



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE STAR WEEKEND

THE TORCHBEARER How Nurjahan Begum became the trailblazing editor of Begum PAGE 16

HOMESICK FIZZ Mustafizur Rahman is eager for a break after the IPL PAGE 18

Digital noose to be tightened further

Draft law proposes maximum life term sentence

Cyber crimes now have become a global threat. We need a modern law to combat them. We feel the necessity of enacting a new law even more now after the Bangladesh Bank heist.

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Anyone spreading negative propaganda against the Liberation War or the Father of the Nation, using digital devices, will risk being sentenced to life in prison, according to the draft of a new law.

Several sections in the digital security act contain vague wordings, leaving room for misuse or misinterpretation. JYOTIRMOY BARUA

government wants a new law to ensure national digital security and prevent rising digital crimes. In April, the draft was sent to the Cabinet Division after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who also holds the portfolio of posts, telecommunications and information technology, gave the go-ahead for it to be placed before the cabinet.

Govt blocks 2 messaging services

Widely used by extremists: BTRC

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

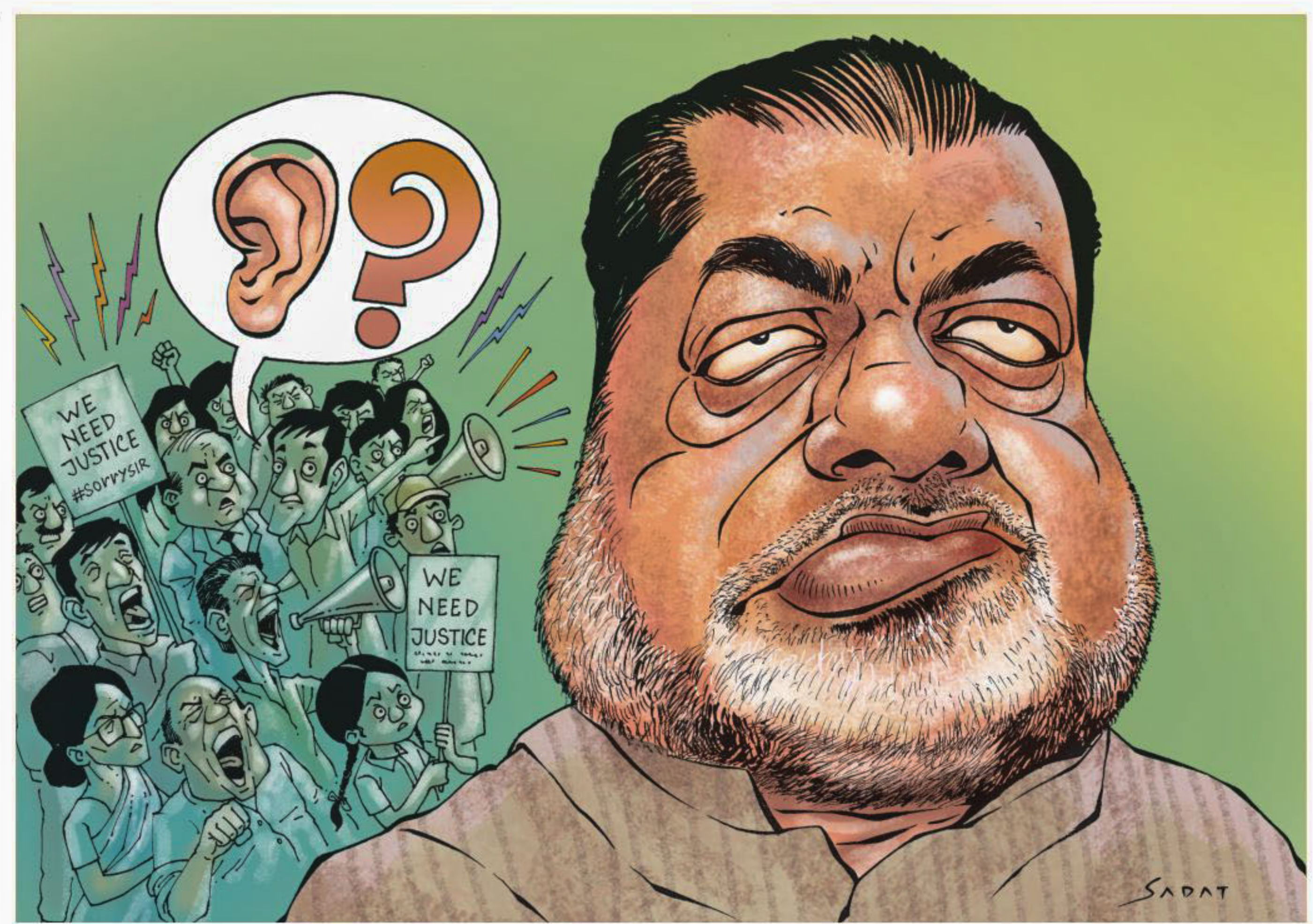
Bangladesh telecom regulator has blocked Threema and Wickr, two highly secured messaging services, along with some blog and Facebook links after receiving requests from intelligence agencies that claimed they spread atheism and criticise Islam.

