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QUESTIONING RAPE VICTIM'S CHARACTER

# What has been done to repeal provision?

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know what steps have been taken by the government to cancel the provision of the Evidence Act, which allows questioning the character of rape victims in court.

The court ordered the government to submit a report on the steps to repeal section 155(4) of the Evidence Act, 1872, before it on January 4.

Section 155(4) says, "When a man is prosecuted for rape or an attempt to ravish, it may be shown that the prosecutrix was of generally immoral character."

Explanation: A witness declaring another witness to be unworthy of credit may not, upon his examination-in-chief, give reasons for his belief, but he may be asked his reasons in cross-examination, and the answers which he gives cannot be contradicted, though, if they are false, he may afterwards be charged with giving false evidence".

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order while hearing a writ petition that challenged the legality of two sections of the Evidence Act, which allow questioning the character of rape victims.

The bench adjourned the hearing and fixed January 4 for its resumption.

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The ground floor of Patuakhali Government College dorm caved in as students gathered there following a meeting regarding their seat allocation. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 10 hurt as college dorm floor caves in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 10 students were injured as the ground floor of the Patuakhali Government College hostel corridor suddenly caved in and created a 5-7 feet deep gaping hole.

The incident took place when students gathered there following a meeting about seat allocation in the hostel.

When the floor gave way, many of the students fell into the hole and sustained injuries.

Seven of them had to be admitted to Patuakhali Medical College Hospital, while three others received primary treatment there.

The accident took place around 11:30pm on Monday in front of room 107 on the ground floor of the three-storey building.

Those hospitalised due to injury are Bappi, Atiq, Mamun, Azad, Md Ruman, Md Rakib and Md Naem.

Four of them are first year honours' examinees and were taken to their

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## SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION

# Form distribution starts on Nov 25

Admission on lottery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Distribution of forms for admission to all government and non-government secondary schools across the country will start from November 25.

- » **FORM DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN NOVEMBER 25 AND DECEMBER 8**
- » **LOTTERY FOR GOVT SCHOOL DECEMBER 15**
- » **Lottery for non-govt school DECEMBER 19**
- » **Admission at govt school DECEMBER 18-23**
- » **Admission at non govt school DECEMBER 21-27**

Forms can be collected and submitted till December 8. Students have to apply and pay the necessary fees online in this regard, said a notice of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) yesterday.

Students will be able to select five

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

# Bangladesh govt criticises proposal of political settlement

NOVEMBER 17, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### CURFEW IN DHAKA

A daylight curfew was imposed on Dhaka today, reported The New York Times. There were unconfirmed reports of fighting between soldiers and guerrillas in some of the city's suburbs. Second-hand sources said that the army had imposed the curfew to conduct a search of houses for guerrillas and weapons. The streets were empty except for military jeeps and trucks and a few escorted private and diplomatic cars, add the newspaper.

**BANGLADESH GOVT'S REBUTTAL**

Bangladesh Government strongly criticised today the fresh attempts made by some Western countries to float feelers hinting towards a political settlement between Awami League leaders and West Pakistan Military junta. The Government stated that the question of settlement with West Pakistan could only be pondered over when four pre-conditions enunciated by the Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam would be fulfilled: Recognition of Bangladesh as free and sovereign country; Withdrawal of Pakistan forces from Bangladesh; Unconditional release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; and Compensation for the loss inflicted on the people of Bangladesh due to army atrocities and for the disparity existing before 25th March, 1971.

The government statement concluded, "Gallant Mukti Bahini

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## SINHA MURDER CASE

# OC Pradeep threatened people with 'crossfire'

ASP testified how he extorted people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Former officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das used to extort people by threatening them to have them killed in "crossfire", Mohammad Khairul Islam, senior assistant superintendent of police, testified before court.

Many of them, who did not entertain Pradeep's demand, were killed in "crossfire", he said while testifying before the Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday in the sensational Maj (retd) Sinha Rashed Khan murder case.

Khairul, investigation officer of the murder case, is now working in Rab-15

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## 17 MISSING FILES

# Health ministry suspends 4 staffers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health and family welfare ministry yesterday suspended four staffers after 17 of its files went missing 19 days ago.

Maidul Islam Prodhon, senior public relations officer of the ministry, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.

Around noon, Ali Noor, secretary of the ministry's medical education division, told journalists that the investigation committee has identified four employees involved in the crime and the divisional punishment is underway.

The suspended staffers are Joseph Sardar and Ayesha Siddiqua, stenographers/computer operators of the purchase and collection-2 section; Badal Chandra Goswami and Mintu Mia, office assistants of the admin section.

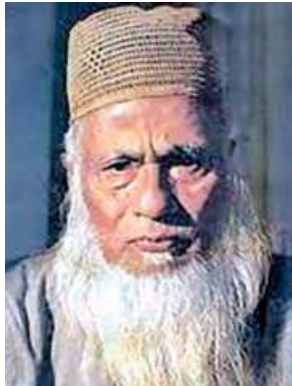
The files, mostly related to purchases, went missing on October 28 from the medical education division of the health ministry at the secretariat, and were kept in room-29 of building-3 at the secretariat, adjacent to the room of Shahadat Hossain, additional secretary (development) of the division.

Joseph Sardar and Ayesha Siddiqua's worked in that very room.

The health ministry filed a general diary with Shahbagh police station the same day.

The files included purchase documents related to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital in

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## Bhasani's 45th death anniv today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The 45th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, a legendary political leader in the sub-continent, will be observed today.

Different socio-political organisations will mark the day with elaborate programmes across the country. They will place wreaths at his grave at Santosh of Tangail.

Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) will

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## Tangail MP Akabbar no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Md Akabbar Hossain from Tangail-7 (Mirzapur) died at a city hospital yesterday.

He was 65.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death.

The fourth-time MP was the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on road transport and bridges ministry.

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**PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 17**

| Fajr       | Zohr  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
|------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| AZAN 5:05  | 12:45 | 3:45 | 5:21    | 7:30 |
| JAMAT 5:40 | 1:15  | 4:00 | 5:24    | 7:30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Locals go for fishing on the Turag in the capital's Basila area as the river dried up in the winter season. Many other rivers across the country are now also drying up. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Myanmar junta charges Suu Kyi with polls fraud

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta has charged ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi with committing electoral fraud during the 2020 polls, state media reported yesterday.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since a military coup in February sparked nationwide protests and a deadly crackdown on dissent.

Detained since the putsch, Suu Kyi, 76, faces a raft of charges including illegally importing walkie talkies, sedition and corruption, and faces decades in jail if convicted.

The latest charges entail "election fraud and lawless actions", state-run newspaper Global New Light of Myanmar reported, without giving details on when court proceedings would begin.

Fifteen other officials -- including former president Win Myint and the former chairman of the election commission -- face the same charge, the report added.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party (NLD) saw its support increase in the 2020 vote compared to the 2015 election, trouncing a military-aligned party.

But the junta has cited fraud during the poll as its reason for seizing power and ending Myanmar's democratic interlude.

In July, it cancelled the results of the polls, announcing it had uncovered more than 11 million instances of voter irregularities.

Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing said fresh elections would be held and a state of emergency lifted by August 2023, extending the military's initial timeline given when it seized power.

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