



# CHAOS IN COMPANIGANJ

## Businesses hit hard

Traders said they are incurring losses in crores due to the volatile situation

MUNTAKIM SAAD and ANWARUL HAIDER, from COMPANIGANJ

In most restaurants of Companiganj's Basurhat, an instruction is clearly written on the walls -- "Conversations over politics are strictly prohibited."

But what seems is that politics controls everything in Basurhat, the municipality which drew attention of the whole country after recent activities of Abdul Quader Mirza, younger brother of ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, and consequent clashes between two factions of ruling AL that left two people dead.

Two people, including a local journalist, were shot dead during clashes over establishing dominance in the area. One group was led by Basurhat municipality Mayor Quader Mirza and another by Mizanur Rahman Badal, organising secretary of Companiganj upazila AL.

Locals said they have never seen such a use of firearms before in Basurhat. The fear among the locals was still visible on their faces.

The worst sufferer is the businesses here. Political clashes, mayoral election, use of firearms, killings, hartal, and section 144 -- all took a heavy toll on business. The traders said they have incurred losses in crores of taka following the volatile political situation in Noakhali's Companiganj over the last two months.

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Eight of the 40 fast broad-gauge locomotives that Bangladesh Railway (BR) purchased from a company of the United States arrives in Chattogram. The locomotives have been given temporary metre-gauge undercarriages so that they could be taken to Dhaka's Tongi Railway Station. From there, they will be sent to Parbatipur locomotive factory.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Sri Lanka to ban burqa

Says minister, set to shut more than 1,000 madrasas

REUTERS, COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will ban the wearing of the burqa and shut more than a thousand Islamic schools, a government minister said yesterday, the latest actions affecting the country's minority Muslim population.

Minister for public security Sarath Weerasekera told a news conference he had signed a paper on Friday for cabinet approval to ban the full face covering worn by some Muslim women on "national security" grounds.

"In our early days Muslim women and girls never wore the burqa," he said. "It is a sign of religious extremism that came about recently. We are definitely going to ban it."

The wearing of the burqa in the majority-Buddhist nation was temporarily banned in 2019 after the bombing of churches and hotels by Islamic militants

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## BRUR VC absent on campus

Some teachers unveil 'white paper' accusing him of indulging in corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

After joining as the vice-chancellor of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur three years and eight months ago, Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah went to the campus on only 237 days, a section of the university teachers claimed.

He never stayed on the campus an entire day. Sometimes, he would stay for a couple of hours, they said in a 790-page "white paper".

Unveiling the paper at a press conference on the campus yesterday, teachers' body Odhikar Surokha Parishad said the VC holds the post of chief of the sociology department and the post of dean in social science faculty, which is highly unusual.


The teachers brought 111 allegations against the VC in connection with corruption, anomalies, and for being arbitrary.

Prof Kalimullah said a section of teachers raising allegation against him

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ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Bhutto suggests power share



**Bangabandhu is seen with NAP Chief Wali Khan. The latter called on him on March 14, 1971.**

MARCH 14, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**BHUTTO'S DEMAND FOR TRANSFER OF POWER**

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, said today at a public meeting in Karachi that if power was to be transferred to the people before any constitutional settlement, as demanded by Bangabandhu, it should be transferred to the Awami League in the East and

the PPP in the West. He was quoted as saying "Idhar hum, Udhar tum" (we here, you there).

He added that the rule of the majority for the whole country would become applicable only if the Six-Point demand was dropped. Since that is not being done, the rationale and logic of this Six-Point demand necessitates agreement of the majority parties of both the

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## Kishore gets an ear implant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Formerly incarcerated cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore went through surgery in his ear yesterday for the wound in his right ear that resulted from the torture he underwent during detention.

His brother Ahsan Kabir informed The Daily Star yesterday afternoon that Kishore was recovering in post-operative.

The surgery was conducted at a city hospital where a procedure called myringoplasty was used to repair the perforations in his eardrum.

"A machine has been set in his ear through the surgery. The next course of action will be decided as per the physicians," Ahsan Kabir said.

The surgery was conducted as Kishore's diabetes is now somewhat under control, he said.

Kishore was taken to the operation theatre around

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## Sea slugs lose bodies to rid parasites



REUTERS, Tokyo

Japanese researchers have shown that a type of sea slug are able to self-decapitate and regrow their bodies, a discovery that could have ramifications for regenerative medicine.

The mechanism is believed to be an extreme method for the organism to rid itself of parasites, researchers Sayaka Mitoh and Yoichi Yusa wrote in a study published in Current Biology this week. The green slugs have algae cells in their skin, so they can feed off light like a plant until they develop a new body, which takes about 20 days.

Mitoh, a doctoral researcher at Nara Women's University, noticed one day that a sea slug, known as a sacoglossan, had spontaneously detached its

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## Body of missing boy found in septic tank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police recovered the body of a seven-year-old schoolboy from the septic tank of an under-construction house in Rangpur city's Tantipara area yesterday, 27 days after he went missing.

The dead, Siam Babu, 7, was from Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. Police suspected that criminals murdered the boy and dumped the body in the tank.

According to police, Siam used to live with his grandparents in Tantipara. He went missing on February 14 after going out to play.

The following day, his grandfather filed a general diary with Kotwali Police Station over his going missing.

Yesterday, construction workers found the body in the tank of the under-construction house near

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## ASTRAZENECA VACCINE India to review side effects


Reports no report of blood clots

AFP, New Delhi

India will carry out a deeper review of post-vaccination side effects from the AstraZeneca shot next week although no cases of blood clots have been reported so far, an official told AFP yesterday.

New Delhi decided to conduct the review after several countries suspended rollout over blood clot fears even as the World Health Organization said there was no reason to stop using AstraZeneca's Covid-19 jab.

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**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 14**

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-05	12-45	4-30	6-12	7-30
JAMAT 5-40	1-15	4-45	6-15	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Rickshaw-vans block a footpath adjacent to Phulbaria road behind the office of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) forcing pedestrians to squeeze through parked buses on the street and the pavement. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## ANTI-COUP PROTESTS Six more killed in Myanmar

US, allies vow to restore democracy

AGENCIES

At least six protesters were killed by security forces in Myanmar, witnesses and media reported, as activists yesterday marked the death anniversary of a student whose killing in 1988 sparked an uprising against the military government.

Three people were killed and several injured when police opened fire on a sit-in protest in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-biggest city, two witnesses told Reuters. Another person was killed in the central town of Pyay and two died in police firing in the commercial capital Yangon overnight, domestic media reported.

"The security forces initially stopped the ambulance from reaching the injured people and only allowed it later," a 23-year-old protester in Pyay told Reuters, asking not to be named for fear of retribution.

"By the time they allowed it, one of the injured became critical and he later died."

The deaths came as the leaders of the United States, India, Australia and Japan vowed to work together to restore democracy in the Southeast Asian nation.

More than 70 people have been killed in Myanmar in widespread protests against a Feb. 1 coup by the military, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners advocacy group has said.

Yesterday's protests erupted after posters spread on social media urging people to mark the death anniversary of Phone Maw, who was shot and killed by security forces in 1988 inside what was then known as the Rangoon Institute of Technology campus.

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