

Hefajat man

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his mother.
Stunned, his parents informed police who rescued him alive on Wednesday evening from a shrine in Chittagong.
Hefajat-e-Islam, after the crack-down, had claimed that law enforcers "killed" Faruk and "hid" his body along with "thousands of their activists".
However, upon primary interrogation, Faruk told police that he had fled the Shapla Chatter that day soon after police launched an attack on Hefajat activists and then he had come to Chittagong to hide in different shrines, fearing arrest.
Solaiman Bin Mobarak, Faruk's father, had sent his son to a madrasa named Ummul Kwora Islamic Academy in the capital's Badda where he was a class-five student. He had joined the Hefajat rally from there, police sources said.

Sub-Inspector Santosh Kumar Chakma of detective branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), who led the drive to rescue Faruk, told The Daily Star that Faruk's mother had come to the DB office on December 10.
"She told us that his son made her a phone call from Chittagong. Then she asked us to find him out," said the SI, adding that he had advised her to submit a written complaint first.
After receiving the complaint, police started probing the matter.
"At one stage of the investigation, we came to know that Faruk was residing in Miskin Shah Majar of Gani Bakery area in the city," Santosh said.

"Faruk thought police were searching for him. So he was absconding and did not even dare to contact his parents," said the SI quoting Faruk.
Faruk was handed over to his maternal uncle yesterday.
Faruk's father, however, denied his son's involvement in Hefajat's May rally. "My son did not take part in the Hefajat rally," Solaiman claimed.
Earlier Solaiman had admitted to police of his son's involvement in the rally, SI Santosh said.
Contacted, Azizul Haque Islamabadi, organising secretary of Hefajat-e-Islam, said they thought Faruk was dead as they could not find his whereabouts since the crackdown.
"At first we thought he was missing. But as he did not return to his family, nor to his madrasa, we began to believe that he was no more," said Islamabadi.

Hamid pays

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visiting Bangladesh president.
Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Vice-president Md Hamid Ansari and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad will call on Hamid separately.
The most important part of Hamid's visit will be his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi when they will discuss bilateral and international issues.
On Tuesday, he will go to Santiniketan to lay the foundation stone of Bangladesh Bhavan at the Visva Bharati University before returning to Kolkata and then to Dhaka on the same day.

Mamata meets Pranab West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday called on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at a hospital where he is recuperating after a coronary angioplasty.
The meeting assumes significance as the President will be holding talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Md Abdul Hamid who has arrived here on a six-day visit.
Mamata is understood to have conveyed her stand on the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) with Bangladesh.
The decision to implement LBA was taken by the previous UPA government headed by Manmohan Singh and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina in September 2011.

Under the agreement, both countries will exchange land to strengthen the border.
During his visit to Assam last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said his government would go ahead with the land-swap deal with Bangladesh for a permanent solution to the infiltration problem.
Though Mamata initially had reservations against LBA, West Bengal stands benefited from the agreement by getting more land whereas Assam will be losing some land.

BSF shoots

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Rangpur Medical College Hospital.
Lt Col Ariful Haque, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) 18 Battalion in Panchagarh, said a battalion commander-level flag meeting was held near the border yesterday.
At the meeting, the BGB protested at the incident and asked its Indian counterpart to take action against the offenders, he said.
"The BSF said they will investigate the incident. If the BSF members are found guilty, action will be taken against the responsible BSF men," the BGB official added.

Maintain high standards

PM asks armed forces

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has been working to establish a professional and well-trained armed forces and expressed the optimism that the Armed Forces will keep intact its role in future for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people.
"Our armed forces were established in the battlefield of the Liberation War," she said.
"I'm confident that the Armed Forces will continue to maintain its high standards in its efforts, efficiency and professionalism," the prime minister said while addressing the Graduation Ceremony of National Defence Course (NDC) and Armed Forces War (AFW) Course-2014 at Mirpur Cantonment.
Earlier, the she handed over certificates among the graduating members of the two courses.
Commandant of National Defence College Lt General Mollah Fazle Akbar in his address of welcome congratulated the graduating members and thanked the faculty members and staff officers of the college.
Mentioning that the nation feels proud of its armed forces, Hasina said, "We've been working to establish a professional and well-trained armed forces. We've allocated

increased money for the armed forces in the national budgets."
She said her government has ensured that the armed forces have access to the latest technologies and equipment, and adequate training facilities have been established and made operational.
"The members of the armed forces have always worked with integrity, commitment and diligence to help the people in times of natural and other calamities and disasters. They've implemented strategic infrastructure projects and worked generally with very high standard at home and abroad."
"They've earned very good reputation at home and abroad. I hope this partnership between the people and the armed forces will be strength with the passage of time," the prime minister said.
She said the National Defence College is dedicated to train the operational and strategic leaders from home and abroad, from militaries to civil services and the policymakers. They are contributing to the promotion of a culture of peace, accountability and transparency.
She said even successful businessmen and professors of the country as well as members of parliament are showing interest in taking part in the NDC Capstone Course.

