Rab still sitting on charge sheet

last week that her son never wanted to leave the country to study abroad.

"I taught him to love his country. He did. He wanted to stay here for the people. He did not want to go abroad.

"I failed to give my child a safe country, a terror-free city. It is our utter failure," she said. Rabbi remembered that Taqi loved

wearing black. "He was wearing a black shirt when he left home for the last time. He was still in that shirt when they took his body to the morgue. "I know his killers are haunted by

the hangman's noose. They will never escape this." The murder triggered a huge public

outcry. People of Narayanganj formed "Santrash Nirmul Taqi Mancha", vowing to fight for justice and against criminal activities, and also to keep the memory of the murdered schoolboy A draft of the investigation report

was leaked before the first death anniversary of Taqi on March 6, 2014. Different newspapers ran stories based on the draft with quotes from topranking Rab officials about involvement of around a dozen people in the murder. In March 2014, Rab's then addi-

tional director general Col Ziaul Ahsan told a newspaper that they found involvement of Ajmeri Osman and his 10 accomplices in Tagi murder. He had also said that the charge sheet would be submitted any day. Ajmeri is the son of ex-Jatiya Party

MP Nasim Osman and nephew of ruling Awami League MP Shamim Osman. Contacted, Commanding Officer of

RAB-11 Lt Col Kamrul Hasan told The Daily Star that their "investigation is going on". "The case is very important. So it is

being investigated. No such work can be done on a fixed deadline." However, the officer told the same

thing around a year ago on the fourth death anniversary of Taqi. Prosecution lawyer Pradip Ghosh

Babu told The Daily Star that all eight suspects in Taqi murder case are on the After the incident, four suspects

were arrested. Two of them, Yusuf Hossain Liton and Sultan Shawkat Bhramor, gave confessional state-

"On the basis of the statements, we appealed to Narayanganj Chief

central jail to escape. Seven of them were

In the afternoon, President Yahya, who

was clearly worried at the possibility of

Mujib's declaring independence for

Bangladesh the next day, announced on

radio that the National Assembly would

Peoples Party Chairman ZA Bhutto,

The announcement, however, was

In the broadcast, Yahya, almost as a

not as innocuous -- there was something

threat, said that as long as Pakistan

military was under his command and

as long as he was the president, he

would ensure the solidarity of Pakistan

Not a single word to ease the fury of the

Bangalees was uttered, nor did he make

the slightest effort for a resolution.

Instead, he criticised Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the

Awami League and blamed the dire

situation of the country on them.

in Rawalpindi, welcomed the proposal

of the new date by President Yahya.

shot dead and 30 injured.

meet on March 25, 1971.

sinister about it.

unchallenged.



father Rafiur Rabbi and younger brother Rakib Muhammad still struggle to come to terms with the early demise of Taqi. The photo was taken at their home in Narayanganj a couple of days ago. PHOTO: STAR

Judicial Magistrate's court on February 5 this year for arresting the other accused. The appeal also sought to unearth how Taqi was killed, who else were involved, how the body was dumped," Pradip added.

On November 12, 2013, Sultan Shawkat Bhramor, one of the arrestees, gave confessional statement. But 16 days later, he applied to the court for withdrawing his statement. Bhramor was released on bail on March 20, 2014. After he failed to appear in court on multiple occasions, the court issued an arrest warrant for him.

Of the other arrestees, Saleh Simanto is in jail and Rifat Bin Osman, Tayeb Uddin Jackie and Yusuf Hossain Liton are on bail.

The hearing on the prosecution appeal of February 5 is scheduled for April 17. The court of Narayanganj Judicial

Magistrate Ashek Imam on February 1 directed the investigation officer of the case to submit the probe report quickly. Meanwhile, leaders of different

socio-political and cultural organisations expressed dissatisfaction over the lengthy investigation. Narayanganj City Corporation

Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy told The Daily Star she expected that trial of Taqi killing would be held soon.

"I firmly believe that the prime minister will give directive for trial of

This further agitated the Bangalees.

Malik Nur Khan, on the other hand,

insisted on Sheikh Mujib's rule. In an

interview in Lahore, he said that it was

the legal right of Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman to be able to rule the country.

He recommended that all barriers to

the handover of power be overcome

immediately. He also expressed sorrow

over the accusation made by Yahya on

Bangabandhu, in regard to the deterio-

of the new date for the National

Assembly, people in Narayanganj and

Dhaka broke out in spontaneous

Yaqub Khan two days ago, Yahya had

appointed General Tikka Khan, known

as the notorious "Butcher of

Baluchistan", to take over as governor

of East Pakistan. He arrived in Dhaka

the day before, and was ready to take

the oath on this day, when Chief

Justice B.A. Siddiky refused to swear

him in, once again proving that things

Meanwhile, after the retirement of

Soon after the radio announcement

rating condition of the country.

Muslim League Leader Air Marshal

Tension builds up as March 7

this murder. Truth never concedes to injustice," she added.

Taqi's mother Rawnak Rehana believes injustice cannot continue forever.

"Our children will, one day, make the country safe for themselves, for children of the future."

China planning

Equipped with solar panels, the cuttingedge traffic link could also charge electric cars on the go and allow drivers to pay tolls without stopping.

The six-lane Hang-Shao-Yong Expressway is set to link Hangzhou, the provincial capital of Zhejiang, with two medium-size cities in the same province, Shaoxing and Ningbo.

The first part of the highway is expected to open to the public in 2021, according to China's Xinhua News Agency.

Reng Zhong, the Deputy Minister of Transport in Zhejiang, said in the report that in the long run a smart traffic controlling system would be installed on the highway and in the cars so that the road could support autonomous vehicles.

Sun Zhang, a professor at Shanghai Tongji University, told Global Times: "Automatic driving is comparatively safe compared with the manual drive

Three 'robbers' killed in 'gunfights'

STAR REPORT

Three alleged robbers were killed in separate "shootouts" between law enforcers and criminals in Barguna and Brahmanbaria early yesterday.

Two "forest robbers" were killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion in Majher Char area under Pathorghata upazila of Barguna, said Hasan Emon Al-Rajib, a camp commander of Rab-8.

The deceased -- Ataur Sarder, 35, and Md Robiul Mali, 30, -- belonged to Hasan Bahini, a robbers' gang, Rab said.

The elite force claims to have recovered three firearms, 39 bullets and four sharp weapons, reports our Patuakhali Correspondent. The incident took place around 6:15am when a team of Rab raided a stretch of the banks of the Baleshwar river on information that robbers had gathered there.

the robbers opened fire on them, forcing the elite force to retaliate. The Rab officials claim two robbers died on the spot, while others fled. The gang has been involved in

Sensing the presence of Rab team,

kidnapping fishermen from the Bay for ransom, Emon said. Around 30-35 fishermen were

kidnapped in last two months from different areas including Sarankhola, Mongla, Koira, Sundarbans. The Rab teams rescued six following a gunfight on March 3. In Brahmanbaria, an alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" between

police and his cohorts hours after he was picked up at Kaitala village under Nabinagar upazila, reports our local correspondent. The deceased, identified as Jabed

Mia, 40, son of Edhan Mia, was accused in nine cases. He hailed from Kaitala village of the upazila.

Police claim he was arrested on Sunday night in connection with a theft case. "After primary interrogation we got information about his firearms. When we took him to Vanga Bridge on local Maheshpur road around 3:15am his associates opened fire on us and tried to take him away," said Chittaranjan Paul, additional police super of Nabinagar circle.

"As the law enforcers retaliated, a gunfight ensued and Jabed got shot by his associates. He was rushed to Nabinagar Upazila Health Complex where duty doctors declared him dead," he added.

Oscars show

FROM PAGE 16

voices, joining together in a mighty chorus that is finally saying: 'Time's up,'" Judd said. Time's Up, launched on January 1,

is a legal defence fund that aims to

support people reporting sexual harassment in the entertainment industry and beyond. "So we salute those unstoppable spirits who kicked ass and broke

through the biased perceptions of their race their genders and their ethnicities," Hayek said. Sciorra added: "And on this 90th anniversary evening, when the Oscars

celebrates its timeless classics, we look forward as well." The piece also featured taped comments from actors and filmmak-

ers such as Ava DuVernay, Mira Sorvino and Geena Davis. Pakistani-American actor and writer

Kumail Nanjiani said during his clip that producers should work with women and people of colour not only because they deserved representation but also "because you get rich."

