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**PM urges the rich**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the country's affluent people to come forward for the welfare of the distressed people following the example set by Ranada Prasad Shaha through his philanthropic activities.

"In our country, there are many wealthy people who can follow the examples set by the Kumudi

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**AVIJIT MURDER**

**Charge sheet against six**

**Names include sacked Maj Zia**

UNB, Dhaka

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday pressed charges against six people in the sensational murder case of blogger Avijit Roy.

The accused included sacked major Syed Mohammad Ziaul Haque, a suspected coordinator of banned militant outfit Ansar-Al-Islam.

Monirul Islam, inspector of CTTC and also investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet before the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Sorafuzzaman Ansari.

Besides, the investigation officer appealed for acquitting Sadek Ali alias Mithu and 14 others.

A total of 34 people will testify in the case before the court.

The court also fixed March 25 to hear whether it would take cognisance of the charges.

The five other accused are Mozammel Hossain alias

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**Students assigned with various election duties instruct a voter how to cast ballot properly during the Student Cabinet election at Pabna Zilla School yesterday. Inset, the voter puts a ballot into a ballot box. Around 1.14 crore students of high schools and madrasas across the country voted to elect an eight-member cabinet each for their respective institutions.**

PHOTO: STAR

**Probe against Shahidul stayed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for three months the investigation of the case filed against renowned photographer Shahidul Alam.

It also issued a rule asking the government to explain why the continuation of probing the case filed under section 57 of the ICT Act should not be declared illegal and contradictory to the Digital Security Act-2018 and the constitution.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Barkat-ul-Jalil came up with the order and rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Shahidul challenging the legality of filing of the case and its proceedings.

During yesterday's hearing, petitioner's lawyer AF Hasan Arif told the court that the case was filed against Shahidul under section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act illegally as the section had been abolished after formulation of the Digital Security Act.

He also prayed to the court to stay the case investigation.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam opposed the writ petition, saying that the probe could not be stayed as the case was a criminal one.

Even if the relevant law is repealed, the investigation into the criminal case will go on, he added.

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**Nazi code-breaking device unearthed**

MAIL ONLINE

An extremely rare model of the German Enigma machine which allowed users to print and correct their work and was found buried in a farmyard in central Europe is

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**Govt plans 3-tier VAT rate**

**Highest likely to be 10 percent**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to introduce three VAT rates of up to 10 percent instead of the current single rate of 15 percent.

The new rates of 5, 7 and 10 percent would come into effect from the next fiscal year, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said yesterday.

He was talking to reporters after a pre-budget meeting with the chiefs of the parliamentary standing committees on finance and planning ministries, public accounts and public institutions at the city's National Economic Council auditorium.

Kamal said the proposed VAT rates were waiting approval by the prime minister.

The Awami League government during its previous tenure had backed out on implementing a new VAT law due to opposition from businesses.

In June 2017, the government had shelved its plan for two years to implement the VAT and Supplementary Duty Act, 2012. It stipulated a flat 15 percent VAT for most of the goods and services available in the country.

The finance minister reiterated that the single VAT rate would not be in force from the next fiscal year.

The National Board of Revenue in the first phase would install 50,000 electronic fiscal devices (EFDs) for collecting the VAT money properly.

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**2 found dead, another killed in 'gunfight'**

STAR REPORT

Two alleged criminals were found dead in Chuadanga and Jhenidha yesterday, while a suspected drug trader was killed in a "gunfight" with members of Border Guard Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar.

Our Kushtia correspondent reported that police recovered the bullet-hit bodies of two victims, who stood accused in criminal cases, from Chuadanga's Alamdanga upazila and Jhenidha's Moleshpur upazila.

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**NATURE QUEST**

**New denizen in Bangladesh bird terrain**

DR REZA KHAN

A few Bangladeshi photographers captured shots of a new species of bird for the first time in the country. It is a Chestnut-breeked starling that breeds in parts of Japan and nearby Russia.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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**BREAKING SOCIAL BARRIERS**

**UN honours three Bangladeshi women**

UNB, Dhaka

The UN has honoured three Bangladeshi women who defied tradition, challenged gender stereotypes and social barriers put in front of them because they are women.

They became a successful community activist, an entrepreneur and an employee in a non-traditional sector, empowering many others on the way.

At an event hosted by the ILO, UN Women and UNFPA in the capital yesterday, Pushpa Khatun, 19, Parvin Akhter, 33, and Nasima Akhter, 37, received the recognition award from the country heads of the respective UN agencies.

The fearless journeys of Pushpa, Parveen and Nasima to transform their lives and that of others resonate with this year's

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Fazr Jama Asr Maghrib Esha

AAZAN 5-05 12-30 4-30 6-12 7-30

JAMAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**Bangladesh thru' to semis**

ANISUR RAHMAN from Biratnagar, Nepal

Bhutan showed signs of improvement but it was not enough to stop Bangladesh from notching a 2-0 victory in a SAFF Women's Championship encounter at the Sahid Rangasala in Biratnagar, Nepal yesterday.

With this win, the women in red and green not only continued their supremacy over Bhutan but also confirmed a spot in

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**MPH & EMPH**

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Application Deadline : 27 March 2019  
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**For more information contact us**

Department of public health  
Level 6, SAC-625, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1226  
Cell: 019 1352 4190, 018 1302 2942, 018 1182 6098  
Graduate Application Helpline: 018 1427 1717

**For more information contact us**

mostafizur rahman01@northsouth.edu  
mosabshera.jahan@northsouth.edu  
zamia.mariam@northsouth.edu

**f @nsupublichealth**