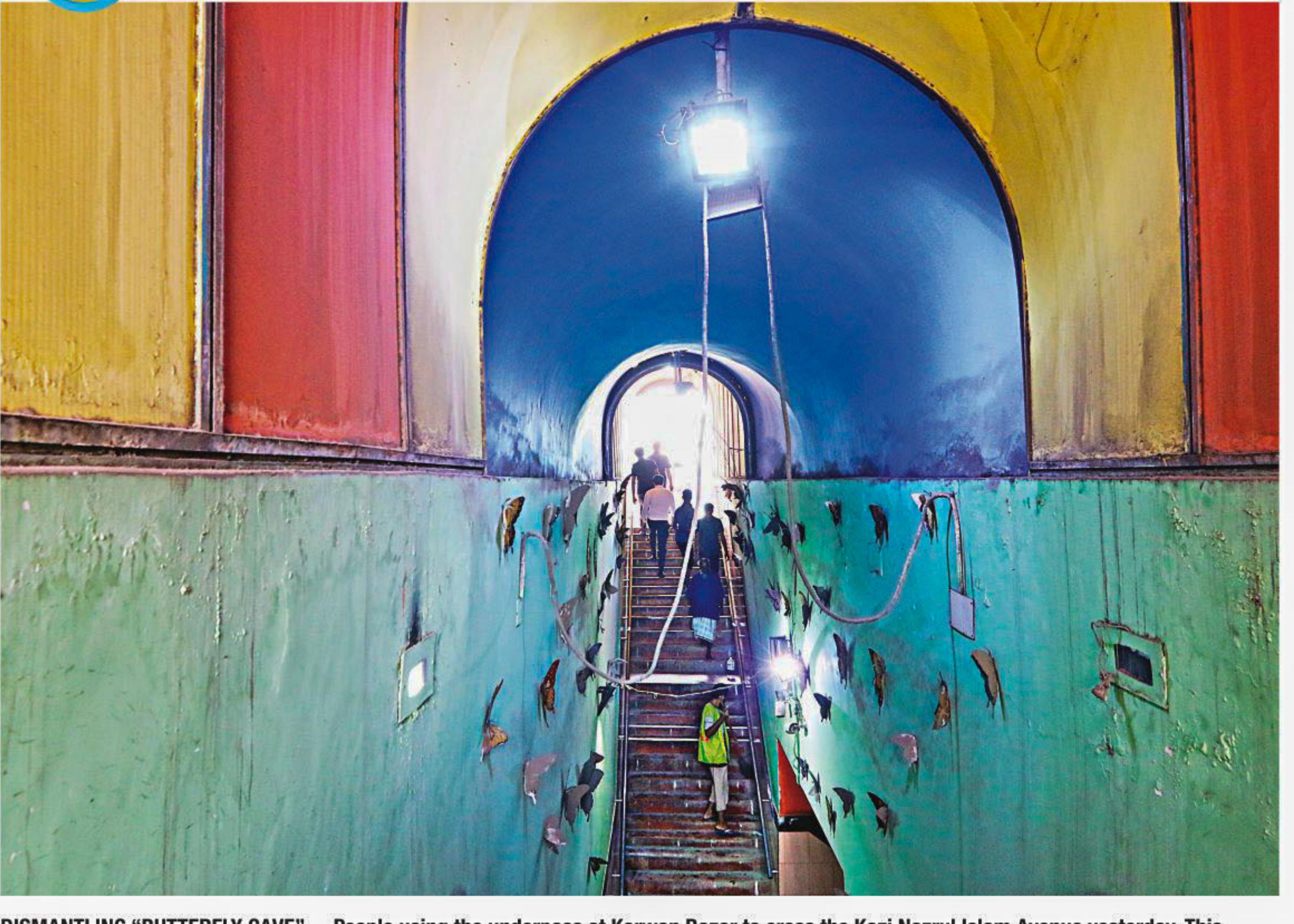




PHOTO OF THE DAY



PALASH KHAN

DISMANTLING "BUTTERFLY CAVE"... People using the underpass at Karwan Bazar to cross the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. This passageway, popularly known as "prajapati guha", will be knocked down next week, as part of the ongoing metro rail project. According to officials, a footbridge has been constructed near it to facilitate pedestrian movement.

WOMAN SHOT DEAD DURING MUGGING

Murder trial reopens after 28 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On July 25, 1989, Sagira Morshed Salam, 34, was going to Vigarunnisa Noon School on Bailey Road by a rickshaw to pick up her daughter Saharat.

Sagira, however, could not reach pick up her daughter as muggers shot her to death in front of the school.

