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# Ordeal of an AIDS patient

PORIMOL PALMA

Sultana (not the real name) was shocked when refused a surgery on an abscess at a public hospital in Dhaka sometime in 2013 because of being HIV positive.

The doctor left the operating room when she informed him of having been infected by human immunodeficiency virus.

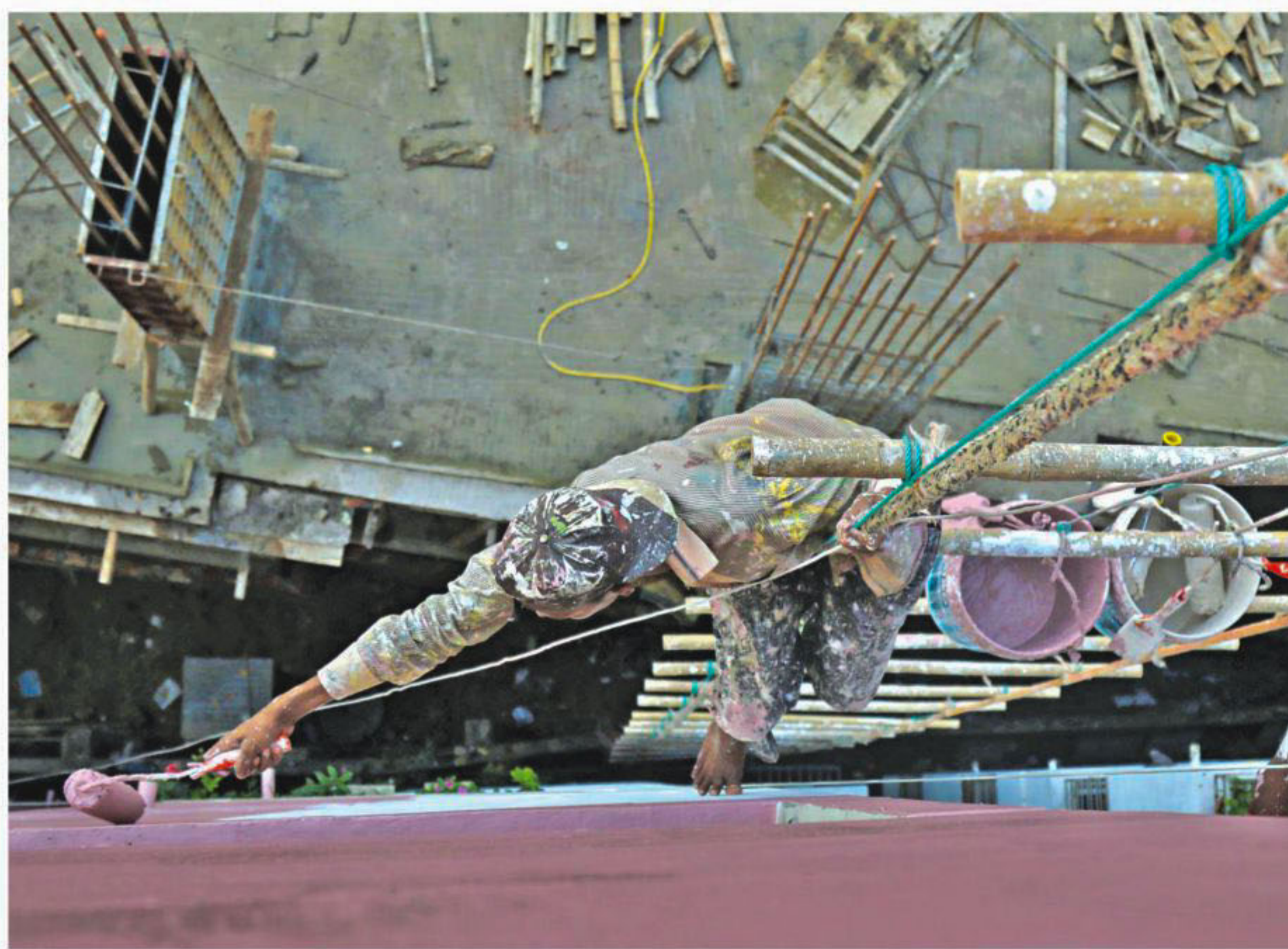
"His [doctor's] face changed immediately. Furious, he asked me how I got the disease, insinuating that I was a bad woman."

