



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT

GP AT FAULT

Grameenphone broke sponsorship deal guidelines: Telenor

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TRUMP FOR TILLERSON

US president-elect defends his pick for secretary of state

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Probe to find if policemen were involved

HC asks Gaibandha magistrate to report in 15 days about new video on arson on 'Santal house'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the chief judicial magistrate in Gaibandha to conduct an enquiry to find out whether any policemen were involved in setting fire to Santal houses during an eviction drive in Gobindganj upazila.

In response to a petition by three rights bodies, the court asked the magistrate to take steps to track down those involved in the arson, and submit the probe report to it within 15 days.

The HC directive came after different national and global media outlets published a video content in which a policeman in uniform and a man in a half-sleeve shirt are seen apparently joining another man in a pink T-shirt in torching a Santal shanty during the November 6 eviction. The video clip went viral on the social media.

Santals have all along alleged that it was policemen who had set their houses ablaze.

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Police blacklist 12 websites

Betting thrives under lax law

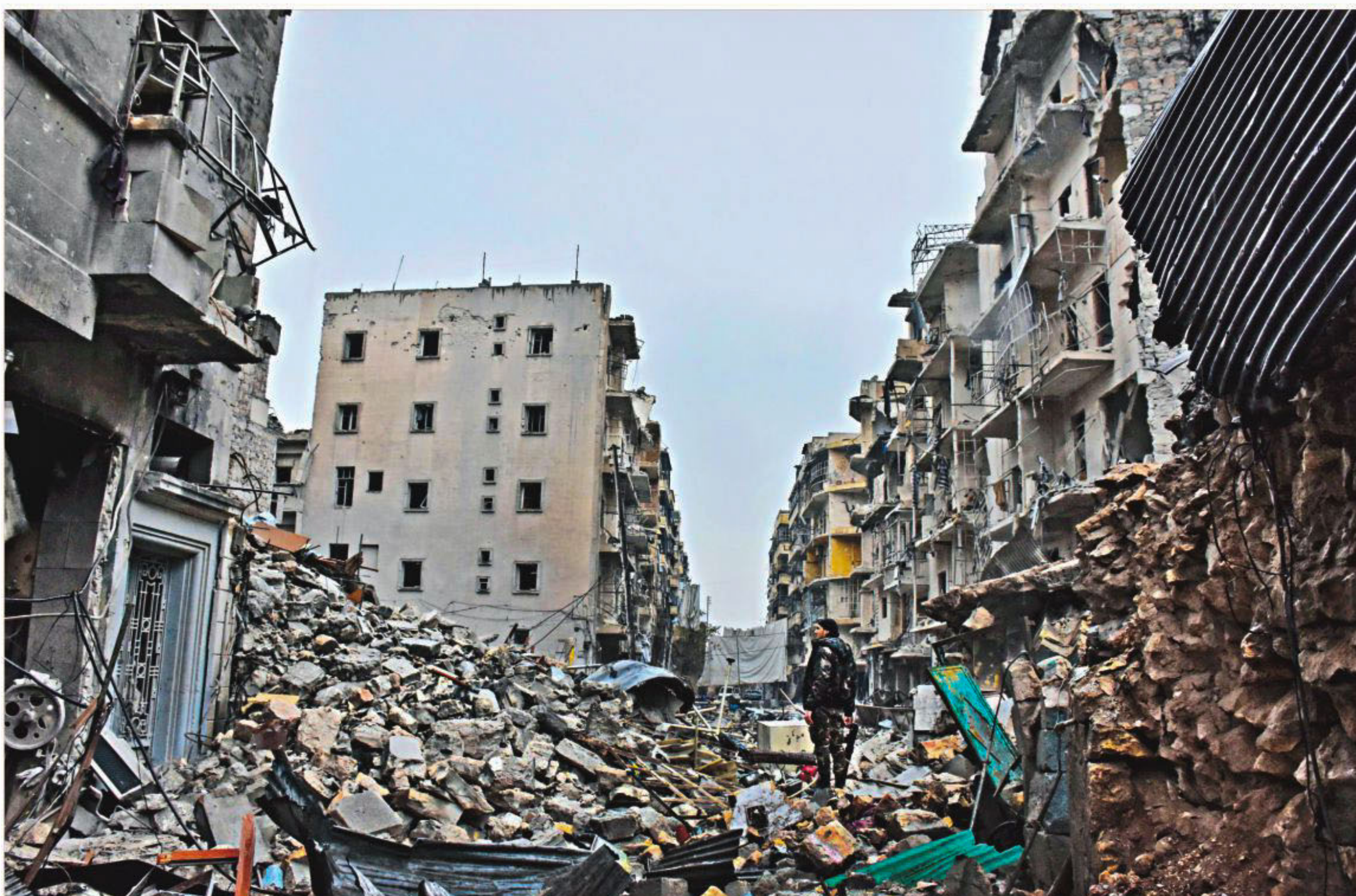
RAFIUL ISLAM

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has written to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to block 12 websites in an attempt to counter betting involving cricket matches.

