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**SALIMULLAH MEDICAL COLLEGE MORTUARY**

# Little respect for the dead

*Lone freezer broken for over 2 years; bodies left on floor for hours before autopsy, burial*

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and AKRAM HOSEN

People say you can measure how civilised a country is by the way it treats its dead. If you go by that yardstick, you might find this place in the capital not civilised at all.

At the mortuary of Sir Salimullah Medical College, bodies are left on the floor for hours -- in some cases for days -- before autopsy and burial as the lone cadaver freezer there has been out of order for more than two years.

The freezer, which can store 12 bodies, has not been replaced due to fund crisis.

Often, flies buzz across the room and land on the bodies as they slowly decompose. Sometimes, huge ice chunks are placed on and around the bodies to delay the decomposition but that hardly helps.

"It looks like their sufferings has not ended even after death," said Mohammad Shahid, a grieving father whose 17-year-old daughter -- Shanta -- allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan of her house at Kamrangirchar recently.

He went to the morgue, filled with the stench of the bodies, in the evening after police took the body there for autopsy.

By that time, the forensic experts, who perform the autopsy, had already left. So, the autopsy had to be done the next day.

Without "emergencies", the autopsies are performed between 8:30am and 2:30pm every day.

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Anubrata Chatterjee, left, and Pandit Anindo Chatterjee deliver a memorable performance on the third night of the Bengal Classical Music Festival at the Army Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Classical Fest Anindo's tabla charms audience

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Pandit Anindo Chatterjee, considered one of the greatest tabla maestros of the 20th century, made a memorable debut at the Bengal Classical Music Festival yesterday, filling the air with incredible rhythms.

Along with Anubrata Chatterjee, his son and acclaimed tabla artiste himself, Pandit Chatterjee's performance will remain one of the highlights of the year. The duo presented various forms of a tabla recital -- various *peshkar*, *kayda*, *tukda* and *rela*.

The third night of the festival in the capital's Army Stadium began fittingly with a seven-year old girl taking the stage in a chorus performance, as audience continued to throng the classical music bonanza.

Ishrat Fuljhuri Khan, the youngest performer in the festival's history, performed a group sarod recital by the students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalyay, SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

**WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT**

# Bangladesh ranks 8th in Asia

DATALEADS, New Delhi

Bangladesh stands eighth among the Asian countries in terms of women's parliamentary representation with women occupying 20 percent of the seats in the national parliament.

Nepal leads Asia in women's political representation in the legislature with women occupying 30 percent seats in the Constituent Assembly of the country in 2015, according to data compiled by the Asian Development Bank.

The Millennium Development Goals Report (MDG Report 2015) of the UN indicates that women have gained ground in parliamentary representation in nearly 90 percent of the 174 countries within past 20 years.

The average proportion of women in parliament has nearly doubled during the period. In Asia, the situation has also improved in past one decade.

The Philippines stood at the second place in Asia with 27 percent women

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**ATTACK, EVICTION IN GAIBANDHA**

# Santals sue MP, UNO, 31 others

600 more anonymous accused in latest case

STAR REPORT

Santals of Gaibandha filed a case against 33, including a local Awami League lawmaker and the UNO of Gobindaganj, yesterday, nearly three weeks after their eviction from a disputed land.

AL lawmaker from Gaibandha-4 Principal Abul Kalam Azad and Gobindaganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdul Hannan have been accused of "ordering" an attack on the indigenous community, said Thomas Hembrom who filed the case on behalf of the Shahebganj-Bagdafarm Bhumu Uddhar Sangram Committee.

The rest of the accused named, including Shapmara and Katabari unions' chairmen Shakil Akand Bulbul and Rezaul Karim Rafique, and Managing Director of Rangpur Sugar Mills Abdul Awal, are said to have taken part in the attack.

The plaintiff also accused 600 anonymous people, said Nazmul Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Gobindaganj Police Station.

"As we received the FIR, it means the case has been registered," OC Subrata Kumar Sarkar told our Gaibandha correspondent last night.

