

“Trying to deliver no deal through a general election is not a solution. It is political suicide.”

UK FOREIGN SECRETARY JEREMY HUNT (PAGE 8)

“The government dishonoured the people and voters of my city by dishonouring me.”

SYLHET MAYOR ARIFUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY (PAGE 3)

“Frustrated with the low prices, farmers will grow less paddy next year. So, it is clear that rice will be costlier next year.”

FOOD CAMPAIGNER MOHSIN ALI (PAGE 16)

A well-planned, grisly murder

Investigators reveal how Feni madrasa principal and others plotted, executed the killing of Nusrat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen people, split into five groups, took part in the brutal killing of Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi after hatching the murder plot for three days, reveal police.

The mastermind, Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa principal Siraj Ud Doula gave instructions from jail while his accomplices, including two local Awami League leaders and several madrasa students, executed the plot on April 6.

Siraj plotted to murder Nusrat by setting her afire as she refused to withdraw a case filed against him over sexual assault on her on March 27.

Banaj Kumar Majumder, chief of the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), said all this before the media yesterday after finalising the charge sheet against the 16.

The PBI chief described the incident, quoting the confessional statements of 12 accused, accounts of 92 witnesses and findings of the investigation.

THE PLOT

Four days after Siraj's arrest on March 27, his associates Shahadat Hossain Shamim, Nuruddin and several others went to jail to meet him. Siraj instructed them to put pressure on Nusrat's family members and even threaten them, if necessary, to make her withdraw the case against him.

Siraj's men then formed a committee to free him with Nuruddin and Shahadat as its convener and joint convener. The committee's task was to do whatever necessary to free him.

One of Siraj's associates, Sonagazi

16 named in charge sheet

PBI to seek death penalty for all accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


Police Bureau of Investigation would be pressing charges against 16 suspects in the Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi murder case today and all of them could be facing the death penalty.

The 772-page charge sheet would be placed before a Feni court, said PBI chief Banaj Kumar Majumdar at a briefing yesterday. The PBI took a month and 18 days to probe and prepare the charge sheet.

The 16 would be charged with planning, executing, and aiding and abetting the murder.


Alim (HSC equivalent) examinee Nusrat was set on fire on the roof of the administrative building of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1




India batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni struck a quickfire 113 to help the side post an imposing 359 for seven against Bangladesh in their final World Cup warm-up match ahead of the tournament proper at the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff yesterday.


PHOTO: AFP



Vehicles move at a snail's pace on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Joydevpur Chowrasta area as the highway is partly blocked due to the construction of Bus Rapid Transit. Transport workers fear this will cause long tailbacks on the road during the journeys of Eid holidaymakers. The photos were taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ





ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP ENGLAND & WALES 2019

A loss to learn from

SAKEB SUBHAN from Cardiff

The record books will show that Bangladesh lost their only World Cup warm-up match by a hefty margin of 95 runs against India at the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff yesterday but apart from the meek surrender at the end, there was not much to be disheartened about for the Tigers as the game held lessons. Not least among those was a timely reminder of the quality of opposition they would have to face over the next month and a half.

The two teams seemed to have different

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Rivers contaminated with antibiotics

Say scientists after collecting samples from 72 countries including Bangladesh

➤ The widespread presence of antibiotics not only impacts wildlife, but likely contributes to the problem of antimicrobial resistance.

➤ The countries with the highest levels of antibiotic river pollution were Bangladesh, Kenya, Ghana, Pakistan and Nigeria.

AFP, Paris

Hundreds of sites in rivers around the world including in Bangladesh are polluted with antibiotics that exceed environmental safety thresholds by up to 300 times, according to research unveiled at a conference Monday.

Scientists found one or more common antibiotics in two-thirds of 711 samples taken from rivers in 72 countries, they told a meeting of environmental toxicologists in Helsinki.

In dozens of locations, concentrations of the drugs -- used to fight off bacterial infection in people and livestock -- exceeded safety levels set by the AMR Industry Alliance, a grouping of more than 100 biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

Ciprofloxacin, a frontline treatment for intestinal and urinary tract infections, surpassed the industry threshold at 51 of the sites tested.

At one location in Bangladesh, concentrations of another widely used antibiotic, metronidazole, were 300 times above the limit, the researchers said.

"The results are quite eye opening and worrying, demonstrating the widespread contamination of river systems around the world with antibiotic compounds," Alistair Boxall, a scientist at the York environmental Sustainability Institute, said in a statement.

The widespread presence of antibiotics not only impacts wildlife, but likely contributes to the problem of antimicrobial resistance.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Trouble in Tongi, beyond

Homegoers ahead of Eid may face less hassle on highways this year, except for Tongi-Joydevpur stretch

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With every Eid comes a concern: How to get home?

Almost every time, the holidaymakers go through nightmarish experience on highways, thanks to traffic jams caused by poor road conditions and traffic management.

The sufferings, however, are likely to ease a little this year as some new bridges and flyovers on Dhaka-Chattogram and Dhaka-Tangail highways have opened.

Still, chokepoints may trouble the home-goers who will start leaving Dhaka on May 30. It would be more difficult if it rains or the authorities fail to control traffic properly.

Eid-ul-Fitr is expected to be celebrated on June 5, and there will a longer Eid vacation of nine days if the government declares June 3, the only workday in the week, as holiday.

People of the northern and north-eastern regions may be the worst sufferers as the 13km stretch from Tongi Bridge to Joydevpur Chowrasta

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Japan was always close to my heart

Hasina writes in Japanese newspaper

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has shared her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's aspiration to transform Bangladesh into another Japan saying a new era with hope and harmony has begun in Japan.

"Japan was always close to my heart. This was transmitted to me from my father. I share his aspiration to transform my country into another Japan," reads an article written by the Prime Minister ahead of her bilateral talks with her Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe scheduled to be held in Tokyo today.

In the article published by The Japan Times, she wrote, "Let the new era bring us closer, connect us deeper and help us build a safe and prosperous world for our children."


From her childhood, the prime minister said,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4


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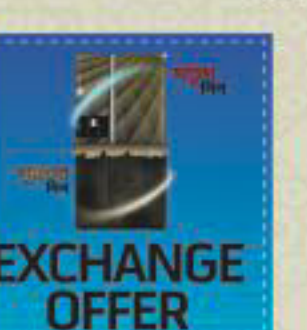
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