Shipping ministry

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wrote to the shipping ministry several times seeking a permanent ban.
On December 13, Shajahan said the oil spill would cause little harm to the Sundarbans, triggering criticisms by environmentalists.
"We've talked to foreign experts who said the oil spilled from the tanker won't harm the world's largest mangrove forest that much," said the minister, after visiting Chandpai Range of the Sundarbans.
"It won't affect dolphins and other animals as the oil has not spread that much. The oil couldn't enter the forest as fishing nets were set up on the mouths of canals to prevent its spread. Besides, local people are collecting the spilled oil," he added.
Only two days before his comment, UNDP Bangladesh Country Director Pauline Tamesis said global experience showed this kind of incident had long-term environmental consequences and it required coordinated efforts to restore the affected areas.
Meanwhile, forest officials yesterday briefed Anwar Hossain Manju, minister for environment and forest, on his return from Peru after attending the climate change conference.
They told the minister that though the impact of the oil spill was already

visible, it would have a long-term effect on the mangrove forest.
In the meeting, the ministry decided to do an impact-assessment of the spill.
In another development, an advance team of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday to support the government's cleanup efforts.
The team will help the government conduct an impact-assessment and advise on recovery and risk reduction measures, said a UNDP press release.
Other members of the team will arrive in the capital in a few days.
Led by the UNDP, this UN assistance will be supported, among others, by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Joint Environment Unit (JEU), and other partner countries including the US, the UK, France and the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism.
Meanwhile, locals continue to collect the oil from the Sundarbans area manually. So far, they sold 65,500 litres of furnace oil collected from the rivers and canals.
In a press release, the forest department said they handed 300 pairs of hand gloves to locals and requested them to use those while collecting oil.

Exonerated 70yrs

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segregated mill town in South Carolina, in a trial that lasted less than three hours and reportedly bore no evidence and barely any witness testimonies.
He was kept from his parents and any legal counsel when he was interrogated by authorities, and his supporters claim that the small, frail boy was so scared that he would have said whatever he thought would make the police happy, despite there having been no physical evidence linking him to the death of the girls.
Stinney Jr and his sister Amie Ruffner were the last people to see the two girls, aged 7 and 11, alive when they were out in a field near the town of Alcolu. Stinney Jr's father had been part of the search team that found the girls' bodies hours later in a ditch, badly beaten with crushing blows to their skulls.
Stinney Jr had been arrested and executed within the space of around three months. Executioners noted that he was too small for the electric chair when he died; the straps did not fit him, an electrode was too big for his leg, and the boy had to sit on a bible to fit properly in the chair.
His case has long been spoken of as an example of how a black person could be railroaded by a justice system during the era of Jim Crow segregation laws where the investigators, prosecutors and juries where all white.
The boy's family have insisted that he was innocent, and in January they asked a local judge to order a re-trial and clear Stinney Jr's name, claiming there was new evidence about the crime.
This time Stinney Jr's case was given a two day hearing in which experts questioned his confession and the autopsy findings, while the judge heard accounts from the boy's surviving brothers and sisters, and

someone who had been involved in the search. Most of the evidence from the original trial was gone and almost all the witnesses were dead.
It took Mullen nearly four times as long to return her decision on Stinney Jr's case than it had originally taken to arrest and have him executed in 1944, and said in her ruling that she could "think of no greater injustice" than the boy's case.
Judge Mullen found that Stinney Jr's confession was "highly likely" to have been coerced by authorities, while few or no witnesses were found to have testified in the trial.
The judge said she was overturning the boy's conviction because the South Carolina court had failed to grant a fair trial in 1944.

Land key

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Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Unity Council.
Observing that the hill women and girls are being treated as "war booty" like the Pakistan army did in 1971, Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir, also member of the International CHT Commission, demanded stern punishment for the perpetrators.
In a keynote paper, Binota Moy Dhamai of Kapaeng Foundation said Dhaka affirmed in the second cycle of UPR of the United Nations Human Rights Council on Bangladesh, held in Geneva in April last year, that it would take measures to end the culture of impunity and punish human rights violators in CHT.
But there is no instance of a culprit getting punished, he said, adding that in most cases, the perpetrators eluded justice, particularly in the cases of land grabbing and violence against indigenous women.

