

**BUILD YOUR HOME FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH THE TOUGHEST STEEL**

**BSRM treme 5500 DWR the tough steel**

**Aktaruzzaman Flyover Chittagong**

**Principal Cement Brand**

**SHAH CEMENT**

## JUSTICE FOR TONU

# 5 yrs on, no ray of hope for her family

KHALID BIN NAZRUL and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Her parents left no stone unturned to help her become what she wanted to be: an artist. Sohagi Jahan Tonu had a natural knack for acting, and she would often sing and dance in theater plays.

A good reciter of poems, Tonu used to participate in different cultural competitions and she won many prizes. To realise her dreams, her parents had to sacrifice a lot.

"For many years, I even did not buy a good saree for myself. Because I had to bear all the expenses of my daughter," Tonu's mother Anwara Begum told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

But all her dreams are shattered now for good. Tonu's body was found in a bush inside Mainamati Cantonment of Cumilla. The life of the 19-year-old college girl was cut short after she was raped and murdered on March 20 in 2016.

Then a student of Cumilla Victoria College, Tonu took



Hundreds of people in Chattogram's Patenga gathering at the beach during the weekly holiday yesterday. Although Covid-19 transmission has been increasing steeply recently, a large number of people are seen without masks -- the first line of defence against the spread of the virus. Experts have said that such disregard for health safety guidelines is behind the recent spike.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

## 22 held over attacks on Hindu homes

Two cases filed against 1,500 in Sunamganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police have arrested 22 people in connection with attacking, vandalising and looting Hindu houses in Noagaon village of Sunamganj's Shalla upazila on Wednesday.

The attack was carried out over an alleged Facebook post criticising a Hefajat-e Islam leader's statement.

The arrests were made after conducting drives in different places of the upazila from Thursday night to Friday morning, said Nazmul Haque, officer-in-charge of Shalla Police Station.

On Thursday, two cases were filed with the police station -- one by Habibpur Union chairman and also a victim in the village Bibekananda Majumdar Bakul and another by Sub-inspector Abdul Karim of the station.

Of the 1,500 accused in the cases, Shahidul Islam Swadhin, a member of Sarmangal union of Deraul upazila and a resident of nearby Nachni village, was made

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## ANTI-COUP PROTESTS

# 9 more killed in Myanmar

Indonesia, Malaysia call for end to violence; two more reporters detained

REUTERS

Security forces killed at least nine opponents of Myanmar's February 1 coup yesterday, a funeral service and media said, as Indonesia urged an end to violence and Western ambassadors condemned what they called the military's immoral, indefensible actions.

Police and soldiers have used increasingly violent tactics to suppress demonstrations by supporters of detained elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, but that has not deterred the protesters and crowds turned out again yesterday.

Security forces opened fire in a confrontation in the central town of Aungban as they tried to clear a protesters' barricade, media and a witness reported.

An official with Aungban's funerary service, who declined to be identified, told Reuters eight people were killed, seven on the spot and one wounded person who died after being taken to hospital in the nearby town of Kalaw.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

# Bangabandhu sees progress in Dhaka talks



Bangabandhu addressing a gathering of fourth-class employees in front of his Dhanmondi house on March 20, 1971.

MARCH 20, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### PROGRESS IN TALKS

The fourth round of talks between Yahya Khan and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was held today. Bangabandhu was joined by his

colleagues -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Khondokar Moshtaque Ahmed, M Mansur Ali and Kamal Hossain.

The meeting began with a heated debate where Bangabandhu brought up the military attack on civilians in Joydebpur. Yahya claimed that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## RMG worker gang-raped in Gazipur

Two arrested

STAR REPORT

A teenage girl was gang-raped allegedly by a group of four youths in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila early yesterday.

The victim, a 16-year-old readymade garment worker, filed a case with Sreepur Police Station yesterday morning.

According to the case statement, the victim came to Sreepur to meet a friend at her rented house in Mauna Uttar Para on Thursday evening.

Around 2:00am yesterday, two caretakers of the building -- Dulu and Babul -- stormed into their house with two other men named Suzan and Munna.

The four youths then threatened the victim with dire consequences and took her to another room where they raped her, said Khandakar Imam Hossain,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Hong Kong's fragile coral reefs boosted by 3D printing



AFP, Hong Kong

In jade waters off Hong Kong's eastern shoreline, scientists are thrilled to spot a cuttlefish protecting her eggs inside an artificial, 3D-printed clay seabed helping to restore the city's fragile coral reefs.

On postcards and in the popular imagination Hong Kong is a byword for urban density, a thicket of towering skyscrapers crammed along the harbour or clinging to the vertiginous hillsides above.

