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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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THE 9/11 PLAN

Osama bin Laden was "inspired" by EgyptAir crash

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READY TO ROAR

15-member squad of Tigers announced for ICC World T20

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Challenges conquered

Visually challenged schoolteacher develops website that offers audio books for people like him

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

When his friends used to buy books from the Ekushey book fair and talk excitedly about reading those, he wished he could have done the same.

Abul Kalam Azad had lost his vision from a severe attack of typhoid in childhood. But he did not know what he still had -- big dreams and unswerving determination -- would one day make his wish come true.

He started looking for alternative ways of quenching his thirst for reading, not through Braille, that strenuous method of reading using one's hands, but through means closer to the real taste.

First, he tried to find out if recitation of any Bangla books was available but he found none.

"Visually impaired people's inaccessibility to books struck me hard. It was then I decided to develop a website," said Azad, an English teacher at Laxmipur Government Girls' High School.

In November 2014, he started working on the site and by the end of January 2015, he almost single-handedly finished designing www.gyanbikash.com what is to be regarded a remarkable feat in introducing Bangla audio books to those who cannot see.

In his mid-thirties now, he has so far uploaded 50 such books so that blind people could enjoy them through

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SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

Star LIVE

Visually impaired Abul Kalam Azad working on his laptop while attending a training course on digital content development at the capital's Teachers' Training College (TTC) recently. He has almost single-handedly designed a website that introduces people with no eyesight to Bangla audio books.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The fourth part of our 5-segment 224-page 25th anniversary supplement series, titled *Climate, Women and Sustainable Development* is out today. Make sure you get your copy of this supplement free of charge, from your hawkker. The fifth and final instalment, titled *Way Forward* will appear tomorrow.

WE AT The Daily Star ARE ALWAYS STRIVING TO SERVE OUR READERS AND PATRONS BETTER.

Tangail MP Amanur, 3 brothers charged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail



Amanur Rahman

Awami League lawmaker Amanur Rahman Khan Rana and his three brothers were involved in the killing of Tangail AL leader and freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed three years ago, police said yesterday in the charge sheet.

The investigating officer of the Faruk murder case, Mahfeez Rehman Ghulam of Tangail Detective Branch of police, pressed charges against 14 people, including the four, at the Judicial Magistrate's Court.

Amanur is AL lawmaker from Tangail-3. His three brothers are Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti, former mayor of Tangail municipality, Jahidur Rahman Khan Kakon, former president of Tangail Chamber of Commerce, and Saniat Khan Bappa, former vice president of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

All the four have been absconding for more than a year after police mentioned their names as suspects in the murder case.

The other 10 accused are their accomplices, and they played various roles in the murder, said police.

They are Amanur's close aides Kabir Hossain, Samir and Farid Ahmed, his brothers' bodyguards Anisur Rahman Raja and Mohammad Ali, security guard Babu, Jubo League leader Alamgir Hossain, Nasir Uddin, Sanowar Hossain and ex-municipality commissioner Masudur Rahman.

Of them, four including Anisur and Ali are in jail, and the rest are on the run, said police.

In 2012, freedom fighter Faruk, the then publicity secretary of Tangail district AL unit, decided to contest for the post of Tangail AL general secretary.

But Amanur and his family were against it as his brother Shahidur was making preparations to run for the same post, according to the charge sheet.

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Return extra fees

Education minister asks schools, warns of action if they fail to do so in 7 workdays; guardians hail decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday asked the educational institutions to return within seven working days the additional money they had collected in tuition fees and registration fees for the SSC examinations.

"If they fail to do so, we will take stern actions... There is no room for being flexible," he said at a press briefing at his secretariat office.

Asked what actions they were considering, the minister said there is a High Court order with directives in this regard.

According to the order, if any school violates the admission policy, the government can dissolve school managing committees.

"We will cancel their monthly pay order (MPO), or even their registration, if necessary," said Nahid.

The Prime Minister's Office also has issued directives regarding such educational institutions, he added.

While guardians hailed the government move, they were not sure about how the schools will return the money.

"The schools are increasing fees every year on different excuses. But the hike this year was way too much for families like ours," said Halimur Rahman, whose son studies at Willes Little Flower School and College, after hearing the news.

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Tea seller hurt critically in stove fire

Family alleges police hand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tea vendor suffered severe burns as he fell on a kerosene stove after being pushed allegedly by a police source accompanied by some cops out to pick him up from his stall last night.

The incident occurred in Gudaraghat of the capital's Mirpur area around 9:30pm, eyewitnesses said.

Locals rushed victim Babul Matabbar to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A hospital official said Babul had sustained burns on 90 percent of his body and his condition was very critical.

Babul's wife Lucky Begum, 40, said a police source named Delowar, accompanied by some

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Punish errant policemen

JS body to govt, asks home to ensure cops don't harass people at checkpoints

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the government to ensure exemplary punishment for police personnel who tarnished the image of the police department.

Pointing to police harassment of a Bangladesh Bank official in Dhaka, the parliamentary standing committee on home affairs also suggested that the cops do not harass innocent people in the name of frisking.

"The committee recommends that the government ensure punishment to the accused police personnel for harassing people in the name of searching them," Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan, a member of the parliamentary watchdog, told reporters emerging from a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"The police department has been asked so that such incident does not occur in

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Grief-stricken Abdul Mannan waits with his three-and-a-half-year old son lying motionless on the other side of the collapsible gate at the emergency section of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. The child died when a chunk of a wall fell on him in front of his Moghbazar house in the capital. PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Down in dumps

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

He wanted to spend the day off with his youngest son.

The two were whiling away the idle winter afternoon yesterday walking in front of their rented tin-shed room in the city's Moghbazar. Seeing some other children playing nearby, the kid darted towards them.

The father, Abdul Mannan, before he could understand anything, only saw a large chunk of a wall crushing on his son Saif around 12:45pm when two labourers were trying to knock down the front wall of a nearby room with big hammers.

"Saif might have screamed for help, but I didn't hear anything as he was under a pile of bricks," Mannan, a day labourer,

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38th Death Anniversary

(Abul Company) The founder of Abul Khair Group noted industrialist and social worker

Late Janab ABUL KHAIR

Death: 4th February, 1978

In accordance with the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent, you left this mundane world, leaving us and many of your relations overwhelmed by grief. In our everyday life your bright ideals serve as beacon. You are immortal in your death. We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of your departed soul.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Your loving Sons, Daughters and Relatives.