The law enforcers, who have been working closely with the Anti Corruption Unit of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, is convinced that illegal gambling took place through those websites during Bangladesh's home series against England and in the just-concluded Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), the glamorous and money-spinning T20 competition.

The black-listed websites are -- 888sport.com, betway.com, bet365.com, betfred.com, dafabet.com,

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Shaky Aleppo truce broken

Blame game as deadly clashes resume; evacuation deal on hold putting future of thousands of hungry civilians at risk; UN reports atrocities by regime forces

AFP, Aleppo

Deadly clash erupted in Syria's Aleppo yesterday and a deal for the evacuation of rebel areas was on hold, leaving thousands of cold and hungry civilians uncertain of their future.

Entire families had gathered in the early hours, in the hope of leaving Aleppo after an agreement announced the night before for rebels to withdraw from the city.

But the first expected departures around 5:00 am (0300 GMT) were delayed and, a few hours later, fierce fighting again began to shake the city.

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A member of the Syrian government forces stands in a severely damaged street in Aleppo's newly captured Al-Kalasseh neighbourhood in the eastern part of the war torn city on Tuesday. A man, bottom, carries a child with an IV drip as he flees deeper into the remaining rebel-held areas of Aleppo on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



Nation pays homage to martyred intellectuals

UNB, Dhaka

The nation observed the Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday paying rich tributes to the intellectuals who were killed by the Pakistani occupation army and their local collaborators close to the end of the Liberation War in 1971.

Sensing an imminent defeat, they carried out the cold-blooded murders under a carefully thought out plan to cripple Bangladesh intellectually.

Renowned academics, doctors, engineers, journalists, teachers and other eminent personalities were dragged out of their homes, blindfolded, taken to unknown places and then brutally tortured to death. Most of the killings took place on December 14, 1971.

Their bodies were later dumped in Rayerbazar of Mirpur and in some other killing fields in the capital.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to the martyred intellectuals by placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the city's Mirpur yesterday.

People from all walks of life also placed wreaths at

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MORE STORY, PHOTOS ON PAGE 3

