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Mysteriously missing

HC asks police what they did over the last 36 days to find the doctor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to find a government medical officer who was reportedly abducted from the capital's Dhanmondi area 37 days ago.

As his father launched a frantic search to find his son, Muhammed Iqbal Mahmud, the High Court yesterday asked law enforcers what steps they had taken to find the missing man.

The court directed the authorities concerned of the government to submit a report before it in 10 days on what steps had been taken to trace the missing physician.

It also issued a rule upon the authorities to explain in four weeks why their inaction to find the doctor should not be seen as negligence in duties, Deputy Attorney General Amatul Karim Swapna told The Daily Star.

The bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Md Faruque came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Iqbal's father AKM Nurul Alam on November 15, seeking necessary orders from the HC to find his son.

Iqbal, a medical officer of the Directorate General of Health Services, remained missing since he was "abducted" from Science Laboratory intersection in the capital's Dhanmondi area allegedly by law enforcers in early October 15.

A CCTV footage obtained by this newspaper from Iqbal's father showed seven to eight people forcibly taking the victim into a microbus soon after he had alighted from a



Iqbal Mahmud

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HELLO CTG MAYOR?
IS THIS OUR FOOTBRIDGE?

This footbridge in Chittagong city's busy New Market area was built to check road accidents and traffic congestion. But pedestrians cannot use it because street vendors have set up shops, blocking its stairs, over the years. Parts of the bridge have even become a garbage dump, as seen in this photo taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ZILLA PARISHAD POLLS No contestant against AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first-ever district council elections will be held on December 28, announced the Election Commission yesterday.

The polls will be one-sided if the BNP and the Jatiya Party don't participate in the electoral race as per the announcements they have already made.

Only the elected representatives of different local government bodies will vote to elect a chairman, 15 general members and 5 women members in reserved seats in each district council, according to the District Council (Amendment) Act, 2016.

The elected representatives of each district include chairman and members of union parishad (UP); chairman and vice chairman of upazila parishad and mayor and councillor of municipality and city corporation.

The way the elections will be held is opposed to the constitution, said the BNP, referring to the fact that district councils would not be formed through direct voting of people.

The main opposition JP said taking part in the polls would be "meaningless".

The incumbent district administrators appointed by the Awami League-led government in 2011 under political consideration will get party support to contest the chairman posts, said AL sources.

The final voters' list was not available

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Tintin drawing sells for record €1.55m

AFP, Paris

An original drawing from the popular Tintin adventure "Explorers on the Moon" sold for a record 1.55 million euros at a Paris auction on Saturday, auction house Artcurial announced.

The 50 cm X 35 cm drawing in Chinese ink by the Belgian cartoonist known as Hergé shows the boy reporter, his dog Snowy and crusty sailor Captain Haddock wearing spacesuits and walking on the Moon while looking at Earth.

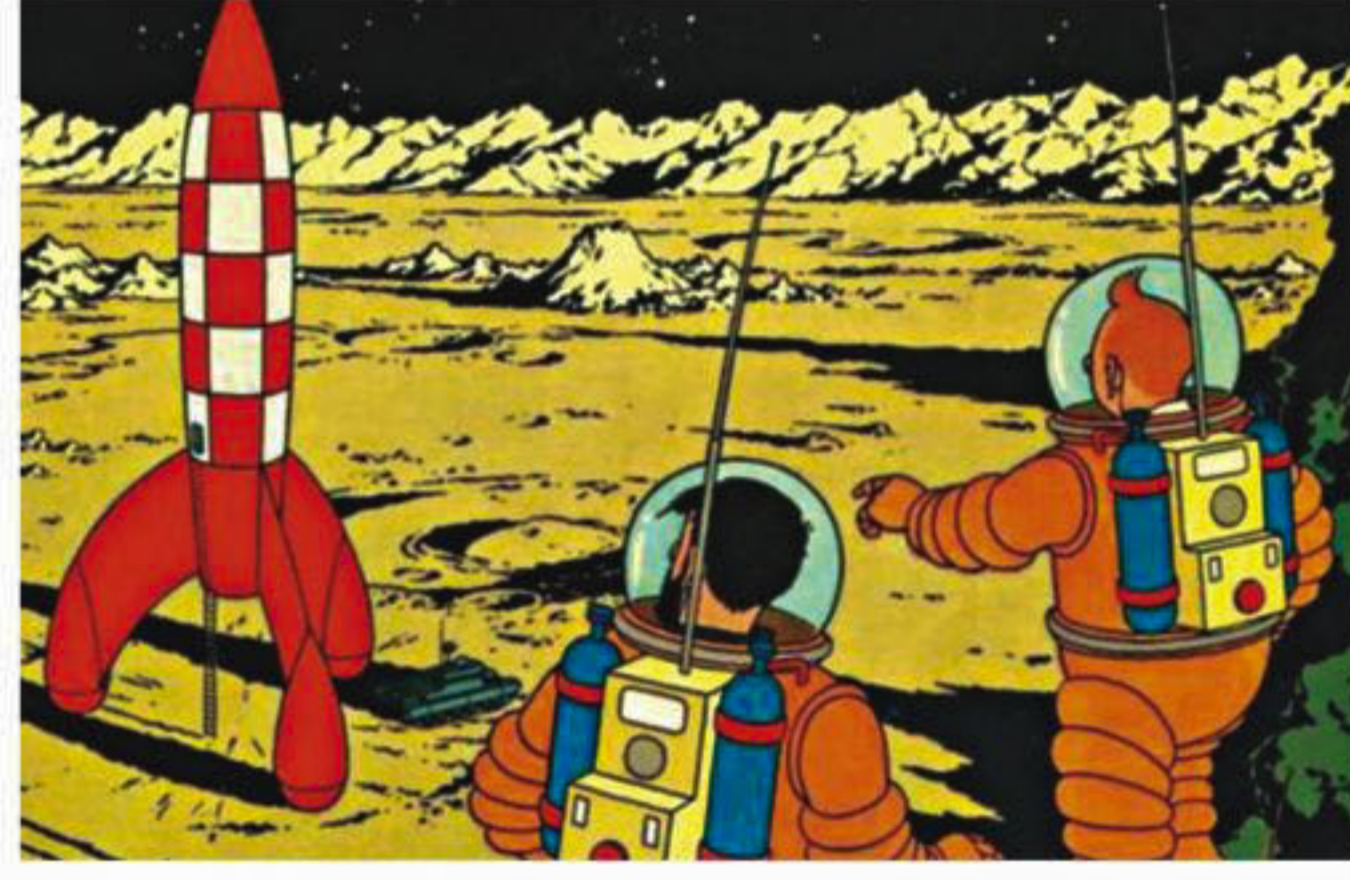
It had been expected to sell for between 700,000 and 900,000 euros (\$741,000 and \$952,000).