Hollywood has been roiled by the sexual misconduct scandal, which has led to dozens of once powerful men stepping down or being dropped from creative projects.

of land in the last cultivation season.

Shamsul Alam, director general of

the Department of Jute, said fair price

was imperative. "Farmers have the

option to choose what they will culti-

vate as there are many diversified crops

in the country. Considering soil health

and long-term benefit, jute is profit-

able and that's why jute production is

Institute (BJRI) has already developed

jute cotton blend fiber with cotton.

They are now working to make the jute

and the clothes made by jute cotton

traditional agricultural purposes but

now jute [is used] for commercial

agriculture. Due to technological

development and huge research and

development work in the sector,

along with the government's atten-

tion to the sector, it has been possi-

ble to achieve record production,"

Monjurul Alam, director general of

government has taken various initiatives

to provide training to farmers to produce

better quality jute since quality has been a

concern for a while. Also, fertilizers are

golden fibre but a lot of work remains.

Industry insiders believe that much

needs to be done but the golden days

The days ahead seem bright for the

BJRI, told The Daily Star.

being distributed free of cost.

are indeed returning.

will be comfortable," Alam said.

"Price of jute cotton will be cheap

"Earlier jute was cultivated for

Also, the Bangladesh Jute Research

increasing."

cotton blended yarn.

SL take on Ind

FROM PAGE 16

premises, hinted at how much this T20I tournament means to the country.

It may not be as significant for India as it is for Sri Lanka and Bangladesh; regular Indian skipper Virat Kohli -along with MS Dhoni, Hardik Pandya and Bhuvneshwar Kumar -- was rested whereas Bangladesh even flirted with the idea of carrying an injured Shakib Al Hasan just for the morale boost the presence of their most experienced player may provide.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, after a successful tour of Bangladesh in January-February under new coach Chandika Hathurusingha, have started to dream of reprising their glory days when they were one of the toughest and most skilful teams in world cricket. However, Hathurusingha did try to

keep the excitement and expectations to a manageable limit when he was asked whether it will be a big game against an in-form Indian side. "There is no such thing as a big

match or small match. It is just another match for us. We prepare the same for every game. The only difference is we assess the strengths and weaknesses of

the other team," Hathurusingha told reporters after a training session at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. The Lankan coach did admit that

India are the favourites for the series, but added that the series win in Bangladesh will give his team an extra edge. There was a colourful trophy unveil-

ing ceremony in the presence of the three captains and the managers later in the evening, where Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah informed that it is a great platform for his charges to make a statement. "We did miss him [Shakib] during the tri-series at home and it's a big loss

for us not to have him in the side, but at the same time it's a challenge for the others and a great platform to make a statement," said Mahmudullah. While Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal said that the series win against Bangladesh has been a confi-

dence booster for his side ahead of the tri-series, India skipper Rohit Sharma likened T20 cricket to English Premier League football, where any team can win on a given day.

HC snubs plea the constitution, which ensure equal FROM PAGE 16

DU student Anisur Rahman Mir, Member Secretary of Comilla Journalists' Association Didarul Alam, and Senior Sub-editor of daily Amader Orthoneeti Abdul Wadud filed the petition on January 31, describing the quota system as discriminatory and contrary to the constitution.

The petitioners said the constitution does not allow any discrimination.

In the petition, they mentioned that the then government on November 5, 1972, had introduced 30 percent quota for the freedom fighters and 10 percent quota for the women who were affected during the Liberation War for jobs at government, private, defence, semi-government and nationalised institutions. Later, the quota system was reformed. The petitioners said the quota sys-

tem in the civil service is against the provisions of articles 19, 28 and 29 of opportunities for all citizens. On June 3, 2014, DU student

Shahabuddin Shaheen took his life as he failed to get a government job due to the quota system, they cited in the petition. Currently, only 44 percent job

seekers are recruited on the basis of merit. The remaining 56 percent candidates are recruited on the basis of the privileges under various quotas. Of the 56 percent under quotas, 30 percent are kept for freedom fighters'

children and grandchildren, 10 percent for women, 10 percent for people of districts lagging behind, 5 percent for people of indigenous communities, and the physically challenged have one percent. Government job seekers and stu-

dents are staging demonstrations at different universities and colleges across the country, demanding reformation of the quota system.

Oral saline

FROM PAGE 16

been suffering from old-age complications. He was 82.

"Dr Rafiqul was very introvert, but very rigorous in his research," Dr MA Wahed, a former scientist at the icddr,b told The Daily Star.

Born in 1936 in Comilla's Chauddagram, Rafiqul completed his MBBS from Dhaka Medical College, joined icddr,b in the mid-60s and retired in 2000. Rafiqul did his higher studies on tropical medicine and hygiene in England. The father of three, including two daughters, conducted a series of clinical trials at the icddr,b but the most important one was the ORS.

Dr Wahed said an epidemic of cholera broke out among the Bangladeshi refugees, who took shelter in India's West Bengal during the 1971 Liberation War. But as intravenous fluid, the then only medicine of diarrhoeal diseases, ran out, ORS came as a savior to the refugees, saving many lives.

Eventually, ORS was approved by the World Health Organziation (WHO). After the independence of Bangladesh, the solution got widespread publicity. In 1980, Bangladeshi NGO Brac created a door-to-door and person-to-person awareness programme about the ORS for use by mothers at home.

Madrasa boy dies

Demographic and Health Survey, diarrhoea caused two percent of deaths of children under age five from 2007-11 compared to almost 20 percent in 1988-93. About 78 percent of children with diarrhoea have been treated with ORS since 2007. This helped Bangladesh become

According to a Bangladesh

mortality rates of children under five by at least two-thirds since 1990. ORS is now a mainstream treatment around the world, with Unicef distrib-

one of eight countries to have reduced

uting 500 million sachets to 60 countries each year.

Dr Shafiqur Alam Sarker, another former scientist at the icddr,b said IV (intravenous) fluid was the golden standard for diarrhoeal diseases before the development of ORS, but the fluid was available mostly in the developed world.

Therefore, worldwide diarrhoeal diseases caused millions of deaths in the developing world. From that perspective, development of ORS, which was known as "Dhaka Saline", has made radical improvement in the treatment of the disease, which leads

to fatality if not treated timely. "We deeply mourn the demise of Dr Rafiqul Islam, a dedicated scientist,' he said.

Farmers doing their part well

processions.

The golden fibre was not just a moniker derived from the colour of the material; rather, it also alluded to jute's reputation as the biggest foreign currency earner.

Jute's significance would lead to the formation of Sonali Bank, established especially for jute financing and hence the name.

However, over the course of time, jute's prominence began to fade. Data show that the 1972-73 jute pro-

duction reached around 54 lakh bales. But it soon began to come down then rise again in the late 80s only to fall. By the late 2000s, production reached around 45 lakh bales, with only

two lakh hectares used for production, the lowest ever in recorded history. Mismanagement, corruption, restructuring on western lines, introduction of polythene and inability to

market the fibre all led to these ups and downs. At the time, it was thought that the

fibre's golden days had come to an end. But now, a jute renaissance has begun with the country reaching record production levels.

Increasing use of jute led to the

government observing National Jute Day from last year. This year, National Jute Day is being observed for the second time with the slogan: Sonali Asher Sonali Desh, Pat Ponne Bangladesh.

"We have achieved a milestone. We hope that we will create history in jute production in the coming days as vari-

ous steps have been taken by the govern-

ment," Mirza Azam, state minister for textile and jute, told The Daily Star.

According to the Export Promotion Bureau, in 2016-17 the total export of jute and jute goods was worth \$962.42 million and from July to January of 2017-18 fiscal year, the export currently stands at \$661.86 million.

The export destination for the fabric includes Australia, China, Turkey, Vietnam and some African and European Union countries.

According to Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, in 2010 eighty lakh bales of jute was cultivated in 7.5 lakh hectares of land. Last year, it was being cultivated on

tion had shot up to 91.72 lakh bales, a record in jute cultivation and production in Bangladesh.

8.17 lakh hectares of land and produc-

The revival of interest in the fibre comes down to a number of factors,

THE JUTE RENAISSANCE

crucial among them the government's role in increasing jute's significance As the world moves towards more

"green" solutions, jute is becoming an important player. The crop is environmentally friendly and thus its demand is increasing, especially abroad.

Furthermore, jute's use is being diversified, increasing the market size for the product.

