2 SIs sued over Wazir's death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A case was filed with Sunamganj District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday over the alleged custodial torture of Wazir Mia, who died of injuries on February 21.

Wazir's brother Dalim Mia lodged the case against sub-inspectors Debashish Sutradhar and Ala Uddin, said Public Prosecutor Khairul Kabir Rumen.

"Judge Waheduzzaman Sikder set March 2 for a hearing," he said, adding that the judge would decide whether the case would be accepted or not.

The accused detained Wazir in the early hours of February 21 and tortured him inside Shantiganj Police Station. He died of his injuries 10 days later, his family

SI Debashish was transferred to Derai Police Station on Wednesday. Later, he was withdrawn and attached to the district police lines.

The family also claimed the torture was plotted by Debashish over Wazir's feud with a UP member, who is a relative of the SI.

A day after Wazir's death, two probe committees were formed. Both the committees are yet to submit reports.



Children take a break from work at a factory in the capital's Shyampur. Working three hours a day, they make about Tk 2,500 each a week. A large number of children from low income families are employed in hazardous activities, including production of aluminum utensils. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Adapt now, or suffer later

Major UN climate report urges world; 15m people in Bangladesh could lose their homes

REUTERS

Climate change is upon us and humanity is far from ready, the United Nations climate panel warned in a major report yesterday.

Noting that nearly half the world's population was already vulnerable to increasingly dangerous climate impacts, the report calls for drastic action on a huge scale: A third to a half of the planet needs to be conserved and protected to ensure future food and freshwater supplies. Coastal cities need plans to keep people safe from storms and rising seas. And more.

"Adaptation saves lives," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said with the report's release. "As climate impacts worsen – and they will - scaling up investments will be essential for survival... Delay means death.'

The report is the latest in a series by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) detailing the latest global consensus on climate science. This report, however, focuses on how nature and societies are being affected and what they can do to adapt

On nearly all counts, the report makes clear that climate change is impacting the world far faster than scientists had anticipated. Meanwhile, countries have failed to rein in planet-warming carbon emissions, which continue to rise.

Bangladesh, a world leader in adapting to climate change impacts, could lose more than a tenth of its land to sea level rise in two decades, potentially forcing 15 million of its 165 million people to find new homes in an already crowded nation, said the flagship report.

Can't employ under 14 at work

Cabinet approves ratifying ILO Convention-138



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved ratifying an ILO convention that prohibits employing children under 14 in any work.

Convention-138 of the International Labour Organisation states that the minimum age for employment is 15, said Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam.

But considering the socio-economic condition of a country, the age limit could be reduced to 14, he told reporters at the

The ratification proposal was approved at the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who joined it virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

"Children cannot be involved in activities that can lead to accidents or deaths.... They cannot be treated as adults," said the cabinet secretary

Those who employ children under 14 will be punished as per the labour law.

Drafts of Bangabandhu Public University Naogaon Act, 2022, and Thakurgaon University Act, 2022, were also approved in principle at the meeting.

With these two new institutes, the number of public universities will be 52, Anwarul said. The country now has 108 private universities.

The meeting endorsed the draft of BIMSTEC Certificate ahead of the 5th BIMSTEC Conference to be held on March 30 in Sri Lanka, he said.

Dhaka's air again world's most polluted

Dhaka has again topped the list of cities with the worst air quality in the world.

The capital's Air Quality Index (AQI) score was recorded at 242 at 9:00am yesterday.

Kazakhstan's Nur-Sultan and Pakistan's Lahore occupied the next two spots, with AQI

An AQI between 201 and 300 is said to be "poor", while a reading of 301 to 400 is considered "hazardous", posing serious health risks to residents.

AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality.

Lawyer sued under DSA for 'insulting' PM

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Dhaka court lawyer has been sued under the Digital Security Act in Rangpur's Badarganj for a Facebook post that allegedly insulted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her family members.

Waliu Rahman Dolan, of Badarganj upazila, practices at District and Sessions Judge's Court in

Faruk Hossain Madhu, councillor of Badargani municipality, filed the case with Badarganj Police Station on Sunday night.

Habibur Rahman, OC of the police station, said the lawyer made a Facebook post over the rush of people buying goods from OMS sale outlets. In the post, he urged the PM, her family members to purchase the products after standing in queues, the OC claimed.