Myanmar border guards kill Rohingya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) shot dead a Rohingya fisherman when he was fishing in the Naf river in Teknaf upazila yesterday morning.
The dead is Kala Mia, 40. Kala, a Myanmar national, with his family had been living in Teknaf illegally for long, according to police.
Moktar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Model Police Station, said Kala along with two other fishermen went to Nila point of the river for catching fish in the morning.
When Kala was netting fish in the river around 6:00am, the BGP men asked Kala to come to them. But Kala did not respond to the BGP's call. The BGP men then opened fire on Kala, leaving him dead on the spot, he added.

28 killed in Central Africa violence

AFP, Bangui

At least 28 people were killed and dozens were injured in the latest clashes between armed groups in the Central African Republic, police said yesterday.
"Violent clashes broke out on Tuesday in the centre of Mbres," an official from the armed police told AFP, adding that the death toll had been given by the local Red Cross.
The clashes in the former French colony were the latest pitting the so-called "anti-balaka" militia formed by the Christian majority against mainly Muslim rebels who led a March 2013 coup, the official said.
Mbres, 300 kilometres (190 miles) from the capital Bangui, has been the scene of several clashes in recent weeks.
Central African Republic has suffered numerous coups and bouts of instability since independence in 1960, but the March 2013 toppling of Francois Bozize's regime by the Seleka rebel coalition triggered the worst emergency to date.
Relentless attacks by the mainly Muslim rebels on the majority Christian population spurred the formation of vigilante groups, who in turn began exacting revenge on Muslim civilians, driving them out of most parts of the country.
Several thousand people were killed in the tit-for-tat attacks, which plunged the population of 4.8 million into an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

Judge transferred

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Abu Ahmed Jomadar, a district judge and joint secretary to the law ministry. A gazette notification was issued in this regard yesterday, according to a press release.
The two judges have been asked to join their new workplaces on December 22.
The transfers have been made as per Supreme Court's advice for ensuring transparency in the trial of the cases against Khaleda and others, said a law ministry high official, requesting anonymity.
She and her lawyers had been causing delay in the cases' proceedings for around one year, giving different excuses, he said.
She filed two writ petitions with the HC, challenging the legality of the appointment of Bashudev to the Special Judge Court-3 of Dhaka. The HC rejected her petitions and the Appellate Division upheld the HC orders.
Khaleda then sought transfer of the cases to another judge's court.
The transfer of Justice Bashudev will not hamper the cases' trial, the official said.
The attorney general said the no-confidence petitions became void following the transfer order. Judge Abu Ahmed will continue the trial proceedings from the point Judge Bashudev finished, he added.
On Wednesday, Judge Bashudev recorded depositions in the corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission, and fixed December 24 for further recording.
The anti-graft body filed the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case in 2009 against seven people in connection with embezzlement of over Tk 2.1 crore. The other case was filed in 2011 accusing Khaleda and three others of abusing power in setting up the charitable trust.

In the cold

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home to arson and the only way they could survive under the open sky in the chill of December was to make a fire. They had no warm clothes, food or shelter.
Some of the victims of the arson took shelter in the houses of nearby villages.
But Antina Chakma, her sister and mother have nowhere to go. "We keep ourselves warm burning wood at night," she said, adding, "We saw our home burn from the jungle nearby."
None of the three had any warm clothes.
Antina's neighbour Amolendu Chakma had everything: nine huts, solar power, a sewing machine for his wife, enough warm clothes to go around and all the kitchen utensils his family needed.
Now, he has nothing, just like Neheru Chakma, Shanti Bikas Chakma and many more who had a good simple life going.
The local administration offered corrugated iron sheets, rice and blankets for some of the victims on

Wednesday but they did not accept those.
"We will accept the relief of the government if they give it to every victim," Ananda Chakma, member of Burighat union told The Daily Star.
He said the indigenous people had come forward with rice and clothes to help the victims that too were insufficient.
Several hundred Bangalee settlers on Tuesday attacked the indigenous village and torched houses on the pretext that the ethnic people had chopped down the settlers' pineapple plants and teak saplings.
Officer-in-Charge Md Rashid of Naniarchar Police Station told The Daily Star yesterday that no case had been filed so far and none were arrested in connection with the arson.
The indigenous people have started an indefinite blockade of Rangamati-Khagrachhari highway. They are holding rallies and bringing out processions demanding compensation, and arrest and punishment of the attackers.