The 30-year-old was then asked to go to a private hospital. She instead went to another public hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. This time, she chose to hide her illness to get the operation done.

This is not the first time she was secretive about her health. Only a few of her parents' and in-laws' family members know that she has AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), a disease so rare in Bangladesh that less than 0.1 percent of the population have contracted it, according to the annual progress report of Bangladesh 2015 on HIV/AIDS.

"On my mothers' side, none but my mother knows about it. This is because they would have a bad idea about me [if they were told this]," Sultana said on March 10.

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With no protective gear, a worker perched precariously on a wooden rung paints the exterior wall of a building in Chittagong. Sitting next to him is another worker, right. Construction workers often perform such highly dangerous tasks without proper protective gear, and the authorities concerned keep turning a blind eye to the safety issues. The photos were taken in the port city's Jamal Khan area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## BIMAN BANGLADESH Dhaka-Delhi flight to resume next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is going to resume its flight operations between Dhaka and Delhi in April to boost the bilateral relations and trade and commerce between the two countries.

The decision was made at a meeting between Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon and Indian High Commissioner Harsh

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## CLASH BETWEEN VILLAGERS, HEZBUT TAWHEED MEN

# 3 killed in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two alleged members of Hezbut Tawheed, an Islamist group, and a local were killed and over 150 others, including several policemen, injured in a clash between villagers and the Hezbut men over building a mosque for the Islamist group in Sonaimuri upazila yesterday.

The Hezbut activists are Ibrahim Khan Rubel, 27, son of Nurul Haque, and Mohammad Solaiman, 24, of Pourkara village, and local Mujibul Haque Mujib, 50, of Khodkhasta village.

Mujib was shot dead, while marks of stab were found on the bodies of the two other deceased, said police.

Elias Sharif, superintendent of police in Noakhali, said there had been a longstanding conflict between the Hezbut members

and the villagers of Pourkara as they believed that the Hezbut men, followers of its founder Bayezid Khan Panni, was "propagating against Islam".

On 24 February, the Hezbut men held a public meeting near Chashirhat Union Parishad and made some "derogatory comments about Islam", which angered the villagers, said police.

Around 11:00am yesterday, when the Hezbut activists had gathered Pourkara to resume the construction work of the mosque, which was abandoned several years ago following protests by locals, the villagers rushed to the spot and asked them to stop their work. This triggered an altercation between the Hezbut men and the locals.

At one stage, locals, equipped with rods and sticks, swooped on the Hezbut men and

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## DEFAMATION CASE

# Star editor gets bail in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam obtained bail in a Tk 5-crore defamation case in Gazipur yesterday.

Gazipur Senior Judicial Magistrate Iqbal Masud passed the order after Anam appeared before the court and petitioned for bail through his lawyers.

The court fixed March 16 for the next hearing on the case.

Amanat Hossain Khan,

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## 3 lakh yaba pills seized; 7 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A team of Rapid Action Battalion-7 recovered three lakh yaba tablets worth about Tk 12 crore from a finishing trawler in the Bay of Bengal yesterday afternoon.

It also rounded up seven people in connection with the incident and seized the trawler, MV Rafsan.

The arrestees are Md Alam, 42, Nasir Uddin, 44, Md Kalim Ullah, 24, Md Asraf Uddin, 16, Md Hossain, 25, Md Jasim, 22, and Md Kamal, 26.

