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**SHAH CEMENT**

JAHA ALAM IN JAIL

# ACC washes its hands of the matter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday submitted a report to the High Court, claiming that the commission was not responsible for Jaha Alam being in jail for three years due to an identity mess-up.

On February 4, Alam was released from Kashimpur High Security Jail after the HC exonerated him from 26 corruption cases, in which he was in jail instead of the real accused, Abu Salek.

Yesterday, the ACC submitted a 130-page report through its lawyer to the HC, saying that the commission had placed charge sheets in 26 cases against Alam before the trial courts on the basis of the documents supplied by 18 banks, including Bangladesh Bank and Sonali Bank.

Citing the report, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the officials concerned of 18 banks had identified Jaha Alam as Abu Salek about "mismanagement of money".

The commission has not the authority to challenge the banks' documents over filing the cases, he said, adding that the bank officials concerned could give their explanations of identifying Alam.

After hearing from the bank officials, the HC can determine who are really responsible for filing the cases and Alam's suffering in jail, the lawyer said.

The trial courts may decide whether Alam can be compensated for his suffering in jail, he said.

The lawyer said the commission appealed to the HC to

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A team of Dhaka South City Corporation inspects a polythene bag factory in Bakshibazar during a drive against illegal chemical warehouses and factories in the old town yesterday. Inset, a mobile court of Rab inspects products at a chemical warehouse in Armanitola.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

OLD TOWN WAREHOUSES

## Rab seizes 3,700kg chemical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday seized 3,700 kilogrammes of flammable chemicals from four warehouses in Armanitola area of Old Dhaka and fined the owners Tk 10 lakh.

A Rab team, led by executive magistrate Sarwoer Alam, conducted the raid as a part of an ongoing drive against chemical warehouses in residential areas.

Besides, the Rab team also found 11,197 kilogrammes of chemicals but did not seize those on conditions that those would be relocated within a week, Sarwoer said.

"We will destroy the seized flammable chemicals shortly," he added.

Meanwhile, five different teams of a government taskforce snapped utility connections to 18 buildings that housed illegal warehouses and factories in the old town on the sixth day of the ongoing month-long drive.

On February 25, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon

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MARCH 6, 1971

## Songs of freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nation waited with bated breaths days before Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's soon-to-be historic rally to be held at Race Course ground.

On this day in 1971, the peaceful hartal -- as asked for by Bangladesh -- in Dhaka continued for the sixth day.

Employees of state- and privately-owned offices were asked to go to their offices to collect their salaries at a pre-scheduled time between 2:30pm and 4:00pm.

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# The challenges they take on

Four differently abled students in Ducusu race to fix the ills general students face

AASHIQ ABDULLAH APU

As campaigns and preparations for the upcoming Ducusu polls are in full swing on Dhaka University campus, differently abled students are not lagging far behind.

Some four physically challenged students are set to contest the polls slated for March 11. Being blind since his childhood, Amjad Hossen, a final-year student of Bangla department, can clearly understand the problems that have been gripping the country's supreme university and its students for years.

He is contesting for the post of a member from the joint panel of leftist students' organisations.

Born in a poor family, Amjad lost his eyesight at the age of two, but that could not hold him back from receiving higher education.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said he did not make the decision whimsically, but rather



Differently abled Joshiah Sangma campaigns on DU campus. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

after learning how measurable were the lives of students living in different dormitories.

"In 2016, when I got enrolled in DU, I thought I was blessed with an opportunity to work for the betterment of our country.

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## Doctors mull bypass op on Quader

UNB, DHAKA

Doctors at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore were considering to conduct a bypass surgery on ailing Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, a Bangladeshi physician said yesterday.

He, however, said it would take some time as Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, had slight kidney problems and developed infections.

A medical board constituted with Dr Koh Siam Soon Philip, a senior consultant cardiologist at the hospital, as its head examined the minister yesterday and held a briefing on the treatment.

Dr Abu Nasar Rizvi of the neuromedicine department of Bangladesh

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## Teeny tiny handbag stirs fashion world

AFP, Paris

It's so small wags joke that it can only hold a Tic Tac. But French brand Jacquemus' teeny weeny bag, "Le Mini Chiquito", is arguably the biggest thing at Paris fashion week.

Never has something so tiny excited so much fashion passion -- and hilarity -- on social media.

The handbag -- or should we say fingerbag -- made its debut last week on the opening night of the Paris shows.

A shrunken version of the miniature and already cult \$500 (440-euro) "Le Chiquito" bag -- which the likes of Rihanna and Kim Kardashian have been spotted clutching between their thumb and forefingers -- it is a mere 5.2 centimetres (two inches) long.

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## KHALEDA TREATMENT Govt assures of all steps necessary

Fakhrul says after meeting home boss

STAR REPORT

The government has assured the BNP of taking all necessary actions to ensure proper treatment of its chief Khaleda Zia.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir made the comment after a meeting with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan at his secretariat office yesterday, reports UNB.

"We have come to the home minister to talk about our Chairperson Khaleda Zia's illness and her proper treatment. The minister listened to us very attentively," the BNP leader said.

