



Two 'Al-Badr men' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police on Thursday night arrested two alleged Al-Badr men on charges of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Moniruzzaman Kohinur, 71, was arrested at his Elephant Road home in Dhaka while Alamgir Hossain, 70, was picked up from his home in Tangail's Gopalpur upazila.

Matiur Rahman, deputy director of the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal, said police handed the arrestees to the tribunal.

"The duo is accused of crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The ACC was investigating into their alleged crimes.

Matiur said Kohinur from Gopalpur's Beradakuri village was the commander of Al-Badr in Tangail. He surrendered with the Pakistanis after the war. He was taken to India as a prisoner of war.

"Moniruzzaman

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A soldier stands guard inside a Shia mosque after a bomb blast in Peshawar, Pakistan yesterday. At least 56 people were killed and 194 wounded in the huge blast, a hospital official said.

PHOTO: AFP

New faces at CPB's helm



SHAH ALAM



PRINCE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) elected two new faces for the topmost party posts yesterday.

Shah Alam was elected as the party president while Ruhin Hossain Prince was the general secretary.

The changes came in the first meeting of the newly elected 43-member CPB central committee yesterday.

The central committee was formed during a four-day congress that ended on Monday.

Mihir Ghosh was elected as assistant general secretary, the statement added.

After 30 years, the party did not keep Mujahidul Islam Selim at the helm. He had been elected either the president or the general secretary of CPB since 1993.

Mujahidul Islam Selim was made a member of the newly formed CPB central committee this time.

The outgoing president, general secretary and assistant general secretary -- Shamsuzzaman Selim, Shahin Rahman and Prof AN Rasheda -- were elected as presidium members.

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Good hygiene during MENSTRUATION

STAR HEALTH DESK

Menstrual hygiene is crucial for women's health. Lack of it may lead to serious problems like reproductive tract infections (RTI).

However, it is still largely ignored by many women around the world due to social taboo and superstitions attached with periods.

You may use a store-bought single-use sanitary napkin or a reusable cloth-napkin to absorb the blood. But always remember to change the product every six hours without an exception.

If you wear the same pad for around 8-10 hours during period, you can develop bacterial or fungal infections. Bacterial infection leads to increased risk of urinary tract infection.

Reusable cloth-pads must be washed, dried and disinfected properly. Drying in the sun is recommended.

Washing yourself properly is extremely

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FULL-FLEDGED CLASSES IN SCHOOLS Govt planning to start it mid-March

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is planning to resume full-fledged classes at schools and colleges as 84 percent secondary students have already received two doses of Covid-19 vaccine and the daily positivity rate is on its way down.

The authorities say they are considering conducting classes at secondary schools in full swing from the middle of this month, after two years of full and partial closures.

Officials at the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) said it will be a challenging task for them to keep students threefeet apart in classrooms at secondary schools as the ratio of students to classrooms is too big.

Educational institutions were shut on March 17, 2020 due to the pandemic. Those were reopened partially on September 12 last year.

This was one of the longest school closures (543 days) in the world.

Following a sharp rise in the Covid transmission rate,

the government again shut all schools and colleges from January 21 for two weeks. The closure was later extended till February 21.

Classes resumed partially at secondary schools on February 22.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said full-fledged in-person classes at secondary schools might resume from the middle

"We hope that the rest of the students will get their second dose by the middle of this month."

of this month.

The minister was speaking to reporters after attending a programme in the capital.

DSHE Director General Prof Nehal Ahmed said they were planning to run schools in full swing as 98 percent students from classes 6 to 12 received the first Covid shot. About 84 percent of them received the second.

"We hope that the rest of

the students will get their second dose by the middle of this month," he said.

There are 1.28 crore students in classes six to 12 in about 20,850 schools.

Nehal said the declining Covid positivity rate was the other reason for resuming classes in full swing. Yesterday, the positivity rate was 3.20 percent.

Asked how they would keep students three feet apart in classrooms, the DSHE chief said there would be some problems in maintaining social distancing.

"We will talk with the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 to discuss the matter and other related issues."

He said they were also considering to continue classes following the current rule, meaning only students who received two Covid shots would be allowed to join classes in person.

Currently, SSC exams candidates are attending four classes and class-10 students

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Woman killed after 'rape' in Bandarban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, ctg

Police on Thursday night recovered the body of a 45-year-old woman who was murdered after allegedly being raped in Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila.

Chanu Mong Marma, chairman of Noapotong union, said yesterday that the victim was raped and murdered by some woodcutters who were staying at her farm house.

The body of the victim, Chuirongma Marma, was found around 8:00pm with stab wounds to her neck, said Md Abdul Mannan, officer-in-charge of Rowangchhari Police Station.

He said police recovered the body and sent it to Bandarban Sadar hospital for autopsy, adding that they are primarily suspecting that the victim was raped before being murdered.

The victim's son filed a case with Rowangchhari Police Station yesterday.

The OC said police were trying to arrest the

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'Flower' formation spotted on Mars

CNN ONLINE

This may be the closest we will ever come to finding a flower on Mars.

During its ongoing investigation of Martian rocks in Gale Crater, the Curiosity rover stumbled on a tiny surprise. The rock artifact resembling a piece of coral or a flower, is smaller than a coin.



The Martian "flower" and the spherical pieces next to it were likely "made in the ancient past when minerals carried by water cemented the rock," according to Nasa.

Curiosity took an image of the rock arrangement on February 24 using the Mars Hand Lens Imager, a camera located on the robotic arm.

The find is similar to other small features Curiosity has spotted in the past, all of which were formed "when mineralizing fluids travelled through conduits in the rock," according to the agency. Previously, the Opportunity rover also spotted Martian "blueberries," little mineral spherules indicative of once watery soil on the red planet.

Each image Curiosity collects and shares of these features is helping researchers piece together the chronology of water's presence in the crater.

She hired hitman to kill her mother

Daughter, hitman confess

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A 57-year-old woman was recently killed by a man who was hired by her daughter to do the job in Gazipur's Sreepur area, police said after arresting the culprits.

On February 11, police recovered an unidentified body from a forest in Sreepur and a few days later, identified the victim as Minara Begum.

Three weeks after investigation, Sreepur police found that Shefali Begum, 35, a garment worker, had plotted her mother's murder. She hired her colleague Sohel Rana, 25, to kill her mother, according to Amzad Sheikh, sub-inspector of Sreepur Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case.

On Wednesday, police arrested Shefali and Sohel. Both gave confessional statements under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on Thursday, police said.

According to police, Minara had nine decimals of land and eight years ago, had made a will leaving the land to Shefali so that none could sell it as long as she was alive.

As Shefali was in need of money, she put pressure on her mother to sell the land and two cows. Minara did not agree and threw her daughter out of their house, which made Shefali angry and desperate, said Amzad.

"She hired Sohel for Tk 1 lakh. She paid him Tk 15,000 in

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A trader dismantling used car engines and gear boxes on a street in the capital's Dholaiakhal area. The parts taking up half of the road width is a common sight in the area and it often causes traffic jams. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS