

Bring them back safely

Families of missing persons urge govt, demand independent probe into enforced disappearances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Please bring back my papa or send me to him."
In a voice choked with emotion, Adiba Islam Hridi, 7, once again sought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention in tracing her father, who remains missing since 2013.
The little girl had made a similar appeal to the PM before the Eid in August.
Marking the International Human Rights Day yesterday, Hridi and her mother Farzana Akter along with relatives of at least 24 victims of disappearance gathered at the Jatiya Press Club, to demand the safe return of their loved ones.
"I am growing up. I want to go to school with my papa but he does not come," she said. "Sheikh Hasina, aunty, please bring my papa back."
Her father Parvez Hossain, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader from Bangshal in the capital, went missing on December 2, 2013.
Several men identifying themselves as detectives picked him up at Shahbagh, according to family friends who were present at the scene.
She was only two at the time. Her mother Farzana was then expecting her brother, Araf Hossain, who is now three-and-a-half.
With photos of their loved ones in their hands and tears in their eyes, fathers, mothers, children and wives of 25 victims

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Aurora Islam breaks down while holding a picture of her father, Sajedul Islam Sumon, at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Relatives of 25 such missing individuals gathered at the venue to call upon the government to set up an independent commission to look into cases of enforced disappearance and bring those responsible to justice.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Shakib new Test captain

Replaces Mushfiqur; Mahmudullah made vice-captain

STAR SPORT DESK

Bangladesh's star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was yesterday named the new captain of the national Test team and will replace Mushfiqur Rahim, the country's most successful Test captain, when Bangladesh take on Sri Lanka in January 2018. The decision was reached in a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) directors' meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday and announced by BCB president Nazmul Hassan. Mahmudullah Riyad was named Shakib's deputy and will take over vice-captaincy duties from Tamim Iqbal.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH Tokyo to invest under new arrangement

Japanese firms to get work without any bidding

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

Japan is going to invest in Bangladesh's infrastructure projects under a new arrangement in which its companies will work under the government-to-government system without participating in any bidding.

The Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry of Japan, and the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority of Bangladesh will soon float a joint public private project management platform to this end.

The platform, to be comprised of permanent members from both the countries, will

select Japanese companies for implementing the projects. It will also mobilise funds and monitor project implementation, say officials of the PPP Authority that works under the Prime Minister's Office.

The development comes amid commitments of billions of dollar from China and India for several infrastructure projects in Bangladesh. Chinese and Indian companies have already started working in the projects either through limited bidding or without it.

The PPP Authority officials could not say how much money would be invested under the new arrangement or how the funds would

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

228 charged with Nasirnagar attack

Local AL, BNP men among accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Police yesterday pressed charges against 228 suspects including several Awami League and BNP leaders for the attacks on Hindu communities in Nasirnagar 13 months ago.

Officer-in-Charge Abu Zafor of Nasirnagar Police Station submitted the charge sheet to Brahmanbaria Chief Judicial Magistrate Court.

He said three suspects had made confessional statements and nine of the over 60 witnesses named in the eight-page charge sheet had given their accounts of last year's mayhem.

Citing the charge sheet, the OC said the attack was carried out to "hurt religious sentiments and destroy communal harmony through vandalising religious establishments of the Hindu community".

The charges were pressed in the case filed by Nirmal Chowdhury, general secretary of Gaur Mandir, a temple

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

OBITUARY



Obaidur Rahman Khan (1st July 1944 - 9th December 2017)

Mr. Obaidur Rahman Khan, Executive Director of Transcom Group died on 9th December, 2017 at 10:30 p.m at his Gulshan Residence (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilahi Rajعون). Mr. Khan was the eldest son of Late Ataur Rahman Khan, former Chief Minister of East Pakistan & Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

A career banker, Mr. Khan was associated with Transcom since 1993. He was an integral and important member of the Senior Management Team of Transcom Group companies.

He was a Member of Executive Committee of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) and also the former Vice President of Bangladesh Employer's Federation (BEF).

He left behind his wife, son and two grandchildren to mourn his untimely death.

His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Masjid after Zuhr Prayers on Tuesday, 12th December 2017 and his burial will be at Banani graveyard on the same day.

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