



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

PLUS 40 PAGES 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT SEGMENT-4

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXI No. 35

FALGUN 4, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

RAJAB 4, 1442 HIRI

20 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



He was killed to gag free speech

5 sentenced to death, one to life for murder of writer-blogger Avijit Roy

SHARIFUL ISLAM, CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRIL HASAN BAPPI

Writer-blogger Avijit Roy was killed to gag and discourage freedom of expression so that no one in the country can write or express themselves freely.

He had to pay with his life for writing and expressing his opinions freely.

Judge Md Majibur Rahman of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal made the observation yesterday while handing down death sentences to five militants and life imprisonment to another for killing Avijit on February 26, 2015.

Labelling Avijit an atheist, the convicted members of Ansar al Islam brutally murdered him as per a decision of the banned militant outfit, said the judge.

Those sentenced to death are Syed Mohammad Ziaul Haque alias Major



(sacked) Zia alias Sagar alias Boro bhai, Akram Hossain alias Abir alias Adnan alias Hasibul alias Abdullah, Abu Siddique Sohel alias Sakib alias Sajid alias Shahab, Mozammel Hossain alias Saimon alias Shahriar and Arafat Rahman alias Siam alias Sazzad.

Life imprisonment was handed to Shafiqur Rahman Farabi.

The charges against them were proven beyond doubt.

Zia and Akram are still on the run while the rest are behind bars. Sohel, Mozammel and Arafat had earlier confessed to the murder.

Avijit's wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya, however, thinks simply prosecuting a few foot soldiers while ignoring the rise and roots of extremism does not deliver justice for Avijit's killing.

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Trying a few foot soldiers is not justice

Says Rafida Ahmed Bonya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rafida Ahmed Bonya, wife of slain blogger-writer Avijit Roy, today released a statement following the verdict in the murder case.

"Simply prosecuting a few foot-soldiers -- and ignoring the rise and roots of extremism -- does not mean justice for Avijit's death, nor for the deaths of the 'bloggers, publishers and homosexuals' before and after him as part of the serial killings," the statement said.

A Dhaka tribunal today sentenced five members of banned militant outfit Ansar-al-Islam to death and another to life for killing Avijit.

"The main two culprits --

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Buses block all four lanes and cut off each other on Dhaka-Chattogram highway as they race to pick up and drop off passengers near the Institute of Child and Mother Health in the capital's Matuail yesterday. Violation of traffic rules, which often leads to accidents, has become a daily feature in the city.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Demeaning army chief amounts to demeaning PM

Gen Aziz tells journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed has said that demeaning the army chief is tantamount to demeaning the prime minister.

"The rejoinder issued by the ISPR is the statement of the army. Meanwhile, I'm sure you know that ... they are carrying out propaganda against

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Haris still on cops' most-wanted list

Govt granted him and Anis mercy in 2019, say media reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

His name had been on the list of the most wanted people on Bangladesh Police's website for several years.

But the name of Haris Ahmed, younger brother of army chief Gen Aziz Ahmed, was suddenly removed from the list on the website sometime after February 12. Puzzlingly, it reappeared on the list three days later.

Visiting Bangladesh police's website around 7:30pm yesterday, this newspaper found that Haris' name was still on the list of the most wanted people.

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Response still slow in villages

Most low income, illiterate people face hassle in vaccine registration; picture in major cities is just opposite

MOUJUD AHMED SUJAN

While the progress in inoculation drives is good in major cities, including divisional headquarters, it is still poor in small towns and rural areas as people there find the online registration process burdensome, divisional health experts said.

Jyotimohon Das, a 68-year-old farmer of Dosmontopur village in Sunamganj's Jamalganj upazila, is still unaware of the mass vaccination.

"I don't see anyone giving vaccines

here. I didn't even know that I need to get registered and go to Sadar upazila for vaccine. I thought they would come to give vaccines like they give to the children all the time," he said.

Experts also said mass awareness campaigns should be strengthened in rural areas to bring more people in the vaccination programme in order to curb transmission of the highly-contagious Covid-19, which has already claimed around 9,000 lives in the country.

Prof Nazrul Islam, member of

the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19, told The Daily Star yesterday, "It is not that people have no eagerness. But the registration system should be made easier. Besides, more people will come forward if publicity is accelerated."

Till 2:30pm yesterday -- the ninth day of the countrywide mass vaccination -- around 22.5 lakh people from all around the country registered online.

Of them, 13.6 lakh people were vaccinated.

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The Daily Star
CELEBRATES
GLORIOUS
50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
COURAGEOUS
30 YEARS OF JOURNALISM

The fourth installment of the anniversary supplement, Golden Jubilee Beginnings, is a celebration of life from its highs to lows, and all its glory. We look into the wider world around us and appreciate that life is all about learning to see different perspectives.

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DRAFT EDUCATION ACT AT FINAL STAGE Ban on guidebooks, corporal punishment

Teachers to be barred from private tuitions to the students of their own institutions

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The education ministry is going to finalise the draft of the Education Act soon keeping a provision for imposing a ban on printing, publishing, and marketing notebooks and guidebooks.

The draft act stipulates that a teacher will not be able to provide private tuitions to the students of his own institution. It also seeks to impose a ban on corporal punishment for schoolchildren and mental torture by teachers.

Speaking to this newspaper after attending a virtual meeting yesterday afternoon, top education officials said the work on the draft by the ministry was in the final stage. They said they would need to hold discussions with the primary and mass education ministry and other stakeholders in this regard.

Education Minister Dipu Moni and top ministry officials will hold a press conference on the draft of the law soon, said officials.

"We are in the process of finalising the provisional draft of the Education Act. We are holding discussions within the ministry," Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury told The Daily Star after the meeting.

According to officials, the draft law makes printing, publishing, and

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UK's GSP will continue after LDC graduation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UK yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to continue the Generalised System of Preferences for Bangladesh even after its graduation to a developing country from a least developed one.

The reassurance came at the first meeting of the UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue at the commerce ministry in Dhaka yesterday, Md Jafar Uddin, secretary at the ministry, told The Daily Star over phone.

The UK, like the European Union, will continue the GSP for Bangladesh under the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme.

The EU has said it will provide Bangladesh with the GSP facility up to 2027 so that the country can prepare to face new economic challenges after the graduation.

The UK is the third largest export destination of Bangladesh which ships goods worth nearly \$4 billion to the European country every year.

The UK has started negotiations with its trade partners, including Bangladesh, all

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You will be Remembered.....



Mr. Ekram Uddin Mollah

Born : 30th January 1991 - Died : 17th February 2019

We remember him in honor of the 2nd death anniversary of Mr. Ekram Uddin Mollah, the honorable director of the Osman Group of Industries.

Board of directors of Osman Group of Industries, A multitude of entrepreneurs, executives and employees



Osman Group of Industries

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