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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.

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

JYOTIRMOY BARUA

7 govt factories

They are contributing to pollution

run without ETP

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

is out of order, it adds. The ETP treats the effluent produced by a factory.

committee on the ministry at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Wednesday.

from the Department of Environment (DoE).

have expired between two months and four years ago.

The ETP at Jamuna Fertiliser Company in Sarisabari upazila of Jamalpur

The ministry carried out the study on the environmental status of 12

Five out of the 12 factories, which produce fertiliser, cement, glass sheet,

According to the report, the certificates of four factories out of the five

factories operated by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCCI).

The report was presented at the meeting of the parliamentary standing

paper and sanitary ware, don't have environmental clearance certificate

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Govt blocks 2

messaging

Widely used by

extremists: BTRC

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Bangladesh telecom regula-

secured messaging services,

along with some blog and

Facebook links after receiv-

gence agencies that claimed

ing requests from intelli-

they spread atheism and

On Monday, the

Telecommunication

Regulatory Commission

(BTRC) blocked the ser-

vices on suspicion that they

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

criticise Islam.

Bangladesh

tor has blocked Threema

and Wickr, two highly

services

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.

The draft of Digital Security Act-2016 also stipulates two-year imprisonment for "deliberately" defaming someone or hurting anyone's religious sentiment by publishing or broadcasting something through digital devices.

The ICT Division has prepared the draft, as the

RASHIDUL HASAN

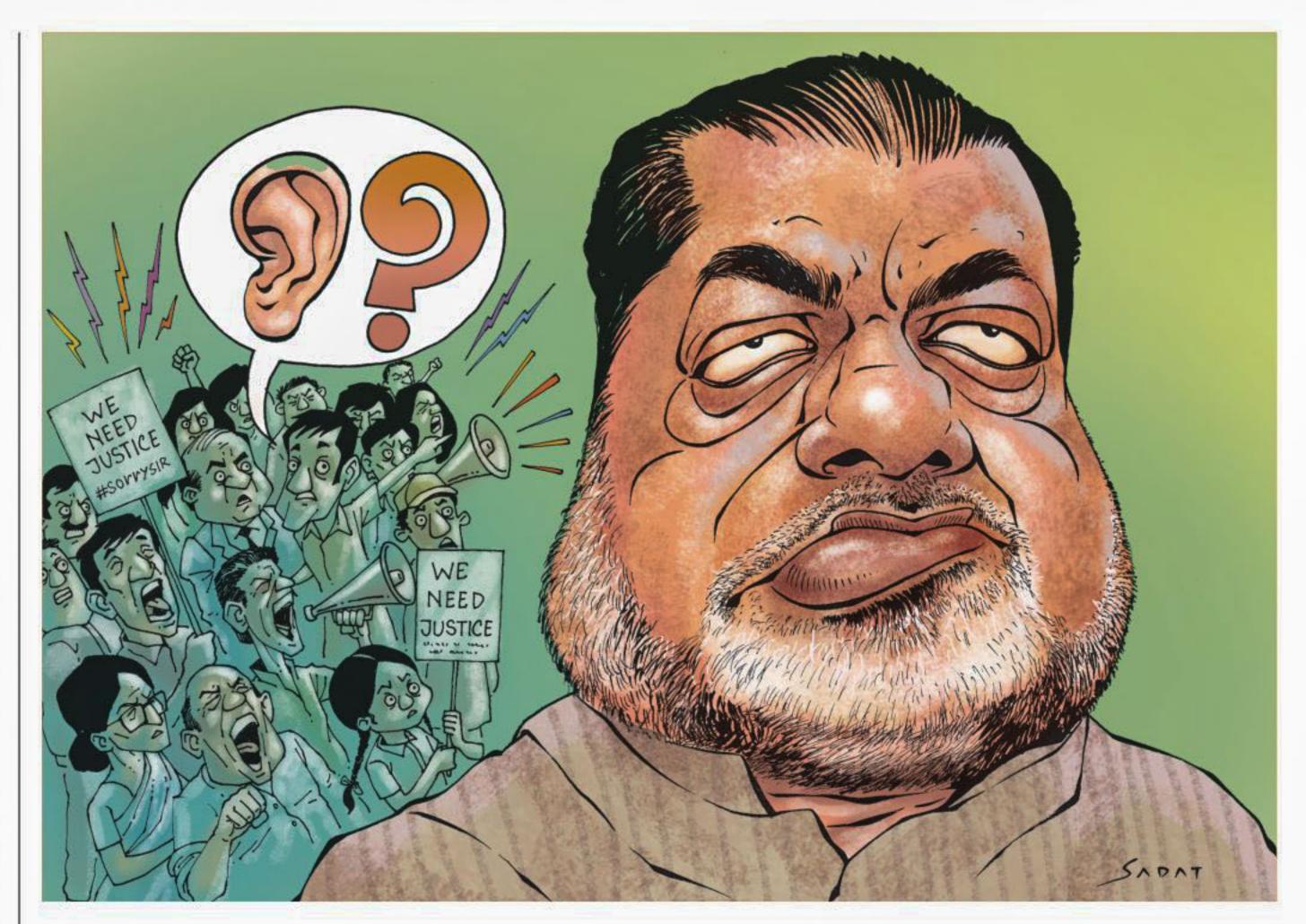
forests ministry.

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 goahead for it to be placed before the cabinet.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the draft law. The government move comes when the country already has Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act-2006 in effect. Besides, Liberation War Crimes Denial Act-2016 has been

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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.

The ministry reinstated him following the probe body recommendation.

"The school managing committee's decision will not be effective as it was not made following rules. The committee unjustly suspended the headteacher. So he will remain in the position and : STAFF CORRESPONDENT continue to discharge his duties," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

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

A temporary committee headed by the Bhakta. He said the teacher Narayanganj deputy commissioner was formed to · was a psycho (taarchera) and sun the school, he told reporters at a press briefing

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



No question of offering apology

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

 Jatiya Party Lawmaker AKM : came up with another story headmaster Shyamal Kanti ; 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 SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



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.

> PHOTO: REUTERS

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. The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party seized control of restive Assam from the centre-left Congress party, which promised to "work harder" to win people's confidence after losing ground in several states. It suffered defeats

in Assam and the southern state of Kerala. Regional parties were re-elected in the southern state of Tamil Nadu and the eastern state of West Bengal, where the SEE PAGE 17 COL 1 **ASSAM 126 seats**

BJP 60 | Congress 26 | AGP 14 | AIUDF 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

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

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.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



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 landfall 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

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4 | Shamsul Huq after his arrest.

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 Sikander 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

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 SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



PHOTO: COLLECTED