On November 6, police along with staff of the mill clashed with Adivasis during a drive to evict them from around 100 acres of the sugarcane farm, which had been acquired from the ancestors of the indigenous community. Santals now want the land in Gobindaganj back saying an agreement signed in 1962 after the land acquisition was violated.

The clash left two Santals dead, six missing and 20 others, including nine policemen, injured.

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# Ershad for change in voting system

Places 5-pt demand on EC formation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday placed a five-point demand, including enactment of a law on appointment of the chief election commissioner and other commissioners, to make sure that the future elections were free, fair and impartial.

Addressing a press conference at his Banani office, the JP chief also demanded the government amend the electoral system to enable voters cast their votes for a particular party instead of for a specific candidate.

Ershad, also a special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said there should be a provision in the new law to make the Election Commission completely independent.

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# Don't drive, eat ramen

Offer Japan police if elderly people give up their licences

MAIL ONLINE

Japanese police are offering noodle discounts to elderly citizens who hand in their driving licences, promising them cheaper ramen soup in exchange for improved road safety.

The edible offer comes after a series of deadly accidents caused by cars driven by the elderly-a growing problem in a country where 4.8 million people aged 75 or older hold a licence.

In the hopes of appealing to seniors' stomachs, police in the central prefecture of Aichi on Friday

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**PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 27**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



# A joyous day with birds

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Five-year-old Jannatul Maida was having the day of her life to see so many colourful exotic birds up close under one roof.

The exuberant young girl was seen enjoying herself and moving from one stall to another with her father at the fancy birds and pigeons exhibition in the city yesterday, held at Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU).

The exhibition was jointly organised by Chittagong Bird Breeders' Association, Chittagong Fancy Pigeon Breeders' Association and Association of Avian Veterinarians, Bangladesh. Workshops and training for pet bird owners were also organised during the event.

Sakhawat Hossain, father of nursery student Jannat, said, "My daughter loves birds very much. I brought her to this exhibition since it's a great

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Birds on display at a bird fair on the premises of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

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**গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ভিক্ষাবৃত্তি একটি অভিশপ্ত পেশা যা সমাজ ও রাষ্ট্রীয় ব্যবস্থাকে কলুষিত করে। সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে ঢাকা শহরে ভিক্ষকের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাওয়ায় নানাবিধ সমস্যার মাত্রা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। সমাজের একটি দুঃস্থচক্র মাদক ব্যবসায় বিভিন্নভাবে ভিক্ষকদের ব্যবহার করে তাদের উদ্দেশ্য হাসিল করে চলেছে। এছাড়া বাংলাদেশে আগত বিদেশীদের আগমন ও চলাচলের পথে ভিক্ষুকগণ বিভিন্ন উপায়ে ভিক্ষা আদায়ে সচেষ্ট থাকায় দেশের ভাবমূর্তিও ক্ষুন্ন হচ্ছে। এসব বিষয় বিবেচনা করে ঢাকা শহরের কয়েকটি এলাকাকে ৩টি জোনে বিভক্ত করে ঢাকা উত্তর ও দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক ভিক্ষুকমুক্ত এলাকা হিসেবে ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে। এলাকাসমূহ হলো জোন-১ বিমান বন্দর এলাকা, হোটেল রেডিসান (ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন); জোন-২ কুটনৈতিক জোন ও দূতাবাস এলাকা (ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন); জোন-৩ হোটেল সোনারগাঁও, হোটেল রূপসী বাংলা, বেইলী রোড (ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন)। ভিক্ষুকমুক্ত ঘোষিত এলাকায় সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক অবিলম্বে ড্রাম্যামান আদালত পরিচালনা করা হবে।

২। এমতাবস্থায়, ভিক্ষুকমুক্ত ঘোষিত এলাকায় ড্রাম্যামান আদালত পরিচালনাকালে ভিক্ষারত অবস্থায় কাউকে পাওয়া গেলে তাদেরকে সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্রে পুনর্বাসনের জন্য নিয়ে যাওয়া হবে। এবিষয়ে সর্বসাধারণের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করা হলো।

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জিডি-২৪০০