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"It is a must to ensure that the voices of the marginalised people of hard-to-reach areas in the country are heard and reflected in national development policies."
DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA, A DISTINGUISHED FELLOW OF THE CENTRE FOR POLICY DIALOGUE AND THE CONVENOR OF THE CITIZEN'S PLATFORM FOR SDGS (PAGE B4)



"After Delhi, Dhaka will be addressed as a 'gas chamber' soon if pollution keeps rising..."
POBA CHAIRMAN ABU NASER KHAN ABOUT AIR POLLUTION LEVELS IN THE CAPITAL (PAGE 3)



"I urge Amit Shah to ensure that the country does not burn. Your job is to douse the fire."
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE ON CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT LAW (PAGE 8)

Is this man top terror Joy?

A joint investigation by The Daily Star and Canada's Global News finds striking similarities between Ontario-based Indian businessman Tarekh Rana and Tanvir Islam Joy, a leader of Bangladesh's infamous crime syndicate Seven-Star Group in the '90s who vanished into thin air following police crackdown

STAR REPORT

One phone call from him would send shivers down the spine of businessmen in Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi and Hazaribagh areas.

He was Khandakar Tanvir Islam Joy, a leader of the Seven-Star Group that boasts of crime lords like Subhrata Bain, Mollah Masud and Murgi Milon.

The Seven-Star group along with the Five-Star Group -- which included notorious names like Pichchi Hannan, Kala Jahangir and Dakat Shahid and whose leader Zeesan Ahmed was nabbed in Dubai earlier this year -- terrorised businesses in the capital and its surrounding areas in the nineties and the last decade.

Joy's first reported arrest was in 1999. Posing as the son of the prime minister, he demanded tolls from industrial units at the Savar Export Processing Zone and the nearby Parijatan property, as reported in The Daily Star on January 4, 1999.

His modus operandi was he would ring businesses -- mainly cable TV service

providers, realtors and shopping complexes -- for tolls, ranging from few lakhs to crores, and then get his men to trail the targets to heighten the intimidation. If the targets refused to pay they would be murdered in cold blood.

So menacing did the two crime gangs become that the home ministry on December 27, 2001 put up a list of 23 most wanted criminals, drawing on leaders of the two gangs, and put up a bounty of Tk 50,000 and Tk 1 lakh for information that would lead to their capture.

Soon after the list was out the crime lords fled Bangladesh, as per various media reports at that time.

But their threats did not stop; they only intensified. For instance, Joy was involved in at least three high-profile murders, multiple bouts of extortions and tender manipulations since then.

This prompted the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) later to put up the names of the criminals in Interpol's Red Notice. To date, 13 of the 23, including Joy, are at large,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



KHANDAKAR TANVIR ISLAM JOY

Born: **MARCH 3, 1967**

Place of birth: **MIRZAPUR, TANGAIL**

One of the leaders of Seven-Star criminal ring. Wanted for murder, extortion

Underwent surgery on both legs for arthritis in Kolkata in January 2007

Walks with a limp

Arrested in Kolkata in 2007 on allegations he was living in India under alias Md. Tarek Rana

Reported to be in Canada in 2012; wanted by Interpol, whereabouts unknown



MD TAREKH RANA

Born: **MARCH 3, 1967**

Place of birth: **NARAYANPUR, WEST BENGAL**

Owner of SJ71, real estate company in Canada

Underwent surgery on both legs for arthritis in Kolkata in January 2007

Walks with a limp

Claims to be from Kolkata but denies being arrested

First visited Canada on Xmas eve 2011; came back again a year later

"I'm not this guy... It's a very similar face. But I really struggled for two and a half years because my face looks similar to this guy."

TAREKH RANA TOLD GLOBAL NEWS



Joy after arrest in India

Until 2007, Joy targeted many overseas manpower recruitment agencies and demanded Tk 5 crore by calling from India, Malaysia and Singapore, according to DMP.

5 killed as two buses collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least five people were killed and 29 injured as two buses collided head-on in Rajbari's Kalukhali upazila yesterday.

The accident took place on Rajbari-Kushtia highway in Durgapur area around 4:00pm, said Showkot Ali Joaddar, deputy director of fire service in Rajbari Sadar.

Quoting locals and passengers, Showkot said the incident happened as a Kushtia-bound bus of Lalon Paribahan crashed into a local bus at speed.

Two people were killed on the spot and 32 others were injured. On information, three fire service units rushed to the spot and sent the injured to hospitals, he said.

Of the injured, two died while being treated at Rajbari General Hospital while another on way to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Alom Mandal, a passenger of the Lalon Paribahan bus, said the driver of the vehicle was driving recklessly. Several

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



It can't be a Razakars' list

Says PM, urges aggrieved FF families to view it with a spirit of forgiveness

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no freedom fighter would ever be labelled as a Razakar during her tenure.