The Daily Star could not independently verify

Crash kills 2 in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Two passengers of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw were killed when a truck hit the vehicle on Cumilla-Sylhet highway in the district's Akhaura upazila vesterday morning.

The three-wheeler carrying four passengers was going to Brahmanbaria, said Bimal Karmakar, in-charge of Akhaura's Dharkhar police outpost.

Two of the passengers died on the spot and two others were injured, the police official added. The deceased are: Awal Mia, 50, and Fayez Mia, 45, of Maheshpur village in Nabinagar upazila.

College student killed after 'rape'

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Noakhali

The body of a female college student was recovered from a cropland in Noakhali's Companiganj yesterday morning.

Shahidul Islam, superintendent of Noakhali police, suspected that victim Shanaz Parveen, 26, resident of Kabirhat upazila, was killed after rape. Shanaz also used to work part-time as a nurse at a private clinic in Basurhat.

She left the clinic around 8:00pm on Sunday but did not return home, said her family members.

Monitor war

FROM PAGE 1

"Friendship to all and malice to none" and that it cannot be forced to choose any position.

After the war began, foreign ministry issued formal statement expressing deep concern in Ukraine. It also said town. dialogue was the only way to peace.

Tens of thousands evacuated from floods in Australia

AFP, Brisbane

Tens of thousands of Australians were ordered to flee their homes yesterday, as torrential rain sent floodwaters to record levels, leaving residents stranded on the rooftops of their homes.

Eight people have died, and the country's weather bureau has warned further severe thunderstorms and intense rainfall will cause "life-threatening flash flooding" across a swathe of the central Pacific coastal region.

In the country town of Lismore, resident Danika Hardiman woke yesterday morning to find mudbrown floodwaters had reached the balcony of her second-floor apartment.

She and her partner managed to climb up to the roof, where they were spotted by passing kayakers, who flagged down a makeshift rescue boat.

Mute witness to 1971 massacres

his home in Tangail town from the base of the Sakhipur on November area and executed. 11, 1971 with some arms and ammunitions. His last year, Sekandar Hayat intention was to launch Khan, a retired principal over the escalating violence a guerrilla attack in the

> On receiving the news, the Pakistani army, with help from their local picked collaborators, up Salahuddin from his close to the water tank. foxes and vultures.

There, he was tortured for the next several days. Then he was taken to the killing local freedom fighters in field around the water tank

During a programme of Government MM Ali College and also president of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, told local journalists that Pakistani soldiers killed people and dumped their bodies in Akurtakurpara residence the low-lying areas next in town at midnight the to a water tank at the next day. He was first taken northern end of the district to the local Al Badr camp headquarters. The corpses and later to the army prison became food for crows,

Nityananda Pakistani Salahuddin forces killed and dumped the bodies of Abdus Sattar, a history professor of Kumudini College; Biresh Majumder, a teacher of Bindubasini High School and his son Pritesh Majumder; Herambanath Roy, an assistant headmaster at Jannabi High School, and Pranodh Chandra, a medicine trader of Paradisepara; Shushil Kumar Saha of Shibpur, Bolihari Das, Promod Pal and Shanti Saha and many other unknown freedom fighters and freedom-

seeking people.

"I was at war at that time. There was no opportunity to enter Tangail town. The Pakistani military with the help of their local collaborators captured freedom fighters and also local intellectuals and freedom-seeking from different people areas in the district and outside and carried out the massacre in a secluded place near the district headquarters water tank behind the circuit house," said Bir Protik Fazlul Haque, a brave freedom fighter of Kaderia Bahini of 1971 led by legendary

freedom fighter Abdul Kader Siddique. "The place turned into

a killing field. It is very difficult to say how many people they have killed there," he said.

Ataul Gani. deputy commissioner Tangail, said the district administration has already preserved the spot and constructed a memorial plaque there. The distric administration is also constructing a Liberation War Museum with funding from Walton Group to preserve the history for future generations, he

CEC promises

earnestly request them to

Asked what the EC would do to make sure that the BNP have trust in the commission as the party said it won't take part in elections under the current commission and a political government, Awal replied, "No say is a final say in politics. The BNP has said they will not join elections. Can't we sit with them? Can't we invite them for

The CEC said they will work honesty and sincerely to carry out their constitutional duties.

create a level playing field, he said, adding that agencies concerned will try to ensure equal opportunities for all.

election related complaints.

cannot make any decision on using Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) now. can't decide now what will happen with EVMs. We will discuss. I will discuss the pros and cons of EVMs.

