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A dream of self-identity fulfilled

Pabna woman becomes successful dairy entrepreneur

AHMED HUMAYAN KABIR TOPU with ANDREW EAGLE

As a school teacher, wife and mother of two sons, Mahfuza Mina from Bongram village of Pabna's Bera upazila is like many a contemporary Bangladeshi woman: busy. Yet between managing household and running the classroom, Mina has also challenged traditional notions of a village woman's role to become a successful entrepreneur. She operates one of the largest dairy farms in the northern districts.

"Mina wakes early and prepares her sons for school," says Mina's mother Nazmun Nahar. "Then she visits the dairy. By 10 a.m. she's herself in class, returning home from school by afternoon. She then goes back to the farm before taking care of home and family."

Despite what would seem to be an unmanageable load of responsibility, according to her mother Mina manages perfectly well.

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



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Mahfuza Mina at her dairy farm in Bongram village of Pabna's Bera upazila. Inset, Mina, also a schoolteacher, giving lessons to students in a classroom.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU



14 individuals, Navy picked for Independence Award 2016

UNB, Dhaka

Fourteen individuals and Bangladesh Navy have been named for Independence Award-2016 in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the nation.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand out the awards to the winners at a function at the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium on March 24, said a PID handout.

The awardees under Independence and Liberation War category are: Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Textiles and Jute Minister Emaz Uddin Pramanik, Moulvi Achmat Ali Khan (posthumous), Squadron Leader Badrul Alam (retd) Bir Uttam, who played a role in forming Bangladesh Air Force, Shahid Shah Abdul Mazid, who played the leading role in preventing the attack on Rajshahi Police Lines by the Pakistan occupation force, M Abdul Ali (posthumous), then Mahkuma administrator of Rangamati who was killed in an attack by

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Artist Mithu dies as tree falls on his rickshaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned artist and national award-winning filmmaker Khalid Mahmood Mithu died in a tragic accident yesterday when a large tree fell upon him in the capital's Dhanmondi.

The 56-year-old was returning to his Dhanmondi home by a rickshaw from his Elephant Road office around 1:30pm when the incident happened, family sources said.

About 100 yards off Labaid Hospital, a large rain tree fell on the rickshaw and a parked car, said police and locals.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

NATIONAL COUNCIL

BNP follows the old pattern

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The BNP was supposed to hold its national council more than three years ago to elect the party chief and other office bearers according to its charter. But it did not do so. Its failure allowed those who were either elected or picked by the chairperson in 2009 to continue holding their posts for three more years, which is equivalent to a fresh term.

While the party is going to hold the council this month, it seems its charter is set to be ignored again. On February 29, the party Election Commission announced the schedule for holding elections only to the chairperson and the senior vice-chairman posts.

As expected, Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman were re-elected uncontested on Sunday as BNP's chairperson and senior vice-chairman respectively as no one dared to challenge them in the race.

Tarique is a lucky man. He has been staying in London since mid-2008 along with his wife and daughter. He got political asylum in the UK in 2014, BNP and diplomatic sources in Dhaka and London have confirmed earlier.

Tarique was detained by the joint forces during the caretaker government in early 2007. He has been indicted at home in a number of cases including the one over the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally.

The senior vice-chairman post in the BNP was created just for him in 2009 amending the constitution. He was then elected to the post by the party council even though he was sitting in London.

This time too, he was "re-elected" unopposed in his absence.

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Ancient Roman leisure complex unearthed



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An ancient Roman estate complete with its own wine press and bath-house has been unearthed in Jerusalem.

A series of buildings dating back at least 1,600 years were discovered underneath the city's famous Schneller Orphanage which operated on the site from 1860 until the end of the Second World War, when it was turned into an army base.

The ruins were discovered by archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority who were excavating the site ahead of building new flats for the city's Orthodox Jewish community.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Protests in Mirpur over a girl's death

Locals lay siege to police station, block road, alleging 'rape, murder'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals and family members of a deceased teen house help yesterday laid siege to Kafrul Police Station and NAM Garden Officers' Quarters at Mirpur, demanding arrest of the people who "raped and killed the girl".

Carrying the body, they also blocked a road in Kazipara of Mirpur after it was discovered that the 13-year-old's "body had bite and scratch marks".

Police found the body of Jonia next to the building of her mother's former employer hours after she went there Sunday morning. They detained four employees of the building for interrogation. Initially, police said Jonia died after she fell from the roof of the 10-storied building in NAM Garden Officers' Quarters.

The girl had been filling in for her sick mother who worked part time for a government official in a flat of Building-3 in NAM Garden.

Although police registered an unnatural death case on Sunday, they accepted a supplementary complaint from Jonia's father Osman.

Osman accused the government official, his son, and wife of killing Jonia after raping her, said Sub-Inspector Kamruzzaman of Kafrul Police Station, who is investigating the case.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Mirpur Division Masud Ahmed told The Daily Star, "We have started the investigation and sent the body for an autopsy and necessary tests. If we find any evidence [in favour of the allegations], the [unnatural death] case will turn into a murder case."

The police, who had recovered Jonia's sandals from the roof of the building, said they were investigating whether she fell or she was pushed off.

SI Kamruzzaman said he interrogated the three accused who claimed that Jonia went to their home in the morning.



Jonia

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Inventor of email dies

AFP, Washington

Ray Tomlinson, the US programmer credited with inventing email in the 1970s and choosing the "@" symbol for the messaging system, has died at the age of 74.

Tomlinson invented direct electronic messages in 1971. Before his invention, users could only write messages to others on a limited network.

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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 8
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A huge rain tree suddenly came crashing down on a rickshaw carrying renowned filmmaker Khalid Mahmood Mithu in the capital's Dhanmondi area yesterday. With fatal injuries, Khalid was whisked off to Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. PHOTO: STAR

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক উত্তরা ৩ নং সেক্টরের ৩, ১০, ২ ও ১৩ (আংশিক), ১৮ নং, ৪ নং সেক্টরের ১১ নং ও শাহজালাল এভিনিউ এ, ৫ নং সেক্টরের ২, ৩, ৪, ৯/এ, ৯/বি, ৯/সি, ৬ নং সেক্টরের ১১, ৬ নং, সংযোগ সড়ক ও ঈশাখা এভিনিউ এ, ৭ নং সেক্টরের ১, ৫, ২৭ ও ৩৫ নং, ৮ নং সেক্টরের ১, ১/বি, ৯ নং সেক্টরের ৯ ও ১০ নং, ১০ নং সেক্টরের রানাভোলা সড়কে, ১১নং সেক্টরের ১৫, ২০ নং ও গরীবো নেওয়াজ এভিনিউ এ এবং ১২ নং সেক্টরের ১২, ১৬ ও ১৮ নং সড়কে নর্দমা ও ফুটপাথ নির্মাণসহ সড়ক উন্নয়ন কাজ শুরু হয়েছে। ডিএমপি (ট্রাফিক) যানবাহন নিয়ন্ত্রণে সার্বিক সহযোগিতা করছে।

কাজ চলাকালীন সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত। সম্মানিত এলাকাবাসীকে কাজ চলাকালীন যথাসম্ভব বিকল্প সড়ক ব্যবহারের জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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জিডি-৫৯০
ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন