

Brutal torture on woman

Three female neighbours arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A woman brutally tortured by her neighbours in Gouripur upazila town is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

The victim, Selina Akhter, 30, wife of Solaiman Mia, a three-wheeler driver living at Gouripur's Islamabad, is also mother of two school going children.

Police promptly arrested three of the alleged torturers -- Tukuni, her mother Habiba Begum, and sister Smriti, following a case filed by the victim's husband with Gouripur Police Station yesterday afternoon, said Dewar Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Gouripur Police Station.

Selina's neighbour Tukuni Begum, 30, used to verbally abuse Selina now and then as she suspected that Selina had an affair with her husband Shahid Mia, a local businessman, the OC quoted family members and neighbours as saying.

"As Tukuni did the same on Saturday morning, Selina informed Tukuni's husband about the matter and sought justice, which made Tukuni and her relatives furious," he said.

"When Selina was returning home after doing her work as a domestic help at her employer's house in the area at noon, Tukuni along with her elder sister Smriti and mother Habiba Begum picked up Selina and took her to Tukuni's parents house, some 300 yards away," he added.

Talking to this correspondent, Selina said, "Confining me to a room, they beat me with sticks, and kicked and punched me on different parts of the body including face, chest and abdomen. They continued the torture for some four hours."

"In the afternoon, the torturers put shoes around Selina's neck and drove her to her house while beating and pulling her hair. Her face was also painted with lime and black colour," said Selina's neighbour Nasima Begum.

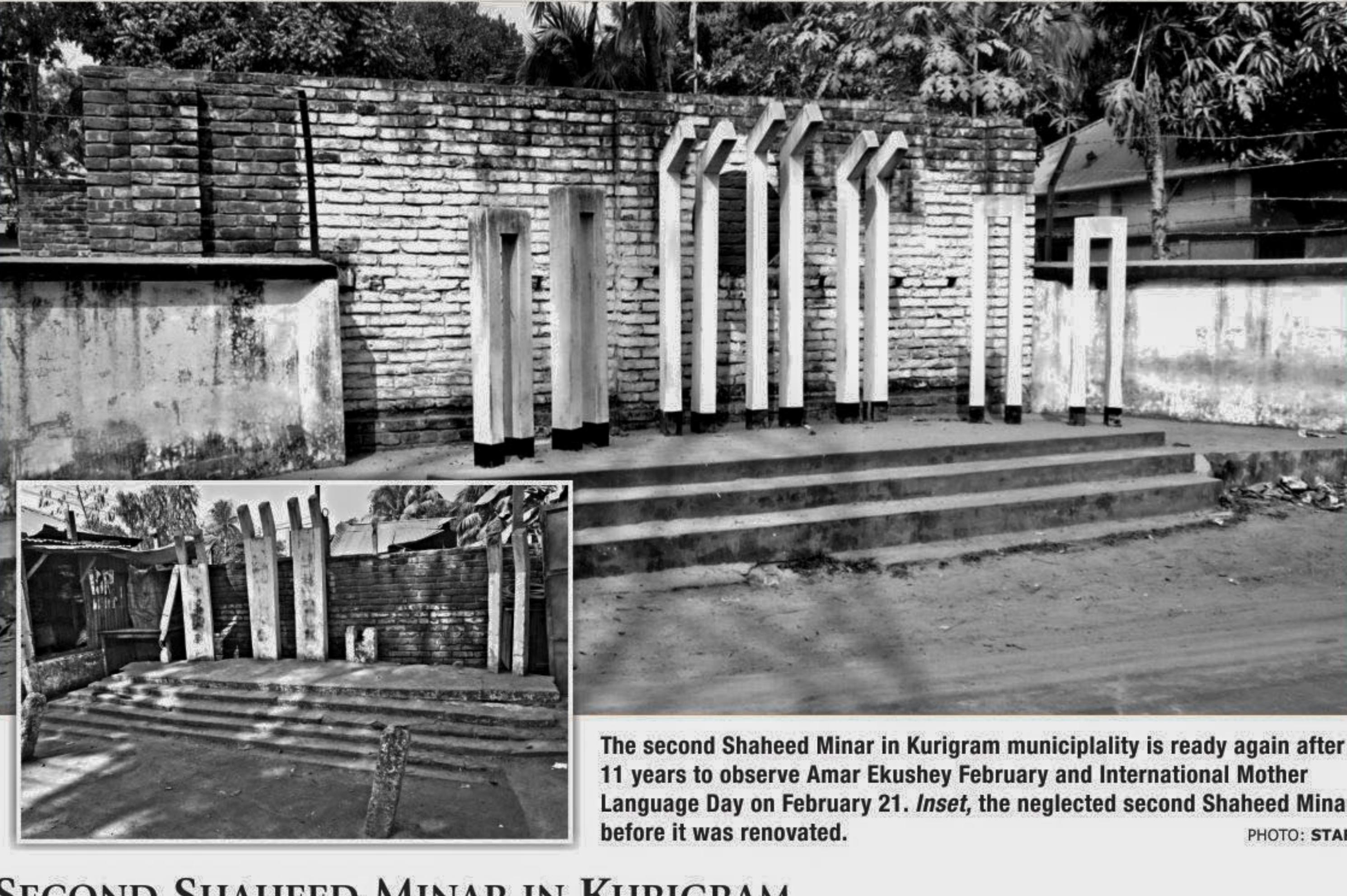
"When Selina's husband Solaiman wanted to know the reason, they again beat up Selina in front of a crowd. They also beat Solaiman when he tried to save his wife," Nasima said.