Acting on information that a huge amount of yaba tablets would be brought to Cox's Bazar by a fishing trawler, the Rab team led by Lt Col Miftah Uddin Ahmed, commanding officer of Rab-7, conducted a drive in the sea, arrested the seven and recovered the contraband drug stuffed in the cold storage of the vessel, said Syed Mohsinul Haque, squad commander of Rab-7 Cox's Bazar camp.

Law enforcers were quizzing the arrestees to identify the kingpin of the gang.

## 3 high officials from US due this month

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will play host to three dignitaries from the US in a span of nine days this month for discussion on issues like security, democratic rights, labour and trade.

Diplomatic source say the current burning issue of airport security as well as countering terrorism, aviation security and cybercrime will dominate the talks with the US high-profile officials.

Foreign ministry officials say Dhaka welcomes the

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Pedestrians crossing the busy Bangla Motor intersection in the city although there is a footbridge nearby. Only a few people use the footbridge while most others do not bother doing so. This utter disregard for traffic rule often leads to fatal accidents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Racism, not Islam, incites confrontation

Says anti-Trump protester

AFP, Washington

The protester who disrupted a Donald Trump rally in Ohio over the weekend wanted to send a message against racism and "violent, white supremacist ideas," he said in an interview airing yesterday.

Thomas DiMassimo caused a stir Saturday when he tried to rush the stage in Dayton, where the Republican presidential frontrunner was wrapping up a campaign speech.

"I was thinking that Donald Trump is a bully, and he is nothing more than that," the 22-year old college student told CNN.

"He is somebody who is just saying a lot of bold things, he's making bold claims. But I can see right through that and I can see that he's truly just a coward. And he's opportunistic and he's willing to destroy this country for power for himself," DiMassimo said.

DiMassimo was prevented from reaching Trump by the billionaire businessman's security detail and US Secret Service officers who quickly

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
MARCH 15

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
JAZAN	5-00	12-45	4-30	6-14	7-45
JAMAAT	5-35	1-15	4-45	6-18	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Farmer builds Aztec pyramid in Mexico



ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Raymundo Corona, a farmer from Mexico, has gone and built a 22-foot Aztec pyramid in the desert, 74 km from the Mexico-US border.

When people asked him why he went through the trouble of building a pyramid in the desert, he said he was simply following the instructions of an alien who paid him a visit three decades ago.

Speaking to a local newspaper, Corona described the alien as a tall man with honey-coloured eyes and white hair, by the name of Herulayka. He apparently came from a planet called Nefilin, which

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## SYRIA CONFLICT

# Putin orders pull-out of Russian forces

AFP, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered the defence ministry to begin the withdrawal of Russian forces from Syria from today.

"The task that was set before our defence ministry and armed forces has as a whole been completed and so I order the defence ministry to from tomorrow start the withdrawal of the main part of our military contingents from the Syrian Arab Republic," Putin told Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu in televised comments yesterday.

The Kremlin announced that Putin had called President Bashar al-Assad to inform Moscow's long-standing ally of the surprise

move that appears to end the main part of its intervention in Syria's conflict that began in September.

"The leaders noted that the actions of the Russian airforce allowed to radically change the situation in the fight against terrorism, to disorganise the fighters' infrastructure and inflict significant damage on them," the Kremlin said in a statement.

"Taking that into account, the President of Russia stated that the main tasks set before the armed forces of Russia in Syria had been completed. It was agreed to carry out the withdrawal of the main part of Russia's airforce contingent," the statement said.

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## Turkey pounds PKK camps

Erdogan vows to bring terror 'to its knees' as death toll climbs to 36

AGENCIES

Turkey yesterday held four suspects over a suicide car bombing that killed at least 36 people in Ankara, as warplanes pounded Kurdish rebel bases in northern Iraq over the attack, the capital's third in five months.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the latest carnage, which reduced cars and buses to charred husks on a busy road in the heart of the city on Sunday evening, wounding more than 120 people.

But Ankara believes one of the bombers was a woman with ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a Turkish official told AFP yesterday.

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