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INDOMITABLE

Faridpur man bounces back even after losing both arms

SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Even after losing both his arms in an accident, Kamrul Sheikh, 34, used the sheer power of will and determination to bounce back and change his own fate.

A resident of Faridpur's Sadar upazila, Kamrul is married with two children – a son and a daughter.

From a poverty-stricken family, he was only able to complete primary education, after which he began working to support his family. He would sometimes work as a carpenter, sometimes a rickshaw-puller, an electrician, or a day-labourer.

On August 15, 2018, while working as an electrician at the district's Khaleq Bazar area, Kamrul was electrocuted and lost both his arms in the accident.

"I climbed up an electric pole and set my ladder near the electric wires. I was repairing a faulty line. That is about as much as I can remember. When I regained my senses, I found myself on a hospital bed," said Kamrul.

From a local hospital, he was shifted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), where he underwent treatment for around a month and half.

"Both my arms were badly damaged. They had to be amputated within three days of my admission [to DMCH]," Kamrul said.

"After the accident, my entire family was in financial trouble. The West Zone Power Distribution Company gave me Tk 2 lakh as compensation. I bought four rickshaws with that money and rented them out.

"But the income was not sufficient and I was getting worried. One day, a friend of mine, Lutfar Khalasi, suggested that I meet a man named Jashim, who, like me, does not have either of his arms but runs a shop himself."

Kamrul met Jashim and learned some techniques to work. "I sold my four rickshaws and opened up a grocery shop -- Zihad Varieties Store -- in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Kamrul Sheikh editing a photo on his computer with his feet at his grocery shop in Faridpur Sadar upazila's Kafura area. The 34-year-old had lost both arms in an accident three years ago, but he has bounced back from the debilitating setback and now runs the shop in front of his house. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

KALABAGAN RAPE

Cops allowed to conduct dope test of accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed police to conduct tests to ascertain whether Fardin Iftekhar Dihan, the lone accused in the rape and murder case of a schoolgirl, had taken any narcotics or stimulant drugs.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Begum Yeasmin Ara passed the order after investigation officer AFM Asaduzzaman, also an inspector of Kalabagan Police Station, filed a petition in this regard.

On Sunday, the same court allowed police to conduct DNA tests on samples collected from Dihan, 18, and the victim's bloodstained clothes, following two petitions submitted by the IO.

The victim's father on January 7 had filed the case with Kalabagan Police Station against Dihan under the Women and Children Repression

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DEPORTATION FROM FRANCE

Bangladeshi averts it thru' pollution plea

STAR REPORT

In a rare case, a Bangladeshi man with asthma has prevented a deportation bid by the French authorities, arguing that he risked a severe deterioration in his condition, and possibly premature death, due to the dangerous levels of pollution in Bangladesh.

In a ruling believed to be the first of its kind in France, the appeals court in Bordeaux overturned an expulsion order against the 40-year-old man, reported The Guardian Tuesday.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time a French court has applied the environment as one of its criteria in such a case," the unnamed man's lawyer, Ludovic Riviere, said. "It decided my client's life would be endangered by the air quality in Bangladesh."

Yale and Columbia universities' Environmental Performance Index ranks Bangladesh 179th in the world for air quality in 2020, while the concentration of fine particles in the air is six times the World Health Organization's recommended maximum.

According to the WHO, air pollution,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

To light from dark spiral of militancy

Under a Rab deradicalisation initiative, 9 persons set to get back to normal life; a special ceremony today

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The husband is an engineer and the wife a doctor.

The couple was living happily with two children until the dark cloud of militancy destroyed their lives. The couple became involved in militancy and uncertainty engulfed the whole family.

Family members of the couple then took steps to bring them back to normal life, communicating with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) for support.

The elite force showed interest and shed light on their dark path before it was too late.

As a part of Rab's new initiative, the couple got a chance to return to normal life under the institutional de-radicalisation process.

Nine people, including the couple, were brought back to normal life under the process. All nine have received counselling for between two and six months under Rab's supervision.

They will be able to see their family members again after a formal "surrender programme", schedule to be held at the Azad Memorial Hall at Rab Headquarters today.

Of the nine are members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Neo JMB and Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT).

Col Tofail Mostafa Sarwar, additional director general (operation) of Rab, confirmed the

development and the formal surrender programme. Prominent citizens, including academics, Islamic scholars and cultural personalities will take part in the ceremony under the slogan "Return to New Horizons", said the official.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed would be present at the programme, according to Rab.

Rab officials said that the term de-radicalisation is frequently used as a soft approach to controlling and eliminating militancy or extremism.

Militancy or extremism cannot be stopped by operations alone because it is an ideological fight. Through brainwashing, the targeted person is lured to the dark path of extremism, they said.

Therefore, along with the campaign, the so-called ideological issue of extremism has to be tackled through de-radicalisation, they added.

Rab officials said they have taken the initiative of a de-radicalisation unit much like different countries around the world.

This specialised unit is working to bring people involved in extremism back to normal life and under that process nine people have received counselling.

As there is a case against one of the nine, the person will have to face legal process after the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

All-women pilots complete Air India's longest flight

CNN ONLINE



An all-female Indian pilot team made history this week, after they completed the longest non-stop commercial flight ever operated by an Indian national airline.

The team of four cockpit crew members from Air India completed the 17-hour-long flight on Monday according to a statement released by the airline.

"We are India's daughters who were given the opportunity to make this historic flight," the commander of the flight, Captain Zoya Aggarwal, who flew the first leg of the flight, told CNN Travel. "We were able to create a new chapter in the Indian aviation history."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Six killed as three wheeler, truck collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Six people were killed and five others injured when a truck rammed a human hauler from behind last night on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway in Shaikupa, Jhenidah.

Those who died and got injured were mostly construction workers, said Officer-in-Charge Jahangir Alam of Shaikupa Police Station.

Identities of the victims have not been confirmed yet, he said, adding that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:36 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:40 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

PK Halder's aide Abantika arrested

Placed on three-day remand in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Abantika Boral, an aide to PK Halder, on three-day remand in connection with a graft case.

The order was issued hours after Abantika was arrested in the capital's Dhanmondi around noon by a team of the Anti-Corruption Commission, said ACC Director (public relations) Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

The arrestee was first taken to the ACC office before being produced in the Senior Special Judge's Court.

On January 8 last year, the graft watchdog filed the case against Halder, former managing director of NRB Global Bank, over amassing about Tk 275 crore beyond his known sources of income.

Halder allegedly laundered over Tk 10,000 crore from four non-banking financial

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A woman weeps in front of a high-rise building in the capital's Gulshan yesterday afternoon. Allegedly a compressor of an air conditioning unit at the 14-storey Empori Financial Center exploded, leaving electrician Azizul Haque dead. The woman pictured is his mother-in-law. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SEWERS LINKED TO BURIGANGA

Wasa MD asked to inform HC about steps, plans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked Dhaka Wasa to submit a report on what has been done to implement a 2011 order to stop dumping sewage in the Buriganga river.

The Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) was ordered by the court 10 years ago to seal off the drains and sewer pipes linked to the river.

The HC yesterday directed Dhaka Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan to submit a report on what steps had been taken and what plans had been made to the court through swearing by an affidavit by January 21.

The HC bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice Mohammad Ullah passed the order during hearing a pending writ petition filed by rights organisation Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) in May 2010, seeking necessary directives to seal of the drains and sewerage lines connected to the Buriganga and to save it from pollution.

Yesterday, the HC bench observed that Dhaka Wasa was very slow in implementing the 2011 directives.

At this pace, the directives will not be implemented and the pollution of the Buriganga will not stop, the HC bench said.

Earlier in the day, the MD of Dhaka Wasa submitted a compliance report to the HC through his lawyer Umme Salma, saying that the Wasa has sealed off several unauthorised sewerage lines in some areas of the capital, including Kalabagan and Palashi, and has handed over the responsibility of the canals to the city corporations.

Writ petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the HC

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1