On information, police rushed to the spot and the attackers fled.

Selina was taken to Gouripur Upazila Health Complex and shifted to MMCH around 9:00pm on Saturday.

Selina's left eye is badly affected and there are injury marks on different parts of her body, said nurses at MMCH.

Selina's elder sister Shefali Khatun demanded exemplary punishment of the culprits.



The second Shaheed Minar in Kurigram municipality is ready again after 11 years to observe Amar Ekushey February and International Mother Language Day on February 21. Inset, the neglected second Shaheed Minar before it was renovated.

PHOTO: STAR

SECOND SHAHEED MINAR IN KURIGRAM

Neglected for 11 yrs, reopens Feb 21

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Language Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day will be observed this year at the rebuilt second Shaheed Minar in the municipality after 11 years as it had become damaged due to lack of maintenance.

The municipality rebuilt the Shaheed Minar at the same place last year.

Earlier on February 14 in 2013, a report on its neglected state was published in The Daily Star.

The second Shaheed Minar of the municipality (then a sub-divisional headquarters) was built beside Kurigram-Bhurungamari road in Sabujpara area in 1964 while the first Shaheed

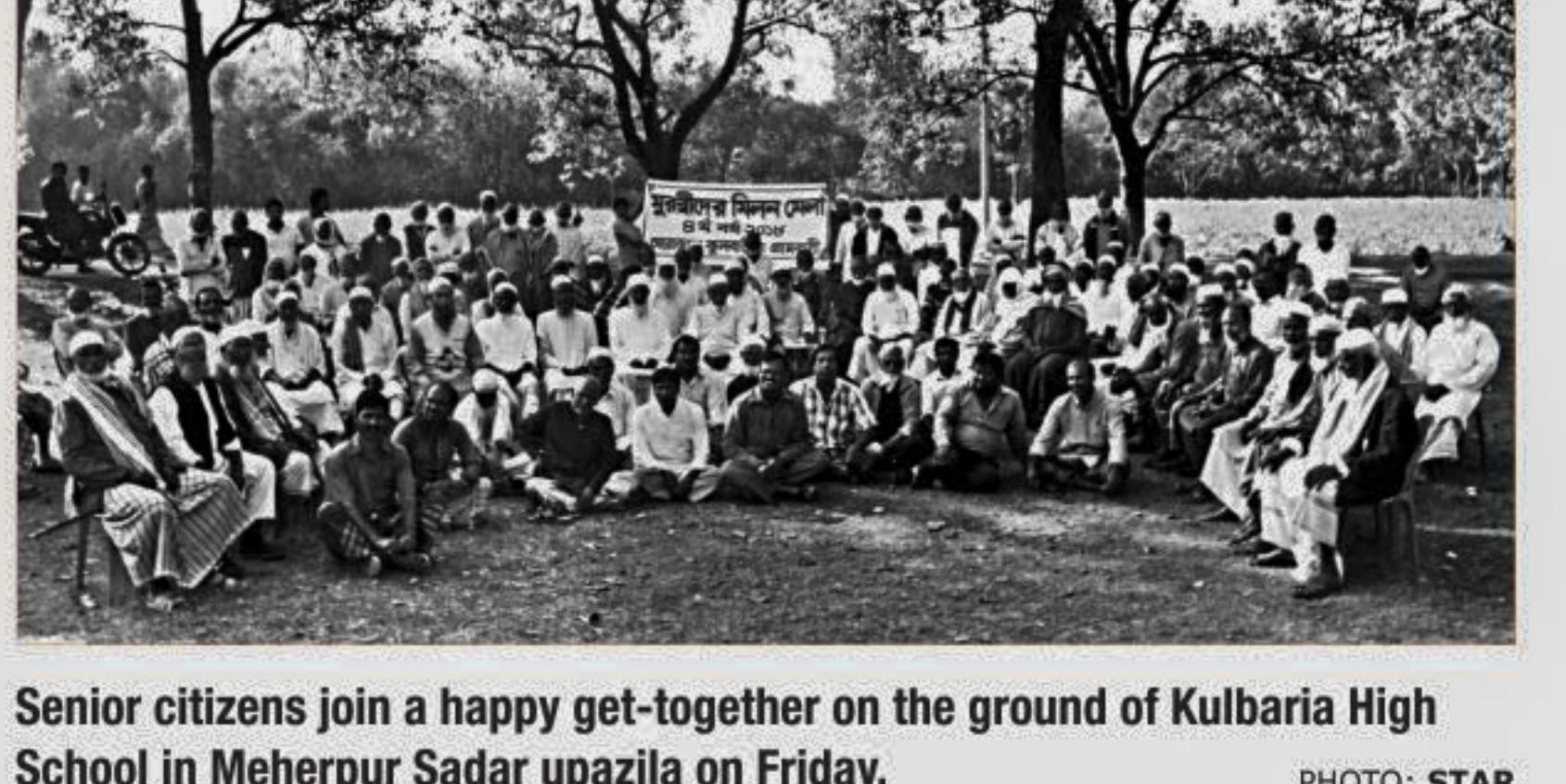
Minar was built at Gahorpark ground in 1963, said Samiul Haque Nantu, president of Kurigram Zila Durniti Protirodh Committee and a resident of Sabujpara.

"Observance of International Mother Language Day at the first and second Shaheed Minars decreased as different government and non-governmental organisations and local people started observing national days, including February 21, March 26 and December 16, at the district's central Shaheed Minar in Ghoshpara area of the town after its construction in the 1986-1987 fiscal year," said Nantu.