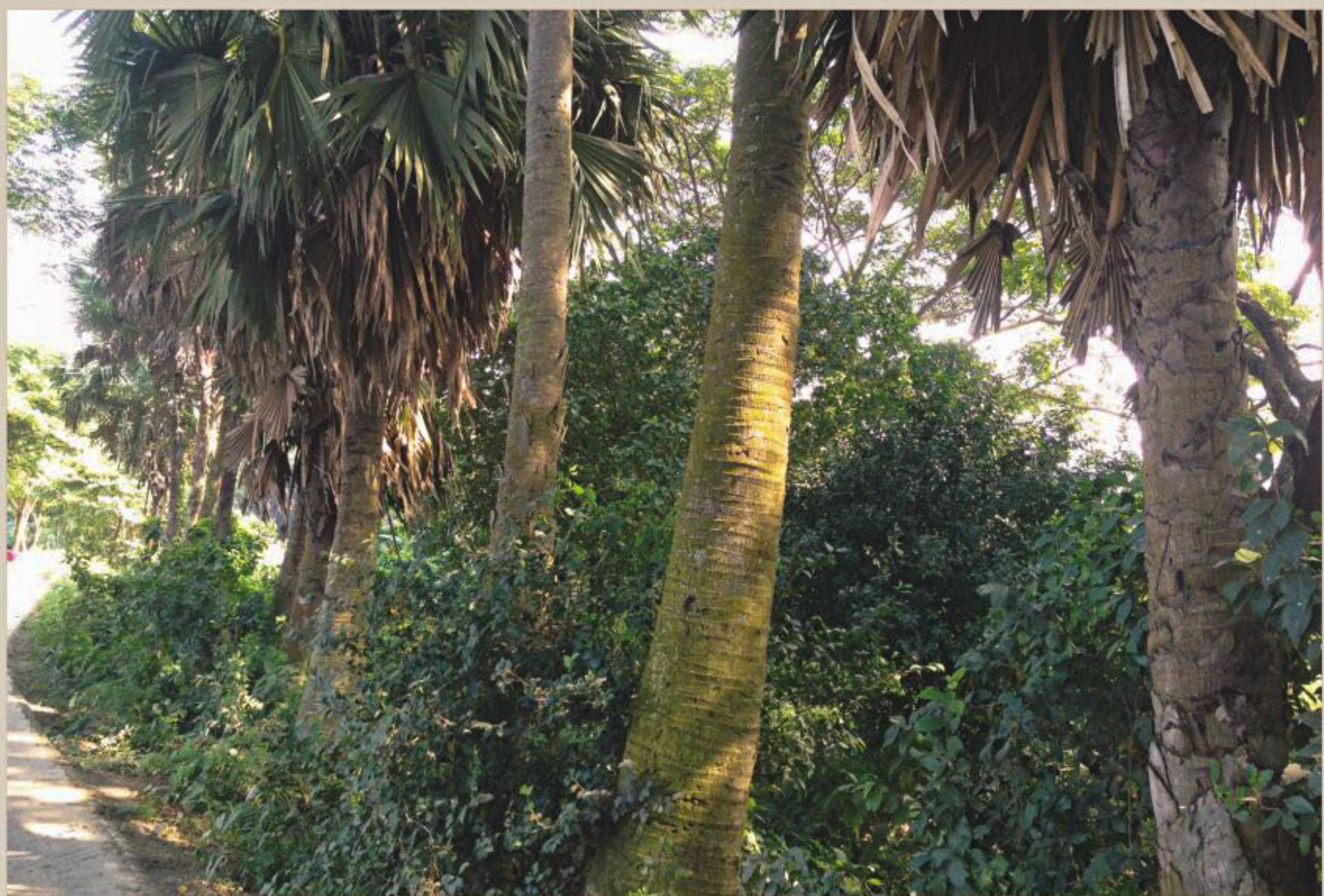


PHOTO: MASUM MOLLA

Palm trees and 11 war heroes



Shahabuddin Babul
A schoolteacher with the help of locals planted 11 palm trees (top photo) in Najirpur in commemoration of the fallen 11 freedom fighters, including Babul.

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Life in Kalatia was calm and relaxed basking in the breezy spring days back in 1971. And it was only natural for a quiet countryside away from the heats brewing in political circuits of Dacca (later Dhaka), the then provincial capital of East Pakistan.

For Babul, then only 18, and his peers - those were the last of their carefree Kalatia days.

Then the storm hit.

Village after village fell under the advancing Pakistani army unleashing bloodbath - people abandoned their homesteads behind and fled to safer places.

AFM Shahabuddin Babul, whose family had just moved from Kalatia to Shantibagh in the city for his college, left Dhaka on March 27 as soon as curfew was lifted after the Pakistani army crackdown on March 25.

He was a student of Jagannath College at the time. But he did not join his fleeing family. He had another plan. He trekked to Kasba at Brahmanbaria,

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Rejoinder, our reply

Mushtaq Hussain, managing director of the Golden Fibre Trade Centre Ltd (GFTCL), has sent a rejoinder to a news report titled "Govt loses but they gain" published by The Daily Star on November 17, 2016.

Following is the text of the rejoinder sent in his company letterhead pad and signed by him.

(A) Mushtaq said his company, GFTCL, has been exporting BJMC-manufactured jute goods to different parts of the world like all other 110 enlisted traders. As the exporters of BJMC goods, local traders are not entitled to have any price discount or commission. We found the very words "Nexus of

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GLITCH IN PM'S PLANE Three more Biman engs suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more engineers of Biman Bangladesh Airlines were suspended yesterday for their negligence in duty that led to the emergency landing of the November 27 flight carrying Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Budapest.

The decision to suspend Debesh Chowdhury, chief engineer (production); SA Siddique, chief engineer (quality assurance) and Billal Hossain, principal engineer, was made on the basis of a detailed probe report of the committee

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NEWS ANALYSIS

A new model of elections

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Uncontested elections - be it national or local - is gradually becoming a common practice in Bangladesh politics.

The January 2014 parliamentary polls bears the distinction of being an unprecedented event where 153 out of 300 MPs were elected unopposed. This was unprecedented in the history of parliamentary democracy in the world. This was a case where the majority in the parliament was determined without a single vote being cast.

This trend has become all too regular in the subsequent elections to local government bodies without any break for the last three years.

More than 200 candidates, almost all of them belonging to the ruling party, were elected uncontested in elections to upazila parishads in 2014, municipalities in 2015 and union parishads in 2016.

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TOP!
QUOTE

Rajuk office is corrupt top to bottom.

NASIRUDDIN AHMED
ACTING CHAIRMAN OF ACC ON THE RAJDHANI UNNAYAN KARTIPAKKHA AT A HEARING IN THE CAPITAL

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