



The miraculous journey of a sheep herder



MINTU DESHWARA, back from Sunamganj

Md Furkan Ali sits content on the bank of a field nearby, watching his 118-strong herd of sheep grazing idly on grass in the pastures.

Born to a poor family in the remote Tanguar Haor area of Sunamganj, going to school was a luxury far out of reach for him. He spent his early years next to his father, working as a day labourer in the fields, sometimes during harvest, at other times digging mud to prepare the fields for plantation.

Before long, he could not earn his living in Atkapara village of Sunamganj's Bishamvarpur upazila as the arable land either remained under water or too dry for farming.

Leaving his parents behind in a tiny thatched house on a haor embankment, Furkan travelled with a fellow neighbour around 122 kilometres east to Jafalong in Sylhet's Guainghat upazila to find work as a stonemason.

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Furkan Ali herds his flock of sheep on Atkapara Road of Bishamvarpur upazila in Sunamganj district recently. The fate of Furkan has changed for the better after he took up sheep raising.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

RULES FOR JUDGES Govt to issue notification next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gazette notification on the disciplinary rules for the lower court judges might be issued next week, Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

"As far as I know, the disciplinary rules have been forwarded from the prime minister's office to the president on Thursday for his approval. I hope the gazette notification on the rules will be published next week," he said.

The minister was talking to reporters after attending the 32nd annual conference of Bangladesh Ain Samity at Dhaka University's Science Annex Bhaban yesterday.

The law ministry last month finalised the disciplinary rules in line with article 116 of the constitution, which allows the president to control the lower court judges' postings, promotions and leaves in consultation with the Supreme Court.

The ministry on SEE PAGE 12 COL 6



BISWAJIT MURDER

Some fugitives 'seen in public'

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

At least five of the 13 convicts, who were awarded death sentence and life term in Biswajit Das murder case, are fugitives in police record for the last five years, although they are active in social media or are seen in some areas in the capital, sources said.

At least three other convicts have reportedly fled the country.

A number of former Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Jagannath University (JnU) unit said five of the convicts were seen roaming different areas of the capital. One of them even celebrated his birthday in a public place recently.

Most of the convicts are former JnU students.

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Britain, EU reach divorce deal

May, Juncker agree on key sticking point allowing negotiations to move on to trade

AFP, Brussels

Britain and the European Union yesterday reached a historic deal on Brexit divorce terms that allows them to open up talks on a future relationship after the split.

Prime Minister Theresa May rushed to Brussels for early morning talks with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to reach the breakthrough.

The European Commission announced that it "recommends sufficient progress" had been made by Britain on separation issues including the Irish border, Britain's divorce bill, and citizens' rights.

But EU President Donald Tusk -- who will recommend to leaders at a summit next week to open trade and transition talks -- warned that the toughest task was to come.

"Let us remember that the most difficult challenge is still ahead. We all know that breaking up is hard but breaking up and building a new relation is much harder," Tusk said.

Negotiators worked through the night to seal an agreement after the EU set a deadline of Sunday.

May said the key part of the agreement was to ensure there would be no return of checkpoints on the frontier between British-ruled Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland after Britain leaves on March 29, 2019.

"In Northern Ireland we will guarantee there will be no hard border," she told a press conference with Juncker.

NORTHERN IRELAND ALIGNMENT

Northern Irish unionists who prop up May's minority Conservative government

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Criminals assault Pabna teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Failing to extort money from a college teacher, criminals beat him up in Pabna town on Thursday, leaving him injured.

Abdur Rob, 45, an associate professor of Bangla department at Pabna Government Mohila College, is undergoing treatment at Pabna Medical College Hospital.

