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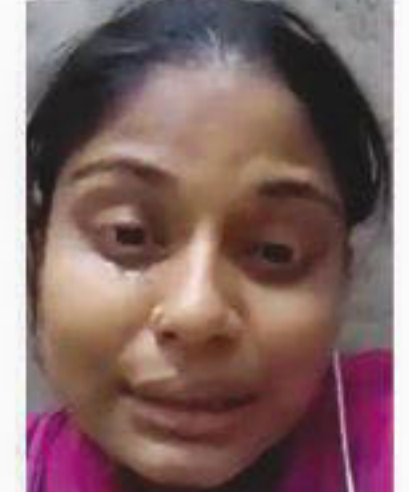
AWARDED Superbrands BANGLADESH'S CHOICE 2018

Tortured, then sold by Saudi employer

Sumi finally returns home

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT and JAMIL MAHMUD

Little did Sumi Akter know the extent of misery awaiting her when she left for Saudi Arabia to work as a domestic help. She was tortured, kept confined for days, and sold by her employer.



Her eyes welled up with tears when she was narrating to reporters her experience in the Middle Eastern country.

"I used to be beaten brutally for trivial reasons. At one point, I fell sick. Then my employer sold me to another person," she said yesterday.

Sumi, 25, returned home around four months after she had left for Saudi Arabia. Recently, a video footage, where she is seen pleading with the government to bring her back, has gone viral.

She landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 7:15am yesterday in a Saudia flight, and went to her parent's home in Panchagarh's Boda upazila under the arrangement of the Wage Earners Welfare Board.

There, she shared her story with the reporters at the UNO office around 5:00pm.

Being a girl of an impoverished family, Sumi could study up to class VIII. She worked at a readymade garment factory in Gazipur for two years.

After six months, she got married to Nurul Haque, and later decided to go abroad hoping to bring solvency to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Kajol Dewan delights the audience with his captivating performance on the second day of the Dhaka International Folk Festival 2019 at the Army Stadium last night.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Of mysticism and melody

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The essence of Bangladeshi Baul songs met Pakistani Sufi songs and intimate Malian melody yesterday on the second day of the Dhaka International Folk Fest (DIFF) 2019, held at Army Stadium.

Bangladesh has a rich tradition of folk songs, with lyrics rooted in the vibrant Baul tradition of spirituality, mysticism and devotion. They also revolve around several other themes, like love and melancholy. Promising Bangladeshi singers Shafikul and Rabbi (from Bauliana) set off the second day's proceedings with rendering Baul songs, including *Mon Mojaila Orey Baula Gaan, Bondhu Tumi, Bhaaber-i Ghar-e, Ami To Bhala Na and Ekta Paan Chailam Paan Dile Na*.

Prominent Baul Singer Kajol Dewan with his troupe started off with a breath-taking Murshidi song *Amar Mon Pagla*. The simple lyrics of a Matal Razzak composition depicts our transient presence in the world and it was a great treat to the music enthusiasts. The singer uttered frequent *pukaar* during his soulful performance of the song. With *Khamak* at hands, he thoroughly enthralled the crowd with his unique rendition of the songs like *Tui Jibon Chharia Gele*.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Epitome of honesty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A rickshaw puller in Bogura set an example of honesty by returning Tk 18.5 lakh to one of the passengers who rode his vehicle yesterday.



Lal Mia, 55, who pulls a rented rickshaw in the district's Sadar upazila, found a bag full of cash around 7:00am yesterday. Rajib Prasad, 35, owner of a fertilizer business in the district's Nandigram upazila, left the bag on the rickshaw, said police.

Rajib said he was going to Rajshahi to meet his vendors and buy fertilizer materials. On his way, he left one of the three bags that he was carrying on the rickshaw. The bag had all the money that he was carrying.

Rajib rode the rickshaw from Jaleswaritola area to Satmatha area of the town and then headed towards Rajshahi on a bus. Suddenly, he noticed that one of his bags was missing and he went back to Bogura Sadar Police Station to inform the law enforcers about the incident.

Meanwhile, Lal Mia noticed the bag full of money on his rickshaw and looked for the owner. Failed to find Rajib where he got off the rickshaw, he took the money to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Trump sought to 'bribe' Ukraine

Says US House Speaker; ousted US envoy testifies as impeachment probe intensifies

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump bribed Ukraine by withholding aid until Kiev committed to investigating his political rival, the top congressional Democrat said Thursday after the first impeachment hearings yielded "devastating testimony" against Trump.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said testimony provided Wednesday by two witnesses, including a US envoy to Ukraine appointed by Trump himself, was damning because it "corroborated evidence of bribery" by Trump in his actions regarding Ukraine.

The comments signal that Democrats believe the evidence that emerged from the first public hearing of Trump's impeachment inquiry was strong enough to back their argument that Trump abused the power of his office to advance his political interests.

The evidence, Pelosi told reporters, makes the wrongdoing by former president Richard Nixon, who resigned in disgrace in 1974 when it became clear he would be impeached, "look almost small" by comparison.

"The devastating testimony corroborated evidence of bribery uncovered in the inquiry," she said.

"And the president abused power and violated his oath by threatening to withhold military aid and a White House meeting in exchange for an investigation into his political rival -- a clear attempt by the president to give himself the advantage in the 2020 election."

Pelosi's wording appears to be an intensification of the language that Democrats are using to describe Trump's alleged wrongdoing, moving on from the "quid pro quo" that they used in recent weeks.



SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

B'BARIA ACCIDENT Turna driver, two others at fault

Says railway probe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A railway probe committee has held the driver, his assistant and the guard of Turna Nishita Express responsible for Tuesday's fatal accident in Brahmanbaria, that left 16 passengers dead and scores injured.

The five-member committee, led by Nasir Uddin, divisional transport officer (Chattogram), submitted its report yesterday.

"We have filed our report with the divisional railway manager [Chattogram] and he will forward it to the top railways authority," Nasir Uddin told The Daily Star over phone.

He, however, refused to disclose any findings of the probe.

This is the first among the five investigation

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Bachelor degree at the age of 9!



CNN ONLINE

A child prodigy from Belgium is on course to gain a bachelor's degree at the tender age of 9.

Laurent Simons is studying electrical engineering at the Eindhoven University of Technology (TUE) -- a tough course even for students of an average graduate age.

Described by staff as "simply extraordinary," Laurent is on course to finish his degree in December.

He then plans to embark on a PhD program in electrical engineering while also studying for a medicine degree, his father told CNN.

His parents, Lydia and Alexander Simons, said they thought Laurent's grandparents were exaggerating when they said he had a gift, but his

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

NOTICE

Today's issue of **Showbiz** could not be published due to unavoidable reasons. We apologise to our readers.

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

2 killed in 'gunfights'

Rohingya 'drug dealer' among the dead

STAR REPORT

A suspected Rohingya drug peddler and an alleged leader of a robber gang were killed in "gunfights" with BGB and police in Cox's Bazar and Narsingdi early yesterday.

In Hnila union of Cox's Bazar, Noor Kabir, 32, of Leda Rohingya camp in Teknaf, was shot dead in a "gunfight" between "drug dealers" and a patrolling team of Border Guard Bangladesh around 1:00am, officials said.

While patrolling in Chhurikhal area, a BGB team approached four people who were digging out a plastic bag from the ground, said Lt Col Faisal Hasan Khan, commander of BGB Battalion-2.

The men started shooting at the team, forcing the BGB personnel to retaliate, said Faisal, adding that the men fled the scene after about 10 minutes.

Later, the team found bullet ridden body of Noor

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A pro-democracy protester stands amongst bricks placed on a barricaded street outside the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

HONG KONG PROTESTS Thousands defy Xi with rallies

London police launch assault probe after HK minister hurt

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters defied a warning by China's President Xi Jinping and again took to the city's streets yesterday, as the political turmoil seeped out to London where a minister from the Southern Chinese city was confronted by masked demonstrators.

Hong Kong has seen relentless protests since June as many in the city of 7.5 million people have vented fury at eroding freedoms under Chinese rule.

Violence has escalated, and tensions have spilled out overseas, sparking friction between China and Britain, which governed Hong Kong until 1997.

On Thursday Hong Kong Justice Secretary Teresa Cheng fell in London after being surrounded by pro-democracy protesters, in the most physical confrontation involving a member of cabinet since the unrest began.

Cheng walked away without any visible signs of injury. But China called it an "appalling attack" and accused Britain of fuelling the protest movement.

The Metropolitan Police said in a statement a probe was "ongoing to establish the full circumstances" of the incident, adding no arrests had been so made far.

Former colonial power Britain has urged Beijing and Hong Kong to seek a political solution to the city's crisis and has condemned the escalating violence on both sides.

In a briefing in Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said if the UK "continues to add fuel to the fire... then it will bring calamity on itself."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2