



# The Daily Star

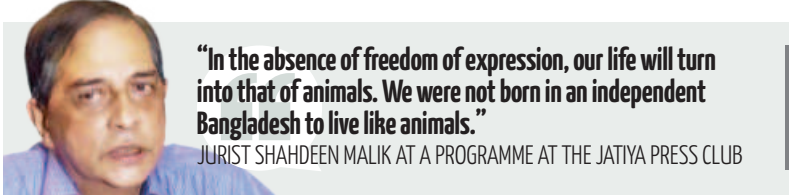
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Your Right to Know

SECOND EDITION



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**"In the absence of freedom of expression, our life will turn into that of animals. We were not born in an independent Bangladesh to live like animals."**

JURIST SHAHDEEN MALIK AT A PROGRAMME AT THE JATIYA PRESS CLUB



**"We have been playing together for a while. I think they [Mashrafe and Shakib] are great leaders. Shakib has some amazing qualities and Mash has been a great motivator."**

T20 CAPTAIN MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD AT DELHI ABOUT HIS PREDECESSORS' LEADERSHIP QUALITIES (PAGE 14)



**"Without journalists able to do their jobs in safety, we face the prospect of a world of confusion and disinformation."**

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES ON SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS (PAGE 8)

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

# This city doesn't care about them

SOHEL PARVEZ

Except on the weekends and public holidays, Mir Arshedul Karim leaves his rented home in Mirpur for Dhaka University every morning, guided by his trusted white cane.

He is an assistant librarian at the DU and a person with a visual impairment.

His journey on the 10km route begins with a rickshaw ride. But the real challenge starts once he joins others waiting for buses at the bus stop.

"Buses show little interest in picking me up. Sometimes I have to throw myself into the crowd of passengers to get hold of handles of the bus doors," said Arshedul.

Once on the bus, he is faced with a new hurdle: finding a seat in the speeding vehicle driven with hardly any care.

The law provides for designated seats in public transport for physically challenged persons but those are only in name in most cases.

"Often I find non-disabled people sitting in the seats designated for us and I am asked to find another seat," he said.

Another big trouble is getting off the bus. Drivers stop vehicles in the middle of busy roads, showing complete disregard for passengers' lives.

"One day I was about to meet an accident just after the bus dropped me in the middle of the road. A CNG-run three-wheeler ran over my feet," said 43-year-old Arshedul, one of the 16 lakh people who have disabilities of different kinds in the country.

From homes to footpaths, public transports to educational institutions, shopping malls to office buildings, almost everywhere the mobility of Arshedul and other people with disabilities is obstructed.

Roads and footpaths are built and rebuilt. New buses are added to the fleet of private and state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation quite frequently. New wagons are joining the railways. Eye-catching public and private buildings are emerging, changing the skylines of cities.

Yet, for Arshedul and his peers, there is nothing to rejoice. Very few infrastructures could be found in Dhaka and other cities that have been developed taking into account the issue of accessibility

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**Guided by his white cane, Mir Arshedul Karim tries to find his way onto a bus at the capital's Shahbagh intersection on Thursday. With no ramp, he struggles, inset, to get off the pavement. Very few infrastructures in Dhaka and other cities were developed taking into account the accessibility for people with disabilities.**

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## Working for strong rural economy Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Putting emphasis on improving the lifestyle of villagers, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government was working to make the country's rural economy stronger.

"We want to make the rural economy stronger so that people can earn enough in their own village and make the rural economy more vibrant. We are taking steps keeping that in mind," she said.

The PM was addressing a function, marking the 48th National Cooperatives Day and distribution of the National Cooperatives Award at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Hasina said people in rural areas would enjoy facilities similar to those provided in urban areas. The government wants to

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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING Brazil arrests Bangladeshi 'kingpin'

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Brazilian federal police said they have arrested Saifullah Al-Mamun, born in Bangladesh and considered by authorities one of the world's most prolific human traffickers.

In an operation conducted on Thursday after collaboration with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Brazilian police arrested members of a group allegedly implicated in a large scheme of smuggling people into the United States.

Several arrests were made in Sao Paulo, where Al-Mamun was living, and in three other Brazilian cities. The police also froze 42 bank accounts it says were used by the group to finance their activities.

Al-Mamun entered Brazil six years ago as a refugee, and was living in Bras, a diverse neighborhood in Sao Paulo that is home to immigrants

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# Recalling our four national heroes

*On this day 44 years ago, they were shot dead after brutal bayonet charge inside jail*



**Syed Nazrul Islam** was the acting president of the Mujibnagar Government and a cabinet member of the AL government after independence. He played a pivotal role in the historic Six-point Movement and the 1969 Mass Uprising.



**Tajuddin Ahmad** was the prime minister of the Mujibnagar Government and a member of the cabinet after independence. One of the founders of Chhatra League and Awami Muslim League, he was a leading figure in all nationalist movements, including the 1952 Language Movement.



**Captain M Mansur Ali** was the prime minister of the first government under presidential form in Bangladesh. He was the secretary general of BAKSAL and also a key member of the Mujibnagar Government. His role in Six-point Movement was remarkable.



**AHM Quamruzzaman** was a key member of the Mujibnagar Government. He resigned from the cabinet in 1974 and became the president of the AL. He was the general secretary of the party in 1970.

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Wearing Khaki uniforms and carrying Sten guns and SLRs (self-loading rifles), five army personnel arrived at the erstwhile Dhaka central jail around 4:00am on November 3, 1975.

