

# A hero's return

Abdul Khaleque of famed 'Muktijuddhe Tin Kishore' honoured in Mymensingh



"Muktijuddhe Tin Kishore" features teenagers late Mujibur Rahman (left), Abdul Mazid (middle), and Abdul Khaleque (standing). On Friday, Khaleque (left) and war veteran Bimol Pal (middle) were received by Mymensingh city mayor.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

During the Liberation War, Abdul Khaleque was only 14. But even at a young age, his patriotic conscience compelled him to join the war, and this participation was immortalised through Naib Uddin Ahmed's famed "Muktijuddhe Tin Kishore" photograph. Now 64 year old, the Tangail native returned to Mymensingh, where the photo was taken on the first week of December 1971, over this weekend. On an invitation marking the 50

years of victory celebrations, Khaleque visited the city and joined the 50-km walk organised by veteran freedom fighter 70-year-old Bimol Pal. "The Brahmaputra river takes me back to when I had visited this serene city as a teenager," Khaleque told this correspondent. "My feelings are beyond description. I am glad that the people here remember me, owing to the photograph." "I have visited the city during this time, but it's different today due to the 50-year celebrations," he said.

After receiving Khaleque and Naib at the city's Joy Bangla Chattar on Friday afternoon, city Mayor Ekramul Haque Titu honoured the duo, along with Naib (posthumous), with crests for their role during the war. Among the other two teenagers from the photograph, Mujibur Rahman died in 2016, while Abdul Mazid is now a retired Ansar Battalion officer. Khaleque now runs a museum, named "Bangabandhu O Muktijodhha", on four-decimal land of his ancestral homestead.

PHOTO: COLLECTED, STAR

## Quader's health improves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader's health condition has improved, doctors said. "He is now out of danger," said Dr Sharfuddin, vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, yesterday. "Quader's blood pressure and oxygen saturation levels are normal, but he may have to stay in the hospital for two to three more days, under close observation," said Dr Sharfuddin, also head of the 10-member medical board to oversee the minister's treatment. Quader was hospitalised on Tuesday after he complained of chest pain. Quader, also Awami League general secretary, underwent a bypass surgery on March 20, 2019, at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore for three blockages in his coronary artery.

## Schools to face consequence for excess admission fees

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday warned school authorities of consequences if they charge excess fees during admission. "If allegations of charging are excess fees are proved against any school, we would take actions against the authorities," the minister said. She said this while attending an admission lottery for government schools at the International Mother Language Institute in the capital. The lottery for non-government schools will take place on December 19.

The lottery is part of a central system to determine admissions to all government and non-government secondary schools for the next academic session. Speaking at the programme, the minister said the lotteries are being held to stop "unwanted lobbying in admission process and admission coaching trade". A total of 5,36,153 aspirants collected admission forms against 60,016 vacant seats for classes 1 to 9 in 405 government schools across the country.

## INVITATION FOR TENDER

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(Ashim Kumar Roy)  
GM & Division Head

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## US should not advise others on democracy

Says info minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

The US has no right to advise other countries about democracy, as its own democracy is now under threat, said Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday. He made the remarks while addressing a discussion organised by Chattogram North District Awami League at Chattogram Press Club, marking the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence. He said a few days ago, a "democracy conference" was held in the US, where government heads of many countries, including Pakistan, were invited. Regarding the US administration's sanctions against current and former Bangladeshi law enforcers, the minister said, "Bangladesh has dealt with militancy and terrorism better than any other developed countries." The sanctions are actually fuelling militancy and terrorism, he said. Law enforcement agencies of Bangladesh have played an integral role in this success, he mentioned. Chattogram North District AL Vice President Prof Muhammad Moinuddin and Joint Secretary Jasim Uddin Shah were present at the event, chaired by Chattogram North District AL President MA Salam.

## Why illegal

FROM PAGE 3 they were suspended after a few days. DRAFT GUIDELINE After failing to enforce an August 2015 ban on three-wheelers from plying 22 major national highways, the government prepared a draft guideline last month. Titled "Three-wheelers and Similar Motor Vehicles' Proper Management and Control Guideline-2021", Road Transport and Highways Division uploaded the draft on its website on November 7, seeking public opinions for a month. The guidelines are yet to be finalised. According to the guideline, no three-wheeler will be allowed on national and regional highways. Such vehicles must have route permits, registration and fitness clearance for operating on dedicated routes, and their drivers have to obtain licences.