Fakhrul said the minister assured them of taking whatever steps were needed

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## Schoolgirl murdered after 'rape'

Housewife gang-raped

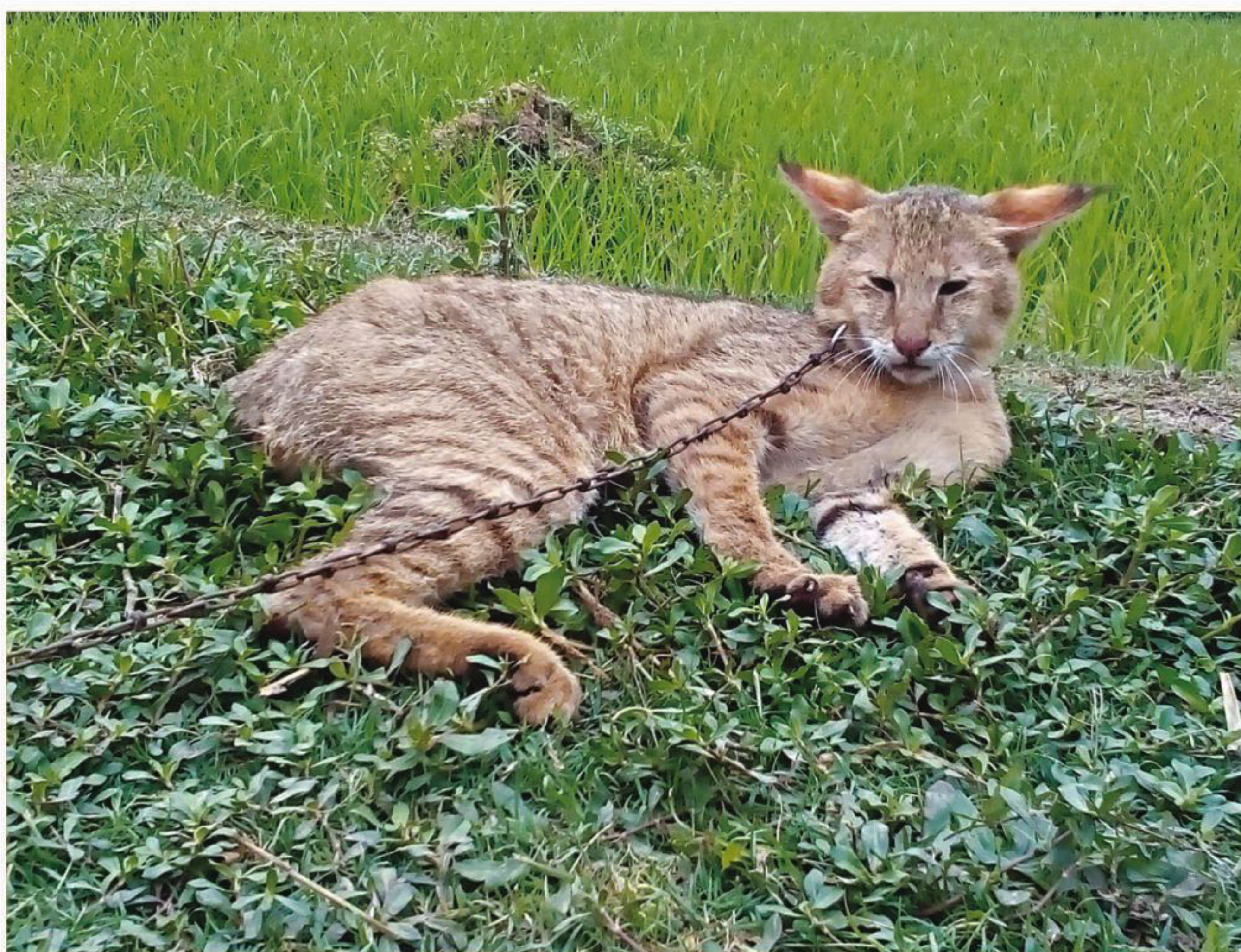
STAR REPORT

A schoolgirl was murdered, allegedly after being raped and a woman was gang-raped in two districts in different incidents on Monday.

In Jashore, police recovered the body of a second-grader of Karbala Government Primary School from Dharmatala area in Sadar upazila.

Talking to journalists, the victim's mother said her daughter went missing on Sunday afternoon after going out to play with her friends.

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This wildcat was caught by a local in Bogura's Shajahanpur upazila early yesterday. After rescuing the animal from Phuldighi village later in the day, forest department officials said they would release it in the Sherpur forest.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABU

# Pak halts Indian sub in its waters

Claims Islamabad as Delhi shoots down Pak drone near Rajasthan border; rivals resume barter trade in Kashmir despite tensions

AGENCIES

Pakistan has stopped an Indian submarine from entering its waters, the navy said yesterday, as tensions continue to run high between the nuclear-armed foes.

The development came a day after India's air force shot down a Pakistani military drone that strayed over its border near Rajasthan.

"The Pakistan navy stopped an Indian submarine from entering our territorial waters," a naval spokesman said in a statement.

He said, "the Indian submarine was not targeted in line with the government's policy of maintaining peace".

It was the first such incident since 2016, when Pakistan said it had "pushed" an Indian submarine away from Pakistani waters.

The spokesman did not give further details, including when or where the submarine was detected. It was also not clear if they meant the 12 nautical mile (22 kilometre) territorial waters limit or the broader 200 nautical mile (370 kilometre) exclusive economic zone.

The navy also released what it said was video of the submarine, with the grainy black and white footage showing only what appeared to be a periscope above water.

India said its navy remained "deployed as necessary". "Over the past several days we have witnessed Pakistan indulging in false propoganda," an Indian Navy spokesman tweeted yesterday.

An Indian government source also dismissed the video, telling AFP: "Why would a submarine in Pakistani waters have its periscope up?"

Meanwhile, Indian Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba yesterday warned that there are reports about terrorists being trained to carry out operations through the sea.

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**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 6**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

BAZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION