STAR REPORT

Three people were arrested in two rape cases in Magura and Jashore on Monday night.

In Magura, Rab held two people on charges of gang-raping a 42-yearold woman, a mother of three, on Monday night.

However, the Rab officials did not disclose the arrestees' identities for the sake of investigation.

The victim's family members said they are inhabitants of a village in Jhenidah's Shailakupa. The village is situated in a bordering area of Jhenidah and Magura.

The victim along with her husband used to stay in a makeshift tent near a paddy field at night in Jagla village of Magura Sadar upazila to carry the harvested paddy to its owner's house on their horse cart.

During the paddy cultivation season every year, they normally do this work and get paddy or money

Around 1:00am on Sunday, five unidentified criminals attacked them with sharp weapons.

The criminals tied the victim's husband to a tree and gang-raped the woman at knifepoint. They also looted Tk 5,000 before leaving the scene.

Hearing their screams, locals later rushed there and rescued the couple.

The victim later filed a case against five unknown criminals with Magura Sadar Police Station, said Joynul Abedin, officer-in-charge of the

On Monday night, Rab arrested two people from Baittapara Bazar in Magura Sadar upazila over their alleged involvement in the incident. They were being interrogated, said Lt Col Sarwar Hossain, company commander of Rab-6 in Jashore.

In another incident, police picked up a man from Jashore's Keshabpur on Monday night over the rape of a housewife

The arrestee is Abu Sayed, 33, of Bhaina village of the same upazila.

Police said both the victim and the accused are neighbours. On Sunday night, Sayed asked the 35-yearold victim to go with him to bring medicine from a village doctor.

He then took the woman to nearby Dangir Beel and raped her with the help of some of his associates.

The victim lodged a case with Keshabpur Police Station accusing Sayed and three others.

The other accused -- Sirajul Islam, 33, Jasim Uddin, 32, and Siddiqur Rahman, 30, -- are residents of other villages in the same upazila.

Police were conducting drives to arrest the other accused, said Jasim Uddin, OC of Keshabpur Police

[Our correspondents in Jhenidah and Benapole contributed to this report.]

Man held

Akhter Nupur, 28 -- was rushed to a local clinic and then to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition

Anwarul Islam, officer-in-charge of Baraigram Police Station, said Taleb forcibly married Nupur seven years

ago when she was a college student. Nupur divorced Taleb three days ago and moved to her father's house.

On information, Taleb went to Nupur's present address at the upazila's Kamardaha village, threw acid on her face and fled the scene, he

Further legal procedures will be followed, the OC said.

2 Bangladeshis

who found themselves without clients and struggling to buy food.

"People see our profession as demeaning, but we do it to buy food I am trying to make sure women in this profession are not left hungry, and their children will not have to do this work," Rina Akter told BBC.

Rina runs a daily drop-in shelter for sex workers in Gopibagh. Floating sex workers who work at night can come to this shelter in the morning to bathe, eat, rest and get treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.

Rima Sultana Rimu is an 18-yearold peace activist, and a member of Young Women Leaders for Peace in Cox's Bazar.

This programme -- part of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders funded by United Nations Women -- aims to empower young women from conflict-affected countries to be leaders and agents of

Rima responded to the Rohingya refugee crisis in her community by advocating for gender-responsive humanitarian action.

She organises gender-sensitive, age appropriate literacy and numeracy classes for Rohingya refugees, and for women and girls in the community

who lack access to education. "I am determined to bring gender equality to Bangladesh. I believe in the power of women and girls to fight for our rights. We will succeed," she said while talking to BBC.



A demonstrator gestures during a protest against racism, after a black man was beaten to death by security guards at a Carrefour supermarket in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on Monday night.

Journo Kajol gets HC bail

issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain why Kajol should not be granted bail in the case.

In the petition, Kajol said he is ill and the section of the law under which he has been implicated is not applicable to him as he did not defame anybody.

After hearing the petition, the HC bench yesterday granted permanent bail to Kajol.

The HC bench also asked the investigation officer of the cases lodged against Kajol with Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar police stations whether he has taken permission from the Cyber Tribunal to probe the cases after 75 days of filing the cases.

The investigation officer and the Cyber Tribunal have been ordered to submit separate reports to the HC by December 15.

The HC bench passed the order after Kajol's lawyer Jyotirmoy told the court that the investigations of the two cases are illegal as the probes had to be concluded within 75 days of filing

The investigation officer has not completed investigations of the cases in 75 days, which is a violation of the relevant provision of the law,

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi represented the state during the virtual hearing on the bail petition.