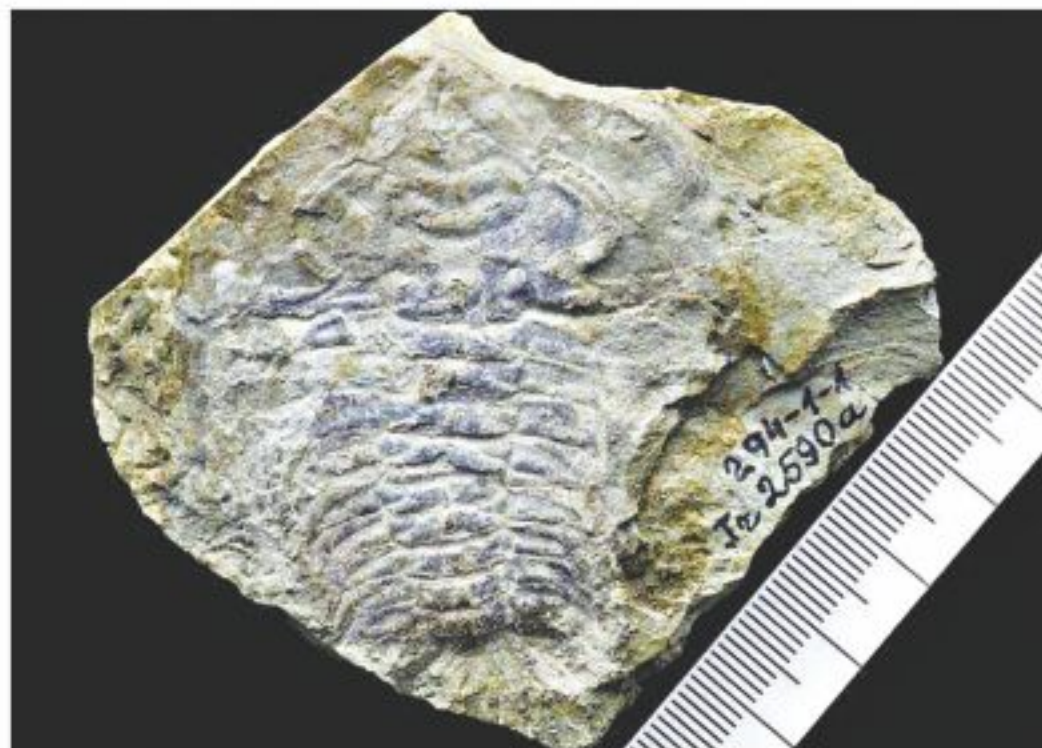
Talking to journalists, Rob said Hasan Ali and Nahid were demanding money from him, but he refused to comply.

Around 5:30pm on Thursday, when he was returning home with a new IPS, the criminals demanded money from him again. Being refused, they attacked him in front of his house at Dilalpur in the town, Rob added.

Criminals beat up Rob and hit him in the head,

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'Oldest eye ever found' in fossil



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have found what they believe is the oldest eye ever discovered in a 530-million-year-old fossil.

The remains of the extinct sea creature include the early form of an eye, which is seen in many animals that exist today, including bees and dragonflies.

An international team of researchers made the find while examining the fossil of a species called a trilobite unearthed in Estonia, according to the study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal.

Trilobites, hard-shelled ancestors of crabs and spiders, lived in coastal waters during the

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One held over Moulvibazar double murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police detained one Rubel Ahmed in connection with the murder of two students on the grounds of Moulvibazar Government High School Thursday evening.

The deceased Shahbab Rahman and Mahi Ahmed were allegedly hacked by rival Chhatra League members and died soon after at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	5-15	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT	5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

14 peacekeepers killed in DR Congo clashes

AFP, United Nations

Fourteen United Nations peacekeepers have been killed in clashes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a UN official said yesterday-- the worst attack in the organisation's recent history.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who put the death toll at "at least 12" Tanzanian peacekeepers, said another 40 were wounded in the violence.

A UN official, who spoke anonymously, told AFP that 14 peacekeepers were killed.

The UN peacekeeping mission in the country, MONUSCO, is believed to have been targeted by Ugandan Muslim rebel group ADF, one of several armed groups active in the North Kivu region, according to Congolese military sources.

In a statement, Guterres said it was the worst attack on UN peacekeepers in the organisation's recent history.

"I condemn this attack unequivocally. These

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GAYLE STORM: Even the players of Khulna Titans, victims of Rangpur Riders batsman Chris Gayle's assault that put them out of the competition, could not help but admire the Jamaican after he reached his century in their Bangladesh Premier League Eliminator at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

No POLLS TO NEW WARDS DNCC election may face legal complexities

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Dhaka North City Corporation mayoral election may face legal complications as polls for councillors in 18 wards annexed to the corporation in July remain pending, experts said.

"If voters in the new wards are not allowed to vote, their constitutional rights will be violated. It may create legal complication. People may go to court jeopardising the entire election process," local government expert Tofail Ahmed warned.

He suggested that the Election Commission should hold polls in the newly formed wards alongside the election for mayor.

Even the formation of DNCC remains incomplete as long as elections are not held in the new wards.

The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives in July expanded the areas of Dhaka's two city corporations by annexing 16 union councils. It formed 36 wards in the areas.

The ministry asked the EC in August to hold elections in the new wards.

After the expansion, the number of wards in the DNCC rose to 54 from 36 while women's reserved seats rose to 18 from 12.

According to the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, elections in at least 75 percent wards should be held in order to form a city corporation.

The DNCC needs 54 elected representatives to meet this

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