





‘ATTACK BY AL MEN’
Ex-BNP MP
dies 24 days
after being
injured



OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

A former BNP lawmaker, who was injured in an attack allegedly by ruling Awami League men on November 4, died at a city hospital yesterday.

Shahjahan Khan, 75, also the former general secretary of Patuakhali district unit BNP, was elected lawmaker from Patuakhali-3 (Galachipa-Dasmina) in the 6th parliamentary elections.

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A trial run of the metrorail in Mirpur's Shewrapara around midday yesterday. The authorities concerned have been conducting regular tests ahead of the launch of its partial official operation at the end of next month.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

LOAN DEFAULTERS
Poor farmers
harassed, big
fish let off
Observes SC chamber judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A chamber judge of the apex court yesterday expressed frustration saying that poor farmers were tied with ropes and arrested reportedly for failing to repay a loan of only Tk 25,000 while those who embezzle Tk 25 lakh or 25 crore remain untouched.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, said this during the hearing of a petition challenging a High Court verdict that prohibits banks and other financial institutions from filing cheque-dishonour cases to recover defaulted loans.

The SC chamber judge also refrained from passing any stay order on the HC verdict and sent the petition, filed by BRAC Bank, to its full bench for hearing on the matter on December 1.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, who appeared for BRAC Bank, prayed to the SC chamber judge to stay the HC judgement, saying that the matter involved very important state issues.

On November 23, the HC bench of Justice Md Ashrafur Kamal delivered the verdict saying that

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SEXUAL ABUSE AT INSTITUTIONS
13 years on, HC
guidelines still
on back burner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite sexual harassment being rampant as ever, only 71 percent of educational institutions and 39 percent of workplaces have formed a sexual harassment complaint committee as per the High Court guidelines.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) revealed the information at a press conference titled "Progress in implementation of High Court guidelines on prevention of sexual harassment in workplaces and educational institutions" in the capital's Press Club yesterday.

It further said only 44 percent of these committees are effective, while 57 percent of them do not have complaint boxes to report the incidents as per the guidelines.

In the keynote speech, BNWLA President Salma Ali, also a supreme court lawyer, said, "In addition, no information could be known about what solutions are given in terms of complaints of sexual harassment in institutions."

In 2008, the BNWLA filed a Public Interest Litigation with the HC, requesting guidelines to protect women and girls from sexual harassment in the workplace and educational institutions.

A year later, the HC issued a directive with a set of guidelines, urging employers to form a seven-member sexual harassment complaint committee, headed by

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Ashuganj
power plant
adds 420MW
to nat'l grid

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbari

Commercial production of electricity has started at the Combined Cycle Power Plant in Ashuganj of Brahmanbari.

A total of 420MW will be generated from the unit per day.

Abdul Majid, director of the project, said the new plant has been supplying 400MW to the national grid since Saturday night.

Power production from this plant started on November 15 on an experimental basis.

With this, six units of Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd (APSC) are currently adding 1,293MW to the national grid every day, he said.

The official also hoped that the new plant would help meet the growing demand of electricity in the country.

More power in a few days will be added to the grid from other ongoing projects, the director added.

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BASIC BANK LOAN SCAMS

‘A drama is all
we’re watching’

HC raps ACC for failure to submit charge
sheet in any of the 56 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed disappointment at the embezzlement of large amounts of money from the state-run Basic Bank and the Anti-Corruption Commission's failure to press charges in any of the 56 cases filed over the bank's loan scams in the last seven years.

"Crores of taka has been embezzled. But no work is being done though the Anti-Corruption Commission and so many judges and lawyers are there. Why are they [ACC] silent? This is just like a drama. We are watching the drama. This is not acceptable," the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu observed.

The bench was hearing three bail petitions filed by Mohammad Ali, former general manager of BASIC Bank's Shantinagar branch, in as many corruption cases filed by the graft watchdog.

The HC fixed today for further hearing and delivering verdict on the bail petitions.

During the hearing, the HC bench

also said that some statements of the compliance report submitted by the ACC were objectionable, as it said in the report that it became very difficult to identify the important witnesses of the cases and record their statements.

"Identification of the key witnesses in the cases and recording their statements have become difficult. All witnesses are not responding. There is a lot of evidence in the cases, and identifying all the actual evidence from the huge amount of bank documents is time-consuming. Besides, the process of identifying the real accused is also very complicated in these cases," the ACC said in the report.

This newspaper has a copy of the report.

The report said one of the reasons for the delay in completing investigations into the loan scam cases is that the location of the embezzled money has been concealed because the money was withdrawn entirely in cash.

The commission said that it has

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Predator that
lived 340m yrs
ago dubbed
‘original T Rex’

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A formidable predator that lived 340 million years ago has been dubbed "the T Rex of its day."

N a m e d Whatcheeria, it had huge razor sharp teeth and bone crushing jaws that snapped animals in half. The tetrapod was one of the first creatures to hunt on land and topped the food chain of the time, say scientists.

It had a salamander like body and long narrow head, reaching more than six feet from nose to tail. Co-author Ben Ottoo, a PhD student at the University of Chicago, said: "If you saw Whatcheeria in life, it would probably look like a big crocodile-shaped salamander, with a narrow head and lots of teeth."

"If it really curled up, probably to an uncomfortable extent, it could fit in your bathtub, but neither you nor it would want it to be there."

It grew unusually big for its time by front loading its growth in its youth. The US team analysed 350 specimens housed in the city's Field Museum. They range from single bones

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Fishermen sewing their nets in Chattogram's Patenga. More often than not, after capturing a haul, the fishing nets tear in places and the fishermen have to then take their time to repair and make them suitable for fishing again. The photo was taken recently. Inset, A man carries the repaired fishing nets to gather them at one spot for all the fishermen before they head back out to the sea.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



AYAT MURDER

Suspect Abir
put on 7-day
remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday granted a seven-day remand for the prime accused in the case filed over the murder of five-year-old Alina Islam Ayat.

Abir Ali was earlier placed on a two-day remand on Saturday after he was shown arrested.

Meanwhile, demanding exemplary punishment, an angry mob gathered at the court premises, attacked Abir yesterday as he was making his way to the hearing in police custody.


Abir earlier said he kidnapped Ayat from the port city's EPZ area on November 15 with the intention of demanding ransom, but at one stage strangled her to death.





“We understand that the terrorists are planning new strikes. We know this for a fact. And as long as they have missiles, they, unfortunately, will not calm down.”

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky warns of more Russian missile attacks



বিজিএমইএ

বাংলাদেশে তৈরি
"Made in Bangladesh with Pride"
বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স: বাড়ী # ৭/৭এ, ব্লক # এইচ১, সেক্টর # ১৭, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০।

৩৯ তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা

বিজিএমইএ'র ৩৯তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা আগামী ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২২ তারিখ (বৃহস্পতিবার) বিকাল ০৪:০০ ঘটিকায় বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, বাড়ী # ৭/৭এ, ব্লক # এইচ১, সেক্টর # ১৭, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০ তে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যগণকে উক্ত বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

মহাসচিব