Tarique faces arrest order

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against Tarique yesterday.
The court also asked the officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station to submit a report to it by February 2 next year on the execution of the warrant.
Meanwhile, four more cases were filed against the BNP leader yesterday in several places of the country in connection with his outrageous comment on Bangabandhu.
The elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Monday said Sheikh Mujib was a "big Razakar for having banned the Awami League himself dubbing it as a party of thieves."
Tarique was speaking at a discussion programme on Victory Day in London.
Among the four cases, one was lodged by Abdul Mannan, general secretary of Awami Hawkers' League central body, with Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.
In his case, Mannan also sued three other BNP leaders -- Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Majidur Rahman and Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin. He alleged Tarique made the remark in connivance with the leaders.
Metropolitan Magistrate Md Maruf Hossain fixed Sunday to decide whether the charge would be accepted.
In Chittagong, Nurul Azim, a

Chittagong City unit Chhatra League leader, lodged a seditious case against Tarique with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, reports our local correspondent.
Magistrate Mashiur Rahman Chowdhury accepted the case but did not pass any order.
Our Comilla correspondent reported that the BNP senior vice-chairman was sued in another defamation case with Additional Judicial Magistrate's Court in the district.
The case was filed by Advocate Subir Nandi, president of the local unit of pro-AL Sheikh Russel Kriha Chakra.
The court took cognisance of the case and summoned Tarique to appear before it on March 1 for a hearing, said plaintiff's lawyer Rony Dey.
In Natore, Mohammad Ali, former joint secretary of Chhatra League's Rajshahi University unit, filed another case with Chief Judicial Magistrate Court.
Magistrate Israt Jahan Munni summoned Tarique to appear before the court on February 22.
Early this month, Tarique termed Bangabandhu a "Pakbandhu" (friend of Pakistan) for which he is facing an arrest warrant from another Dhaka court.

Moosa has \$7b

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gather information in different ways but what we have had so far is insufficient."
Escorted by a convoy of six private cars, each carrying at least six to eight bodyguards, Moosa arrived at the ACC office around 9:30am, one and half hours ahead of schedule.
Several bodyguards then took positions at strategic points on the ACC compound while four female and two male guards accompanied Moosa inside the ACC headquarters, witnesses said.
Many ACC officials thronged the grilling room to have a glimpse of Moosa who is often dubbed "Prince Moosa" in the media.
Emerging from the grilling room, the controversial businessman told reporters, "I earned the sum abroad ... if the amount is released, I will spend \$3 million to build Daulatdia-Aricha-Nagarbari bridge [on the Padma river]."
Moosa said he will also spend from the amount for the wellbeing of public officials, teachers, uncared elderly parents and others.
He added it's not possible for a person to earn such a big amount in Bangladesh, not even in next 50 years.
According to an ACC source, Moosa told interrogators that he was

involved in manpower business in Bangladesh through his company DATCO but now he is leading a retired life.
A team led by ACC Deputy Director Mir Mohammad Joynul Abedin Shibly conducted the interrogation at the Segunbagicha office.
The anti-graft body launched its inquiry in 2010 following news reports that Moosa allegedly laundered over Tk 51,000 crore abroad. On December 4, the ACC sent a notice asking him to be present at the ACC office today.
On November 3 this year, Joynul Abedin became the third officer to investigate the allegations after Moosa in an interview to a magazine in June said to have properties worth over Tk 53,000 crore.
The Bangladesh Bank in June 2011 asked all commercial banks to provide the ACC with information and documents they have on Moosa, a businessman from Faridpur.
The anti-money laundering department of the central bank issued letters the same year to the banks giving a brief introduction about the man.
According to the letter, the business tycoon uses two other names -- Dr Moosa Bin Shamsher and Prince Moosa Bin Shamsher.

Forkan indicted

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Golapi Rani eventually died around midnight of 18 August, 1971.
Charge 4: On August 20, 1971, at about 10:00am Forkan and his accomplices attacked the house of Lalit Karmakar at village Subidkhali Bazaar under Mirjaganj Police Station of the district Patuakhali and abducted his unmarried daughter Shova Rani and his daughter-in-law Sushama and took them to other Razakars where both women were repeatedly violated by the Razakars.
At around midnight of August 21, 1971, the victims were abandoned in front of their house. Afterwards, they, along with their family, were forced to leave for India.
Charge 5: Between August 22 1:00pm and August 25 early morning

in 1971, the accused and other Razakars accompanied by the Pakistan army attacked Kakarbania Bazar and opened fire indiscriminately in which one Sanad Kumar Haldar was killed.
Forkan Mallik shot Hatem Ali to death with his rifle, detained Hatem's daughter Aleya Begum. On the same day they killed one Elemuddin.
Aleya was taken to Patuakhali circuit house where she was detained in a room along with 20-25 other young girls. The Pakistan army men and Forkan repeatedly violated Aleya.
The prosecution on November 17 submitted eight charges of wartime offences against Mallik including genocide, murder, rape, conversion and looting.
Police arrested Forkan on June 25 this year.