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# No student can be tortured, intimidated

HC observes, asks edn institutions to follow rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that no student can be tortured, intimidated and pressurised physically or mentally as per an earlier directive of the court.

Madrasas and all the other educational institutions have to conduct academic activities in line with the constitution and relevant laws, it said.

If the laws and constitution are violated by an institution, the education ministry, directorate of education, and boards of madrasa and education boards can take appropriate legal action, the HC said.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Shahed Nuruddin said this after going through compliance reports submitted by the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police in Chattogram over the legal steps taken after a madrasa student was recently tortured by a teacher in the district.

The HC said the eight-year-old student of Markazul Islami Academy Hafezia Madrasa, who was beaten up by his teacher Maulana Yahya, should be able to continue his academic activities.

The DC and SP of Chattogram submitted two separate reports to the HC stating that the madrasa authorities have been cautioned.

A case has been filed against Yahya under the Penal Code and Children Act and he has been arrested, taken to a lower court, and sent to jail, they mentioned.

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Without maintaining physical distancing, people queue before a truck of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to buy sugar, oil and other commodities at cheaper prices. Most of them are not wearing masks either. The rate of Covid-19 infection is increasing in the country as most people are ignoring the health safety rules. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# Quader Mirza sued over violence, death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Abdul Quader Mirza, mayor of Noakhali's Basurhat municipality and brother of Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, was sued yesterday over the death of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver in an incident of violence in Companiganj upazila.

The victim's younger brother filed the case with Noakhali Cognisance Court-4, accusing 164 named and some 50-60 unnamed people around 1:00pm.

Mirza was made the prime accused in the murder case for instructing his followers to engage in violence that led to the death of CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Alauddin, 22.

The mayor's son Mirza Masrur Quader and younger brother Shahdat Hossain were also made accused, said Shawkat Hossain, police inspector at the court.

After a hearing, the judge directed the officer-in-charge (OC) of

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## Russia deploys giant space telescope in Lake Baikal



AFP, Lake Baikal

Russian scientists on Saturday launched one of the world's biggest underwater space telescopes to peer deep into the universe from the pristine waters of Lake Baikal.

The deep underwater telescope, which has been under construction since 2015, is designed to observe neutrinos, the smallest particles currently known.

Dubbed Baikal-GVD, the telescope was submerged to a depth of 750-1,300 metres (2,500-4,300 feet), around four kilometres from the lake's shore.

Neutrinos are very hard to detect and water is an effective medium for doing so.

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## Increasing capacity a big challenge

The country's jails have long been grossly overcrowded, with inmates and rights activists alleging of rights violations and poor conditions, among others. Currently, 83,107 inmates are incarcerated in 68 prisons, against the maximum capacity of 42,450. Allegations of rights violations, poor hygiene, illegal privileges, narcotics in exchange of money, and access to mobile phones, are rife. In light of the situation, The Daily Star's **Mohammad Jamil Khan** and **Shaheen Mollah** recently spoke to Inspector General of Prisons **Brig Gen Md Mominur Rahman Mamun**.

TDS: Jails are always found to be overcrowded. What steps are being taken to improve these conditions?

IG Prisons: Steps have already been taken to modernise the old jails to increase capacity. Work is already underway to re-build the Khulna, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Cumilla, and Jamalpur district jails to increase capacity.

As emergency steps, semi-pucca tin-shade barracks are also constructed to ease jail crowding. Besides, land is being acquired for the expansion of jails.

TDS: What care do children living with their mothers in jail receive?

IG Prisons: There are around 3,222 female inmates and 349 children (170 boys and 179 girls) staying with their mothers, as they are below six years of age.

These children are getting necessary food and a diet as per doctors' suggestions. They are provided with books for education regularly, and there is a day care centre inside the jails so that they (the children) can spend time when their mothers are busy with work during the day.

TDS: What is the current state of prison medical facilities?

IG Prisons: Around 112 doctors and 86 pharmacists and nurses are now

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## LAND GRABBING IN PABNA District admin to probe allegation against MP's son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna-1 lawmaker Samsul Haque Tuku's son Nafis Sams has allegedly grabbed vast government land beside the Jamuna in the district's Bera upazila and forcibly removed landless people from the area.

