suspect Babu, female victim's brother, both active members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They are known as Bhola-Khaleque gang.

Using the name of a ruling party leader of Bhola, they have established a reign of extortion in the slum areas of Moghbazar and Malibagh, locals allege.

Abdul Khaleque, the gang leader, and his close aides Shah Alam, Jahangir, Nuru and Mazid are from Bhola too. Police never dare touch them though their criminal activities, including drug peddling, are no secret.

According to a detective, the underworld in the slum areas is controlled by people mostly from the southern district.

Kailla Babu, a suspect in Thursday night's Moghbazar triple-murder, and Shamim alias Kala Chan, whose sister Ranu Akhter

Brishti was among the three victims, were active members of Bhola-Khaleque gang.

The two used to extort money from owners of under-construction buildings and traders of Moghbazar and Malibagh slum areas in the capital.

The owner of an under-construction building in Sonalibagh said Babu, Chan and some others realised Tk 2 lakh from him before the last Ramadan.

Locals added that the relations between the two started to worsen a year ago when Chan's uncle Rony sold his four rooms of a six-room tin-roofed house to Chan and Ranu.

Babu had been demanding Tk 3 lakh from the siblings in exchange for allowing them to live in the house, allegedly built occupying government land at Sonalibagh.

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FOLLOW-UP
MOGHBAZAR
KILLING

FARUQI MURDER Police still clueless about killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days into the slaying of Sheikh Nurul Islam Faruqi, chief imam of the Supreme Court Jame Masjid, law enforcers are still without any clue to the murder. There has been no arrest either.

The police, Rapid Action Battalion and several intelligence agencies are probing the gruesome murder focusing on several issues including personal and religious rivalry, and financial feud over hajj.

Assailants slit the throat of Faruqi at his East Rajabazar home in the capital on Wednesday night.

His family members informed police that they suspected a woman might have been involved in the killing. The woman had phoned Faruqi for an appointment and later came to his house around 4:00pm on the fateful day. She introduced herself as Asma.

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Illegal makeshift shops and poorly parked vehicles occupy the street in front of the emergency section of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, being obstacles to patients rushing into the hospital with emergency medical treatment needs. Several months ago, the shops had been evicted.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Soft coup' fears grow in Pakistan

AGENCIES

Pakistan's army chief took centre stage in a national political crisis yet again by holding talks with two protest leaders who have been agitating on the streets of Islamabad for the overthrow of the elected government for the last two weeks.

Politician and former cricketer Imran Khan and a Muslim cleric called Tahir-ul-Qadri left their protest camps outside parliament for back-to-back audiences with Raheel Sharif, the general in charge of Pakistan's 500,000-strong army.

Officials said the general had agreed to mediate in a bitter stand-off between the government and Khan and Qadri who have brought thousands of their followers to Islamabad.

Even though Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif requested the army chief, though reluctantly, become involved in defusing the crisis, the development was widely seen as a decisive re-assertion of power by an institution that has directly or indirectly ruled Pakistan for most of its history.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Chaudhry Ali Nisar Khan yesterday told parliament the protesters' unwillingness to trust anyone had left no alternative but army mediation.

The development was widely criticised as a major setback for the country and even

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