



Pran Pasteurized Milk

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2016

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE : Tk 12.00



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



AGRANI UNDER SCANNER

The bank has been asked to conduct an audit over alleged irregularities

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MAHATHIR QUILTS UMNO

The former Malaysian premier leaves the ruling party, protesting corruption

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NARAYANGANJ 7-MURDER

Keeping media out, trial on

Public prosecutor, defence counsels refer to 'court order', ask journalists not to stay in courtroom

STAR REPORT

A Narayanganj courtroom was made off limits to journalists as the recording of witness testimonies began in the seven-murder trial yesterday.

Referring to a “court directive”, the public prosecutor and counsels for the accused said journalists cannot attend the proceedings. Police then asked the newsmen to leave the courtroom.

Journalists present there complied with that but their community in Narayanganj condemned it, saying it was “unprecedented.”

The incident also created concerns among victims' families and their counsel about fairness of the trial. They expressed doubts about getting justice in the absence of the media in the courtroom.

Talking to reporters later, PP Wajed Ali Khokon insisted that he asked the journalists to leave the courtroom as per the “court directive”.

But Law Minister Anisul Huq said the public prosecutor has no right to say this. “If the court feels, the presiding judge can pass an order to this effect in the open court,” he told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Abdul Khaleq, administrative officer of the court, said he was not aware of any order passed by the court prohibiting journalists from attending the proceedings. “Had the court passed any such order, I would have known,” he added.

The trial proceedings, previously billed for February 25, had to be deferred to yesterday as key accused Tareque Sayeed Mohammad was not produced before the court.

The public prosecutor then said Tareque was undergoing treatment, the prison authorities did not produce him.

The court asked the authorities concerned to make sure that Tareque Sayeed is brought to the court on February 29, if necessary, by an ambulance.

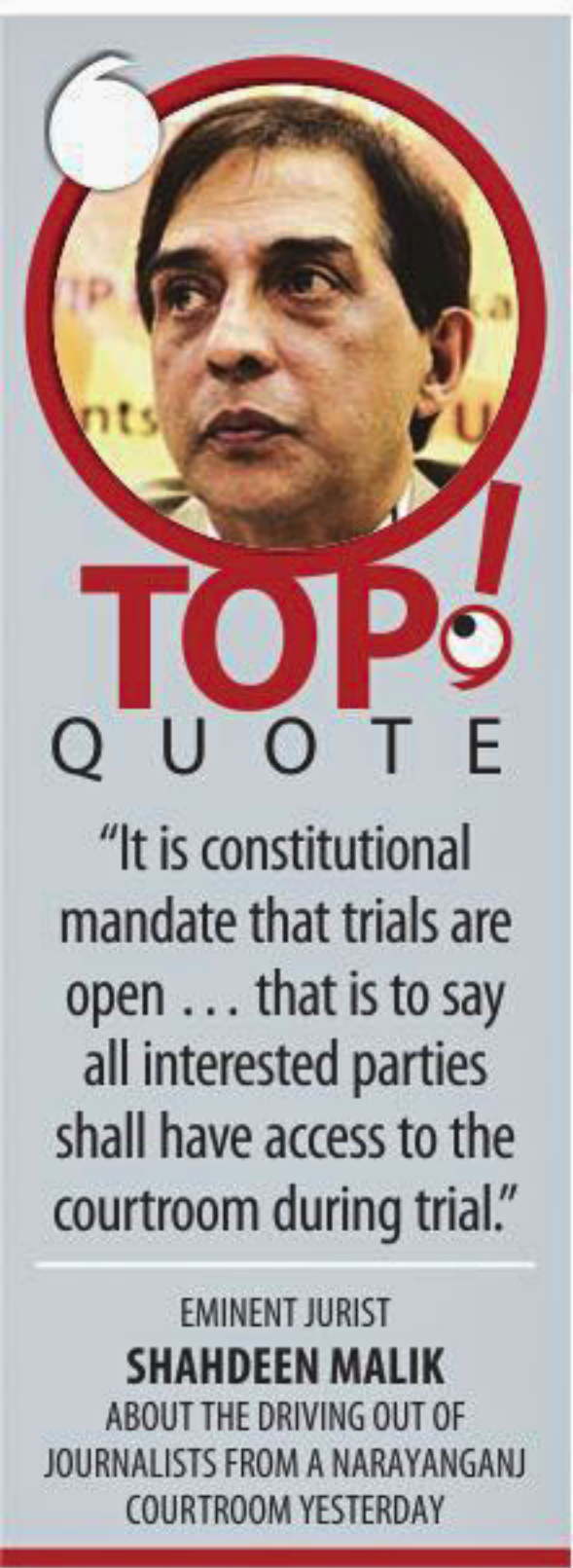
Seven people, including Narayanganj city corporation panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar, were abducted from the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road on April 27, 2014. Their bodies were found

