



Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh holds a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding withdrawal of cases against journalists, including CRAB members, and cancellation of section 57 of the ICT act.

## Cyclone Shelters Dhaka donates \$5.3 lakh for Rakhine state

Diplomatic Correspondent

Bangladesh has donated \$530,000 for the construction of three multipurpose cyclone shelters in the Rakhine State of Myanmar with a hope that these shelters will reduce the vulnerability of the Rakhine people from cyclones and tidal waves.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Yangon M Suifur Rahman formally handed over a cheque to Myanmar Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Win Myat Aye at the latter's office yesterday.

The embassy has also been donating three ambulances equipped with modern medical features to the Rakhine State soon, said a press release of the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon.

The embassy has also been coordinating with the authorities of both the countries on supplying Solar Home System (SHS) in off-grid areas of the Rakhine and Chin State.

The donation is part of the pledged humanitarian assistance by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a simple ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar will coordinate with the Rakhine state government and the authorities concerned for the construction of the cyclone shelters expected by the end of 2018.

The cyclone shelters will be built in cyclone-prone coastal areas of multipurpose shelters that evolved in Bangladesh over decades and are globally acclaimed.

## Bank loans

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deposits and for proposing a 15 percent uniform VAT. Later, he revised both the plans and eventually backed away from imposing the VAT rate.

Referring to the lawmakers' discussions on the proposed budget, the PM said both ruling party and opposition lawmakers discussed the budget. Some ruling party lawmakers even criticised some proposals.

"It is rare and it proves that everyone has freedom to express their opinion. And the finance minister changed some recommendations following their [MPs] proposals," she said.

Now, by implementing the budget, the government will transform Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed nation by 2041, she said.

Describing her government's success, Hasina said through effective measures Bangladesh became third in vegetable production, fourth in paddy and fresh water fish production, seventh in mango production, eighth in guava production and fifth in cotton production in the world.

Responding to opposition leader Raushan Ershad's concern over waterlogging in the capital, the PM blamed her predecessors for unplanned urbanisation of Dhaka. She said construction of unplanned bus covers, filling up of rivers, canals and ponds were responsible for the city's waterlogging.

Hasina reiterated the government's "zero tolerance" policy against land grabbing. "There will be no room for mercy on the soil of this land," Bangladesh has been continuing forward and the journey will march.

The PM also warned that this year's flood might be devastating. "This time, we're importing food grains and stockpiling them so that we can face any kind of calamities. The flood victims are getting enough relief materials."

## Qamrul finds food

FROM PAGE 1

More rice is being imported through international traders and the government is hopeful that 4.5 lakh tonnes rice will reach Bangladesh within next month, said Qamrul.

The minister told reporters that he would visit Cambodia on August 1 to explore the possibility of importing rice from there. Also, two Indian and Thai delegations would visit Bangladesh within next few days for the same purpose.

Private traders brought in 84,000 tonnes of rice from India since June 20 when the government slashed the import duty from 28 percent to 10 percent, he added.

Asked why the decision on rice import was delayed, he said they started importing rice "in proper time."

He said the ministry had earlier written to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to withdraw rice import tariff, but she took a "proper and timely decision" considering the farmers' benefit and the PM's decision.

He expressed optimism that the government would be able to collect 3 to 4 lakh tonnes of rice through import within next month.

"We'll be able to build a handsome stock within next month. Our stock would be at least 8 to 10 lakh tonnes within August and 12 lakh tonnes within September."

"You [media] won't have any opportunity to run negative news on food stock," he added.

About the recent media reports on low food stock, he said, "Your news has no basis. I am telling you we have sufficient stock. Supply for relief work, we don't need to expect rice to any other sector now.... We have sufficient stock to run the country."

## Food

FROM PAGE 20  
Flood victims of Shariatnagar upazila of Bogra were facing a crisis of food and medicines. But the local administration said it was distributing rice and medicines every day.

