



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420 BSRM ULTIMA BARS

BSRM Ultima



# Bringing hope to kids with special needs

Group of nine runs school at a Dinajpur village offering them free primary education

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Children with special learning needs, along with their families, in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur saw a glimmer of hope when a group of around nine individuals began an initiative to provide them with free primary education. That glimmer shone brighter and brighter as the project came to fruition.

The initiative was initially taken by 32-year-old Nur Mohammad, a resident of Rasulpur village in the upazila. After completing his Master's degree in Dinajpur, he took up teaching as a profession and got a job at a local high school.

Soon after, he quit and decided to use his teaching experience for a greater cause. That was when he came up with the idea of establishing what is now known as Rasulpur Protibondhi O Autistic Punarbasan Bidyalaya for children with special needs who come from poor families.

"Every child has the right to education; but there are some children who not only have different needs but also come from families with financial constraints," said Nur.

In 2016, he approached several individuals in the upazila to help kick-start their project. That is when Abul Hamid, a

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Children with special needs studying inside a classroom of Rasulpur Protibondhi O Autistic Punarbasan Bidyalaya in Dinajpur's Chirirbandar upazila recently. Inset, some other students being taken to the school in rickshaw vans hired by the school authorities. The school, established in 2016, provides free education to 220 students with special needs in the upazila.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

## SHAHIDUL'S BAIL Govt seeks stay on HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking stay on the High Court verdict that granted permanent bail to acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam.

The apex court is yet to fix any date for hearing the petition, said Sufia Khatun, advocate-on-record for the attorney general's office, who submitted the petition to the Appellate Division of the SC.

Following a petition filed by 63-year-old Shahidul, the HC on November 15 granted the bail considering his age and the time he spent behind bars on charges of "spreading propaganda against the government".

Shahidul, also the founder of Drik and Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, was picked up on August 5 from his home in the capital's Dhanmondi during a widespread demonstration for safe roads.

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## ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST Khaleda files appeal against HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court verdict that increased her punishment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

In the petition, 73-year-old Khaleda also sought bail and stay on the HC judgment that enhanced her punishment from five years of imprisonment to 10 years in the case.

The apex court is yet to fix any date for hearing the appeal.

Citing the petition, Khaleda's lawyer Kayser Kamal told The Daily Star that the HC verdict was not in accordance with law and therefore, the HC verdict needed to be scrapped.

The lawyer refused to go into detail about the petition. He, however, said they would move the petition before the SC at a proper time.

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## WOMEN TERROR SUSPECTS 66pc radicalised by family members

Reveal findings of DMP's counter terror unit, analysing profiles of 41 suspects in last 2 yrs

RAFIUL ISLAM

Over 66 percent of the female terror suspects in the country got involved in militancy being influenced by their family members, mostly their husbands, according to findings of the counter terrorism unit.

The case of their involvement increased after the "Neo JMB" emerged in 2014. About 63 percent of the suspects belong to the militant outfit, which is responsible for the July 1, 2016 Holey Artisan attack.

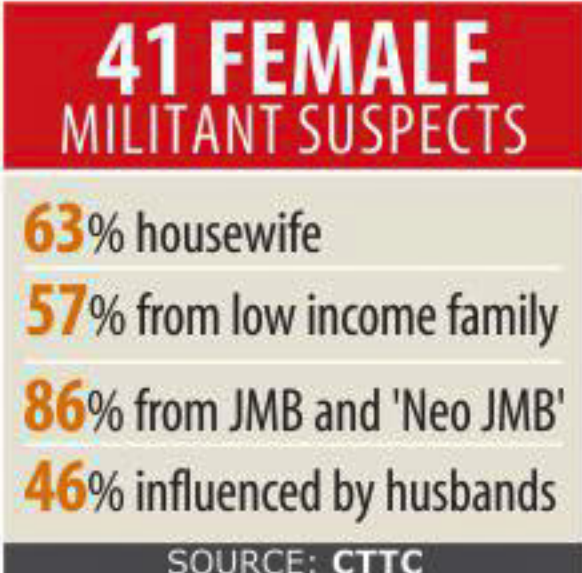
Around 42 percent of female terror suspects are either graduates or doing their graduation and master's courses. About 46 percent were influenced by their husbands to join violent extremism.

A Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit official came up with the findings, analysing the profiles of 41 female militant suspects arrested in the last couple of years.

At least 85 females have so far been arrested on terror charges and 11 other suspects were killed in different anti-militancy drives, Mahfuza Liza, a CTC additional deputy commissioner, said while presenting her keynote paper at a conference yesterday.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) organised the event on "Prevention of Violent Extremism from a Gender Perspective"

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## RAKHINE CAMP UN calls for calm after Rohingyas shot, injured

AFP, yangon

The UN has called for calm after several Rohingya Muslims were shot and wounded in a Rakhine state camp, in a raid linked to the failed escape of more than 100 of the stateless minority from the grim settlements.