On August 24, Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka refused to grant bail to Kajol in the case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Dhiman Chandra Mondol rejected his bail petition in the case on June 24.

Two other cases under the Digital Security Act were filed against Kajol on March 10 and 11 with Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar police stations.

Fifty-three days following his disappearance after leaving his office in the capital's Hatirpool, Kajol was found by Border Guard Bangladesh in Benapole on May 3.

He was then arrested, initially on charges of trespassing, but was granted bail after being produced before a Iashore court.

Later, he was shown held under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) after police informed the court that three more cases against Kajol were pending with different police stations in the capital.

The court then sent him to Jashore

Vaccine hopes lift spirits across globe

Johnson said that although the "scientific cavalry" was arriving, he warned "Christmas cannot be normal and there's a long road to spring".

The world is still engulfed in the unprecedented health crisis which has shattered economies, infected almost 58.9 million people and left nearly 1.4 million dead.

Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine is 95 percent effective according to a second interim analysis of clinical trial data, its developers said yesterday.

The two-dose vaccine will be available on international markets for less than \$10 (8.40 euros) per dose, they said, and will be free for Russian citizens.

It can be stored at between two and eight degrees Celsius (between 35.6 and 46.4 degrees Fahrenheit), they said, instead of the temperatures below freezing required for some other vaccines.

AstraZeneca and Oxford University on Monday said their drug had proved on average 70 percent effective at stopping the virus after trying it on than 90 percent effective.

The French head of AstraZeneca

says in an interview with AFP that three billion doses of the vaccine will be made available in 2021 at cost -around 2.50 euros (\$3) per dose.

The European Union has struck a deal for up to 160 million doses of US firm Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine candidate, the head of the European Commission said yesterday, taking the EU's potential stock of Covid-19 shots to nearly 2 billion.

Last week, Moderna said its experimental vaccine was 94.5 percent effective in preventing Covid-19, based on interim data from a latestage clinical trial.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned yesterday that any Covid-19 vaccine could lead to side-effects in some people, as even popular medicines do, and that the government would only go by science in finalising one for the country.

The comments came ahead of the possible launch of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine by early next year in India

While World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom "long dark tunnel", he cautioned that the world had to ensure drugs were

"Every government rightly wants to do everything it can to protect its people," Tedros said. "But there is now a real risk that the poorest and most vulnerable will be trampled in the stampede for vaccines.

QANTAS VACCINE RULE

Australia's Qantas announced that international travellers will need to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to fly, becoming the first airline to suggest rules could become common across the industry. Chief executive Alan Joyce said the

carrier would implement the measure once a vaccine was made available to the public. Certainly, for international visitors

coming out (to Australia) and people leaving the country, we think that is a necessity," he told Channel Nine. Joyce predicted the rule would

likely become standard practice around the world as governments and airlines consider the introduction of electronic vaccination passports. However, other major regional

airlines, such as Korean Air and Japan Airlines, said it was too early to comment on what travel requirements might be when a vaccine becomes widely available.

Following Qantas' announcement, Australian Health Minister Greg Hunt said "no final decision" had yet been taken on how to proceed when vaccines are available, but indicated vaccination or a strict two-week quarantine would be a condition for entry.

'We would expect that people coming to Australia whilst Covid-19 is a significant disease in the world will either be vaccinated or they will isolate," he said.

Australia's Victoria state announced its last coronavirus patient had been cleared of Covid-19 -- a major milestone for what had been the epicentre of the country's second wave.

But in China, where the virus was first detected late last year, hundreds of flights at Shanghai's Pudong International Airport were cancelled after a small cluster of cases in the city was linked to several cargo handlers.

And officials in Hong Kong ramped up already tight social distancing measures following a local spike in infections, shuttering bars, pubs, party rooms and nightclubs. All live performances and dancing have also been banned.

Daily case numbers have approached three figures in recent days, prompting the stricter rules.

When asked how Mujibur Rahman

Chowdhury -- popularly known as

"Nixon" -- got a post in Jubo League,

the youth wing of Awami League, even

though he fought and defeated AL

Honorary

A special convocation will be held at a suitable date so that Bangabandhu could personally receive the degree. Bangabandhu was a student of Old Islamia College and later of the University College of Law.

DHAKA, HANOÏ RECOGNISE **EACH OTHER**

The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has accorded formal recognition to the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh has also accorded formal recognition to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The announcement of the recognitions is simultaneously made by Dhaka and Hanoi. This brings the total number of countries to have accorded recognition to Bangladesh to 95.

TAJUDDIN, CARGIL TALK AID FOR 5-YEAR PLAN

Finance and Planning Minister Tajuddin Ahmed and visiting Vicepresident of World Bank Peter Cargil have a meeting in Dhaka today to explore the possibilities of the bank and its member countries' assistance to finance the five-year plan of Bangladesh.

\$50M IDA CREDIT FOR **BANGLADESH**

International Development Association (IDA) will provide a credit of 50 million dollars to Bangladesh to support the government's effort to reconstruct key sectors of the economy following the devastation caused by the cyclone of 1970 and the liberation struggle of 1971.

SOURCES: November 26, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Pianist's velvety

at a time when Thailand's coronavirusinduced tourism hiatus means fewer visitors to feed them, and less funds for their welfare.

"We need to make an effort to

make sure that they eat properly. And when they eat properly they will be calmer and will not be aggressive," said Barton, 59, a long-time Thailand resident. Barton has played at four venues

in Lopburi, a province famous for its marauding monkeys, including at an ancient Hindu temple, a hardware store and a derelict cinema.

The macaques are instantly drawn as he plays Greensleeves, Beethoven's Fur Elise and Michael Nyman's Diary of Love, some sharing his stool, others climbing onto his shoulders and touching his head.

Barton maintains focus as a small monkey runs up and down the piano keys as others chew at his sheet music before one tries to wrest it away.

"A wonderful opportunity to see the wild animals just being themselves," said Barton, from Yorkshire in northern England.

Filling station FROM PAGE 12

22, Fahad Ahmed Pavel, 28, and Shahidul Islam, 18, in this connection after the victim's father Farid Mia filed a case with Shyampur Police Station.

The incident took place around 4:00am at Salahuddin Petrol Pump at Jurain.

Mofizul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shyampur Police Station, said four operators, including the victim, were on night duty at the petrol pump. One of the four, Emon, was asleep and Riad went to call him for duty. Unable to awaken Emon, Riad

sprayed a little bit of octane on his face. Angered by this, Emon took a container of octane, poured it on Riad and set him on fire, leaving him critically injured, the police official

pump later took the injured to the nospital, the OC said.

Talking to reporters, Farid Mia, a driver by profession, said Riad is a student of Siddheswari College and took the part-time job this month at a monthly salary of Tk 5,000.

Ghebreyesus hailed the latest batch 23,000 people, days after tests of two of results as light at the end of the other drugs suggested they were more

PM wants ACC to probe allegations

Their identities would be revealed once the ACC completes its investigation,

the ruling Awami League, made the children of Bangladeshi millionaires comments the day after the anti-graft live in these homes in an area, hence Monir". body asked the government to provide—the name Begum Para. a list of its officials who own homes in "Begum Para" of Toronto, Canada.

Besides, the High Court on Sunday asked the ACC chairman, secretaries concerned of the ministries of home and foreign affairs, the governor of Bangladesh Bank and its financial intelligence unit, chairman of the Board of Revenue, and the deputy commissioner of Dhaka to submit the details, including names and addresses, of the people who launder money abroad, to the court by

Many Bangladeshis have bought luxurious homes in "Begum Para", spending millions of laundered out Quader, also general secretary of of Bangladesh. Mainly, the wives and

> According to a report published in this newspaper on November 20, Begum Para has come up in numerous political discussions in Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen recently raised eyebrows saying that government officials are forging ahead of politicians in the race to purchase luxurious homes in Begum Para. The minister spoke to The Daily Star on this issue over the phone on November 19.

Replying to another question, Quader said authorities concerned are now investigating whether any incumbent minister or any ruling party lawmaker had links with Monir Hossain, widely known as "Golden

Monir, who was arrested Sunday, amassed considerable wealth and property in collusion with some officials of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha and the housing and public works ministry.

Talking about the upcoming elections in 25 municipalities, Quader said their party's committee will meet on November 28 to select party candidates.

He warned provable candidates about taking disciplinary action.

candidates twice in national elections, Quader said they have sought an apology to the party president and she pardoned them as they promised not to be rebel candidates anymore. About the government's preparation to prevent the second wave

of Covid-19, he said the government is monitoring the situation and would take strict measures if the situation demands. "For now, the use of masks is a

must. Those who will not use mask have to pay a fine. This is very clear. The prime minister is very serious about it,' he said.

last respects. They included members

Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka

of Journalists,

Press Club, Sampadak Parishad,

Dhaka Reporters Unity, Indian High

Born on March 12, 1948 in Dhaka,

Muniruzzman started leftist activism

since his student life and took part

in the movement opposing Ayub

Khan and other Pakistani rulers. He

started his journalist carrier in 1970

as a reporter of Weekly Ekota, the

mouthpiece of the Communist Party

Union Centre and later become CPB

department of the Daily Sangbad for

many years and was the acting editor

of the newspaper since January 2010.

for his well-written columns and

Dhaka committee general secretary.

He was founding member of Trade

He was in charge of the editorial

Muniruzzaman was also famous

Commission and others.

of Bangladesh.

political analyses.

Union

Sammilito Samajik Andolon,

Shilpigoshti, Bangladesh

National

Veteran journo Muniruzzaman

A freedom fighter, Muniruzzaman was buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectual Graveyard in the evening, following his namaz-e-janaza at the National Press Club premises, where he was

given state honours. He is survived by his widow, a son, daughter-in-law and a host of wellwishers to mourn his death.

Soon after news spread of the death of a founding member of Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council), a pall of gloom descended on people of the media community and other spheres.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, cabinet members, politicians and others from different sectors expressed deep shock and sorrow at Muniruzzaman's death. In a condolence message, President

was a pioneer of neutral, objective and fearless journalism. "His death is an irreparable loss to the mass media," he added.

Prime Minister Hasina prayed for

bench, led by Justice FRM Nazmul

Ahasan, had asked the authorities

to seize those vehicles which were

emitting black smoke beyond

appropriate steps should be taken to

of vehicles' batteries without the

It asked the authorities to take

steps to ensure that all market owners

or shopkeepers keep their daily waste

in a safe trash bin. The waste must be

dumped in the designated areas before

The court in its directives had said

permissible limit in Dhaka city.

approval from the DoE.

Hamidsaid Khandaker Muniruzzaman

the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Sampadak Parishad President Mahfuz Anam and Secretary General Naem Nizam in a condolence message said Muniruzzaman's long years in journalism, experienced leadership and wise counsel helped the organisation to stand firm on issues of press freedom and independent journalism.

His lifelong involvement with progressive ideals, upholding of the values of our Liberation War and his unrelenting commitment to secular politics and cultural values made him leading figure in promoting ethical journalism in the profession and democratic values in society.

His passing away is an irreparable loss to the journalistic fraternity -his absence will deprive its younger generation from working with an editor who gave a lot and had so much more to give to the profession of journalism.

smiling,

Air pollution in Dhaka very alarming: HC

The HC bench banned plying of

It ordered the government to

particular vehicles, whose economic

life has expired, on roads in the capital.

ensure road construction or carpeting

or excavation works by strictly

complying with the related laws and

conditions of tenders to make sure

must ensure that trucks carrying mud

or waste in the capital have those

The court said the government

It also instructed contractors to use

that air remains clean.

the closure of shops or markets.

"Ever

stop burning of tyres and recycling rules and also with the terms and

covered.

always

unrelentingly optimistic, he led a life of simplicity and ethics. He was a person of exceptional human qualities admired by all who worked with him and loved by all who knew him," said the message.

A host of ministers and state ministers including Road Transport and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Planning Minister MA Mannan, Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque, Education Minister Dipu Moni, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim expressed deep shock at the demise of Muniruzzaman.

Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Oikya NAP, Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, and others also expressed shock.

Earlier, when Muniruzzaman's body was taken to the press club, his longtime colleagues and others paid their

sites so that air is not polluted. The court further ordered the authorities to take steps to sprinkle water at construction sites in the morning and evening every day.

Earlier on January 12, the Department of Environment (DoE) submitted a report to the HC stating that it has shut 349 illegal brick kilns, which have no environment clearance certificates, out of 559 in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Munshiganj and Manikganj in line with its earlier directive.

The DoE said the brick kilns were

bags or sacks for storing or keeping closed through operating mobile courts and issuing notices. Besides, it realised fines of Tk 4.93 crore from the owners of the brick kilns, and the drives were going on.

Yesterday, writ petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid placed clippings of newspaper reports on air pollution before the HC bench, led by Justice Ashfaqul Islam, and prayed for necessary orders to this effect.

represented the state during hearing on the matter yesterday.

sand or mud at the city's construction

for the DoE, while Deputy Attorney General Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashar

Other employees of the petrol Lawyer Amatul Karim appeared