

# China launches new frigate for Bangladesh navy

XINHUA, Wuhan

A new type of frigate built for the Bangladesh Navy was launched in the river-side city of Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province on Tuesday.

The frigate, with a displacement of 1,300 tonnes and maximum speed of 25 knots (nautical miles per hour), is 90 metres long and 11 metres across the beam. It can accommodate 80 crew.

It will be the most advanced frigate in the Bangladesh Navy, which will be a boost to its coastal defence capability and the China-Bangladesh friendship, said Rear Admiral Syed Abu Mansur Arshadul Abedin, assistant chief of naval staff, at the launching ceremony.

The frigate can detect, identify and destroy surface and aerial targets and can also carry out maritime monitoring and patrols,

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# ACC sues 3 govt officials, 3 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against six people, including three government officials, for misappropriating a vested property in the capital's Wari.

ACC Assistant Director Abubakar Siddique lodged the case against former assistant commissioner (land) at Kotwali Anisur Rahman (now Rab executive magistrate and law officer), former surveyor Samar Chandra Sutradar, former assistant officer (land) Humayun Mollah, Mohammad Ali Hossain, M Mohiuddin and Jinat Ara Parvin of Wari.

According to the case statement, Jinat field a

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A verdant char settlement of the Jamuna in Sirjaganj captured during the monsoon flooding of 2014, by a finalist in the Rivers of Bangladesh category of The Daily Star's photo contest inPixel.

PHOTO: MD ZAHIRUL ISLAM



# Zero tolerance to errant cops

New IGP Shahidul tells press

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new inspector general of police (IGP), AKM Shahidul Hoque, yesterday said he would pursue a zero tolerance approach towards criminal offences by any member of his force.

In the case of deviations, the force will disown the offenders and they will face legal action, he told the press after taking office at the police headquarters in the capital.

He replaced the longest-serving IGP, Hassan Mahmood Khandker, who had held the office since August 31, 2010.

Shahidul Hoque said the force would use all its strength to fight terrorism and militancy, and take measures to reduce its gap with the general people.

In a farewell ceremony at the Rapid Action Battalion headquarters, the outgoing director general Mukhlesur Rahman, an additional IGP, yesterday said the force would have served better had it been equipped with modern technologies.

Replying to a query, he said Rab was sincerely investigating the journalist couple Sagar-Runi murder case. There is no negligence and no lack of coordination with other law enforcement agencies, he said.

Shahidul and outgoing DMP commissioner Benazir Ahmed were appointed chief of the police force and Rab respectively on Tuesday. Both Hassan Mahmood and Mukhlesur Rahman retired.

# 10 BNP leaders seek bail at HC in arson case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten BNP leaders including its acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir filed four separate petitions with the High Court yesterday seeking anticipatory bail in an arson case.

The case was filed with Paltan Model Police Station on December 29 for torching a government bus at the capital's Paltan intersection on December 28.

Police filed the case accusing 43 named and 20 to 25 unnamed party people of carrying out the arson attack with intent to deteriorate the law and order on the eve of a countrywide hartal called by the party-led alliance.

The nine other petitioners

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# WAR CRIMES TRIAL

# Another implicates Siraj in Bagerhat massacre

Separately, prosecution to seek contempt charges against Azhar's counsel today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that war crimes accused Sheikh Sirajul Haque led Razakars in a mass killing at Shakhrikathi Bazar of Bagerhat on November 5, 1971.

Altaf Hossain Kotal, the 10th prosecution witness, also told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he saw another accused, Abdul Latif Talukder, take part in the killings.

Earlier, three witnesses testified that some 42 people were killed on that day.

Altaf went to shop in the market around 3:00pm. He said, "Sometime later, I saw accused Siraj Master leading 25-30 armed Razakars to Shakhrikathi Bazar." People ran



off in all directions in fear, but the Razakars assured them of doing no harm, he added.

The Razakars, who collaborated with the Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War, tied the shoppers with gamchha (thin cotton towel). "Accused Siraj Master blew a whistle and the Razakars opened fire upon the detainees," said Altaf, who watched it from inside a mosque.

The bodies were left there the whole night before being dumped beside a canal of Ramchandrapur village.

The defence cross-examined the witness before the proceeding was adjourned until January 11, 2015.

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RAPE CASE AGAINST RUBEL

# Court grants DNA test

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted police the use of DNA tests in a case film actress Naznin Akhter Happy filed with Mirpur Model Police Station on December 13 accusing Bangladeshi cricketer Rubel Hossain of luring her into an extramarital affair with false promises of marriage.

The women and children repression prevention act, under which the case was filed, registers the fraudulence as a rape charge. The High Court granted Rubel a four-week anticipatory bail on December 15.

Earlier, Dhaka Medical College provided Mirpur police a forensic test report stating that Happy was not raped recently.

Criticising the use of "recent", Happy told The Daily Star that after engaging in "physical relations" for the last nine months, Rubel had refused her on December 1, after which she had tried to reach a solution.

Metropolitan Magistrate

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# Pro-AL panel wins all Duta posts

DU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League blue panel yesterday set a record by winning all the 15 seats in the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) election.