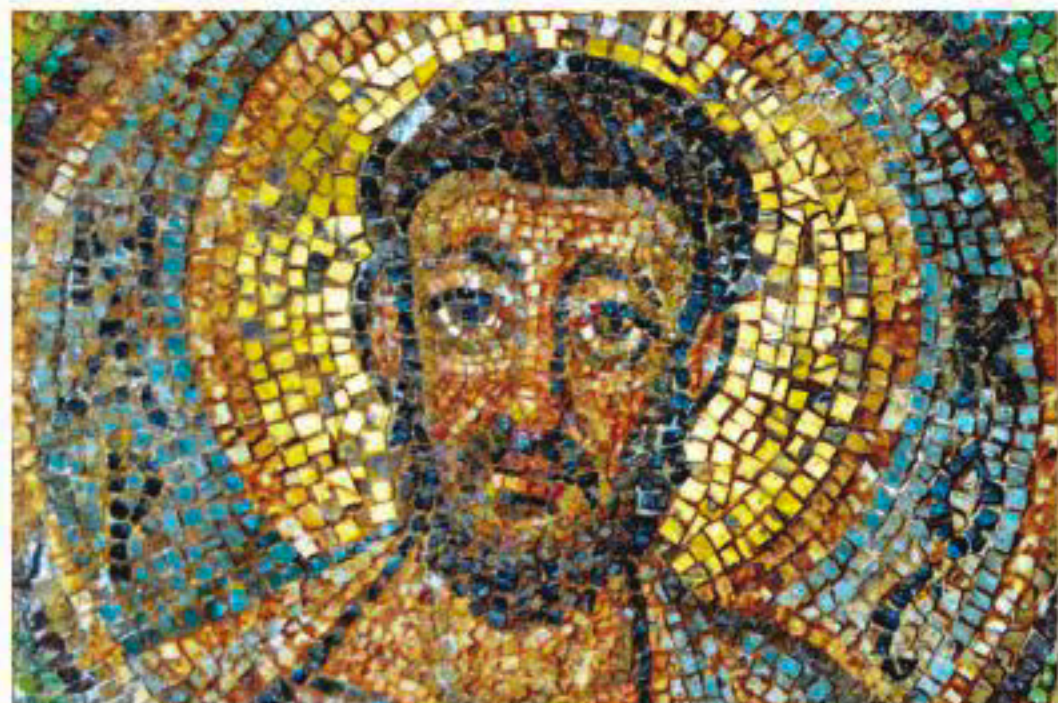
Some 120,000 Rohingyas have languished in displacement camps near Rakhine's capital, Sittwe, since riots in 2012.

Their movement, access to healthcare, work and education is severely restricted in conditions decried as amounting to apartheid by Amnesty International.

Rohingya refugees who fled a military crackdown to Bangladesh refuse to return to Rakhine without

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## St Mark mosaic returns to Cyprus



CNN ONLINE

A 1,600-year-old missing mosaic has finally returned to its home in Cyprus, more than four decades after it was looted from a church.

Dutch art historian and art crime investigator Arthur Brand spent the past three years tracking down the stolen artifact, a Byzantine-era depiction of Saint Mark, Brand said on his website.

The relic was handed over to the Cypriot Antiquities Department and the Church of Cyprus during a ceremony at the Hague in the Netherlands on Sunday, according to Cyprus News Agency.

The sixth-century mosaic was stolen from the church of Panaya Kanakaria in northern Cyprus following the Turkish invasion in 1974. It was one of several icons looted from the church during this

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## 'Robber' killed in 'shootout'

STAR REPORT

An alleged robber was killed while two others were arrested with bullet injuries in separate "gunfights" with law enforcers in Moheshkhali of Cox's Bazar and Ishwardi of Pabna early yesterday.

In Cox's Bazar's incident, the dead was identified as Abul Hasan Manik, 30.

Mehedi Hasan, company commander of Rab-7 in Cox's Bazar, said Rab conducted a raid in Sonadia mangrove forest around 4:00am after a tip-off about a gang of robbers planning a robbery on the Bay of Bengal.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 20

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00

JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## YEMEN CONFLICT Rebel leader calls for halt to military operations

AFP, Sanaa

Yemen's internationally-recognised government yesterday said it will take part in proposed peace talks, hours after a high-ranking Yemeni rebel official urged his leadership to freeze military operations.

The moves come ahead of a visit in the next few days to the war-torn country by UN envoy Martin Griffiths, who is once again trying to get all sides around the negotiating table.

"The government has informed the UN envoy to Yemen... that it will send a government delegation to the talks with the aim of reaching a political solution," Yemen's foreign ministry said, quoted by the official Saba news agency.

Earlier Mohammed Ali al-Huthi, head of the Huthi rebels' Higher Revolutionary Committee

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A bus drives against traffic on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in the capital's Shanir Akhra area yesterday. Despite several traffic awareness campaigns in the last couple of years, there has hardly been any changes in the city's traffic situation.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## RUNNING OF LANKAN PARLIAMENT Parties agree to form select committee

PTI, Colombo

Political parties in Sri Lanka yesterday decided to form a select committee to conduct parliamentary affairs amidst a power struggle set off by President Maithripala Sirisena's controversial decision to remove prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe last month.

The decision came a day after an all-party meeting called by President Sirisena to resolve the crisis ended inconclusively.

The crisis erupted when President Sirisena suddenly announced on October 26 that he had sacked prime minister Wickremesinghe and installed ex-strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa in his place.

Sirisena later dissolved Parliament, almost 20 months before its term was to end, and ordered snap election. The Supreme Court last Tuesday overturned President Sirisena's decision to dissolve Parliament and halted the preparations for snap polls on January 5.

The House till now has passed two no-confidence motions against Rajapaksa and his government by a voice vote.

The House was convened yesterday morning to conduct a third floor test. Ten minutes later, the House was adjourned till November 23.

When the House was convened, Deputy Speaker Ananda Kumarasiri said the party leaders who met in earlier in the day resolved that a select committee would be appointed to conduct the parliamentary business.

The leaders from Wickremesinghe's United National

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