

Welcome to the genocide museum

The museum in Khulna has a rich collection of rare war photos, over 2,000 books

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Rare pictures and paintings depicting the genocide of Bangalees by the Pakistan army hang on the wall. There is also a rich collection of books and audio-visual materials on the ruthless massacre against the unarmed people.

The "1971: Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum" in Khulna city speaks the tale of the bloodbath the country witnessed throughout the nine long months of Liberation War.

The aim of the museum is to educate people, especially youths, about the genocide committed by the Pakistan army in association with their local collaborators, said Prof Muntassir Mamoon, chairman of the trustee board that runs the institution.

Much to the delight of the visitors, the museum has a well-furnished library with some 2,000 books on the genocide and the war. It also has nine galleries with more than 100 paintings of renowned Bangladeshi and Indian artists, including Rafiqun Nabi and Hashem Khan, and war photographs, documents and CDs.

The museum is the first of its kind not only in Bangladesh but also in South Asia and it was opened in Khulna which witnessed the worst atrocities of 1971 for a reason, said Prof Muntassir. "We mainly wanted to let the local people know

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Visitors at "1971: Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum" in Khulna city. The museum has a rich collection of books, photographs and paintings that testify to the genocide of unarmed Bangalees by the Pakistan army during the 1971 Liberation War. Inset, policemen stationed outside the museum. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Not consulted by Centre on Teesta: Mamata Says West Bengal's interests come first

IANAS, Kolkata

Amid speculation of a likely deal on Teesta during the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina next month, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday said she would prioritise her state's interest while deciding on the proposed water sharing treaty with Bangladesh and claimed the Centre did not consult her over the issue.

"I do not want to discuss anything about the Teesta water treaty because the Centre does not discuss anything with us. They do things on their own. I won't be able to say anything on this issue without properly knowing it," she said.

She said she had received no communication from the Centre over the deal. "I have heard that the two countries will sign an

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CU student found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The body of a Chittagong University student was recovered from a flat in the port city's Bayezid area hours after he and three others rented it on Wednesday.

Mohammed Alauddin Alaul's body was found lying face down inside a bathroom with the limbs bound, the hands behind his back and ropes around his neck, Sub-Inspector (SI) Jakir Hossain told The Daily Star.

The 24-year-old resident of Madanhat village in Hathazari upazila was doing his Masters in Bangla.

Alauddin left home on Wednesday afternoon, telling his father he was

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The water trouble

WaterAid finds nearly 14 million rural Bangladeshis have no access to clean water

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Some 13.6 million rural people in Bangladesh do not have access to clean water, according to a new survey by WaterAid.

The figure is 13 percent of the country's total rural population, said the global advocacy group.

The survey report titled "Wild Water: The State of the World's Water 2017" was released on Tuesday.

It ranked Bangladesh ninth among the top 10 countries with the greatest numbers of rural people without clean water.

Among the South East Asian countries, India (63.4 million) topped the list while Afghanistan (12.4 million) was placed at the bottom.

The report shed light on how the struggle of vulnerable rural communities to access clean water was compounded by extreme weather events and climate change.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Prof Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said there was a water disparity in the country.

"Less rural areas were under water supply coverage compared to urban areas. Besides, many rural areas were hit by arsenic and salinity problems.

"Safe water availability situation won't be satisfactory in the country until the disparity is reduced," the Buet teacher added.

According to the report, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar and Mozambique were among the 10 worst countries for rural access to clean water in terms of percentage of rural population.

Paraguay achieved the biggest improvement in bringing clean water to

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Criminals hack schoolteacher to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Unidentified criminals hacked a primary schoolteacher to death and injured his wife early yesterday after entering their house in Pirojpur's Nazirpur.

The victim, Shamiron Majumder, 45, was an assistant teacher of Paschim Baniary Government Primary School in the upazila. He was the son of Shaylndranath Majumder in Paschim Baniary village.

His wife Swapna Majumder was undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

The motive behind the attack could not be known immediately.

However, Walid Hossain, superintendent of Pirojpur police, said the attack might have happened over a land dispute.

Quoting Swapna, neighbours said criminals dug a hole into the earthen floor of Shamiron's house and one of them entered the house around 2:00am. He then stabbed Shamiron and his wife. Their three children were also in the same room.

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Drunk pilot passed out in cockpit



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A pilot who passed out in a cockpit before a scheduled flight in Canada has pleaded guilty to being impaired while in control of an aircraft.

The flight piloted by Miroslav Gronych, who was employed by low-cost carrier Sunwing Airlines on a work visa from Slovakia, was to leave Calgary, Alberta, on December 31, with stops in Regina, Saskatchewan, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, before continuing to Cancun, Mexico.

But before the flight, Gronych, 37, was found

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Bangladesh becomes part of S Asian Satellite

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has become a part of South Asian Satellite signing a deal yesterday with India, the launching country of the satellite.

The \$400 million worth satellite is ready and it could be launched anytime, said Harsh Vardhan Shringla,

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 24

Fazr Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-55	12-30	4-45	6-16
JAMAAT 5-30	1-15	5-00	6-20
			8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



White-tailed mole found after 167 yrs

M MONIRUL H KHAN

Captured by tea-labourers in Fulchhari Tea Estate of Srimangal, a small black mole was rescued and brought to Sitesh Dev's "Bannaprani Shebashrom" on March 9.

It was thought to be a Himalayan Mole (*Euroscaptor micrura*), which is occasionally found in the hilly areas of greater Sylhet and Chittagong Hill Tracts regions.

I was expecting to get another species of mole named White-tailed Mole (*Parascaptor leucura*).

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A White-tailed Mole that was captured by workers in Fulchhari Tea Estate of Srimangal earlier this month. This rare animal was last sighted in Bangladesh in 1850.

PHOTO: M MONIRUL H KHAN

A mother's cry for son

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

"If he did anything wrong, punish him. But please bring him back," said Momtaz Begum who has been desperately knocking on the doors of law enforcement agencies for nearly a month in search of her only son.

The 43-year-old furniture trader, Soheli Hossain Montu, and his friend Hanif Midha were picked up from Narayanganj's Siddhirganj on February 27 when they were returning from a religious programme of Charmonai Pir in Barisal, according to their families.

Since then Momtaz ran to whoever she



thought could help find her son Soheli. But her fear of something ominous hovering over her son turns into a panic as she got the news of Hanif's death in custody of the Rapid Action Battalion on March 17, neighbours said.

According to Rab, Hanif died after he complained of chest pain and that he was detained from near its Ashkona barrack last Friday for his suspicious movement hours after a suicide attacker blew himself up inside the barrack.

Now all Momtaz wants is to see her son Soheli again, alive at any cost.

Soheli has been the driving force of her life since her husband abandoned her with

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System Upgradation For ATM Transaction and Internet Banking Services

To ensure better ATM transaction and Internet Banking Service to the valued customers Bank Asia is going to upgrade its systems. For that matter both the services will remain suspended till 06:00 PM Today (24/03/2017).

We sincerely apologize for this temporary inconvenience.

16205

Bank Asia