"Locals stopped observing Shaheed Dibash [martyrs' day] at the second Shaheed Minar 11 years ago as it was badly damaged. I am glad to learn that the mayor will make it fit for observing Ekushey February [February 21] this year. A fence should be built around it," said local Anu Mia, 38.

"We are delighted to know that the coming February 21 programme will be observed at the second Shaheed Minar," said local resident Sharana Haque, a degree student of Majida Adarsha Degree College in the town.

"I have arranged the work for polishing and colouring the reconstructed Shaheed Minar ahead of the Ekushey February. I shall build a fence around it so that no one can damage it," Mayor Abdul Jalil said.



Senior citizens join a happy get-together on the ground of Kulbaria High School in Meherpur Sadar upazila on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

A different day for senior citizens

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

It was a different day for around 400 senior citizens as they took part in a Prabin Mela (fair for senior people) on Kulbaria High School ground at Kulbaria village under Meherpur Sadar upazila on Friday.

The people, aged between 50 and 100 years, came from several adjacent villages including Kutubpur, Gangni, Kathuli and Kulbaria.

A large number of young people also came to the fair to hear the life experiences from the seniors.

Khairul Islam, 45, a businessman of Kulbaria village, has been organising the fair every year since 2015.

The senior people spent the day gossiping, singing songs of their times, cutting jokes and sharing their experiences with each other.

