

# Bodies of two students recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bodies of the two female madrasa students were recovered from the Shankha river yesterday morning, two days into a boat capsizing in the river at Anwara upazila in Chittagong.

The deceased are -- Jannatul Mawa, 12, daughter of Md Siraj and Hanufa Akhter, 14, daughter of Md Mostaque -- of Purbo Juin Dandi of the upazila.

The boat carrying female students of Jata Nurain Senior Madrasa of Banskhali capsized in the river while they were going to attend their exams on Thursday.

Out of the 19 students, locals rescued 17 instantly. Mawa and Hanufa, class VI and class VII students respectively, went missing.

Fishermen found their body floating near the place of the accident, said Dulal Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Anwara Police Station, adding, bodies were handed to their families.

The boat was capsized after its propeller got entangled with fishing net.



Devotees reach out for prasada, a sweet delicacy blessed marking Durga Puja, at a pavilion yesterday erected in the capital's Kalabagan field to celebrate the occasion through rituals.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# BNP questions killing of militants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday alleged that the government was killing militants in fear of embarrassment for "its link".

"The militants' link with people in the government may come out if they (militants) are quizzed," he told a programme at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

He held the government responsible for the emergence of militancy in the country, saying militancy would not be rooted out if they were killed intentionally.

"One's name whose father is involved with the Awami League has already come out for his link to a banned militant outfit," Khan added.

Deshnetri Forum, a pro-BNP platform, organised the programme protesting the arrest warrant issued for the party's senior vice chairman Tarique Rahman.

# 2 YRS PAST SC ORDER IN GRAFT CASES AGAINST TOP BRASSES HC still to rehear appeals to examine lower court verdicts

## HC still to rehear appeals to examine lower court verdicts

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

More than two years after the Supreme Court asked the High Court to "expeditiously rehear" and dispose of appeals from among 35 corruption accused, mostly politicians and their family members, the HC is yet to finish its job.

None of the 27 appeals filed was adjudicated yet. The HC started hearing only one of the appeals, challenging the lower court verdicts that jailed the accused to different terms in separate corruption cases.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam told The Daily Star that he did not know why the HC could not settle any of the appeals because they were related to the corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

It would be better if the appeals are heard and disposed of quickly, he added.

The HC bench led by Justice Md Ruhul Quddus started rehearing the appeal filed by former BNP lawmaker engineer Manjurul Ahsan Munshi in July, and it may resume the hearing proceedings after the ongoing annual vacation ends, on October 30, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

He said the HC could not rehear other appeals, as its relevant benches were overburdened, and some of the documents were not produced before them on time.

Some of the appeals have been included in the cause lists of the HC benches for their hearings, he said.

The Appellate Division has so far scrapped several HC verdicts that acquitted around 35 people, including Relief and Disaster Management Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and former BNP minister Nazmul Huda, in separate corruption cases.

The HC will examine through rehearing of the appeals whether the lower court verdicts that sentenced the accused were correct or not, he said.

Advocate Khurshid said the SC cancelled the acquittals of the accused, considering that the HC verdicts on them were not correct, since it did not properly consider the relevant evidence and the corruption allegations against them.

The ACC counsel said the HC had acquitted the corruption accused in the cases against them in the light of an SC judgment that acquitted

former Awami League minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in a similar case.

The lawyer said the SC had acquitted Alamgir, declaring illegal a 2007 ACC notice that asked him to submit a wealth statement. There were no ACC commissioners appointed then and Alamgir was in jail at that time, he added.

Then the commission gave a similar notice to around 50 corruption suspects, he said.

Apart from Maya and Huda, other corruption accused whose acquittals were rescinded by the apex court include Huda's wife Sigma Huda, former BNP state minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood Tuku, BNP leader Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and his son Mir Helal Uddin, ruling Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim, former BNP state minister Amanullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman, former AL lawmaker Joyal Abedin Hazari, former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim and his wife Mafruza Sultana, former AL lawmaker Mockbul Hossain and his wife Fatema Tahera Khanam, former commissioner of customs Jahurul Haque and his wife Afia Haque, former Islami Oikya Jote lawmaker

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# Dhaka, Berlin vow to tackle terror

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Germany have held a discussion on the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism and vowed to work together to address this global challenge.

Both sides also discussed orderly migration and mobility of people within the context of the meeting of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), to be held in Dhaka in December.

Germany is scheduled to take over the chairmanship of the forum from Bangladesh.

The bilateral talks were held between Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and his German counterpart Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Berlin on Friday, the Bangladesh foreign ministry said yesterday.

During the meeting, the foreign ministers discussed all aspects of bilateral relations and agreed to work closely to strengthen and expand areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Termining the relationship between Bangladesh and Germany warm and deep, Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali reiterated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation to German Chancellor Angela Merkel to visit Bangladesh to take the relations to a new height.

Referring to a recent World Bank report,

Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali apprised his German counterpart about the sustained economic progress of Bangladesh and urged the German side to seize the opportunity to broaden their engagements in Bangladesh, particularly in terms of trade and investment.

Both ministers also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the ongoing refugee and migration crisis in Europe.

Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali was warmly received in Berlin and extended full state protocol, including ceremonial motorcades escorting him to all the official programmes.

Upon arrival at the German foreign ministry, Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali was received by Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier who showed him some documents from their archives recalling establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Germany.

Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali visited the German parliament, the Bundestag, and held a meeting with Niels Annen, spokesperson on Foreign Affairs of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) Parliamentary Group in the Bundestag and chairperson of the SPD's Commission for International Politics.

The SPD is a major partner of the ruling Grand Coalition in Germany.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanges pleasantries during a visit to Dhakeshwari National Temple in the capital yesterday marking Durga Puja.

PHOTO: PMO

# 4 hurt, 'robbed of Tk 1.5 lakh' on highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Four people were injured as a microbus carrying them fell into a ditch when muggers allegedly intercepted it by blocking the road with wood pieces to rob its passengers in the Jhaoil bridge area near the Bangabandhu Bridge last night.

The injured -- Natore municipality councillor Mostak Ahmed Bhutto, former councillor Jahidul Islam Jahid, and their associates Shanjoy Shah and Mithun Shah -- were hospitalised.

Mithun alleged that the muggers robbed them of Tk 1.5 lakh. Police said they were not aware of any robbery incident.

# Two Nigerians among 5 held over fraudulence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday at a press briefing claimed to have arrested five alleged members of a fraud gang, including two Nigerians, in different areas in the capital on Friday night.

The two Nigerians are Anayo, 27, and Esi Aka Henry, 29. The three others are Mainul Kabir, 29, Nazim Uddin, 37 and Ruhul Amin alias Mithu, 29.

Introducing him as Nasir Uddin, one of the gang's members established contact with a female banker, saying that he was a physician working with the United Nations in Lebanon and wanted to found a clinic in Bangladesh, said Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of detective branch of

Dhaka Metropolitan Police, quoting the victim.

As she got convinced, the fraudster told her that he had sent some medical equipment to her address.

The gang first realised Tk 1.25 lakh from her in the name of getting the equipment released from an airport customs house.

Later they took another Tk 20 lakh, threatening her to implicate in a money laundering case.

However, with the gang demanded Tk 15 lakh again, a relative of the banker lodged a case with New Market Police Station.

Police sources said the gang used to target and entrap affluent people for money.

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