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## Ramp up efforts to stop human trafficking

UN expert to Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A UN human rights expert yesterday urged Bangladesh to step up efforts to prevent human trafficking, particularly when it involves sexual exploitation, child marriage and forced labour.

UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons Siobhán Mullally called for greater accountability, and stronger regulation of the recruiting agencies while expanding livelihood opportunities and extending protection to victims without discrimination.



"Child trafficking is a significant risk, which must be addressed through expanded child protection and increased efforts at birth registration. No community should be left behind," the UN expert said at a press conference at a city hotel, concluding a 10-day visit in the country.

Mullally met top government officials, civil society groups and a range of survivors and victims of trafficking during her visit to Dhaka, Sylhet and Cox's Bazar, and to Rohingya camps.

The visit, the first ever by any UN special rapporteur on human trafficking, took place when Bangladesh played a leading role globally to promote safe and regular migration.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Mourning the death of her husband, Sharifa Begum wails away as her family members try to console her. Her husband, Ayanul Haque, was one of the two Bangladeshi nationals shot dead by the BSF at the Mahishtuli border in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila yesterday.

## Two killed in 'BSF shooting'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two Bangladeshi nationals were shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) near the border adjacent to Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila yesterday.

The deceased Wazkaroni Mia, 36, and Aynal Haque, 35, of the upazila's Bhelabari union, were cattle traders, said locals.

They were shot around 4:30am between the International border pillars 921 and 922, said Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Some 10 to 12 Bangladeshi cattle traders, who intruded into India, were confronted by a BSF patrol team of Baburhat camp of Sitai Police Station in Cooch Behar district, said BGB.

The BSF opened fire at them near Kaimari border of India, leaving Wazkaroni and Aynal injured severely. The associates of the duo managed to bring them into Bangladesh territory, but they died on their way, said locals.

BGB's Lohakuchi  
SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## FARIDPUR RALLY BNP alleges cops arresting party men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

BNP leaders have alleged that law enforcers have been raiding the houses of party workers ahead of their November 12 rally in Faridpur city.

They added that their activists are also being arrested.

"They [police] have been arresting BNP leaders and activists saying they have warrants to do so," AZM Zahid Hossain, vice-chairman of the party, told a press conference organised by Faridpur district and city BNP at the district press club yesterday.

He claimed that some "biased police officials" have started arresting the party leaders and workers, citing old cases, just ahead of the rally.

"Seven people have already been arrested in Faridpur's Nagarkanda area. Last night [Tuesday], some police officials even abused a woman in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Court to hear JP chairman's petition today

GM Quader seeks cancellation of ban on his party activities

RASHIDUL HASAN

A Dhaka court is set to hold a hearing today on Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader's petition seeking cancellation of its temporary ban on his carrying out party activities.

Judge Md Masudul Haque of the First Joint District Judge's Court issued the ban on October 31 after former JP lawmaker Ziaul Haque Mridha filed a petition seeking an injunction on the matter.

Mridha, also a former adviser to the JP chief, was removed from the party on September 17.

Quader on Tuesday filed the petition with the court, which fixed today for hearing.

The JP chief, who has lately been vocal against the government, suddenly came under pressure following the court's verdict, party insiders said.

JP high-ups were taken aback by the court order. Several leaders loyal to Quader said they thought the government played a role in putting him under pressure for his recent anti-government statements.

The JP chairman didn't take part in any party activities since the court issued the order on October 31.

Party leaders said the situation won't get normal until the court order is revoked.

Asked about today's hearing, Quader's lawyer Sheikh Muhammed Serajul Islam said the case filed

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Race for Senate control tight

No GOP 'red wave' as Democrats show surprising strength in US midterms

AFP, Washington

Republican hopes of a "red wave" carrying them to power in the US Congress faded yesterday as Joe Biden's Democrats put up a stronger-than-expected defence in a midterm contest headed for a cliff-hanger finish.

With a majority of Tuesday's races called, Republicans seemed on track to reclaim the House of Representatives for the first time since 2018, but the Senate was still in play, with forecasts tentatively leaning Democratic.

And the midterms delivered a decidedly mixed bag for Donald Trump, who though not on the ballot loomed large over the contest, teasing a 2024 run and airing unsubstantiated allegations of Election Day fraud.

While the night saw wins by more than 100 Republicans embracing Trump's "Big Lie" that Biden stole the 2020 election, several high-profile, election-denying acolytes of the former president came up short.

Aiming to deliver a rebuke of Biden's presidency, against a backdrop of sky-high inflation and bitter culture wars, Republicans needed one extra seat to wrest control of the evenly divided Senate.

But by yesterday the only seat to change party hands went to the Democrats, with John Fetterman, a burly champion of progressive economic policies, triumphing in Pennsylvania.

In the House, early results suggested Republicans were on track for a majority -- but only by a handful of seats, a far cry from their predictions.

Control of the Senate hinged early yesterday on four key races that were still on a knife-edge. Democrats need two more wins to successfully hold the chamber, while Republicans need three to flip it.

In Arizona, Nevada and Wisconsin, counting the remaining votes for Senate could take days. And Georgia may well go to a runoff scheduled for December 6.



## Murder accused dies in custody

Police claim it's suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A man accused of murdering his wife died on remand at the Raipura Police Station in Narsingdi yesterday.

Police claimed that the arrestee died by suicide in the bathroom of the lockup where he hung himself.

Md Sujon Miah, 35, was arrested from Faridpur's Sadarpur on Monday night, where he was absconding since allegedly stabbing and killing his wife on Saturday night.

On Tuesday, a court placed Sujon on two days' remand. In CCTV footage shown to our correspondent, Sujon is seen entering the bathroom of the lockup at 9:34am on Wednesday morning. There was another detainee in the lockup, but they were left unguarded.

A guard came to check in on the detainees at 9:56am and noticed that Sujon was missing, and was told that he had been inside the washroom for a while.

The door of the washroom had no lock, reports our correspondent.

The camera did not capture what happened inside the washroom.

Aminul Islam, a sub-inspector of the police station who had been investigating the murder of Sujon's wife Lavly Begum, said Sujon was rushed to the upazila health complex, where a doctor declared him dead.

Nuruddin Md Jahangir, upazila health officer, told our correspondent that there were no marks of torture on Sujon's body.

Sujon Miah and Lavly Begum have two school-going daughters.

This was the fifth death in police custody this year with law enforcers claiming the detainees died by suicide.

In September, a 55-year-old man called Lebu Miah and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

**10 DAYS TO GO**

## Portugal hope to 'make most of the strengths'

AFP, Paris

Portugal's hopes of challenging for a first World Cup title will likely be heavily dictated by how well they fare in an accessible group where their main rivals are Uruguay, the country that dumped them out in the last 16 four years ago.

The recent record for Portugal at the World Cup makes for sorry reading, with just a combined three wins in three appearances since reaching the semi-finals in 2006.

And while they boast international football's

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



People from low-income groups jostle in front of a TCB truck in the capital's Mohammadpur bus stand area to grab hold of rice and flour at subsidised prices yesterday. With prices of flour and wheat soaring, more and more people are turning to TCB's open market sale for some financial relief.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Fortune Pink diamond sells for \$28.5m

AFP, GENEVA

The Fortune Pink diamond, an exceptionally rare giant gemstone, sold for more than \$28.5 million at auction in Geneva on Tuesday to a private Asian customer.



At 18.18 carats, the jewel is the largest pear-shaped "fancy vivid pink" diamond ever sold under the hammer, Christie's auction house said.

The dazzling diamond fetched a hammer price of 24.5 million Swiss francs (\$24,615,150), rising to 28,436,500 Swiss francs (\$28,570,150) with the buyer's premium added on.

The bidding, which lasted for a tense four minutes, started at 17 million Swiss francs and was a three-way battle between telephone bidders, with the winner eventually claiming the gem by upping the bid by half a million.

"The buyer is happy. It's a dream come true," the Christie's employee taking the winning telephone bid told AFP, while maintaining the buyer's anonymity.