



SIGNBOARDS IN BANGLA

HC order widely ignored

It's a lack of inner urge, says Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury



DIPAN NANDY and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Buildings on either side of Satmasjid Road between Jigatala and Shankar in the capital's Dhanmondi are teeming with signs and hoardings of different sizes and colours, mostly in English.

A few of the signs, however, are emblazoned with businesses' names written in both Bangla and English, but the Bangla letters are so small that it is quite difficult to read those.

Visiting the area on Friday, this newspaper found at least 20 signs of businesses, mostly eateries, in just one building, are all written in English.

English signs, displays, and brand logos is a very common sight in many other parts of the capital, including Baridhara, Gulshan, Banani, Paltan, Science Laboratory and Arambagh.

This situation has been prevailing even 70 years after the historic Language Movement. A law -- Bangla Bhasha Procholon Ain -- was enacted in 1987 for ensuring compulsory use of Bangla in all spheres of life.

Also, the High Court in February 2014 directed the government to ensure use of Bangla in signs, billboards, and banners.

But the authorities are yet to make any significant progress in this regard.

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A student lays a wreath at the foot of a Shaheed Minar in Babudying village of Rajshahi's Godagari upazila on International Mother Language Day yesterday. Students of Babudying Adivasi School built the memorial with earth and bamboo and adorned it with flowers to show respect to the Language Movement martyrs.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

EVIDENCE ACT

Both sections questioning victims will be amended

Says law minister

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government will amend both the relevant sections of the Evidence Act in order to block all avenues of questioning the character of rape victims in court.

"We have already finished the work to amend sections 155(4) and 146(3) of the Evidence Act, 1872. The proposed amendments will be placed before the next cabinet meeting, and I hope a bill will be passed in the next parliament session," he

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Senior secretary pulled strings

Sharif Uddin says about his firing

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Sacked ACC officer Sharif Uddin said the senior secretary of a ministry, who had links to the land acquisition scammers in Cox's Bazar, used his influence to get him fired from his job.

The sacked deputy assistant director of Anti-Corruption Commission told The Daily Star yesterday that he found in his investigation that Cox's Bazar Municipality Mayor Mujibur Rahman

played a key role in a syndicate that stole Tk 78 crore from government projects through forgery.

Involvement of top administration and police officials in the district was found in the investigation.

The senior secretary was linked to the aforesaid individuals, Sharif said, adding that the bureaucrat made sure that officials working at the ACC on deputation slowed down his investigation.

Sharif said the senior secretary who is from a southern district

previously served as the secretary of Election Commission.

The land acquisition scammers have the senior secretary's blessings, said a local lawmaker, adding that the secretary, who may retire this year, wants to take part in the next national election as an Awami League nominee.

Sharif said the secretary used his power to make officials concerned approve forged documents of

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

BUSINESS

A group of investors linked with Nagad Ltd, a mobile financial service (MFS), has been desperate to obtain a licence to run non-bank financial institution, MFS and microcredit operations.

STORY ON BI

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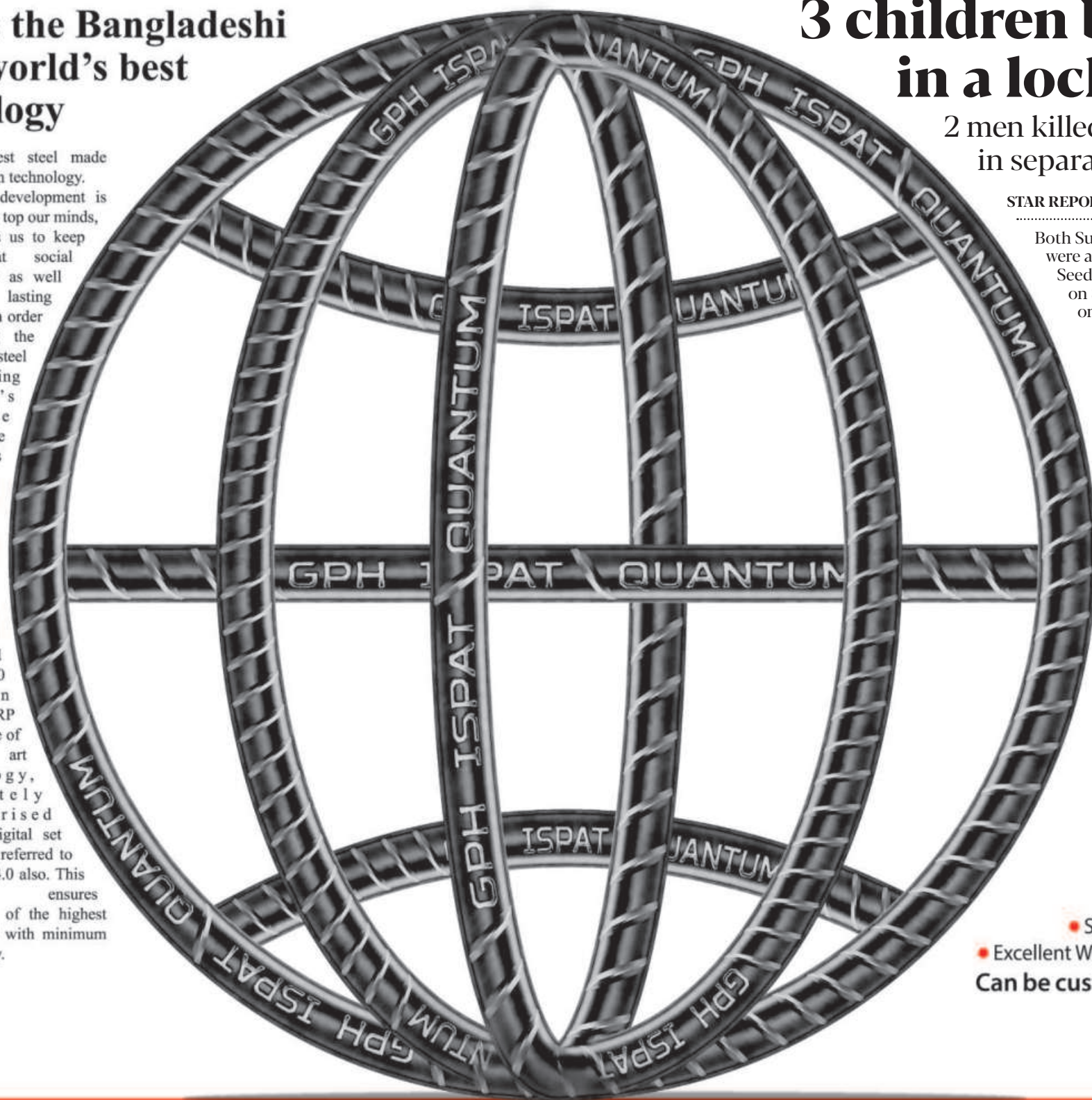
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3 children burned dead in a locked house

2 men killed in gas cylinder blast in separate incident

STAR REPORT

Both Sumon Mia and his wife Modina Begum were at work when a fire ravaged their home in Seedstore area of Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila on Sunday night, killing all their three children on the spot.

The fire originated from a gas cylinder explosion in the kitchen of one of their neighbours around 9:15pm. It spread to five adjacent tin-roofed houses, including that of Sumon, said Al Mamun, senior station officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Bhaluka.

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and brought the flames under control after around two hours. Later, they recovered the charred bodies of Radia, 2, Raihan, 3, and Khadeja, 5, he said.

Mamun said both parents were at

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