Her husband Abdus Salam Chowdhury filed a murder case with Ramna Police Station the same day. But the trial proceedings of the case had been stayed for the last 28 years following a High Court (HC) order.

Yesterday, the HC lifted the stay order and cleared the way for the lower court to resume the proceedings.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur

Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman ordered Police Bureau of Investigation to complete further probe into the case in two months and directed the trial court to finish its proceedings in three months.

The bench also directed the HC's registrar to prepare a list of criminal cases that have been stayed by the court until 2010. It directed HC Registrar Md Golam Rabbani to submit the list to the chief justice within three weeks for taking necessary decision in this regard.

During delivery of the verdict, the HC bench expressed confusion regarding punishment of the muggers who allegedly killed Sagira Morshed as 28 years have passed after the HC's stay order.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur

"Allah knows what will be the result of the murder case after so many years. The rickshaw-puller is a very important witness of the case. There is doubt whether the rickshaw-puller can be traced," Justice Enayetur Rahim said.

The judge also commented that neither the state nor the judiciary could ensure justice for the victim's family.

The HC bench came up with the judgement after hearing a petition filed by one Maruf Reza, whose name was recorded in the statements of the prosecution witnesses -- challenging the trial court's directive in 1991 for conducting further investigation into the case.

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Submit probe report on 10 agencies by July 18

HC asks ministerial body over monopoly in labour recruitment in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought a probe report from the inter-ministerial committee concerned on the monopoly of 10 recruiting agencies engaged in labour recruitment from Bangladesh to Malaysia.

The committee, which was formed as per an HC order, has been asked to submit the report by July 18.

The court also rejected an application filed by Anti-Corruption Commission, seeking its directive on the government to remove its representative's name from the committee.

The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraful Kamal passed the order while hearing a writ petition.

Barrister Rashna Imam, a lawyer for the petitioners, told The Daily Star that the government formed the nine-member committee, including an ACC representative, on February 10 to

investigate irregularities and corruption of 10 recruitment agencies.

ACC recently filed an application with the HC, seeking its order on the government to exclude its representative from the committee. Following the HC order, ACC will be involved in the investigation, she said.

The HC on October 29 last year directed the government to form the committee and submit the report in six months.

The court came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by 10 recruitment agencies, which contested the arbitrary selection of the syndicate of 10 agencies that the petitioners claimed have deprived over a thousand competent government-approved agencies of their fundamental right to run a lawful trade guaranteed under article 40 of the constitution.

Barrister Akhtar Imam appeared for the petitioner while Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan argued for ACC.

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SUMMONING JOURNALS
ACC issues show-cause to director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday issued a show-cause notice to its director Sheikh Md Fanafillah, for using "different formats" in summoning two journalists to testify as witnesses in connection with bribe allegations against one of its directors Khandaker Enamul Basir and deputy inspection general (DIG) of police Mizanur Rahman.

A three-member committee, tasked to inquire into the allegations, summoned Imran Hossain Sumon, senior reporter of TV channel ATN News, and Dipu Sarwar, special correspondent of online

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Verdict in Ranada Prasad Shaha murder case today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 will deliver its verdict today in a case filed over wartime crimes committed in 1971, including abduction and murder of philanthropist Ranada Prasad Shaha and his son.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam set the date yesterday. The verdict has been pending since April 24.

Both the prosecution and defence counsel has completed their closing arguments.

The lone accused Mahbubur Rahman, 69, of Mirzapur in Tangail has been in jail since November 2016, and pleaded not guilty. He is facing three charges.

Earlier, Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta prayed for capital punishment of the accused, saying that all three charges have been proven against him beyond reasonable doubt.

However, defence counsel Gazi MH Tamim prayed for his acquittal saying that

'Criminal justice system constantly violating people's constitutional rights'

Says Dr Shahdeen Malik

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Constitutional expert Dr Shahdeen Malik yesterday said people are being placed on remand every day through magistrate courts, which is tantamount to violation of their fundamental rights cited in the constitution.

Remand of an accused is granted for gleaning information about him or her, he said at a discussion marking International Day in Support of Victims of Torture in the capital.

"On the other hand, article 35 of the constitution guarantees that 'no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself,' he added.

Mouluk Odhikar Shurokkha Committee, a platform for rights activists, arranged the discussion on "Responsibility in Stopping Torture" at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

"Constitutionally and from the perspective of fundamental rights, if police ask me something about an offense -- whether I did it... the constitution gives me the right to not say a thing," said Dr Malik.

"This may sound 'very theoretical or utopian' but such words are written in the constitution," he said. "[The country's] entire criminal justice system is operating in constant violation of fundamental rights cited in the constitution."