The candidates backed by BNP and Jamaat contested together from the white panel.

Getting 853 votes, Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed was elected president while Prof Maksud Kamal general secretary.

As many as 1,365 out of 1,902 registered voters exercised their franchise, said Prof Shafiquzzaman, the election commissioner.

Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam was elected treasurer, Prof Hasibur Rashid Chowdhury vice-president

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Hawkers carry out their trade occupying the road before the Jiban Bima Tower in the capital's Motijheel yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# Man shot

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dispute between one Mir Ahmed and Ali Ahmed over ownership of a piece of land in the area.

Police, quoting locals, said the clash erupted around noon between supporters of the two.

Didarul was declared dead at a hospital.

Police detained eight persons in this connection.

# Prisons

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He said despite training inside on making a living, people were not provided jobs once released. "The attitude should change," he said, urging factory owners to employ all except murderers, traitors and militants.

Currently there are 67,199 inmates against a capacity of 34,167. Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Tipu Sultan and Additional Inspector General of Prisons Col Md Fazlul Kabir were present.

# Ex-army officer sued

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Dhara Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd in the capital's Banani in 2005, instating himself as the president, his wife Alia Fatema vice-president, son Talha Ahmed general secretary and daughter Radia Ahmed joint secretary, said the case statement and complainant.

Although he acknowledged by signing receipts over Tk 59.39 crore collected till 2013, no bank account was opened and the fraudulence came to light when some persons were denied return of deposits, prompting the victims to besiege the office in 2012, said ACC Deputy Director

Jahangir Alam who filed the case with Banani police.

With most of the victims either retired or serving in the army's lower ranks and residents of Manikdi, Kafrul and Ibrahimpur, the Dhaka Cantonment authority got involved, he told The Daily Star.

Although the authority seized Jalal's passport last year, the undertaking they accepted from him assuring the money's return in phases by July 2013 was not complied with, he said, adding that ACC launched the inquiry this September and Jalal could not be traced despite assistance from police and the victims.

# Road crash death toll

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high-speed buses and trucks. Faulty engines of vehicles and battered roads were also blamed.

Speaking on the occasion, Nirapad Sarak Chai Chairman Ilias Kanchan said the figures were collected from media reports. He, however, thinks that the actual toll would be higher since many accidents remain unreported.

"So, we demand creation of a special government cell to monitor country-wide road accidents and prepare an accu-

rate database. If we don't have accurate information, how will we address the problem?"

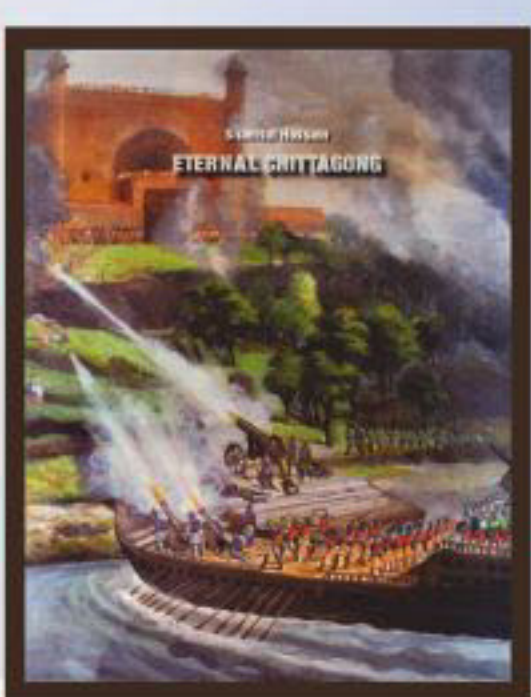
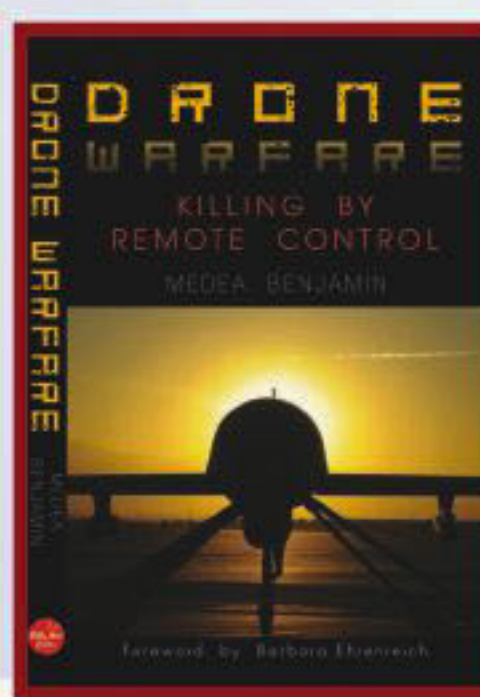
Kanchan demanded punishment for the government officials who create opportunities for operation of unfit vehicles and employment of unskilled drivers.

He recommended training for all drivers, strict enforcement of laws, awareness building and introduction of monthly salaries for drivers instead of trip-based payment.

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