The district administration recently kicked off an investigation after receiving complaints from locals.

Meanwhile, the accused, in a press conference held at the Pabna press club yesterday, claimed that he only took initiatives to "develop the area" by establishing a university, a college, and a power plant.

He also claimed that a group of criminals was operating drug businesses and sand lifting illegally in the area.

"I have moved forward to remove the illegal sand lifters and drug traders aiming to launch educational institutions and an energy plant for the sake of the people," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Bera pouro unit Awami League President Abdul Mannan Manu said Nafis bought some land beside the river while grabbing huge khas land.

Nafis also hanged a signboard of

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### President Yahya arrives

MARCH 15, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

A COLD WELCOME FOR YAHYA

President Yahya Khan arrived in Dhaka today. No local political leader went to the airport to meet him. All the entries of the airport were heavily guarded. Siddiq Salik, then public relations officer in the Pakistan army in Dhaka, recounts, "It was a strange, eerie atmosphere charged with a deadly stillness. There were no bouquets of flowers, no civil officials, no rows of city elite, no hustling of journalists, and no clicking of cameras. Even the official photographer was not admitted." [Siddiq Salik, Witness to Surrender, UPL 1997, pg.59]

Yahya drove quickly to the president's house in a heavily armed convoy. He could not help seeing that virtually every house sported a black flag mandated by the Awami League. The Farmgate check point was removed by Awami League to



avoid embarrassment to the president whom Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman earlier declared publicly as a guest of "Bangladesh".

Yahya had requested Bhutto to go to Dhaka but he declined on the ground that after Bangabandhu's virtual declaration of independence there was no point in making the journey. He seemed more interested in getting power than in the unity of Pakistan, commented GW Choudhury, a close confidante of Yahya. [GW Choudhury, The Last Days of United Pakistan, UPL, 2011, pg. 163]

THE LAST MILITARY CONFERENCE

In the evening of March 15, Yahya summoned the local

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## CASE UNDER DSA Leftist leader Ruhul denied bail again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court in Khulna yesterday rejected the bail petition of leftist leader Ruhul Amin in a case filed under the Digital Security Act (DSA).

Khulna Metropolitan Sessions Judge Shahidul Islam passed the order after Ruhul's lawyer advocate Begum Akhter Jahan Ruku filed the petition on behalf of her client, said the lawyer.

On March 1, Khulna Metropolitan Magistrate Court-4 Judge Atiqus Samad had also rejected Ruhul's bail prayer.

The new date for the submission of another bail

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### PRAYER TIMING MARCH 15

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:00 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45  
JAMAT 5:35 1:15 4:45 6:18 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



People carry an injured protester during an anti-coup protest in Mandalay, Myanmar, yesterday. More than 80 people had been killed and over 2,100 arrested as yesterday in widespread protests against the military coup on Feb. 1, an advocacy group said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## ANTI-COUP PROTESTS 14 more killed in Myanmar

Ousted MPs call for unity as China urges junta to stop violence

AGENCIES

At least 14 anti-coup protesters were killed yesterday as demonstrators across Myanmar continued to defy military rule and a group of ousted MPs urged them to "defend themselves" during the nation's "darkest moment".

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power in a February 1 putsch, triggering a mass uprising that has seen hundreds of thousands protest daily for a return to democracy.

The junta has repeatedly justified its power grab by alleging widespread electoral fraud in November's elections, which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won by a landslide.

In response, a group of elected MPs, many of whom are in hiding, have formed a shadow "parliament" called the Committee for Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) -- the Burmese word for the country's governing bloc -- to denounce the military regime.

Yesterday, they issued a statement saying protesters had the "full right to defend themselves" under the country's penal code against security forces who are "harming and causing violence".

Soldiers and police have in recent weeks been staging near-daily crackdowns against demonstrators calling for a return to democracy, deploying tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds to quell anti-coup protests.

More than 80 have been killed in the unrest, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners

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