"I want to say unequivocally that no freedom fighter will be labelled as Razakar. It won't happen...it's impossible...it won't occur at least during my tenure," she said adding that the list of Razakars will be scrutinised further.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Govt suspends list in face of protests

A fresh one to be published March 26 after scrutiny and correction; rallies held to protest the flawed list

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and RASHIDUL HASAN

Amid nationwide outrage and angry protests, the Liberation War affairs ministry yesterday suspended the controversial and flawed Razakars' list three days after its publication.

The decision came hours after Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina instructed the ministries concerned to "correct the list" by dropping the names of freedom fighters from it.

Many freedom fighters were utterly shocked to see their names on the list of Razakars who collaborated with the Pakistan occupation army in carrying out mass killings and atrocities against the Bangladeshis during the 1971 Liberation War.

The Daily Star found at least 25 freedom fighters or organisers of the war on the list published a day before Victory Day.

Following this, freedom fighters and pro-liberation people have been staging demonstrations across the country, demanding cancellation of the list.

Yesterday, they held protest rallies and formed human chains in Sirajganj town, Barisal city and several other parts of the country.

"We have suspended the Razakars' list as there are allegations that it contains names of freedom fighters," Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque told The Daily Star over the phone last night.

"We will publish a fresh list on March 26 after scrutinising this one properly," he said without elaborating.

In a statement around 7:30pm, the ministry said they received felicitations for the list from various quarters and also drew huge criticism for mistakes in it.

The list was suspended so that there

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Guards killed Chinese man to loot money

Say police; 2 placed on four-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two security guards strangled Chinese national Jianhui Gao to death in his Banani flat and looted Tk 3.49 lakh. To cover up the murder, the two buried the body behind the building, police said at a press conference in the DMP media centre yesterday.

The two -- Abdur Rauf, 22, of Jhenidah and Enamul Haque, 25, of Narail -- were arrested from Banani on Tuesday night.

"They killed the Chinese national...thinking they would get a huge amount of money from the flat," Abdul Baten, additional commissioner of Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Musical chair at BTCL

The state-owned telco sees 19 MDs in 11yrs

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Nineteen managing directors have adorned the top position at the state-owned Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Ltd in its life of 11 years.

Of the 19, seven ran the company as the MD more than once. Mahfuz Uddin Ahmed was the MD three times.

At the BTCL Eskaton Garden office, a plaque names 25 MDs, including the ones who had been the MD multiple times.

Industry insiders said frequent change in top management was not desired and that MDs of BTCL had mostly been busy following government orders and unable to get the time to take care of the company's development and plan its future.

Due to this leadership crises, the BTCL became a loss-incurring company from a profitable venture, they said.

In 2008-09, BTCL's revenue was Tk 1,689.36 crore and net profit was Tk 106.15 crore. It incurred a loss of Tk 389.39 crore in 2017-18 fiscal.

The BTCL emerged as a company from state organisation Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) in July 2008.

Md Nur-Ur-Rahman recently became the secretary of the Posts and Telecommunications Division and also the chairman of the BTRC Board of Directors.

"Definitely it will be a challenge for anyone to run a company only for a few months and we will try to look into the matter in the coming days," he said.

The Daily Star found that in 2018 the MD changed four times, just like

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Run-fest in Chattogram

SPORTS REPORTER

The Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram lived up to its billing as the most batting-friendly venue in the country as Chattogram Challengers racked up the highest total of this season's Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League during a 16-run win over Dhaka Gladiators yesterday.

Chattogram skipper Mahmudullah Riyad provided the firepower with 59 off just 28 balls, hitting four sixes and five fours as the hosts scored 221 for four. Dhaka gave spirited chase, with Mominul Haque scoring 52 off 35 balls and skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza providing late hope with a six-ball 23, but they eventually fell short as Thisara Perera was the last wicket to fall off the last ball with the score on 205.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



The arm of an excavator tearing an illegal billboard on the bank of the Turag at Dhour in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital yesterday. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority removed illegal structures from the river banks throughout the day.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT

House begins historic debate

President accuses Pelosi, Democrats of pursuing an 'illegal coup'

REUTERS, Washington

The House of Representatives yesterday began debate ahead of a historic vote on two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump charging him with abusing his office and obstructing Congress that would make him the third US president to be impeached.

The vote in the Democratic-controlled House is expected to fall almost entirely along party lines, underscoring the deep divide in Congress over Trump's conduct - and the larger political schism within the nation itself.

Trump would become only the third American president to be impeached, an extraordinary check on presidential power spelled out in the US Constitution for executives who commit "high crimes and misdemeanors." No president has ever been removed from office under its terms.

The vote, expected in the afternoon or early evening (local time), would result in a trial next month in the US Senate in which House members would act as prosecutors. That chamber is controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans, who have shown little interest in removing him from office.

House Democrats accuse Trump of abusing his power by asking Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, a former US

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

