



TRIBUTE TO A RHYMESTER

Poets, writers gather for "Sahitya Adda" dedicated to Obaidul Gani Chandan

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FORD ECOPSORT

The wallet friendly SUV

SEE SHIFT

PUTIN THE CONQUEROR!

Russian president says his forces 'could conquer Kiev in two weeks'

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4 secys guilty

ACC finds they resorted to forgery for war hero certificates; privatisation body chief did same

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and M RAHMAN

Five top government officials resorted to forgery to obtain freedom fighters' certificate.

Three of them are secretaries, one is a joint secretary and the other is chairman of the privatisation commission. The Anti-Corruption Commission has found that they took the certificates illegally to extend their service period last year.

ACC Deputy Director Zulfikar Ali, who investigated the five, submitted the probe report to the commission yesterday.

The report recommended that the authorities revoke their certificates and take legal and departmental action against them, sources said.

The five are Health Secretary Niaz Uddin Mia, Public Service Commission Secretary AKM Amir Hossain, former Liberation War Affairs secretary KH Masud Siddiqui (now an OSD), former joint secretary of Liberation War Affairs ministry Abul Kashem Talukder (currently an OSD) and Privatisation Commission Chairman Molla Waheeduzzaman.

ACC Commissioner Shahabuddin told The Daily Star that they took the certificates through improper procedures.

A top ACC official said they submitted fake documents to obtain the certificates. They also did not appear before the Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council for the mandatory verification of their participation in the war.

Contacted, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque said he was yet to receive the report. "We will take action in line with the Anti-Corruption

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Right here was a two-storey building. Now it's gone. About 300 houses have been devoured by the Padma over the last three days, leaving almost over a hundred families homeless in Ranipur village of Dohar. Yesterday, people were seen moving away with whatever they could find in the debris of houses destroyed in the deadly erosion.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Mawa going into river

STAR REPORT

River erosion has taken a serious turn at Mawa, as the mighty Padma devoured a ferry terminal and several shops in the last two days, disrupting ferry service on the Mawa-Keorakandi route.

The Padma gobbled up more than 300 houses at Ranipur village of Dohar upazila, according to locals.

Erosion of the river bank and strong currents continue to disrupt ferry service between Mawa and Keorakandi. The operation of seven ferries was suspended after a ferry terminal was washed away on Monday.

Three ferries were operating on the route yesterday, leaving more than 400 vehicles in queues on both sides of the terminal.

Visiting Ranipur village yesterday, this correspondent saw a family trying to salvage some bricks of its two-storey house eroded by the river.

Close to the spot, a

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GRAMEEN BANK BOARD Govt to change rule to elect it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will again amend Grameen Bank rules for electing nine women directors of the micro-lender as the central bank has declined to hold polls for picking new board members.

"Bangladesh Bank has said that holding the elections will lead to a conflict of interest as they [the BB] are a regulatory body," Finance Minister AMA Muhith told reporters at the secretariat yesterday.

"We will find ways to do it. There are a number of banks under the control of the government. We are working on the issue. I think we will be able to do something within a day or two."

On the issue of amending the Grameen Bank (Election of Directors) Rules 2014, the minister said: "We will have to

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Only army gets back on right lane

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army has regretted that its vehicles drove through the wrong side of a road in the capital.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) yesterday issued a press release in this regard after The Daily Star published photographs in its Tuesday issue, showing army vehicles taking to the wrong side of the road in front of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Although the report titled "People obey law, influentials break: People

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LAST YEAR'S VIOLENCE

41 BNP, Jamaat leaders indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Moudud Ahmed, Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and 38 other BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami men of torching a vehicle and throwing crude bombs at policemen during an anti-government movement last year.

The three national standing committee members of the BNP and 18 other opposition men pleaded not guilty before the speedy trial court-6 and prayed for justice in the case. But Judge Tareq Mainul Islam Bhuiyan rejected their pleas and indicted them on the basis of the charge sheet submitted by the police earlier.

Twenty other accused in the case are on the run.

According to the charge sheet prepared by Paltan police upon an investigation, Moudud, Abbas, Gayeshwar and the

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RAB'S THIRD RECOVERY IN SATCHHARI FOREST

Arms cache found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered a huge cache of firearms and ammunition from the Satchhari National Park in Habiganj.

