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NINE YEAR OF TAZREEN TRAGEDY

# Trial seems never-ending

*Due to absence of witnesses, victims don't believe justice will be ever done*

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Trial proceedings of a lawsuit over Tazreen Fashions fire made no significant progress in six years as prosecutors kept failing to bring witnesses to court.

A fire at the garment factory on November 24, 2012, left 112 workers dead and many others injured. The case was filed with Ashulia Police Station the next day.

Only nine out of 104 prosecution witnesses testified at the court since the trial started six years ago.

The last witness to testify was garment worker Jarina Begum who appeared before the court on January 13 this year, said a prosecutor.

The witnesses ignored repeated summons as well as “non-bailable” arrest warrants, he added.

On October 28 this year, the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka issued non-bailable arrest warrants for seven absentee witnesses for failing to comply with multiple court orders.

The witnesses are: Chaina Begum, Mosammat Parvin, Morsheda, Shamoly Akter, Arfuza, Ale Nur and Ramesha Begum.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to bring the absentee witnesses before it on January 18, 2022, when the next hearing on the case will be held.

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Ignoring a “no parking” sign, state-owned and privately-owned vehicles park illegally on a street in the capital's Motijheel area. These vehicles obstruct traffic flow, cause jams and add time to people's travel time . The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Bangavax gets nod for human trials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The homegrown Covid-19 vaccine Bangavax got ethical permission from the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) to begin human trials, in a massive endorsement of the research credentials of the local drug maker.

Globe Biotech, which announced the development of the single-dose vaccine on July 20 last year, will now send the human trial protocol to the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), said Mohammad Mohiuddin, its senior manager for quality and regulation.

Once the DGDA gives the clinical trial permission, Globe Biotech can start the human trial, he said.

“The sooner the DGDA will give permission, the sooner we can start the trial,” Mohiuddin said, adding that Globe Biotech has completed all preparations.

On October 5 last year, SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

BANGLADESH RAILWAY

## Covid strikes hard, losses pile up

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The pandemic took a huge toll on Bangladesh Railway as movement curbs over a significant period left the state-run operator with Tk 2,063 crore losses in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

The loss was Tk 419 crore higher than the previous year, when it was Tk 1,644 crore, shows BR data revealed recently.

With the latest amount, BR incurred Tk 6,670.6 crore losses in just four years since 2016-17.

Although BR's financial report of 2020-21 fiscal year has not been completed, railways officials fear that the losses would continue as the operations of passenger trains remained suspended for a significant period.

The hike in fuel price early this month also means that the railways would keep losing money as the authorities have decided not to raise tickets' prices for now.

However, transport experts said although the pandemic had a role in increasing the losses, lack of accountability, professionalism, and poor services of BR are the main reasons behind the losses.

The BR operates 360 passenger and freight trains on its 3,093km network across the country.

While the number of passengers has risen over the years and it has got a huge investment in the last decade, the sector

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ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## USA, UK call for restraint

NOVEMBER 24, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### US, UK EXPRESSED CONCERN

Both America and Britain expressed their concern at the military confrontation between India and Pakistan, and appealed to the two states for restraint in the present “potentially dangerous situation in the subcontinent”.

But while the British government was pressed in the House of Lords to raise the issue in the Security Council as a real threat to the world peace, the US and the Soviet Union took up direct bilateral diplomatic contact.

Meanwhile, the UN Secretary General U Thant was ‘gravely concerned’ about the situation and was following the development there closely.

### WE ARE AT WAR, SAYS PAK DIPLOMAT

Pakistan Ambassador to the US Agha Muhammad Reza said his country was in a state of undeclared war with India. “Definitely we are at war,” he commented.

The ambassador said the trouble in East Pakistan was an internal affair which had nothing to do with India. If we left Pakistan, he claimed, “we would settle it.”

### PAKISTAN CALLS UP OFFICERS ON LEAVE

All officers on leave before retirement and reservists in Pakistan was asked to report for duty immediately. A special announcement to this effect was made by the general headquarters in Rawalpindi today.

### ON THE WAR FRONT

Mukti Bahini captured Fulgazi and Chandgazi today and consolidated their position in the whole area.

Mukti Bahini cleared areas along Atgram, Rahimpur and Zakiganj road in Sylhet district today.

The daring naval commandos raided Bahadurabad Ghat on the river Jumna tonight. The ammunition depot of the occupation troops were shelled resulting in the explosion and damaging of a

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POLLS VIOLENCE

## Farmer killed in Munshiganj

STAR REPORT

A farmer was killed allegedly by the supporters of a union parishad member candidate ahead of the polls at Char Kewar union in Munshiganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

Farmer Mohammad Sattar Sarkar, 45, of Naulbuniakandi village, was strangled to death by the supporters of member candidate Bazlur Rahman, said the victim's father Mohammad Suruj Miah Sarkar.

He said, “Sattar was a supporter of Bazlur's opponent Imran Kabir Iman. He had been missing since Monday evening.

“His body was found around 6:30am yesterday. It was tied with a tree and a plastic rope was wrapped around the neck.”

The victim's relatives brought the body to Munshiganj General Hospital around 7:30am yesterday, said Abul Kalam, an on-duty doctor at the health facility.

“Initially, it seems that Sattar was strangled but further can be said only

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## Airbus A340 plane lands on Antarctica for first time



CNN ONLINE

For the first time in history, an Airbus A340 plane has landed on Antarctica.

Hi Fly, a boutique aviation company, was behind the flight. The company specialises in wet leases, which means they hire out both aircraft and air crew and are responsible for handling insurance, maintenance and other logistics.

Hi Fly 801 took off from Cape Town, South Africa on Tuesday, November 2.

The plane was commissioned by Wolf's Fang, a new upscale adventure camp on the world's southernmost continent, and brought much-needed supplies to the resort. Wolf's Fang is a new project from high-end Antarctica tourism company White Desert.

The crew of Hi Fly 801 (and its return trip to Cape Town, Hi Fly 802) was led by Captain Carlos Mirpuri, who is also Hi Fly's vice president.

Each flight took between five and five and a half

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## Two killed as SUV hits Mohakhali flyover pillar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths were killed and three others injured after an SUV they were in hit a pillar under the Mohakhali flyover in the capital yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Aiman Umar, 22, son of retired Col Umar Faruque of Mohakhali DOHS, and his friend Fahmid Ahmed Raiyan, 19, son of late Ilias Ahmed of Nikunja, said Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station.

Fahmid was an A-level student in Canada, his uncle Harun Khan told The Daily Star. He said Fahmid had come to Dhaka during the pandemic and was supposed to return to Canada next month.

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### PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:05 12:45 3:45 5:21 7:00  
JAMAAT 5:40 1:15 4:00 5:24 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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