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It's one of the nation's forgotten shames
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Rahul Gandhi detained and then released
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AL lawmaker Bodi jailed

Convicted for hiding info, providing false wealth statement to ACC

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY



A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced Awami League lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi to three years in prison for "concealing" and "deliberately providing false" wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission in March 2014.

The controversial lawmaker from Cox's Bazar was also fined Tk 10 lakh, in default of which he will have to spend three more months in jail.

This is the first time a ruling party lawmaker has been punished in a corruption case. Three years' imprisonment is the highest punishment for the offence Bodi committed.

The prosecution, however, failed to prove the other charge brought against him for amassing wealth beyond the known sources of his income.

Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar of Dhaka Special Judge's Court-3 delivered the verdict in a packed courtroom with Bodi standing in the dock.

Hearing the judgment, the AL lawmaker from Cox's Bazar-4 constituency (Teknaf and Ukhiya) broke down in tears. Later, the court sent him to jail, cancelling his bail he had obtained earlier from the High Court.

"Accused Abdur Rahman Bodi committed a punishable offence under section 26(2) of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2001."

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A Hindu woman sitting in her vandalised home in Kashipara of Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar upazila yesterday. Religious zealots attacked her house and destroyed all belongings during the mayhem on Sunday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ADB to lend \$8b in 5 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Development Bank has scaled up financing for Bangladesh by 60 percent to \$8 billion for 2016-2020 in order to help the country get over infrastructure constraints and improve human capital.

The Manila-based lender disclosed its lending plans as it announced its Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) at a programme at the National Economic Council in Dhaka yesterday.

The financing for the next five years will also seek to help the country support economic corridor development, improve rural livelihood, and enable it to provide climate and disaster resilient infrastructure and services.

"The new Country Partnership Strategy is founded on Bangladesh's remarkable success," said ADB Country Director Kazuhiko Higuchi while making a presentation on the plans.

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JAIL KILLING DAY TODAY 41 yrs on, justice still eludes



ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Forty-one years have passed since the assassination of four national leaders at the Dhaka Central Jail on this very day in 1975.

It also has been more than 12 years since a trial court handed down punishment to the perpetrators of the heinous crime.

But justice still eludes the nation as the punishment for any of the 11 convicted killers could not be executed.

As it is perceived that all the convicts are hiding abroad, the government has so far traced, in definite terms, the whereabouts of only two -- one in the United States of America (USA) and the other in Canada -- but failed to bring them back.

There have been no further updates from a taskforce led by the law minister that the government constituted in 2010 to locate and bring back the absconding killers.

Against this backdrop, the nation pays tribute to the four

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Planned attack 'to grab land'

Human rights activists say about B'baria mayhem, fisheries minister plays down looting of Hindu houses

RASHIDUL HASAN from NASIRNAGAR, BRAHMANBARIA

Sunday's hate attack in Brahmanbaria was "certainly" preplanned, and one of its motives was to grab land belonging to Hindus by driving them out of their homes, said the National Human Rights Commission, rights activists and community leaders yesterday.

They demanded formation of a judicial enquiry committee to identify the masterminds behind the two-hour long mayhem over a Facebook post from the account of a Hindu man "hurting the religious sentiment" of the Muslims.

Rasraj Das, a 27-year-old fisherman, is now in jail in a case filed over the post.

Before his arrest and the synchronised attack, Rasraj claimed he had nothing to do with the post, but apologised for it anyway. Relatives say his account may have been hacked.

"The attack on Hindu localities in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar was certainly planned and deliberate. It was also part of the protest rallies [organised by two Islamist organisations -- Touhidi Janata and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat]," Enamul Hoque Chowdhury, an NHRC member and chief of a delegation, told reporters.

A fact-finding team of the NHRC, a six-member delegation of Nagorik Committee led by rights activist Sultana Kamal, a 10-member team of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad led by its General Secretary Rana Dasgupta visited the area yesterday.

A delegation of the Indian High Commission led by its first secretary (Political) Rajesh Uike also visited the affected localities.

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PM moves to build home for Miraz

The young cricket star expresses gratitude

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken an initiative for building a house for young cricket sensation Mehedi Hasan Miraz and his family in their hometown Khulna.



They currently live in a dilapidated tin-roofed structure with only two rooms to share among the four members of the family.

The construction of the new home will begin as soon as a suitable location is found.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already directed the authorities concerned ... and accordingly her Principal Secretary Md Abdul Kalam Azad

has already directed the authorities concerned ... and accordingly her Principal Secretary Md Abdul Kalam Azad

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Solma waits for repatriation

The Gaibandha woman went missing 4 yrs ago, now living in a shelter home in India

PORIMOL PALMA

Siblings aged eight and 10 could hardly remember when their mother had made and served them a meal or how she had asked them to turn in at night.

It has been four years since they last saw their mother Solma Begum and red tape and inefficiency of ministries are delaying the reunion of mother and children.

Shakil Islam, 8, and Shima Akhter, 10, now sort of take care of themselves in their Taluk Shorbananda of Sundarganj in Gaibandha home.

Their father Shawkat Ali, once a labourer, now begs door to door. He has not been mentally stable since his wife went missing.

"I have to cook ... I have been doing it since my mother went missing," Shima, a student of class-V, told The Daily Star over phone.

"We miss our mother so much ...," said Shakil, "Please bring back our mother."

Solma, 39, had psychological issues four years ago. She was taken to a local doctor but that did not help much, said her brother Asgar Ali.

"She would sometime bite people and could not stand anyone around her," he told this correspondent from Sundarganj.

In an afternoon about three months after she became sick, Solma went to a nearby pond but did not return.

They looked for her everywhere with no result.

Asgar Ali said local union parishad member Abu Bakar, after his



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Jubo Dal activist killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal activist was killed in a "gunfight" between two criminal gangs in Begaritala of Jessore's Monirampur early yesterday, police said.

The victim is Anisur Rahman, 34, of Lauri village in the same upazila.

However, Anis' cousin Babul Akhter alleged that some plainclothes policemen picked up his cousin from his house early Monday.

Biplob Kumar Nath, officer-in-charge of Monirampur Police Station, denied the allegation.

Shahid Iqbal Hossain, president of Monirampur upazila unit BNP, said Anis' family was involved in BNP politics.

He also added that Anis was an activist of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, the youth body of the party.

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Pigeons at Kaptan Bazar in the capital. Pigeon lovers from the city visit three dedicated pigeon markets in Tongi, Mohammadpur Beri Bandh and Kaptan Bazar to buy the birds. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: ZAHED KHAN



Pigeon lovers of Dhaka

ZAHED KHAN

Who would pay one lakh taka for a pair of exotic and rare pigeons? You may find it unbelievable, but there are some pigeon lovers who would pay even more if they find something they have been looking for.

And because of these pigeon lovers, Dhaka has three dedicated pigeon markets in Tongi, Mohammadpur Beri Badh and Kaptan Bazar. The one in Kaptan Bazar is the biggest among them. Then of course, there are independent pet shops other than the market in Kanta Bon.

"The pleasure of keeping pigeons is that you take one to Mirpur, release it and you will find it back home in Wari after a while," says businessman and pigeon lover Kazi Moniruzzaman who lives in Wari along with 200 pigeons.

Moniruzzaman and his next door friend Shahnewaz Mia enjoy occasional races between their pigeons and those of other pigeon lovers. There is even a pigeon lovers' association in the old town.

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