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Turning the lights on for the poor

BNSB Eye Hospital treats 26 lakh poor people with eye diseases for free, at low cost

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Widowed 50-year-old tea worker Lakhpothy Bhor of Tilokpur tea garden in Kulaura upazila could not afford medical treatment on her meagre earnings. Her first child died after birth, more than 20 years ago. Her husband became sick and died not long after.

After her husband's death, she was uncertain about how to support herself. A few days later, she took up sewing. But she had to give it up a few years later since her eyesight did not allow her to continue.

She became dependent on her brother, also a tea worker with limited income. It was impossible for him to properly support her and the siblings when he lived hand to mouth.

In 2014, Lakhpothy received word of an

eye camp nearby through the tea garden authorities. The eye doctor examining her diagnosed a cataract in her right eye. She was admitted to the hospital and underwent cataract surgery for free.

She is regaining her eyesight.

Like Lakhpothy, scores of Sylhet's underprivileged have benefited from the Moulvibazar BNSB Eye Hospital in Matar Kaphon area of Moulvibazar Sadar.

"Since 1974, we have been running different awareness programmes, including health camps for poor patients in remote areas and providing medicine for free," said Abdul Hamid Mahbub, joint secretary of the hospital's executive committee.

Since then, the hospital has provided free or affordable treatment to nearly 26

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CHANGE MAKER



An eye specialist examining the eyesight of a man during a recent campaign held at a community centre in Kanaihat upazila of Sylhet. The Moulvibazar BNSB Eye Hospital have been serving underprivileged people, inset, of the region since 1974.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA



DIGITAL SECURITY ACT Nur sued over FB video clip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another case has been filed, and this time under the Digital Security Act, against Ducusu Vice President Nurul Haque Nur, who came under a fierce attack by Muktijoddha Moncho activists on December 22.

Arnob Hore, publicity secretary of Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall unit Chhatra League, filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station accusing Nur of spreading propaganda and false information through his Facebook page, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of the police station.

According to the case statement filed on Thursday, Nur, Muhammad Rashed Khan and some others on December 22-23 spread hate speech against DU unit Chhatra League leaders

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Nasa Mars robot to probe 'alien fossils'



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa has nearly finished building a robot that will explore the surface of Mars - and examine the possibility that alien fossils are there waiting to be found.

The space agency hopes that the 2020 rover can find evidence of past life on the planet, as well as helping to discover how possible it could be that humans will live there in the future.

The Mars 2020 rover will receive its official name next year, but Nasa has shown it off to the world during an event for the media that showed

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Car bomb kills 90 in Somalia

Dozens wounded; no claim of responsibility yet

REUTERS, Mogadishu

At least 90 people were killed and dozens were wounded when a bomb-laden vehicle exploded at a bustling checkpoint in the Somali capital Mogadishu yesterday, an international organisation working in the country said, in one of the most deadly recent attacks.

The dead included many students and two Turkish nationals, the Somali foreign minister said.

Rescuers carried bodies past the twisted wreckage of a vehicle and a minibus taxi smeared with blood.

A report by the international organisation, which did not want to be named, said the death toll was more than 90. A Somali MP also tweeted that he had been told the death toll stands at more than 90, including 17 police officers.

Abdikadir Abdirahman Haji Aden, founder of Aamin ambulances, told Reuters that dozens of people were also wounded.

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Raushan skips JP council

Party elects her 'chief patron', GM Quader retains chairmanship

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party Chief Patron Raushan Ershad skipped the party's ninth council yesterday apparently for being unhappy with her new post, said party insiders.

Raushan, widow of the party's founding chairman HM Ershad, was elected for the top but ornamental post unopposed yesterday. GM Quader, younger brother of Ershad, was elected for chairman post of the party unopposed on the same day.

Later, Quader nominated Moshir Rahman Ranga for the secretary general post. Quader would also announce the party's central committee soon, said the party sources.

In the morning, the council began amid festivity. Leaders and activists across the country gathered on the premises of Institution of Engineers with flags, banners and festoons.

Around 10:00am, Quader and Ranga inaugurated the council by hoisting the national flag, the party flag and releasing pigeons.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, representatives from India, China and Vietnam embassies, and some 10,000 councillors and delegates of the party joined the programme.

Amid the festivity, leaders and activists of the party were curious about Raushan's absence in the triennial council.

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7-year-old murdered for gold earrings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A seven-year-old girl has been strangled to death allegedly by a neighboring couple in Savar as she refused to give them a pair of gold earrings.

The accused - Mokshedul and his wife Shonali Begum - admitted to killing the girl, said police.

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 29

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:27 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:30 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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