The organiser invited a physician

who talked about some old age complications and ways to deal with those properly.

"I have come to the fair for the second time. Such a day is not comparable with my usual days," said 70-year-old Fazlul Haq of Kulbaria village.

"I will try to attend the yearly fair as long as I live," said Doat Ali of Teghoria village.

Organiser Khairul said, "Only 50 senior people took part when I arranged the fair first in 2015. The number of participants sees increase every year."

"They enjoyed the get-together and had some knowledge about how to pass the advanced age gracefully through sharing with each other. It was also an interaction between young and elderly people," he said.

At the end the participants were entertained with a feast.

Renewed call for trial of Santals' killers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Santal community in Gobindaganj upazila at a meeting yesterday reiterated their demand for trial of those who killed three Santal men in the name of and eviction drive on November 6, 2016.

Sahebganj-Bagdafaarm Bhumi Uddhar Sangram Committee, Adivashi-Bangali Sanghati Parishad, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Bangladesh Adivasi Union and Jano Uddog organised the meeting at Madapur church ground. It was presided over by Philimon Baske.

The speakers demanded return of 1,842 acres of the forefathers' lands of Adivasis and Bangalis at Sahebganj Bagdafaarm in Gobindaganj upazila that were acquired by the government for supplying sugarcane to Rangpur Sugar Mills.

They also sought immediate arrest of the people involved in killing, looting and arson in Santal villages at Sahebganj, and compensation to the affected Santal families.

With a view to intensifying the movement, they formed a 33-member Sahebganj-Bagdafaarm Bhumi Uddhar Sangram Committee with Philimon Baske as president and Jafrul Islam Prodhan secretary.

Two murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A man was killed allegedly by his wife in Kushtia while a trader was stabbed to death in Jhenidah yesterday.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports that police yesterday arrested a woman in Daulatpur upazila, suspecting her involvement in murdering her husband with hired killers.

The arrested is Machhura Khatun, 25, second wife of slain Kudrat Ali, 40, of Taragunia village.

Local people spotted Kudrat's throat-slit body at a garden near his house yesterday morning.

Police suspect that Kudrat might have been killed in a feud, allegedly over his wife's extramarital affair, said SI Sahadat Ali of Daulatpur Police Station.

Police were interrogating Machhura in custody, he added.

Away in Jhenidah, muggers stabbed a betel leaf trader to death in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Jalal Uddin, 43, of Kashimpur village.

OC of Sadar Police Station Emdadul Haque Sheikh said criminal waylaid Jalal while he was returning home around 5:00am.

The gang stabbed Jalal indiscriminately and took away his money, he said.

BNP moves to unite grassroots

FROM PAGE 1
in all the district towns and metropolitan cities, except for Dhaka, on Tuesday.

The presence of central leaders in districts will certainly be a great morale booster for grassroots activists," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star.

After BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia landed in jail in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case on February 8, this will be the first large-scale organisational tour by central leaders.

Instructed by party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman, Fakhrul will coordinate the whole programme from Dhaka, sources say.

There are 81 organisational districts of the party and the central leaders will go to those districts on February 20 to participate in demonstrations demanding release of Khaleda.

"When a central leader visits a district, the grassroots leaders are morally boosted. The central leaders will ask the grassroots to keep patience and unity and not to make any reckless decisions and fall into the government trap," Barkat Ullah Bulu, told The Daily Star.

He also said the grassroots leaders and activists will be directed to counter the government propaganda in a peaceful and democratic way.

Nazrul Islam Khan, party's standing committee member, said following the directives of Tarique Rahman, the central leaders will talk to the family members of the detained leaders and will provide them with legal assistance if needed.

Around 78,000 cases have been filed against over 7.5 lakh BNP leaders and activists in last nine years, party sources claimed.

More than 4,725 party leaders and activists were arrested across the country since January 30 till February 17, they added.

Since the verdict against Khaleda, senior leaders of the party have been sitting every day with various professional bodies and maintaining ties with the diplomats.

Tarique Rahman is keeping in touch with top party men and issuing important decisions whenever it is needed. He also talked with various professional leaders, lawyers and intellectuals through teleconferencing.

