

Magistrates must act

Shall not stay silent whenever they find infringement of law against torture and death in custody, says SC judgment

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Supreme Court has directed magistrates to take action against errant police officers whenever they find infringement of the law against torture and death in police custody.

Amid widespread allegations of police torture, parliament in 2013 enacted the "Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act", prohibiting both mental and physical torture in any situation and custodial death.

But there has been little application of the law which in view of the apex court is one of the finest laws in the country. "It is only the magistrates who can ensure its [anti-torture law] enforceability and see that this piece of legislation does not remain in the statute [book] only," said the SC.

"The magistrates shall not remain as silent spectators whenever they find infringement of this law and shall take legal steps against errant officers."

The SC has come up with the directives in its full verdict on the arbitrary use of powers by the law enforcement agencies. The copy of the judgement was released on Thursday.

The law was enacted three years ago. But torture by law enforcement agencies and custodial death didn't stop, as records of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights body, SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Abdur Rashid in his PE class among children young enough to be his grandchildren at Jessore Govt Primary School in Bochaganj upazila of Dinajpur district.

Never too old to learn

Man starts primary school at age 60

KONGKON KARMAKER with ANDREW EAGLE

Every weekday morning class-three student Abdur Rashid, who attends Jessore Government Primary School in Dinajpur's Bochaganj upazila, gets ready for school. He knows he has to be on time for class, with homework done. Abdur's daily routine is one many primary students would recognise. There's little to distinguish him from classmates, apart from the fact that he's 62 years old.

"When I first told the headmaster I wanted to enrol he refused on account of my age," recalls Abdur, "but eventually I convinced him. I wanted to learn how to read. I would do the same work as the children in my class." That was two years ago.

It's for the first time in his life the farmer is studying. Born into a struggling family there wasn't an opportunity for schooling during his SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

PHOTO: STAR



Comilla lose 3 on the trot

SPORTS REPORTER

Reigning champions Comilla Victorians have begun the fourth season of the Bangladesh Premier League in the worst possible manner. They lost their third consecutive match yesterday and the pressure has increased tenfold.

Having made four changes to the side, the Comilla Victorians opted to bowl first in the night game yesterday. While they bowled decently to restrict the Khulna Titans to just 144, their batsmen failed after the exchange and eventually Comilla went down by 13 runs.

Truth be told, the chase never got on. Liton Das tried to take the attack to the opposition from the start when he drove Shuvagata Hom for two fours in the first over. However, he was dismissed SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Not words, they want their land back

Evicted Gaibandha Santals tell visiting AL team, rights activists

PINAKI ROY and REZAUL HOQUE

It was long after sundown. Amid a shroud of darkness, a Santal family lit a fire to cook their first meal of the day.

Gulping down only rice, served on banana leaves, they knew this was the reality chasing them all along, as central and local political leaders and rights

activists throughout yesterday extended their support and words of sympathy and made promises of food, rehabilitation and healthcare.

Like these 10-12 Santals, most of those who were evicted a week ago from the disputed land of Shahebganj Sugar Mill in Gobindaganj of Gaibandha didn't seem SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Barbed-wire fence being installed around the "sugarcane farm" in Gobindaganj of Gaibandha. The Santal people of the area want the land back. PHOTO: STAR

Pay Tk 2,800cr first

SC asks 2 top Destiny officials; to get bail they must pay the money for distribution among scam victims as compensation



Rafiqul Amin



Mohammad Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two top destiny officials will get released on bail only if they pay the government Tk 2,800 crore in six weeks by selling 35 lakh matured trees planted under the company's tree plantation project.

The Supreme Court said this yesterday while granting conditional bail to Destiny Group Managing Director Rafiqul Amin SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



TOP!
QUOTE

"Our analysis is that Jim Comey's (FBI chief) letter raising doubts that were groundless (and) baseless -- and proven to be -- stopped our momentum."

HILLARY CLINTON
SINGLES OUT FBI INTERVENTION FOR HER ELECTION DEFEAT

SINGER®

8 Years Warranty

Model: RD32WR
Previous Price: Tk. 45,000
Present Price: Tk. 37,990


More than 10 Models

No Frost Refrigerator

Trustworthy International Brand within your reach

- 0% Interest up to 6 Months
- Easy Installments up to 15 Months
- Minimum 15% Down Payment
- 0% Interest up to 12 Months through Credit Cards from Major Banks

SINGER HELP LINE 16482



world diabetes day 2016


win diabetes

A balanced diet and regular exercise ensure a healthy and happy life despite being a Diabetic.

It is essential that in order to meet the nutritional requirement of the body, the blood glucose level should not be allowed to go beyond control. **MARKS DIABETIC MILK** with Low GI formula is a unique solution that provides balanced nutrition at the same time keeping the blood sugar level under control.

MARKS DIABETIC MILK

The Low GI formula of Marks Diabetic Milk ensures a slow release of glucose into the bloodstream and does not increase the blood sugar level like regular milk



Rich in Fibre
Low Fat
40% Lower GI Than Regular Milk
400g Imported from FRANCE