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ONCE MIGHTY, NOW ALMOST DEAD

Boats lie idle on the shallow water of the Mahananda river. People now grow paddy on it. The once mighty river has largely dried up in recent years due to withdrawal of its water upstream, throwing hundreds of fishermen out of work. The photo was taken at Baroghoria in Chapainawabganj yesterday. PHOTO: RABTUL HASAN DOLLAR



Killers of children to be punished

Warns PM at Sangsad, blasts 2 dailies for 'writing against her for 20 years'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Voicing serious concern over the sudden rise in child killings, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped court would hand down capital punishment to the perpetrators of such crimes so that no one dares to harm children.

She urged people to be vocal against oppression of children and help law enforcers arrest the oppressors.

The premier made the call in her speech, wrapping up the 9th session of the current parliament with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

Hasina, also the leader of the House, slammed the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami for “carrying out terrorist activities” to resist the 2014 national election, and for post-polls violence in 2001.

Labelling the BNP as a militant organisation, she alleged that the BNP and the Jamaat are involved in militant and terrorist activities and resorted



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Asia Cup over for Mustafizur

Tamim back, raring to go

NAIMUL KARIM

What was supposed to be a day of relaxation for the Bangladesh team, following a resounding victory over Sri Lanka, turned out to be a difficult one as the news of Mustafizur Rahman's injury compelled the team management to deviate slightly from their normal routine.

The left-arm pacer had reportedly hurt himself during Bangladesh's crucial clash against Sri Lanka on Sunday. The MRI results, which were revealed yesterday afternoon, confirmed that the bowler had suffered a side-strain.

Considering the gravity of the situation, none of the members of the team management wanted to speak officially on the



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Provide personal info by March 15

DMP asks Dhaka city dwellers, makes public its 'central database' plan to curb crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday announced that it had been collecting “identification information” on landlords and tenants since November last year and asked all to provide the information by March 15.

It is part of an effort to create a central database of city dwellers and their service staff and the move is intended to curb crime and create a “sustainable security measure”, said Commissioner Asaduzzaman Miah at a press briefing held at the DMP Media Centre.

He asked the city dwellers to fill in certain forms and submit them to their local police station.

Asked why the delay in making the announcement, a police official said they were busy with other programmes and events and that they could not manage the time to hold a press briefing for this earlier.

Referring to recent raids at different city parts, the DMP boss claimed that militant suspects took cover in the city in disguise of tenants and attempted to commit subversive activities.

There were instances in which suspects moved out of their homes safely after committing a crime and moved into a new one.

He said the collection of data for the database was being co-ordinated by beat

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A crow in flight carrying a tiny piece of a tree branch in its beak to build a nest. Crows usually lay their eggs around this time of year. The photo was taken at Ramna Park in the capital on Saturday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

SC cautions Fakhru over comment on judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cautioned BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir for his comment on the judiciary.

The judiciary is an organ of the state, not of the government, an apex court bench led by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha said while dealing with three bail petitions of the BNP leader.

Everybody should remain cautious while making any comments on the judiciary so that it is not undermined or its dignity not damaged, the SC observed.

The warning came after the court accepted Fakhru's explanation regarding his recent comment on the judiciary.

The chief justice urged all including the ministers and politicians not to make such comments that can

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Best Supporting Actor Mark Rylance, Best Actress Brie Larson, Best Actor Leonardo DiCaprio and Best Supporting Actress Alicia Vikander. PHOTO: REUTERS

Finally, Leo grabs the statuette

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The academy award is not essentially the ultimate hallmark of Hollywood greatness; pop singer Cher has an acting Oscar while Peter Lorre, Joseph Cotton, Marilyn Monroe, Richard Gere, Samuel L Jackson, Brian Cox, Winona Ryder, Harrison Ford, Keira Knightley, Johnny Depp and Tom Cruise do not have one. And until yesterday morning Bangladesh time, nor did Leonardo DiCaprio.

At the 88th Academy Awards, he picked up that statuette for “The Revenant”, and the internet exploded.

The fact that Leonardo did not have an Oscar was one of the biggest talking points of the internet over the last two decades. His four prior acting nominations (and one as a producer for “The Wolf of Wall Street”) went without a win.

Peter O'Toole unsuccessfully chased that statuette for RELATED STORY ON PAGE 9

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