The five, including one who introduced himself as Captain

Muslemuddin attached to the Bangabhaban, entered the jail and brutally killed four persons, says the FIR filed over the killing of the four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Quamruzzaman and M Mansur Ali.

The leaders had been put behind bars soon after the August 15, 1975,

bloodbath that claimed the lives of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members.

The four, who led the Liberation War in 1971 after Bangabandhu's detention by the Pakistan army, were shot dead following repeated bayonet charges in the jail.

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# Speak up for right to speak

*Rights activists urge people*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom of speech is a fundamental human right and its absence turns a human life into an animal's life, rights activists said yesterday.

At a discussion on "Freedom of Speech Under Threat", the speakers, who included lawyers and university teachers, urged everyone to raise their voice in favour of freedom of speech as it underpins the other rights and allows them to flourish.

The right to speak freely plays a vital role in the healthy development of a society, they said at the discussion, organised by Moulik Adhikar Suraksha, a platform for rights activists, in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

"Raise your voice to ensure freedom of speech. If you do not have the right to speak, you will not have any other rights," eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik said while presiding over the discussion.

"In the absence of freedom of expression, our life will turn into that of animals. We were not born in an independent Bangladesh to live like animals."

He pointed out that one of the vital reasons behind the Soviet Union's fall was the absence of freedom of speech.

Malik also said that in Bangladesh hurting or maligning someone's image was still a criminal offence, whereas in most countries it has been a civil offence since the 1900s.

Professor CR Abrar, former Dhaka University international relations, said freedom of expression was the mother of all rights.

"Without ensuring it, we cannot express ourselves

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UN CHIEF WARNS OF A WORLD OF CONFUSION, DISINFORMATION -- PAGE 8



## Tigers set to battle smog and India in first T20I


ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Bangladesh will have to battle both India and the suffocating New Delhi smog when they take on the hosts in the first game of the three-match T20I series at the Arun Jaitley Stadium today. The match is scheduled to begin at 7:00pm local time (7:30pm BST).

The AQI (Air Quality Index) reached severe levels in Delhi late on Thursday night, leading to the Delhi government ordering schools to be closed till November 5. The Tigers, however, did not have the luxury of taking a break as they underwent their usual training sessions yesterday.

The smog will not be the only cloud in the

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## শোক সংবাদ

গভীর শোক ও দুঃখের সাথে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, প্যাসিফিক ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস্‌ লিঃ-এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক কেশবেন্দ্র রায় চৌধুরী গত ২৭ শে অক্টোবর ২০১৯ ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১.৫০ ঘটিকায় (বাংলাদেশ সময়) কানাডার একটি হাসপাতালে শেষ নিশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেন (ওঁ দিব্যান্‌ লোকান্‌ স গচ্ছত্‌)। তার বয়স হয়েছিল ৬৮ বছর। মৃত্যুকালে তিনি স্ত্রী, এক কন্যা ও এক পুত্র রেখে গেছেন। আগামী ০৪/১১/২০১৯ ইং তারিখ সোমবার তাঁর শবদেহ ঢাকায় পৌঁছেবে। তাঁর সকল আত্মীয়-স্বজন, বন্ধু-বান্ধব, শুভানুধ্যায়ী, প্যাসিফিক ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালস্‌ লিঃ-এর সকল কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীবৃন্দ এবং সর্বাধারণের শেষ শ্রদ্ধা নিবেদনের জন্য তাঁর শবদেহ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে বেলা ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ইত্তেফাক মোড় সংলগ্ন গোপীবাগস্থ ঢাকা রামকৃষ্ণ মঠ ও মিশন প্রাঙ্গনে রাখা হবে। অগ্রহী সকলকে উক্ত নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে উপস্থিত থেকে শেষ শ্রদ্ধা নিবেদন করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে।

বিনীত নিবেদনে -  
শোকাহত পরিবারের সদস্যবৃন্দ

## AL leader shot dead in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A group of unidentified criminals shot a local Awami League leader dead in Sirajganj yesterday.

The victim -- Bokul Hossain, joint secretary of Baghati union unit AL -- was returning home around 8:30pm on a motorbike when he was shot, said police.

Rafikul Islam, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, said the reason behind the murder could not be known immediately but the law enforcers were suspecting that Bokul was killed over previous enmity.



## কন্টিনেন্টাল ইন্স্যুরেন্স লিমিটেড কর্তৃক অগ্নি বীমা দাবীর ১৩.২৩ কোটি টাকার চেক হস্তান্তর

গত ২৪.১০.২০১৯ইং তারিখে কন্টিনেন্টাল ইন্স্যুরেন্স লিমিটেড কর্তৃক বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষের কার্যালয়ে আয়োজিত এক অনুষ্ঠানে মেসার্স হুট ট্রেডার্স ইন্স সিস্‌ লিঃ এর অগ্নি বীমা দাবীর ১৩.২৩ কোটি টাকার চেক কন্টিনেন্টাল ইন্স্যুরেন্স লিমিটেড এর মুখ্য নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা জনাব মুহাম্মদ নজিবুল ইসলাম মেসার্স হুট ট্রেডার্স ইন্স সিস্‌ লিঃ এর নির্বাহী পরিচালকের কাছে হস্তান্তর করেন। উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষের চেয়ারম্যান, সদস্যবৃন্দ ও অন্যান্য কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ এবং কন্টিনেন্টাল ইন্স্যুরেন্স লিমিটেড এর চেয়ারম্যান ও কোম্পানির উচ্চতম কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ উপস্থিত ছিলেন।