He said the commission

decision can be made later." On Saturday, President Abdul Hamid appointed Awal. former secretary to the defence ministry, as the CEC.

I myself don't understand

EVMs very well. The

The president made four former district and sessions judge Rashida Sultana, Brig Gen (retd) Md Ahsan Habib Khan, former EC secretary Md Alamgir, and former energy and mineral resources division senior secretary Anisur Rahman -- election

The tenure of the KM Nurul Huda-led EC expired on February 14.

Politicians worst

FROM PAGE 1

freedom of expression, equal rights, right to protest, right to assembly, and ensure their economic freedoms. "This law is contrary to all of those."

Zonaved Saki, chief coordinator of Andolon, Ganosamhati pointed out that the police have been solely empowered to decide whether anyone's sentiments have been hurt by any content.

"Even if the aggrieved person does not take any action, another person can take action on their behalf. There is also a dangerous provision [in the act] that allows them to intervene if they suspect a crime can happen in future."

Andaleeve Barrister Rahman Partho, chairman of Bangladesh Jatiya Party, called the DSA "a shoddily drafted law".

"This was drafted simply to threaten people. Even can now control the media, they need this law to will barely see any cartoons the discussion.

in the media these days," he commented.

Andaleeve said it is ultimately a police officer who will decide whether the spirit of the Liberation War was hurt, and as a result people will land in jail.

Maj Gen (retd) Syed Muhammad chairman of Bangladesh Kallyan Party, said only the issue of writer Mushtaq Ahmed was in discussions because he lost his life "to the system".

He said the spotlight must shift to the others who are in prison and in similar danger.

Hossain. Ahmed organising secretary of the ruling Awami League, countered the criticisms of the law, saying "freedom of expression has limits".

'Are the police trying to stop this programme? Doesn't it prove that there is freedom of expression in though the government this country?" he asked.

Manjur control social media. You Chowdhury presided over

Nepal parliament approves US grant amid protests

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's parliament approved a US infrastructure grant of \$500 million which critics say undermines the Himalayan nation's sovereignty as protesters opposed to the proposed funds clashed with police, officials and witnesses said late on Sunday.

Paliament Speaker Agni Sapkota said the aid agreement was approved by a majority vote of the Nepali

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a US government aid agency, agreed in 2017 to provide the aid in a grant to fund an electricity transmission line and road improvement project.

Ceasefire talks begin

yesterday that negotiators will return to their capital cities for consultations and have plans for fresh talks, after meeting for their first talks since the outbreak of war last week, reports AFP.

"The delegations are returning to their capitals for consultations and have discussed the possibility of meeting for a second round of negotiations soon," Ukrainian negotiator Mikhailo Podolyak said.

"We agreed to keep the negotiations going," the Russian delegation head, Vladimir Medinsky said.

In the northeastern city of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest, Russian forces fired on residential areas yesterday, killing hundreds of people, the Ukraine military claimed.

throughout the night sandbags and tyres as they around the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol. Russian forces seized

small cities in southeastern Ukraine and the area around a nuclear power plant, the Interfax news agency said.

But they ran into stiff resistance elsewhere as the biggest assault on a European state since World War Two failed to make as much ground in its early days as some had expected.

The capital Kyiv was still held by the Ukrainian government, with President Volodymyr Zelensky, dressed in military gear, encouraged his people with a series of defiant

Blasts were heard in and wounding the city before dawn and Ukrainians set up checkpoints and blocked Fighting took place streets with piles of higher price in the future".

waited to take on Russian soldiers, reports Reuters. Ukraine and its allies yesterday called for a United

Nations enquiry into possible

war crimes committed by

Russia during its military actions in Ukraine. Western-led The response has been emphatic, with sanctions that effectively cut off Moscow's major financial institutions from Western markets. Russia's rouble currency plunged 30%

against the dollar yesterday.

Countries also stepped

up weapons supplies to

Ukraine. In Brussels, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said EU sanctions would have a cost for Europe "but we have to be ready to pay the price, or we will have to pay a much

reach a consensus."

The EC alone cannot

Awal assured that the EC would take immediate actions if there were any

commissioners.