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On a mission to change lives

Magura banker coaches failed SSC, HSC students for free; brings a lot of smiles

AZIBOR RAHMAN, back from Magura

A banker by profession, Md Shahjahan Mia set out on a noble mission – to eradicate illiteracy from Nahata Union in Mohammadpur upazila, Magura.

In an act of selflessness, Shahjahan wakes up at the crack of dawn, long before his shift at Jamuna Bank begins, to coach students who have failed their national exams and have given up trying. In return, he asks that students attend classes regularly.

His dreams weren't that big when he first set out. Graduating in Zoology from Dhaka College in 2008, he landed his first job at the bank in the cash department in 2015. He was glad he got a posting at the Nahata Bazaar Branch in his home town, where he could be near his family as well.

In that same year, 20 HSC examinees failed their exams and had given up hopes of continuing their education.

"Somehow, this struck a chord and made me really sad. It was not that these students were incapable of good grades; they just lacked access to the right resources and guidance to pass. After all, I went to the same school as a child and now I hold a respectable job," said Shahjahan.

Feeling determined, he approached Ali Mia, chairman of the school managing committee, to seek permission to use school premises to coach those students in the mornings before regular classes began.

With nothing to lose, Ali agreed.

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A banker by profession, Md Shahjahan Mia takes a special class to help students who failed their exams in Nahata union of Mohammadpur upazila, Magura.

PHOTO: AZIBOR RAHMAN

RSF slams curbs on Pak paper Dawn

AFP, Islamabad

International media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has condemned the disruption in distribution of Pakistan's oldest newspaper Dawn after it published an interview suggesting that Pakistani militants were behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The comments by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif sparked a firestorm at home and in India.

Sharif approached what is seen as a red line in the country by touching on criticism of Pakistan's armed forces, especially their alleged use of proxies in India.

RSF said distribution of the country's leading English-language newspaper had been restricted in much of the country.

"The interview, which reportedly displeased the Pakistani military, appeared in the 12 May issue and the blocking began on 15 May. According to RSF's information, distribution is being

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Khaleda seeks HC bail in three cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday filed three separate petitions with the High Court seeking bail in three different cases.

The HC may hold a hearing on the petitions today, Advocate M Masud Rana, one of Khaleda's lawyers, told The Daily Star.

Among the three cases against Khaleda, two were filed in Comilla. One was filed on the charge of vandalising vehicles on January 25 in 2015, and the other on the charge of killing seven persons and injuring 25-26 persons by setting fire on a passenger bus at an area of Chaudhagram on February 2 of the same year.

The third case was filed by Raihan Faruki Imam with a Narail court on September 24, 2015, against Khaleda Zia for making a statement about

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Cybercrime on the rise

70pc victims are women; over half of them young; lack of awareness blamed

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Barely a month after they tied the knot, Aleya (not her real name) and her husband got the shock of their lives.

Photos and videos of some private moments of the 21-year-old woman and her former boyfriend, Monirul Islam Moni, were sent to her husband, his family members and friends through social media, putting the marriage in jeopardy.

Moni had copied the photos and the videos in her phone in 2013 when the two were in a relationship. He stole the memory stick and kept it with him even after they broke up.

He spread the photos and the videos after the girl from the capital's Lalbagh got married on this January 12 to an engineer, according to the statement of a case filed over the incident.

"Devastated, my daughter rushed to my home and burst into tears before telling me everything," the girl's father, who filed the case with Lalbagh Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Police arrested Moni immediately and recovered the memory stick. The marriage was saved, he said, adding the accused was behind bars.

It is not the only case where a girl becomes a victim of cyber crime. In fact, such incidents are taking place frequently in the city and elsewhere, said police.

According to the Cyber Security and Crime Division of the DMP, 70 percent of cyber crime victims were women and 57 percent of them were between 18 and 25. Thirteen percent of the victims were below 18.

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

Cheaper than last year

Prices of both coarse, fine rice drop in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Prices of rice, both coarse and fine, have dropped in wholesale and retail markets of Dinajpur this Ramadan.

Last year, the rice price began to increase with the start of Ramadan.

The price of a 50kg bag of fine rice has come down to Tk 400-550 in the wholesale market, while the price of the same amount of coarse rice has gone down to Tk 100-150.

In the retail market, prices of the fine rice have dropped by Tk 8 and Tk 10 a kg. Prices of the coarse rice have decreased by Tk 2 a kg.

Traders of wholesale markets in Dinajpur said prices of each 50kg bag of fine rice -- BR-28 and miniket -- fell by around Tk 400 and Tk 550 respectively, while prices of coarse rice like Suman Swarna, Gutti Swarna and hybrid dropped by Tk 100 to 150.

During visits to different wholesale and retail markets, including Gudri Bazar and Bahadur Bazar in Dinajpur municipality, in the last two days, this correspondent

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Dylan's guitar fetches \$495,000 at auction



AFP, New York

A guitar that played a key role in Bob Dylan's artistic evolution from folk music to rock fetched a half million at auction on Saturday.

The guitar, a 1965 Fender Telecaster that belonged to Robbie Robertson, Dylan's guitarist, was used by Dylan, Eric Clapton and George Harrison, Julien's Auctions said Saturday.

It had been expected to fetch between \$400,000 and \$600,000.

The guitar marked the singer's path from folk stylings like "The Times They Are A-Changin'" (1964), to electric rock, like his 1965 hit "Like a Rolling Stone."

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7 killed in Rio police raid

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Seven people, including a drug trafficker wanted for his alleged role in a 2016 gang rape that shocked Brazil, were killed Saturday during a large-scale police raid on crime-ridden favelas.

A spokesman for the military-led police in Rio said that "the current toll is 22 people taken into custody and seven killed as a result of clashes with the police force."

These included Sergio Luiz da Silva, a man known more widely by his gang name "Da Russia," the spokesman said.

He was alleged to be a drug trafficking leader who also took part in a 2016 rape of an underage girl in Rio. As many as 30 men were suspected of joining the rape, which came to light in images spread on social media that showed the victim unconscious and surrounded by her assailants.

Saturday's violence took place after police raided impoverished, sometimes

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A VIP car under police escort takes the wrong side on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, near Banglamotor intersection, in the capital on Saturday. Such a sheer violation of traffic rules is frequent in the city, contributing to chaos and congestion on the streets.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Couldn't care less

Car owners show little interest to go for fitness tests; only 16 vehicles renew their licences within Apr 30 deadline

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government call for renewing motor vehicles' fitness certificates largely went in vain as owners of only 16 out of over 56,000 vehicles that did not obtain the certificate in more than a decade responded within the deadline of April 30.

Registrations of the remaining 56,410 vehicles have been revoked after the deadline passed. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is preparing to take more actions, officials said.

As per law, a vehicle must go through fitness tests every year to renew the certificate needed to ply the streets legally.

"We are now counting how much dues we have with each and every vehicle and then, we will go for legal procedure to realise the dues," BRTA Director (operation) Sitangshu Shekhar Biswas told The Daily Star yesterday.

BRTA on March 29 published two lists of "fitness defaulters" on its website--one of government vehicles and the other of private ones.

Over 3,740 vehicles belonging to different ministries and government agencies are in the list. Police have topped the list with around 1,000 vehicles.

Fitness certificates of a total of 52,686 vehicles, owned by individuals, non-government educational institutions and commercial organisations, have expired, it said.

The authorities had asked the owners to renew the fitness certificates by April 30. Otherwise, the vehicles would be

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING			
Ramadan	May	Sehri	Iftar
4	21	3:43	6:40
5	22	3:43	6:41
6	23	3:43	6:42

PRAYER TIMING MAY 21
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	3-49	12-45	5-00	6-40	8-00
JAMAAT	3-59	1-15	5-15	6-50	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION