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OUT OF THE MIGHTY PADMA



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# Historic lab building being demolished

HELEMUL ALAM

Demolition of the century-old laboratory building in the capital's Khamarbari is going on despite an outcry from preservationists.

Upon instructions from the Public Works Department (PWD), a construction firm last week began knocking down the two-storey building of great historical value.

Around three years ago, the PWD declared risky the colonial-era structure that used to house the offices of the Cotton Development Board, the custodian of the building, and also the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). The board shifted its office from there one and a half years ago and the DAE about four years back.

Preservationists and architectural experts have expressed frustration over the move and demanded an immediate stop to the demolition of the building built in 1909.

They say the government should put the building on the list of heritage sites as it meets the required criteria for inclusion in the list.

"The entire area should have been preserved because it is linked with an important chapter of the country's history," said Taimur Islam, chief executive of the Urban Study Group that works to protect the architectural heritage of Dhaka city.

The structure is a symbol of the period when Dhaka city saw its landscape change with the construction of many buildings following its recognition as the

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5



The century-old laboratory building in the capital's Khamarbari is being demolished as the PWD authorities term it risky. The two-storey building has historical and architectural significance and is testimony to major agricultural research works. The photos were taken around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## CIA plotted to kill Castro with germ swimsuits

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The US hatched strange and spectacular plots to kill Fidel Castro, according to never before seen files.

The JFK files – many of the most important of which appear to have been held back – have not provided a smoking gun in the killing of the president, or shed more light on how that assassination was able to happen. But they do show the US's plans for another high-profile killing: its plot to kill Fidel Castro.

It has long been known that the company hatched elaborate schemes to kill the Cuban leader. But the documents show just how strange and detailed those were – including plots to kill him off with a festering swimsuit, and the idea of

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

## US releases JFK assassination files

New records reveal mafia plots, FBI warning on killer

AFP, Washington

The US government on Thursday released a mammoth, long-awaited trove of secret files on the killing of president John F. Kennedy, offering intriguing new insights into events surrounding one of the most infamous assassinations in history.

While many of the 2,891 records released by the National Archives were raw intelligence and uncorroborated, they were almost certain to reinvigorate rampant conspiracy theories about the November 22, 1963 slaying of JFK in Dallas, Texas.

An outlandish CIA plan to recruit the mafia to kill Fidel Castro, FBI foreknowledge of the plot to murder Kennedy's killer, and Kremlin suspicions of a home-grown rightwing conspiracy were among the highlights, even as some files were withheld for further review on national security grounds.

One document from 1975 detailed how



in the early days of Kennedy's presidency the CIA offered \$150,000 to Italian-American mob boss Sam Giancana to organise the killing of Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Giancana in return sought the CIA's help to place a listening device in the room of his mistress -- a Las Vegas entertainer -- whom he thought was having an affair.

Other possible ideas to kill the Communist leader -- said to be a keen diver -- included contaminating his diving suit with disease causing bacteria, or booby-trapping a seashell with a bomb.

The plan was scrapped when it was determined "there was no shell in the Caribbean area large enough to hold a sufficient amount of explosive."

Another document included a transcript of a November 24, 1963 conversation with then FBI director J Edgar Hoover, who said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## Kushtia murder suspect killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Another man, accused in the case filed over the murder of Malaysia expatriate Rafiqul Islam, was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Kushtia's Kumarkhali upazila early yesterday.

The dead is Anwar Hossain, 33, of Sawnta village in the upazila.

Abdul Khalek, officer-in-charge of Kumarkhali Police Station, said a joint team of Kumarkhali police and Detective Branch of police in Kushtia raided Joynabad village around 2:30am, acting on information that some criminals were holding a meeting there.

Cordoning off the spot, police asked the criminals to surrender. Instead of listening to the law enforcers, they opened fire, the OC said.

In retaliation, police

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## The world's first robot citizen



MAIL ONLINE

History has been made in Saudi Arabia on Thursday as a humanoid robot has been granted citizenship for the first time.

The robot, Sophia, took to the stage at a conference in Riyadh this week to express her delight at being given citizenship, which she described as 'historical.'

Sophia also mocked Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX and Tesla, claiming that her interviewer had been 'reading too much Elon Musk', in response to his concerns about robots.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

## Doctor sued over death of a newborn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A doctor of Islami Bank Medical College Hospital in Rajshahi city's Laxmipur was sued last night for the death of a newborn due to alleged wrong treatment.

However, the authorities of the hospital said the baby girl died at the hospital yesterday after she suffered cut wounds on the head during a caesarean operation.

Khalid Hasan, the father of the newborn, filed the case against Shaila Akter, who performed the caesarean operation, with Rajpara Police Station, said Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Khalid told reporters that his wife Tamanna Parvin had been taken to the hospital's caesarean section at 12:00noon. Half an hour later, he was informed of the newborn's death.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

## Criminals beat up teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

Criminals on Thursday morning beat up and seriously wounded a primary schoolteacher for not withdrawing a case filed against them earlier this month, police said.

The victim, Moshir Rahman, 32, a teacher of Chhoto Kakuria Government Primary School under Chowgachha upazila in Jessore, is undergoing treatment at Chowgachha Upazila Health Complex.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Rohingya refugees are registered by Bangladeshi army personnel at a registration centre in Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## RU 'takes steps', but no action yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University authorities are yet to identify the persons responsible for the widely criticised MCQs in Wednesday's admission test for the university's faculty of fine arts.

Vice Chancellor Prof AbdusSobhan said the administration has "taken some decisions and took some measures." But he did specifically say what step was taken in the last two days.

He said the multiple choice questions (MCQ) sparked religious tension on and around the campus and the people responsible would be brought to book.

"There must be documents mentioning those who proposed the questions. We would try to find them," he told The Daily Star.

However, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, dean of fine arts, said the matter deserves some debate before anyone is given punishment.

Nurul Modasser Chowdhury, a fine arts teacher involved in the process of selecting the questions said the MCQs were not on the documents placed before the moderation of proposed questions.

"It happened somehow before printing," he said.

This year, 4,032 students vied for 120 seats of the faculty. Two of the 80 MCQs in the admission test have been widely criticised.

One of the questions asked, "What is the name of the greatest book in the world?"

It had four choices: A) The Holy Quran, B) The Holy Bible, C) The Holy Injil and D) Gita.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



SIBL Foundation Hospital  
& Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 28

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:32 7:15

JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION