

LONDON COURT RULING
WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange one step closer to extradition to US
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"We're looking into BNP's demand for sending Khaleda Zia abroad."
LAW MINISTER ANISUL HUQ ON THE BNP CHIEF'S TREATMENT.



"I have to say that Russophobia is a first step towards genocide. You and I know what is happening in Dombass."
PUTIN ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE TENSIONS



"The problem with the British government is that it does not do what it says."
FRENCH PRESIDENT MACRON ON ROW OVER FISHING, MIGRATION

INT'L HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Return our loved ones

Families of victims of enforced disappearance appeal to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of the victims of enforced disappearance yesterday staged a demonstration in the capital's Shahbagh demanding return of their loved ones.

Among the demonstrators were victims' children who were mere toddlers when their fathers went missing eight years ago. Holding photos of their fathers in their hands, they demanded justice for the victims.

"Mayer Daak", a platform of family members of the victims of enforced disappearance, organised the human chain in front of the National Museum marking Human Rights Day.

Years have gone by since some of the

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Abida Islam Ridhi, left, and Arwa Islam have no idea whether their fathers, who became victims of enforced disappearance about eight years ago, will return home or if they are gone forever. They just wake up early every single day hoping to hear good news, but their wait seems to be far from over. They form a human chain, organised by Mayer Daak, in front of the National Museum in the city's Shahbagh yesterday demanding return of the victims. The programme was staged marking Human Rights Day.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE

US sanctions Rab, seven top officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States yesterday imposed human rights-related sanctions on Rapid Action Battalion and seven current and former top officials of the agency, including Benazir Ahmed, now inspector general of police.

Benazir, former director general of Rab, and five officials were designated by the Department of the Treasury under the Global Magnitsky sanctions programme in connection with serious rights abuse.

The five are Rab Director General Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun; Khan Mohammad Azad, additional director general (operations) of Rab; Tofayel Mustafa Sorwar, former additional director general (operations); Mohammad Jahangir Alam, former additional director general (operations), and Mohammad Anwar Latif Khan, former additional director general (operations).

Besides, the US State Department barred Benazir, and another former official of Rab Lt Col Miftah Uddin Ahmed, from traveling to the United States.

"Today, on International Human Rights Day, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is designating 15 individuals and 10 entities for their connection to human rights abuse and repression in several countries around the globe, pursuant to multiple sanctions authorities," said a Treasury release.

Rab is designated pursuant to EO 13818 for being a foreign entity that is responsible for or complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in, serious human rights

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WANT JUSTICE

For my son and others killed in crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Much to the frustration of family members of victims and justice seekers, reckless drivers are rarely punished even if they cause loss of life.

"Killer drivers are on the road unchallenged. But we are yet to get justice," said Shahjahan Kabir at a rally at Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

He added, "I am a poor farmer. My only son was crushed to death by a recklessly driven bus. I went to different ministries and offices in the last three years, seeking justice and compensation. I have got nothing."

His son Saiful Islam Rana, 26, was a nurse at Dhaka Community Medical College and Hospital in Moghbazar. He was killed on August 3, 2018, after a speeding bus hit his motorcycle from behind near his workplace.

He died at a time when there were widespread student-led demonstrations across the country for safe roads. The grieving family members and friends of the victims attended the rally yesterday as students have been demonstrating again for weeks demanding safer roads.

A group of students under the banner Nirapad Sarak Andolon held the rally. Many of the speakers expressed their helplessness and burst into tears.

Shajahan said the bus which killed his son was still plying the Dhaka-Satkhira highway. "I want



justice for my son and anyone who had died on the road because of reckless driving."

Saiful's mother and sister were also present at the programme.

"We beg the prime minister to see that we get justice for my brother," said Saiful's sister Jannatul Juthi.

In July 2018, the widespread demonstration for road safety was triggered by the deaths of two college students, Abdul Karim Rajib and Dia Khanam Mim, in a crash in the capital.

The current demonstrations began on November 18 after bus fares were raised following a hike in diesel price. The protests began in reaction to the hiked bus fares. But the demonstrations soon gained momentum after two students got killed in the capital by recklessly driven vehicles.

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Father, daughter killed in N'ganj road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A man and his 14-year-old daughter were killed in a road accident at Chashara in Narayanganj town yesterday.

The victims are Altab Hossen and Bely Akhter, said police.

According to the victims' family, Bely used to live in the USA with her mother after her parents' divorce. She came to Bangladesh only three weeks ago to visit her ailing grandmother.

Yesterday noon, she was going to attend a marriage programme along with her father. On their way, a truck rammed over the rickshaw that they were riding, leaving them dead on the spot.

Bely's maternal aunt Mahmuda Akhter said the minor girl was supposed to return to the USA on December 22.

"I prepared Bely myself before she left for the wedding. We are devastated losing our child to road accident," a sobbing Mahmuda said.

Jahangir Alam, sub-inspector of Fatulla Police Station, said the truck hit the rear end of the rickshaw in Chashara area.

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CAMPAIGN FOR EVALY

3 actors sued

Police say they'll arrest them anytime as an aggrieved customer files case



Tahsan Khan

Rafiath Rashid Mithila

Sabnam Faria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday said actors Tahsan Khan, Rafiath Rashid Mithila and Sabnam Faria are under watch and may be arrested anytime in a case filed by an aggrieved customer of controversial e-commerce platform Evaly.

In the case filed with Dhanmondi Police Station on December 4, Saad Sam Rahman brought fraud charges against nine accused, including the three celebrities, for embezzling Tk 3.18 lakh.

"Since a case has been filed, they are under our watch and will be arrested at any time," Sazzadur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told journalists at his office.

The complainant said their celebrity status attracted him to Evaly, which eventually defrauded him.

"They cannot avoid responsibility," said the DC.

Tahsan is the chief goodness officer, SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

This Nobel light is blinding

Says Maria Ressa as she receives the honour



AFP, Oslo

Champion of press freedom Maria Ressa yesterday said there was "no brighter light" than the Nobel Peace Prize and told AFP that her award was "for all journalists".

"Oh my God, no, never, never," the 58-year-old journalist, co-founder of the news website Rappler, told AFP in an interview when asked if she had expected to win the Prize, which she formally received yesterday.

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Jannatul Juthi, younger sister to late Saiful Islam Rana, breaks down at a rally at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday while an organiser of the event tries to comfort her. Saiful was killed in a road crash in the capital's Moghbazar in August 2018. Students organised the demonstration to press for their 9-point demand for safer roads.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'ABDUCTION BY ROHINGYAS'

Three out of four boys rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three of four schoolboys were rescued from Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila yesterday, four days after they were abducted allegedly by two Rohingya men from Ramu upazila.

Tariqul Islam, commander of Armed Police Battalion (APBn-16), confirmed the development. He, however, did not disclose details of the rescue drive.

The rescued schoolboys are Jahedul Islam Mamun, a tenth-grader of Sonarpara High School in Ukhiya upazila, and Mizanur Rahman Nayan, an eighth-grader of the same school, and his classmate Mohammad Kayser.

A team of APBn-16 along with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-15) and local police was conducting the drive in Hila union to rescue the fourth victim, Mizanul Islam, an eighth-grader of the same school, until the report was filed around 10:00pm, said APBn-16 officials.

Jahedul's father Abdus Salam, who was with the law enforcers during the rescue operation, told The Daily Star, "The three schoolboys are seriously ill as the abductors beat them up and confined them in a hilly area for four days."

About the location, Salam said the kidnapers confined the four schoolboys in a hilly area near the Leda unregistered SEE PAGE 2 COL 1