"It's simply fantastic! It's an exceptional price for an exceptional piece," said Artcurial's comics expert Eric Leroy.

He described the "Explorers on the Moon" as "a key moment in the history of comic book art... it has become legendary for many lovers and collectors of comic strips."

"It is one of the most important from Hergé's postwar period, on the same level as 'Tintin in Tibet' and 'The Castafiore

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Rubel admits to raping Garo girl

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Rafsan Hossain alias Rubel confessed before a magistrate yesterday to raping a Garo girl in the capital's Uttar Badda last month.

He made the confessional statement willfully, a court official said.

The detailed account of Rubel could not be known immediately.

The 18-year-old indigenous girl was raped on October 25 after she went to visit her fiancé at his lodging in Uttar Badda.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sadbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury recorded the statement of Rubel after Sub-Inspector BM Mamun of Badda Police Station produced the arrestee in his chamber.

In the forwarding report, Mamun, investigation officer of the case filed by the victim, said Rubel admitted his guilt during his interrogation in police custody and agreed to give a confessional statement before a magistrate.

After recording his

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79 to become judges soon

President did not approve 21 others due to police verification issues

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Of the 100 candidates the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC) recommended for recruitment as lower court judges, President Abdul Hamid has approved 79 and dropped 21.

The president did not approve the appointments of 21 as "objections" surfaced against them during police verification, said Mahbubur Rahman Sarker, deputy secretary (administration) of the law ministry.

Upon advice from the Supreme Court, the law ministry would now give posting to the 79 of the 100 candidates, who were selected for recruitment in March this year through a comprehensive recruitment process that includes preliminary test, written examinations and viva voce.

As the BJSC in March recommended that the law ministry take relevant steps to appoint the 100 selected, the latter sent their particulars to the home ministry for police verification.

During verification, six candidates were found to have been selected in freedom fighter quota but had submitted dodgy documents.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs also reported to the law ministry that there were unsure of the certificates of six freedom fighters.

The police also found objections against 15 other candidates during verification, a part of the recruitment process.

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Saudi embassy 'not giving visas to male workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Saudi Arabian Embassy in Dhaka is refusing to stamp visas for male workers as recruiting agencies are not sending at least 25 percent female workers simultaneously, alleged Baira yesterday.

"Since last Tuesday, the Saudi embassy in Dhaka is imposing a condition of 25 percent female quota on us when our agents go for stamping visas for male workers. It is totally a violation of the agreement between our government and the Saudis," Ruhul Amin, secretary general of Bangladesh Agencies of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), told The Daily Star last night.

On average, the embassy stamps around 600 to 700 visas a day, but the figure has drastically reduced to 400-500 since Tuesday, he added.

The Baira yesterday informed the matter to the Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment in a letter to its secretary, Ruhul Amin said.

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2 Santal men released from jail now sick

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Two Santal men, who were injured in a clash during the November 6 drive to evict them, were sent to Dhaka for better treatment on Saturday night, as they fell seriously ill after returning home from prison.

Choron Soren and Bimol Kishu were released on bail on November 18. Earlier, the two received treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, said Philimon

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
সুপ্রভা ইসলামিক ব্যাংক

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 21
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

PERFORMING AT THE EVENT

SHAYAN CHOWDHURY ARNOB

TAHSAN RAHMAN KHAN

CHIRKUTT

JOLER GAAN

The Daily Star
Standard Chartered

CELEBRATING LIFE GALA NIGHT 2016
Theme:
YOUTH IN CHANGE
22ND NOVEMBER, 2016; ENTRY: 5:00 PM
VENUE: INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CITY BASHUNDHARA - ICCB, NOBORATRI (HALL:4)

ENTRY IS ABSOLUTELY FREE, BUT TO ATTEND, PLEASE LOG ON TO THE SITE WWW.CELEBRATINGLIFEFD.COM, REGISTER YOURSELF ONLINE AND PRINT OUT YOUR FORM. YOU CAN ALSO COLLECT THE INVITATION CARDS FROM THE RECEPTION DESK OF THE DAILY STAR CENTRE BETWEEN 11AM AND 7PM AT 64-65 KAZI NAZRUL ISLAM AVENUE, DHAKA-1215. REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 21ST NOVEMBER, 2016

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