The BNP has also been staging various protest programmes, except for shutdowns and blockade.

It observed a token hunger strike on Wednesday, formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club on Monday and staged a sit-in before the party's Nayapaltan central office on Tuesday.

Yesterday, the Dhaka district unit

of the party submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka district Mohammad Salah Uddin demanding release of Khaleda.

The party men also brought out a procession after coming out of the DC office.

In another development, Judge Md Akhtarruzzaman of Special Judge Court-5 in Dhaka assured the lawyers of providing them with the copy of the Zia orphanage verdict today after they asked about it.

Meanwhile, the Special Judge Court-2 asked Khaleda and 14 other accused to appear before it on March 25 in connection with Barapukuria coal mine graft case.

Khaleda was not produced before the court yesterday though it was the date for the hearing in Barapukuria case. She was on bail and her lawyer represented her.

Father's cruelty lands 4 kids in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Four kids were hospitalised with severe injuries as their father beat them mercilessly after beating his wife in Sadar upazila of Sunamganj on Saturday night.

The victims are Jesmin Begum, 7, Jisan Mia, 6, Inu Mia, 5, and Oshi Begum, 3, children of Muhibur Rahman, 32, of Jagannathpur village.

Muhibur beat them mercilessly with a bamboo stick for not listening to him, said their mother Tahmina Begum. She said Muhibur beat her first.

Sunamganj Police Station OC Shahidullah said they have arrested Muhibur.

Seriously injured Jisan, Inu and Oshi were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital and Jesmin to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital, he said.

Woman crushed under train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A woman was crushed to death under the wheels of a train at Aditmari railway station in Lal Bridge area of Aditmari upazila.

The deceased was Khadiza Bewa, 35, wife of late Seher Ali of Barabari village in the upazila. Her husband died last year.

When Khadiza sat on the rail line with an upset mind, the train hit her, leaving her dead on the spot, said railway police.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
Office of the Superintending Engineer	
PWD PECU Circle	
Purta Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka	
www.pwd.gov.bd	
Invitation for Tender	
Memo No. PECU/E-35/Muslim Institute/2016/2166	
Date: 15.02.2018	
1. Tender name	Establishment of Muslim Institute Cultural Complex, Chittagong (Sub-head: Construction of Library, Auditorium Building and Other Ancillary Works).
2. Source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB).
3. Tender No.	01/2017-2018
4. Time for completion of the works	24 (twenty-four) months.
5. Eligibility of tenderers	This invitation for tenders is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned in Instructions to Tenderers and Tender Data Sheet (TDS).
6. Tenderers qualification	This invitation for tenders is open to all qualified tenderers as mentioned below:
(a)	Reputed contractors/construction firms who have minimum 10 (ten) years of general experience in building construction works.
(b)	Having minimum specific experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number of minimum 10 (ten)-storied building work with basement including civil, sanitary and electrical works of Tk 9000.00 (nine thousand) lac in a single contract in government/semi-government/autonomous organization of Bangladesh during last 10 (ten) years. The work certificate for successful completion of a building work shall be issued by the officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent of concerned department/organization duly verified by the concerned Executive Engineer of PWD of that area/district under whose jurisdiction the work has been done. Prescribed format for "work certificate" for this purpose will be available in all offices mentioned in Clause No. 9.
(c)	The tenderers shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover during last 5 (five) years of Tk 10000.00 (ten thousand) lac.
(d)	The tenderers shall have a minimum amount of working capital or free funds (liquid assets) not less than Tk 2500.00 (two thousand and five hundred) lac.
(e)	The tenderers shall have minimum amount of tender capacity not less than Tk 11000.00 (eleven thousand) lac.
(f)	Other required eligibility and conditions of the tenderer are shown in Tender Data Sheet of tender documents.
7. Price of tender document	Tk 5000.00 (five thousand) only.
8. Amount of tender security	Tk 400.00 (four hundred) lac only.
9. Name and address of the office(s) tender document	PWD City Division/Dhaka PWD Division-I/Medical College PWD Division/Motijheel PWD Division/Azimpur PWD Division/Sher-e-Bangla Nagar PWD Division-I/S