The flood situation in Gaibandha has worsened as the water level of the Jamuna increased.

Over 1.5 lakh people have been affected by flood in 30 unions in five upazilas of Sirajganj. Many are claimed that they were not getting sufficient relief goods.

(Our correspondents in the districts contributed the article)

## Several parties

FROM PAGE 2  
Sub-inspector Shahab of Uttara West Police Station went to his house twice - first around 8:00pm and then around 8:30pm - and asked him not to hold any meeting.

The police officer, however, left the house in the face of strong protest from the organisers and took position outside the house, he added.

By 11:00pm all the guests left the house when the police officer also left, he said.

"I have no words to condemn this intervention," he added.

The Daily Star could not contact the officer in question.

Asked, Deputy Commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Masudul Rahman and Officer-in-charge (investigation) Abdur Razzak of Uttara West Police Station said they had no information about the incident.

The leaders attending AGM Baddudzo Chowdhury and Mahi B Chowdhury, Biplobi Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Haque, Krishak Samik Janata League President Abdul Kader Siddique, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Convener Khaleuzzaman and Gono Forum leader Shabaz Chowdhury.

## Shafat, Nayem

FROM PAGE 20

Opposing the petitions, prosecution lawyers said all the five accused were directly involved with the rapes. Moreover, four of them gave confessional statements admitting their offence.

After the hearing, Shafat and Nayem were charged with raping the victims while Bilal, Rahmat and Sakif were charged with helping the rapists in various ways during and after the offence.

Shafat is the son of Dildar Hossain Selim, one of the owners of Ara Jewelers.

On March 28, Inspector Ismat Ara Ane of Women Support and Investigation Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, also the investigating officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet.

Invited to Shafat's birthday party on March 28, the two girls went to the hotel around 9:00pm. After the party ended around midnight, Shafat and Nayem raped them in two rooms, alleged one of the two girls who filed the case with Banani Police Station on May 6.

Bilal filmed the girls while Sakif refrained from informing the hotel authorities and the police about the rape, he added, adding that all the five accused were "drunk."

## Scientists

FROM PAGE 20  
quantum internet that connects different nodes of the world at seemingly impossible speed.

Until now, experiments had been restricted to short distances because of problems with the wires or signals that would carry the information.

But the new test says scientists teleport up to a satellite. That is likely to be the way that such teleportation will work in practice - sending objects up to space and then back down again to wherever they are needed, since it means there are relatively clear paths between all of the different points.

Teleportation has become fairly common on the Earth, where scientists use radio to satellite up-link for faithful and ultra-long-distance quantum teleportation, an essential step toward global-scale quantum internet," the scientists wrote in their paper, which has been published online.

The satellite itself - named Micius after an ancient Chinese philosopher - was sent up from the Gobi desert last year, by the team in charge of the project. It dropped off the rockets that carried it to space and it has been in orbit above the Earth ever since.

Micius itself can receive photons and is sensitive enough to catch and spot them. The team on the ground had kit that could send those photons up into space. Together that kit could allow the scientists to test how the team on Earth was able to interact with photons flying way above our heads.

It works by harnessing the strange effects of quantum entanglement, which Einstein described as "spooky action at a distance." The effect describes the behaviour where particles seem to act on each other instantly and in bizarre ways.

## He travelled

FROM PAGE 20

Shahidul said police traced Farhad near Aricha Ghat around 8:00am soon after his wife lodged a complaint about his abduction. The police enforcers set his mobile phone at every district wherever his checkpoints were tracked. Policemen searched every microbus at the checkpoints, but didn't find him.

The IGP, however, couldn't say how Farhad went to Khulna from the capital. He suspected the writer travelled by a bus like he did during his return trip before being found by law enforcers in Jessore's Noapara upazila around 11:30pm in the same day.

According to Farhad's judicial statements for many days and eventually delivered judgment of a case during this time, the official said.

