



**A child walks by an open sewerage pit in Peyarabagh area of Moghbazar under Ward 35 of Dhaka North City Corporation. Unsafe practices go unabated in the country although the High Court only a few days ago directed police to sue six government employees and a contractor for negligence and violation of public safety after a man, Shanu Miah, died falling into an uncovered box culvert in the capital's Paltan area on March 6. The photo was taken on Tuesday.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed undergoes surgery**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bishwo Shahitto Kendro Founder Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed underwent a surgery at Labaid Specialized Hospital in Dhaka yesterday four days after he had slipped on a road. He will be able to completely recover in around four days, Dr Amjad Hossain, arthroplasty and trauma surgeon of the hospital, told The Daily Star. His neck of the femur, which was broken, was replaced, he said. On Saturday, Prof Sayeed slipped while he was crossing a road in the capital's Karwan Bazar area.

**MP advocates for corrupt principal despite SC order**

ANWAR ALI

Ignoring a Supreme Court order, Rajshahi Awami League lawmaker Ayeen Uddin has officially requested the education ministry not to take any punitive action against a corrupt and previously sacked college principal. Ayeen sent a letter to the education secretary, dated February 23, 2017 requesting the official not to take any punitive action against Abdul Mannan, principal of Darusha College in Poba upazila. The principal had been sacked for corruption and irregularities seven years ago, but was reinstated to the post five years later in 2015, following constant pressure from the lawmaker. In the letter, the lawmaker from Rajshahi-3 (Poba-Mohonpur) constituency said any punitive action against Mannan would be "illogical". He made the request although only three days ago, on February 20, an Appellate Division bench of the SC rejected Mannan's appeal against his 2010 dismissal. Following the letter, Nusrat Jabeen Banu, a deputy secretary of the ministry, wrote to the deputy secretary (legal) of Secondary and Higher Education Division on March 12,

asking for opinions in this regard. The college governing body sacked Mannan in July 2010 after an investigation found him involved in corruption. The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Rajshahi (BISER) approved his termination on December 1, 2011. The investigation, conducted by the Rajshahi deputy commissioner's office, found that Mannan got himself promoted to principal although he had achieved third division, both in HSC and BA (honours) examinations. The probe report also said Mannan embezzled at least Tk 1.77 lakh in 1998-2009, got her wife appointed as lecturer with fake documents, enjoyed unlawful benefits and allowances, and recruited a teacher showing fake documents. After being sacked, Mannan filed a writ petition with the High Court in 2012, challenging the BISER approval of his termination. The HC dismissed his petition on April 9, 2015. Six months later, on October 8, 2015, Mannan challenged the HC verdict but the SC bench of Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, and Justice Hasan Foez Siddique

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**Removal of Bangabandhu's statue from Baker Hostel sought**  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

All Bengal Minority Youth Federation, a Muslim youth organisation in India, has demanded removal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's bust from Baker Hostel in Kolkata. The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, stayed in the government dormitory as a student of Islamia College (now Maulana Azad College) in the 1940s. The statue was installed on February 23, 2011. Earlier, rooms 23 and 24 of the hostel were recognised as Bangabandhu Memorial Museum. A section of students on Tuesday brought out a procession towards Bangladesh deputy high commission on Bangabandhu Sarani in Kolkata and handed over a memorandum to a local police station. According to the memorandum [The Daily Star has a copy] addressed to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, they came to

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**Fresh scrutiny irks section of FFs**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is a "mockery" going on in the country in the name of scrutinising the list of freedom fighters, alleged an organisation of freedom fighters. The organisation -- Gallantry Awarded, Martyred & War Injured Freedom Fighters Central Command -- at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, also alleged many freedom fighters are being harassed during verification of the authenticity of their certificates. "Even freedom fighters whose names are already included in the gazettes of armed forces, BGB (erstwhile BDR), police, Ansar and Indian authorities, were harassed in the name of scrutinising real freedom fighters," said Mahmud Parvez Jewel, president of the organisation. He termed the whole process "faulty and one-sided". "Names of war criminals and people who did not take part in the Liberation War were also included in the freedom fighter lists," Mahmud said in a written statement. The central command demanded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention in this matter, and suggested that the government only scrutinise those applications that have been submitted afresh to be included in the list of freedom fighters. Talking to The Daily Star, Mahmud, a gallantry-awarded freedom fighter, said at this age of 70 he has so far appeared seven times before different committees to prove himself a real freedom fighter. "When a new government comes in power, it takes initiative to prepare a list of real freedom fighters. And every time, we have to appear before the respective body to prove ourselves real freedom fighters, which is a shame on us," a lamented Mahmud said. The central command claimed the officials of Liberation War affairs ministry don't cooperate with the freedom fighters.

**Tk 1.91 cr GRAFT CASE HC verdict on Ershad's appeal today**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver a verdict today on a 25-year-old appeal of former president HM Ershad against a lower court judgement that jailed him for three years in a corruption case. The HC yesterday fixed 3:30pm today for giving the verdict. Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption had filed the case against Ershad in 1992 on the charge of misappropriating Tk 1.91 crore by misusing powers at different times when he was the president from December 11, 1983 to December 6, 1990. On February 3, 1992, a Dhaka court sentenced Ershad, also chairman of the

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