



# The Daily Star



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Your Right to Know

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**"Justice delayed is justice denied. At the same time, justice hurried is justice buried. Both are true. The judiciary has to function in line with these two notions."**  
LAW MINISTER ANISUL HUQ AT A CITY PROGRAMME



**"The backs of hill people are up against the wall .... They will now try to fight back. And for that they will do everything necessary."**  
PCJSS PRESIDENT SHANTU LARMA AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CITY (PAGE 16)



**"We must stop our war against nature, and science tells us we can do it."**  
UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES AHEAD OF UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN MADRID (PAGE 8)

DIA, RAJIB KILLING BY BUS

## Owner gets off scot-free

Two drivers, helper get life term

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER, TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

The drivers of two Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan buses involved in the killing of two college students in 2018 were well aware of the high risk of driving down the ramp of a flyover.

Yet, they were racing on the Zillur Rahman flyover in the capital's Shewra area and did not slow down on the exit ramp before the accident.

Passengers and the helper of one of the buses even requested one of the drivers, Masum Billah, to drive carefully but he paid no heed to anyone. He drove on recklessly just to have more passengers to make more money.

This is how a Dhaka court described the fateful event took place on July 29 last year before handing down life sentence to Masum.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court also awarded life imprisonment to the other driver, Zobair Hossain Sumon, and his

helper Kazi Asad, for instigating Masum to commit the crime.

The court, however, acquitted Masum's helper Enayet Hossain and owner of the bus Jahangir Alam as it did not find their "direct involvement" in the accident, which sparked a huge student agitation in the capital for road safety.

The court did not give any decision about Shahadat Hossain, another accused of the case and owner of Zobair's bus, as the High Court stayed the trial proceedings against him. He was currently on bail.

Of the accused, Asad is on the run while the other four are behind bars.

Two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College -- Abdul Karim Rajib and Dia Khanam Mim -- were run over and killed while nine others were injured because of the mad race between the two buses.

Thousands of students took to the street seeking justice for the killing and pressing for nine demands that included capital punishment for reckless driving that result

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Farida Yasmin, former UNO of Netrakona's Barhatta upazila, receives Faraaz Hossain Courage Award-2019 at a function in the capital's Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

INDUSTRIAL LOANS

## Central bank may cap the interest rates

Finance minister sets Jan 1 deadline for bringing them down to single digit

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The central bank may cap the interest rates on industrial and working capital loans on January 1 as the government moved to bring down the lending rates to single digits to give a much-needed boost to job creation and private investment.

Following an instruction from the finance ministry, the central bank yesterday formed a seven-member committee headed by SM Moniruzzaman, a deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank, to bring down the interest rate to single digits.

The committee comprised representatives from private and state-owned banks representatives and will submit its recommendations to within a

week.

The BB committee would recommend ways to bring down the lending rates, the deposit rates and the defaulted loans.

"Following the recommendations, we will implement the decisions," Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters yesterday.

Other members of the committee are Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, chairman of Standard Bank, Zaid Bakht, chairman of Agrani Bank, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, Md Obayed Ullah Al Masud, MD of Rupali Bank, Shah A Sarwar, MD of IFIC Bank, and Mehmood Husain, MD of NRB Bank.

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## Relentless against child marriage

Former UNO honoured with Faraaz Hossain Courage Award for her efforts to stop the social menace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a rainy day sometime in July 2018. In the evening, someone called Farida Yesmin, upazila nirbahi officer of Barhatta upazila in Netrokona, and complained that a child marriage was about to take place in Kawrashi, a remote village near the Bangladesh-India border.

Farida immediately called the police and departed for the village in the dark of the night amid rain.

The road was so bad that at one point, the UNO and her team had to leave their transports and walk the rest of the way.

"We walked some two kilometres to reach the home of the bride amid rain with thunderstorm," she said.

"As we reached the spot, a village leader tried to intercept us. And despite all these hurdles, we were able to stop the marriage," Farida said while sharing how she and her administration stopped 58 child marriages since she joined as the UNO of Barhatta on May 9, 2017.

She provided financial help to a number of poor girls in the upazila so that they can continue their education.

Farida created a fund and bought cycles for some 70 girls in the upazila. These girls take part in various

campaigns against child marriage by riding cycles in Barhatta upazila, which was declared an upazila free of child marriage early this year.

The UNO worked in collaboration with the local NGOs and schools to create awareness against the social menace.

She has also instructed the UP chairmen not to falsify the age of the girls in their birth certificates.

In recognition of her contribution, Farida Yesmin was given the Faraaz Hossain Courage Award-2019 at a programme in the city's Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel last evening.

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A filling station in Bagerhat Sadar looks deserted yesterday amid an indefinite strike called by Bangladesh Petrol Pump O Tank Lorry Malik Shramik Oikya Parishad. Inset, tank lorries parked at a place in Bagerhat town. The platform started enforcing the strike in three divisions yesterday morning to press home its 15-point demand. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

## 919 diagnosed with HIV this year

Health ministry survey finds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 919 people affected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) have been detected in Bangladesh this year, which is the highest in the last 20 years, said a government survey.

The survey, conducted by the National AIDS/STD Programme of the Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare, said 170 of the affected people had already succumbed to the virus.

The findings were revealed yesterday at a seminar organised by the health ministry at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in Dhaka, to mark the World AIDS Day 2019.

Md Shamiul Islam, director of the

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Colourful opening raises 13th SA Games curtains

ATIQUE ANAM from Kathmandu

A colourful opening ceremony launched the 13th South Asian Games, the biggest multi-sport extravaganza of the region, at the Dasarath Rangasala in Kathmandu yesterday, with words of peace and unity in diversity of the South Asian region writ large on the displays and performances.

Clitz and glamour set aside for a refreshing change, the more-than-three-hour-long ceremony had a feel of authenticity about it, projecting in abundance the rich cultural heritage of the Himalayan Kingdom and the South Asian region as a whole.

Gautam Buddha and Lord Shiva were featured prominently in the opening ceremony of the Games, which is based on the principles of 'Peace, prosperity, unity and development'.

Starting with the marchpast of athletes and officials and ending with a prolonged lighting of firecrackers, the programme

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### Annual General Meeting & Vestiture

**Enamul Haque Khan**  
President

**Dilip Kumar Agarwala**  
General Secretary

Annual General Meeting & Vestiture of newly Executive Committee of Bangladesh Jewellers Samity (BAJUS) will be held on **02 November/2019** at **Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka** at **05 PM**. All the members of BAJUS are requested to attend the ceremony.

**Bangladesh Jewellers Samity**  
Mobile : +88 01314 559773 | E-mail : info@bajus.org