He was admitted to BSMUJ on July 5, the day he returned from Singapore, Alam said.

On hearing the news of his demise, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, Food Minister Qamrul Islam, judges from the Appellate Division and the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, tribunal's prosecutors and SC lawyers rushed to the hospital to pay their last respects to the judge.

The demise of such an honest and sincere judge is an irreparable loss for the judiciary," the Chief Justice said.

President Abdul Hamid and Law Minister Anisul Huq expressed deep shock at Justice Anwarul Haque's death and conveyed their sympathy to the bereaved family.

Born in 1956, Justice Anwarul Haque passed away on July 11.

He contested Mymensingh SP Syed Nurul Islam as he offered an unconditional apology and accepted the IGP's proposal to keep the tribunal informed about the status of the fugitives on a regular basis.

In a reply, IGP AKM Shahidul Haque wrote that police would submit reports every 15 days to the tribunal on war crimes fugitives, with reasons as to why they failed to arrest them.

District superintendents of police Shafiqul Islam and Md. Wazid Khan, the SPs along with the officers-in-charge concerned would monitor the situation to ensure that court orders are properly complied with, he said in a letter to the court.

Even after all these proposals, Micius' data was not communicated to the court in time.

On May 21, 2015, the ICT-2 issued arrest warrants for 16 war crimes accused, of Moheshshah, including Majid. Police arrested three of them.

On October 8 of that year, the investigation agency completed its probe into the case and found the involvement of Majid and 17 others in the killing of at least 94 people and other offences during the 1971 Liberation War.

The prosecution pressed 12 charges against them on March 15 last year and the tribunal, taking the charges into cognisance, asked police to give reports to the court to take proper steps to ensure the immediate presence of the accused.

He also demanded immediate steps to end people's sufferings caused by waterlogging in Dhaka and Chittagong.

## Relief for flood

FROM PAGE 20

Pointing to the outbreak of chikungunya, Raushan called upon the health minister and two mayors of Dhaka city to take proper steps to control the disease.

He also demanded immediate steps to end people's sufferings caused by waterlogging in Dhaka and Chittagong.

## DU teacher

FROM PAGE 20

the mass communication and journalism department alleged that Associate Prof. Dr. Fahimul Haque of the same department had brought false allegations against him through a post in a closed group on Facebook.

Prof Mansur mentioned that he joined the Facebook group of MCI students after he came to know about the post from one of his students.

After the post, Fahimul held him responsible for the delay in publishing the results of Master's course and accused him of influencing the media to run a campaign against another professor.

Prof Mansur termed baseless the allegations brought by his colleague. "I know what I have written. My writing might have offended someone. Since this is a legal process, I will deal with it as per the law."

Abul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shahabul Police, said they would take further steps according to the law.

## War crimes tribunal chief

FROM PAGE 20

Justice Haque is survived by his wife, a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his demise. He was diagnosed with cancer in January of this year and lung treatment at hospitals at home and in Singapore, a staff of the tribunal said.

Although he was suffering from cancer, he took part in tribunal's proceedings for many days and eventually delivered judgment of a case during this time, the official said.

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## Cops fail again to report

FROM PAGE 20

media report brought the matter to the fore.

The "unusual delay and negligence" in informing the tribunal of the status of the war crimes accused led to the charge framing against him in absentia on December 11, 2016, since the prosecution based on an earlier police report had pressed formal charges identifying him as a fugitive.

Later, the tribunal asked the inspector general of police and the superintendent of police of Mymensingh to explain police's "blatant inefficiency and negligence" in communicating the information.

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## Den of egrets

FROM PAGE 20

During monsoon the southern part of Bangladesh, crisscrossed with many rivers, creeks and seasonal wetlands, turns into a paradise for water birds. Food becomes plentiful as wetlands expand with rain, and frog, fish and other aquatic species breed.

For centuries our water birds have been using short window of opportunity to reproduce as they can feed their young with abundant food supply in local wetland.

