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# Rape victims double in one year

ASK research finds

RAFIUL ISLAM

The number of rape victims in Bangladesh has doubled in 2019 than that of the previous year, said Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday.

A total of 1,413 women were either gang-raped or subjected to rape last year. Of them, 76 were killed after rape and 10 others died by suicide, ASK said in its annual report.

The report was made based on different media reports and was released at a programme in Dhaka's Jatiya Press Club.

According to the report, the number of rape victims was 732 in 2018 and 818 in 2017.

The report shows an alarming overall state of the country's human rights situation though there was development

in women's participation in economy, political empowerment, education and health.

ASK said the actual number of rape victims are much higher as many victims kept mum and did not report the abuses.

Incidents of killing in the borders by Indian Border Security Force has tripled last year. It was 43 in 2019 whereas it was 14 in 2018, the report said.

Besides, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and violence against women and children persisted throughout last year, according to the report.

The Daily Star analysed ASK's reports of the previous years and found that the rights body was advocating for improvement of the human rights situation coming up with almost similar findings every year.

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Awami League presidium member Jahangir Kabir Nanak getting down from his SUV. Nanak accompanied AL's DSCC mayor candidate Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh as the latter submitted his nomination paper to the Election Commission yesterday. Taposh's entourage had four SUVs carrying AL bigwigs.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



## Noab elects AK Azad new president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AK Azad, publisher of Bangla daily the Samakal, has been elected president of the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab).

ASM Shahidullah Khan Badal, chairman of New Age editorial board, and Matur Rahman Choudhury, chief editor of the daily Manab Zamin, have been elected vice president and treasurer respectively, says a press release of the association.

They were elected at the annual general meeting of the association at a city hotel on Monday.

The meeting formed the executive committee of the association.

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### PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:00  
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Man killed in 'shootout' at Rohingya camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" with members of Rapid Action Battalion at a Rohingya camp in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar on Monday night.

The dead is Anwar Sadek, 32, of Lether Paschim Para in the upazila.

Shaha Alam, company commander of Rab-15 (Whykong camp), claimed

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## Send them to prison instantly

JS body asks environment ministry for steps against law violators

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended that the authorities concerned take necessary measures so that people involved in environment related crimes can be sent to jail from the scene.

The parliamentary standing committee on environment, forest and climate change also asked the authorities to make sure that the law is enforced no matter how influential the culprits are.

"Only imposing fine on the spot for polluting environment and committing environmental related crime is not enough to save our environment. The committee

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# AL, BNP candidates flout polls rules

DHAKA MAYORAL POLLS

Submit nomination papers with processions

RASHIDUL HASAN and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Flouting the electoral code of conduct, mayor candidates from both the ruling Awami League and the BNP submitted their nomination papers with processions yesterday.

The contenders along with their

party men and supporters were seen thronging near the offices of the returning officers.

Asked about the rules violation, the mayor candidates blamed the councillor candidates for the crowd.

A total of 934 mayor and councillor candidates have filed

nomination papers for the Dhaka north and south city corporation polls to be held on January 30.

Among the eight mayor candidates in the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), seven have submitted their nomination

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Fireworks explode over Sydney's iconic Harbour Bridge and Opera House during New Year's Eve celebrations in Sydney, Australia early today.

PHOTO: AFP

## Vertical farming takes off in ageing Japan



AFP, Kyoto

The nondescript building on an industrial site near Kyoto gives little hint to the productivity inside: 30,000 heads of lettuce grow here daily, under artificial light and with barely any human intervention.

This "vegetable factory", using the latest vertical farming techniques, is part of a trend born out of necessity in Japan, where traditional farming faces a double threat from the ageing population and migration towards the cities.

With the average age of a farmer

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## Kerala passes anti-CAA resolution

CM says new law goes against 'secular' outlook of India

PTI, Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala assembly yesterday passed a resolution demanding the scrapping of the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The resolution was moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the state assembly.

Though the one-day special session was convened to ratify the extension of the reservation for SC and ST in the assembly and the Parliament for another decade, the resolution against CAA was also taken up in view of the widespread concerns among public in this regard, official sources said.

While presenting the resolution, Vijayan said the CAA was against the "secular" outlook and fabric of the country and would lead to religion-based discrimination in granting citizenship.

"The Act contradicts the basic values and principles of the Constitution. In view of the anxiety among the people of the country, the Centre should take steps to drop the CAA and uphold the secular outlook of the Constitution," he said.

Noting that the Act had triggered widespread protests among various strata of society, the chief minister said it had dented India's image in front of the international community.

"National freedom movement was a convergence of various streams. The Indian constitution took shape with the essence of modern democracy and secular perspectives from such movements. Indian nationalism is based on lives and cultures of various communities. This is one reason the

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This New Year, let everyday be a fairytale.

We are at the doorsteps of another new year. How does it look inside? What awaits us there? We don't know. But we can't stop wondering about it. Will the new year be the same as the one we left behind or will it be completely opposite? The timid mind wants to carry on the same but the brave heart wants to take challenge and create something new. The indestructible mind still wants to go to the moon and get a shelter there.

We wish the invocation of something new and colorful in your life. Let the untimely be the time. Let each day be celebrated with flying colors to say alive is awesome. A lot like living well.



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