Yet it is circled by a surprising array of nature

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Man throws acid on wife, mother-in-law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A woman and her mother suffered burns in an acid attack in Bhatamatha village of Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila yesterday.

The victims are Chandana Paul, 29, and her mother Putul Rani Paul, 50, of the village.

Family members and police said Chandana's husband, Ananda Paul, 40, carried out the attack over family feud.

Talking to The Daily Star, Ajit Paul, husband of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



### PRAYER TIMING MARCH 20

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Uprooted trees in the coastal areas of Kotka beach in the Sundarbans. Cyclone Amphan wreaked havoc on the coastal areas of Bagerhat around 10 months ago, but the damage of the devastating cyclone is still visible. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Europe restarts AstraZeneca jabs

Paris goes into lockdown; India's richest state hit by record virus surge

AGENCIES

Several European countries resumed AstraZeneca vaccinations yesterday after an all-clear from EU regulators, as US President Joe Biden was set to meet his goal of having 100 million Americans inoculated weeks ahead of schedule.

Worries that AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine may cause blood clots have seen countries from Venezuela to Indonesia pause its use in recent days, a setback for the drive to vaccinate populations against a virus that has killed nearly 2.7 million people.

Germany and Italy, both of which are attempting to fight off a third wave

of the coronavirus, announced they were using the jab again as of yesterday after the European Medicines Agency said it was "safe and effective".

Other European countries including the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal are also ending their suspension, while in Asia, Indonesia said it would follow suit.

Denmark, Norway and Sweden are yet to bring the jab back into use, pending further review.

The World Health Organization was due to publish the conclusions of its own safety assessment yesterday, after repeatedly encouraging countries to continue using it.

AstraZeneca's shot had been billed as a game-changer as it is cheaper and

easier to store than some of its rivals, making it more accessible to poorer nations.

It is a vital part of Covax, the global drive to ensure an equitable distribution of vaccines.

The vaccine was also brought back into use in France yesterday -- but just hours later, the national health regulator recommended it should only be given to people aged 55 and over, given the reported blood clots were only seen in younger people.

Prime Minister Jean Castex -- who is himself 55 -- received an AstraZeneca dose in a bid to reassure citizens that it is safe.

Around a third of France's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

**মুজিব চিরন্তন**

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী ও স্বাধীনতার সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী উদযাপন উপলক্ষ্যে অনুষ্ঠানমালা স্থান: জাতীয় প্যারেড স্কয়ার ২০শে মার্চ ২০২১, শনিবার

**থিম (Theme):** তারুণ্যের আলোক শিক্ষা

সময়	কর্মসূচি
বিকাল ৫:১৫	জাতীয় সংগীত পরিবেশনা মুজিব চিরন্তন থিমের ওপর টাইটেল এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও আবহ সংগীত (থিম সং ভিডিও প্রদর্শন) স্বাগত সম্বোধন ও সম্বাধনা: জনাব জুনায়েদ আহমেদ পলক এম.পি, মাননীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী, তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ- ডাক, টেলিযোগাযোগ ও তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয় তারুণ্যের আলোক শিক্ষা থিমভিত্তিক ভিডিও প্রদর্শনী থিমভিত্তিক আলোচনা: অধ্যাপক ড. মুহম্মদ জাফর ইকবাল ভিডিও বার্তায় সম্মানিত অতিথির বক্তব্য: ড. ইউসুফ আল ওখাইমিন, ওআইসির সেক্রেটারি জেনারেল ভিডিও বার্তায় সম্মানিত অতিথির বক্তব্য: মাদাম জেকোলিন ডেরোমেডি, মাননীয় সিনেটর এবং প্রেসিডেন্ট, ইন্টার পার্লামেন্টারি ফ্রেন্ডশিপ গ্রুপ ফর সাউথ ইস্ট এশিয়া
সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০	আলোচনা পর্ব সমাপ্তি
সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান	
সময়	কর্মসূচি
সন্ধ্যা ৬:৩০	বঙ্গবন্ধুকে উৎসর্গ করে বন্ধু রাষ্ট্রের সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান (সরাসরি পরিবেশনা- জাপান) মুজিব চিরন্তন থিমের ওপর টাইটেল এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও থিমের ওপর একটি সিজি এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও সমসাময়িক শিল্পীদের পরিবেশনায় বঙ্গবন্ধুর পছন্দের গান থিম্যাটিক কোরিওগ্রাফি দুই প্রজন্মের শিল্পীদের মেলবন্ধনে মিশ্র মিউজিক পরিবেশনা সমাপ্তি

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী উদযাপন জাতীয় বাস্তবায়ন কমিটি