Later, talking to this newspaper over phone, the eminent jurist also said in most cases police interrogation in remand

often does not follow SC guidelines to stop torture in custody.

As per the SC guideline, interrogation during remand should be conducted in presence of relative or friend of the accused, so they can witness whether the accused is facing torture, he said.

In such case, transparent glass should be used to observe interrogation from outside. However, there are instances where people could not meet their dear ones taken by detectives for days, he further said.

Dr Malik said at one end countrymen are being deprived of their fundamental rights, while on the other, the government is busy claiming credit for making progress and development.

Speakers at the discussion demanded that the government take adequate measures to stop torture in custody, saying torture is prohibited in law and it cannot be justified under any circumstances.

They stressed the need for proper enforcement of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013 to end this.

People's rights after being taken to custody should be ensured, said rights activist Nur Khan Liton.

Incidents of torture can be avoided by following the SC guidelines properly, said Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University's Law department.

Incidents of custodial torture are frequent. However, instances of any

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Establishing secularism still a challenge

Speakers say on Jahanara Imam's death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secularism is a part of Bengali culture and increasing such cultural activities can ward off communalism from the society, said cultural activist Ramendu Majumder at a programme yesterday.

The programme titled "The tradition of secularism and humanity in Bengali culture" was organised by Ekatorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee at the National Museum in Shahbagh, marking the 25th death anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam.

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Law enforcers will take action against defiant drug traders

Home minister tells anti-narcotics rally



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If drug dealers do not leave the illicit trade on their own, only God knows what will happen to their fate, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan warned yesterday.

"In some places, drug traders have already surrendered due to pressure from law enforcement agencies. Those who are still defiant, law enforcers will take action against them," the home minister said while attending a programme on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Bangladesh Krishibid Institution (BKI) in Farmgate.

The minister's remark came at a time when at least 390 people were killed in so-called gunfights during anti-narcotics drives by the government since May last year, raising concerns among human rights defenders.

As a result, rail accidents are recurring and people are dying, he said. In the petition, he annexed the media reports on the accident that took place in Moulvibazar recently.

As a part of the programme, more than a hundred drug traders have surrendered recently -- regretting their past activities -- in Cox's Bazar, the gateway of smuggling yaba from Myanmar.

However, the drug trade continues.

"The government has promised to eradicate drugs from the country, and for that we are working on blocking the demand and supply and rehabilitation of drug abusers at the same time," he said.

Asaduzzaman said they have strengthened vigilance of Border Guard Bangladesh and Coast Guard in the border areas to stop the supply of drugs.

He said the much talked about drug yaba is coming from Myanmar while cannabis, Phensedyl, heroine and injectable drugs are coming from India.

The home minister emphasised

on initiating a social movement against drugs. He said the Department of Narcotics Control has organised 7,898 meetings at various educational institutions in the last one year and anti-drugs committees have also been created in more than 28,000 educational institutions.

Regarding the rehabilitation of drug abusers, he said the government has increased the number of seats at state-run drug rehabilitation centres.

Director General of Department of Narcotics Control Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Parliamentary Permanent Committee President Shamsul Haque Tuku, Home Ministry's Security and Service Department Secretary Md Shahiduzzaman, and Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury, among others, spoke at the programme.

DHAKA TODAY

OPEN MIKE

Venue: Jatra Biroi
Time: 3:30pm

EXPOSITION

5th Bangladesh Leather & Footwear Expo-2019
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara
Time: 10am-7pm

MUSIC

Asharer Cha Chokro
Venue: Manas, Block E, Banani
Time: 6pm

ART EXHIBITION

Implicit
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
Time: 4:30pm-8pm

PRINT EXHIBITION

5th Print Tech Bangladesh-2019
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara
Time: 10am-7pm

SESSION

Sriti Shotta Bhobishot --
Bangladesher Kobi, Shahittik
Shilpider Shoror
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 6pm

Petition seeks HC directive to identify risky rail lines, bridges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking its directive on the government to conduct a survey to identify risky and damaged rail lines and rail bridges across the country.

The petition was submitted by Advocate Amit Das Gupta. He prayed to the HC to order the government to take necessary steps based on the report. He also challenged the inaction of the government in this regard.

Citing from the petition, Advocate Gupta said as per Railway Act 1890, the railway is responsible for preserving, reforming and repairing rail lines, rail bridges and other railway structures, but the authorities have not taken adequate steps in this regard.

As a result, rail accidents are recurring and people are dying, he said. In the petition, he annexed the media reports on the accident that took place in Moulvibazar recently.

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