The government formulated Jute Act-2017 for the development of the fibre. To promote jute abroad, Jute Diversification Centre currently has

233 types of jute products.

at an emergency meeting of his party's working committee, to mull over the president's new date for the National Assembly meeting. They also had a

major decision to make -- whether or

not the declaration of independence

were running on Bangabandhu's

That very evening, Bangabandhu was

orders.

would be made the next day. The pressure was tremendous, and kept mounting. Not only were there the powerful student groups insisting on the announcement, but with them were crowds of citizens -- East Pakistan

citizens wanting to be known forever

as Bangalees. The meeting for such intense and vital decisions ended up taking the whole night. But the AL was still unclear about what was to take place the next day, until; Bangabandhu made the decision himself -- to speak out publicly about this issue the next day, March 7, 1971, on the Race Course ground.

The greatest speech in Bangladeshi history was about to be made.

"It will be 250 very shortly," Md

Various consumer goods are now

Mainul said when JPDC was estab-

He said since 2009, diversified jute

To increase demand for jute, the

products have started gaining a foot-

government also made jute packaging

mandatory for 17 products, drum-

ming up domestic support for the

mandatory packaging rule for com-

modities -- mainly rice, wheat and

maize -- from the last quarter of 2015

to limit the use of environmentally

cent target of jute packaging in six

products while we are trying to achieve

our targets for another 11 products,"

from jute. We have set up a factory in

Ghorashal of Narsingdi for producing

it. Viscose is used to make yarn in

cotton yarn spinning mill. Currently,

Rising demand also encouraged farm-

ers to grow jute on increased amount

we are importing viscose," he added.

CONTINUING THE RISE

"So far, we have achieved 100 per-

"We have already made viscose

Bangladesh started enforcing the

Mainul Hoque, director of Jute

Diversification Promotion Centre

being made using jute, including

shoes, handkerchiefs, bed sheets, caps

lished in 2005-06, it started providing

free training to people on skill devel-

opment for producing jute goods.

(JPDC), told The Daily Star.

and numerous other items.

hold in markets worldwide.

industry.

harmful plastic bags.

Mirza Azam said.

FROM PAGE 16

Tauhid was a student of hefz (memorising the Quran) at Umar Faruq (RA) Hafizia Kindergarten Madrasa in Jamirdia area.

Quoting family sources, Md Mamun-or-Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka police, said Aminul Islam of the madrasa asked Tauhid to memorise his lesson. As he failed to do so, the teacher allegedly beat him up indiscriminately with a stick, critically injuring him on February 27.

The teachers did not inform his family members to cover up the incident and arranged his treatment at the madrasa, added the OC. As his condition deteriorated, the

teachers informed his family members after three days saying Tauhid suffered injuries in his chest, back and leg while playing with other students, said the OC.

The family members rushed to the madrasa and immediately took the boy to Bhaluka Upazila Health

Community Based Medical College Hospital, a private hospital at Churkhai in Mymensingh Sadar, the OC informed. As his condition was not improving, the boy was eventually shifted to

Complex. He was shifted to

Dhaka Orthopaedic (Pangu) Hospital on Sunday where he died around 12:30am yesterday.

His body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC said. Hospital sources said there were

signs of brutal torture in the body of the boy. His left leg was also severely fractured, they added.

Victim's father, a small businessman, filed a case with Bhaluka police accusing Aminul Islam and Enamul Haque, headteacher of the madrasa.

Police detained Enamul for interrogation yesterday but could not arrest Aminul who hailed from Ishwarganj upazila of Mymensingh.

It's an attack on every intellectual FROM PAGE 16 "The attack on Zafar Iqbal is rather

threats against him for a long time. But he continues his work ignoring such threats, the statement said.

"We also expect the guarantee of safety of every intellectual and common people of the country." On Saturday, Prof Zafar Iqbal, a faculty member of Computer Science

and Engineering department at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, came under a knife attack on the campus during a programme.

An iconic figure, Zafar Iqbal has been an attack on every intellectual of the dedicatedly working to spread educacountry," the statement said, adding, In order to continue the trend, the

Militants have been issuing death

The statement reads, "Attempting to kill someone like him is like attempt-

1971."

ing to leave the nation bereft of intellectuals. Pakistan did the same in