However, our wetlands are diminishing quickly thanks mainly to rural development and agriculture. Suitable nesting trees are scarce as invasive trees like native trees grow and plant commercially profitable invasive trees in villages. People collect chicks and eggs from heronry and often shoot the adults for food.

In such a dire situation, some people still offer shelter to wildlife even in the face of criticism and threat. In this quest, we encountered a woman who has a greater heart than many of us. Rarely read positive

Government Muslim High School and HSC from Notre Dame College, Dhaka, according to his resume on the ICT's website.

He completed his LBB (Hons) and LLT degree from Dhaka University. He also obtained a Graduation [Advance Diploma] degree and Diploma in Drafting of the West Indies.

He joined the Bangladesh Judicial Service on 1 December 1981 as a Munsif (Assistant Judge). He served as District and Sessions Judge in Chandpur, Laximpur and Chittagong districts and was also the chairman of the Labour Court-2 in Chittagong.

He also served as a section officer, deputy secretary, additional secretary and secretary to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

He was elevated to the post of additional judge of the High Court on December 12, 2010, and was appointed judge of the same division on December 12, 2012.

On November 11, 2016, Haque was appointed the chairman of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on September 15, 2015. Prior to holding this post, he had been working as a member of the same tribunal since March 25, 2012.

He served with all 17 verdicts the tribunal-1 has so far delivered since February 2013, including the judgments in the cases against Jamaat leaders Shaukat Azam, BNP leader Hossain Ghulam and DLP leader Saaluddin Quader Chowdhury.

## Rana Dasgupta said

On May 25 when the tribunal was set to hear on charge framing in the case, defence counsel Abdul Sobhan Tarafdar said he had heard of Majid's death.

The chief prosecutor office then wrote to the investigation agency to verify the information. Nurul Islam, the investigation officer of the case, wrote to the officer-in-charge of Maheshshah police on June 11, enquiring about the matter.

On July 5, Imam Hossain, SI of the police station, wrote to the investigation agency that Majid, of Gorakhatra Sikderpara under Maheshshah municipality, died at his house. He also sent certified certificate of Majid's death.

The prosecution received the report on July 11.

Rana Dasgupta yesterday told the tribunal police had shown "gross negligence" in disclosing their duties, and sought punishment against them at the person responsible.

At that point, a judge asked him as to why the prosecution had not written to the ministry concerned, seeking administrative action against them.

He said that the incident had taken place in a police station in which a police officer had been exonerated following his prosecution.

Rana Dasgupta said the prosecution formally learnt about Majid's death two days ago, and that the tribunal could punish those responsible for the negligence under the ICT act for obstructing the judicial process.

The tribunal in response said it would pass an order later.

As the court proceedings ended, the prosecutor said the incident had left the prosecution in an "embarrassing situation."

The prosecution itself had nothing to do regarding Majid's case, as it gets information about any accused from the investigation agency and the agency gets information from police.

Asked about the matter, SI Zahurul in charge of Matbarbari Police Outpost in Maheshshah said, "I didn't visited Majid's house before sending the report, but nobody told me about his death."

news about wildlife and often find news of how animals are killed or captured. Therefore, I strive to find positive stories about people who help contribute to nature without expecting anything in return.

Ben Bonik is one such woman. She is Bonik 80 Great Egret, Intermediate Egret and 20 Little Cormorants to build nest and produce offspring in her backyard. She feels that these birds are like her own children, as they share the garden to build nests although suitable nesting trees are available in other villages. She and her family often fight with local hunters to protect these birds. If a chick falls out of the nest, she puts them back.

There are many other water bird colonies in villages across the country where locals protect these birds. They seem to understand the value of nature and our future.

Conservation Biologist and Ornithologist, currently working on threatened species conservation and research in Bangladesh and abroad. He can be reached at sayam\_sc@yahoo.com