Two light machine guns (LMGs), nine sub-machine guns (SMGs), six self-loading rifles (SLRs), one automatic rifle of 7.62mm calibre, one sniper telescope-side, one SMC (sub-machine carbine), one Beta gun and 2,400 rounds of 7.62mm bullets were recovered during a raid in the

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PHOTO: STAR

Arms and ammunition recovered from Satchhari National Park in Habiganj.

Amnesty perturbed Raps govt on forced disappearance, media-gagging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh government must immediately rein in the disturbing rise in the enforced disappearances over the past two years, said London-based Amnesty International in a press release yesterday.

The global campaign aimed to protect human rights also called on the government to put an end to torture and deaths in police custody and increasing suppression on freedom of expression.

Amnesty International has investigated 20 cases of disappearance at the hands of the state security forces in the country since 2012, said the press release, adding that the actual number was likely to be much higher.

In the disappearance cases it investigated, nine people were found dead, six returned home after remaining in captivity up to two months and five are still untraced.

Many abduction incidences seem to be politically motivated with prominent members of the opposition parties having been the target. In several cases, witnesses point out the involvement of the police and the Rapid Action Battalion that have been enjoying almost absolute immunity from prosecution, the press release said.

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BNP'S HUMAN CHAIN Alive or dead, give him back Father of disappeared son asks PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The only thing that 56-year-old Shamsuddin wants is to get back his son, alive --- or dead at least.

"I am requesting the Prime Minister [Sheikh Hasina] to bring back my son or at least inform us where he is buried so that we can offer prayers at his grave," said Shamsuddin, father of Nizam Uddin Munna, joint convener of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Airport Thana unit.

There was no case against my son, but his fault was that he was involved in the BNP's politics, said the

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Nazia Sarkar, a successful entrepreneur, at her poultry farm in Shajahanpur upazila of Bogra.

PHOTO: MAMUNUR RASHID

Alone, she turns the tide

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Even before the first light of dawn appears, a tin-shed house and its surroundings, some 13 kilometres off Shajahanpur upazila centre in Bogra district, sees a flurry of activity.

Some people are tending to livestock while others are crouching in vegetable patches working the soil. And going around overseeing the daily chores is a woman in her fifties, holding a cellphone and reading glasses in one hand while pointing out tasks with the other.

This confident mother of four is

Nazia Sarkar, an accomplished farmer and entrepreneur whom people in her locality take pride in. She smiles when approached, apparently knowing that she is about to narrate her flight to success once again.

Nazia's journey started off following her marriage at the tender age of 16 while she was studying in class nine. Her husband Motiur Rahman Shishu was frequently bedridden from an unknown illness, affecting the family's source of earning through farming.

Instead of falling into despair, Nazia decided to take up the task of running the family business, a deci-

sion she says few women around her took due to the scepticism harboured in an apparent male-dominated society.

With a cow, a 2.5-bigha pond and some 1,000 poultry at her disposal, she ventured out to get training in phases from The Department of Youth Development, Department of Fisheries, Rural Development Academy, Bogra and Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha.

And slowly her endeavours started to bear fruit. She is today the proud owner of 22 cattle, eight ponds on 22

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CEDAW DAY CALLING

Today is CEDAW Day.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women.

The Convention defines discrimination

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PAKISTAN CRISIS

Parliament backs PM

PTI, PAT to 'meet negotiators'

AGENCIES

Pakistan's parliament threw its weight behind embattled Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday as a deepening crisis over violent protests demanding his resignation prompted fears of an army intervention.

But, signaling a possible softening in his position, protest leader Imran Khan said he would meet a conservative Islamist politician who has been trying to mediate between Khan and the government since the start of the confrontation.

Sharif, who enjoys a solid majority in parliament, convened a joint session of the assembly as he seeks to reaffirm that he is fully in control more than two weeks after protests seeking to bring down his government erupted in the coup-prone nation.

His office said parliament would be in session all week to allow all members to express their views, reports Reuters. A string of politicians took to the floor during the first day, most of them expressing their resolute support for Sharif.

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