7 govt factories run without ETP

They are contributing to pollution

RASHIDUL HASAN

Seven state-run factories don't have any effluent treatment plant (ETP) to treat their waste before disposal, says a report of the environment and forests ministry. The ETP at Jamuna Fertiliser Company in Sarisabari upazila of Jamalpur is out of order, it adds. The ETP treats the effluent produced by a factory.



Injustice done to him

Edn ministry probe also finds the humiliated headmaster didn't hurt anyone's religious sentiment; he's reinstated, school's managing body dissolved; the teacher says the MP slapped him as well

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An education ministry probe committee found no evidence that Shyamal Kanti Bhakta had hurt anyone's religious sentiment though, on this allegation, the Narayanganj headmaster was publicly humiliated on a local lawmaker's instruction. The three-member committee also termed illegal the decision of the school managing committee to suspend Shyamal as the headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Bandar area of Narayanganj.

headteacher. So he will remain in the position and continue to discharge his duties," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

"Instance of such humiliation of a teacher will not be found anywhere. We are enraged and we condemn the act. Such an incident can't take place in any civilised country," he said.

A temporary committee headed by the Narayanganj deputy commissioner was formed to **sub** **eh** **so** **ho** **ol**, he told reporters at a press briefing

No question of offering apology

Says Salim Osman, insists the teacher did squats 'willingly'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Lawmaker AKM Salim Osman yesterday came up with another story over the humiliation of headmaster Shyamal Kanti Bhakta. He said the teacher was a psycho (*taarchera*) and had squatted holding his earlobes in public "willingly to save himself". "He [Shyamal] confessed to me that he had made derogatory remarks about religion mistakenly and proposed that he would

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Mamata Banerjee, chief minister of West Bengal and head of Trinamool Congress, waves at her supporters outside her residence in Kolkata after the initial results of the West Bengal assembly elections were out yesterday.

BJP widens sway in India

Wins Assam for the first time; Mamata wins West Bengal; Congress in jeopardy

AGENCIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party won power in remote northeast Assam and made gains in other states yesterday, expanding its political influence beyond its traditional heartland two years after a landslide national election victory.

ASSAM 126 seats BJP 60 | Congress 26 | AGP 14 | AIUFD 13 | BPF 12 WEST BENGAL 294 seats Trinamool Congress 211 | Congress 44 | CPI(M) 26 | BJP 3 | CPI 1 TAMIL NADU (232 of 234 seats) AIADMK 134 | DMK 89 | Congress 8 | IUML 1

NEWS ANALYSIS

New BJP wave sinks Congress

Results in Assam may have impact on Bangladesh

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The win of BJP in Assam may have an impact on Bangladesh as Sarbananda Sonowal, who is set to be the chief minister there, announced that sealing the border to stop infiltration will be one of his biggest challenges. After winning the battle of ballots in the assembly election in Assam, the BJP leader yesterday came up with the announcement.



Cyclonic storm in Bay gains strength

Signal 4 for all maritime ports

STAR REPORT

After hovering around the Indian coast for the last two days, the first cyclone of the season in the Bay is now gaining strength and heading towards Bangladesh.

Named Roanu, the cyclone might make land-fall on country's southern coast within the next 48 hours, the Met Office said yesterday evening.

The government was preparing for a massive evacuation in 18 coastal districts after the Met Office had issued a local warning signal. All the cyclone shelters in these districts have been kept ready.

"... It may hit Bangladesh coast the day after tomorrow [Saturday]," said the duty forecasting officer (DFO) yesterday evening.

The Met Office advised four maritime ports in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra to hoist local warning signal-4, as Roanu moved slightly

26 years on the run to avoid two years' jail

A CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

What would you do if you were sentenced to two years' imprisonment? Fight back or serve the sentence and start life anew? For one man in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi, neither seemed like the answer.

Md Shamsul Huq, 70, managed to evade the law enforcers for 26 years before he was arrested from Shah Sikkander Ali shrine in Sherpur, about 250km from his home, on Wednesday.

In May 1990, Shamsul was arrested from Godagari for his alleged involvement in smuggling.

Later, he received bail and vanished quickly from the scene.

Thanks to disguises and luck, he remained beyond the reach of the law for all these years. Dressed up as a devotee, he roamed around the country for "pilgrimage" at different shrines. About four months ago, he arrived at Sekandar Ali



Shamsul Huq after his arrest.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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