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A light put out by forces of darkness

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, *Pabna*

It was a conscious decision for Dr Mohammad Fazle Rabbee, to return to his motherland from the UK where he had gone for higher studies. His brilliant academic and professional track record could have easily awarded him with a cushy life abroad. But Dr Rabbee, as he was referred to by his patients, chose to serve his people while he dreamt of the new nation that he wanted to build with his comrades.



He was a champion of equal rights for Bangalees during the Pakistan period. During the Liberation War, he treated not only wounded freedom fighters and victims of torture by the Pakistan army and their aides, but also supported them in various ways. He also provided treatment to the Urdu-speaking Biharis.

The eminent cardiologist had to pay dearly for his commitment to the independence of Bangladesh. He was picked up by the

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Dr Rabbee secretly let freedom fighters use his Morris Minor for their needs during the Liberation War. The car is on display at the Liberation War Museum in Agargaon.

PHOTO: STAR

- Born in September 1932 in Pabna
- Passed in matriculation, ISC with flying colours
- Became a gold medalist doctor in 1955 from DMCH
- Obtained degree in Cardiology in 1960 from Edinburgh
- Received internal medicine degree from London in 1962
- Returned to Dhaka and joined DMCH
- Rejected nomination for Best Professor Award from Pakistan in 1970
- Secretly treated, helped freedom fighters during 1971

Pay Tk 10 lakh to each victim's families

HC asks Shyamoli NR Paribahan over crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the owner of Shyamoli NR Paribahan to give Tk 10 lakh as initial compensation to the victims of a road accident in Bogura in April.

Two people were killed, and four others injured after a bus of the company, plying the wrong lane of the highway, hit an ambulance on the Dhaka-Bogura highway in Sherpur upazila.

Aynal Hossain, 50, of Gaibandha, died on the spot, while ambulance driver Din Mohammad, 30, of Pirojpur, succumbed to his injuries on the way to a hospital.

Aynal's three children were also critically injured in the accident.

The HC ordered the owner of the transport company to give Tk 5 lakh to the families of the two deceased immediately, and another Tk 5 lakh in the next 15 days.

The HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Ali passed the order while hearing a writ petition filed by the victims' families, seeking necessary directives on compensation.

After the order was passed, Shyamoli NR Paribahan's Managing Director Subhankar Ghosh Rakesh, who was exempted from court appearance, handed over Tk 5 lakh through his lawyer Md Tajul Islam to the victims through their lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir.

On August 7, the HC issued a rule

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Russia attacks Kyiv with drones

13 shot down; no major damage reported; missiles hit Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia; US considers sending Patriot system to Ukraine

AGENCIES

Ukrainian forces shot down 13 drones yesterday, officials said, as Russia launched its first major drone attack on the capital Kyiv in weeks and the United States considered sending its advanced Patriot air defence system to help Ukraine.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said explosions had rocked the city's central Shevchenkivskiy district and that two administrative buildings had been damaged. An air raid alert was lifted three hours after it began.

In one Kyiv district, residents said they heard the sound of an Iranian Shahed drone - known as "moped" by Ukrainians because of the loud whirring of their engines - followed by a powerful explosion at a building next to their homes.

One attack appeared to have ripped through a chunk of the roof of a nearby walled-off brick building. It was unclear what the building was used for.

Some of the windows of nearby residential buildings had been smashed. Bits of the roof were strewn in the snow along with other debris. Shocked residents, wrapped up against the cold, inspected the damage.

They said no one appeared to have been hurt.



The white tail of a drone could be seen in the wreckage. It had M529 Geran-2 written on it and a handwritten message "For Ryazan!!!", an apparent reference to what Moscow says was a Ukrainian attack on an airstrip deep inside Russia this month.

Russia, which invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 in what it calls a "special military operation" to "denazify" its neighbour, has unleashed barrages of missile attacks on energy infrastructure since October.

Ukraine's grid operator said energy facilities had not sustained any damage in yesterday's attack.

"Well done, I am proud," President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said in a brief video message, praising the air defence systems.

Ukraine has already received air defence systems from the West, including from the United States. The Patriot is considered one of the most advanced.

US officials told Reuters an announcement on a decision on providing the system could come as soon as today. The Patriot is usually in short supply, with allies around the world vying for it.

The Kremlin yesterday said that US Patriot missile defence systems would be a legitimate target for Russian strikes against Ukraine if Washington authorised their delivery to Kyiv.

DISTORTING HISTORY Jamaat just won't stop trying

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In yet another blatant attempt to distort history, Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday said Indian forces were behind the killings of intellectuals at the fag end of the Liberation War.

At a virtual discussion to mark the Martyred Intellectuals Day, Jamaat leaders said the intellectuals were killed so that the country could not stand without the support of a neighbouring country.

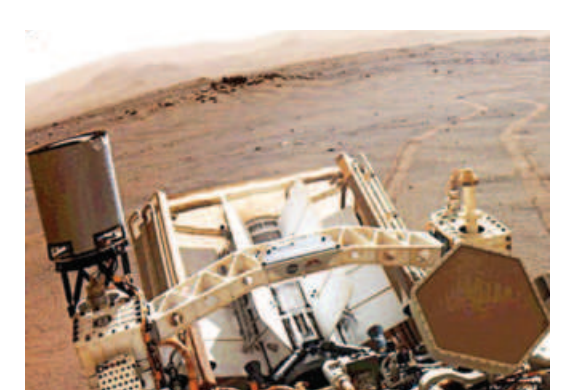
Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said, "The intellectuals were killed just two days before victory. There were killings even after December 16, Victory Day. There was no Pakistani army then. What forces were involved in the murders? Can we blame the Pakistani army for that? Indian intelligence agency may also have been responsible."

He said it was the duty of those who came to power after independence to figure it out. But they did not. They did not do it knowingly, Jamaat said in a press release.

Demanding an

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Scientists hear 'dust devils' on Martian surface



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have heard "dust devils" on the surface of Mars for the first ever time.

The recordings of the tiny tornadoes and dust that swept across the Martian surface in something like an alien whirlwind have been sent back by the Perseverance rover.

It is the first time the phenomenon has ever actually been heard and can be used to better understand much more about the planet, researchers say.

"We can learn a lot more using sound than we can with some of the other tools," said Roger Wiens, professor of earth, atmospheric and planetary sciences in Purdue University's College of Science, who leads the team that made the discovery.

"They take readings at regular intervals. The microphone lets us sample, not quite at the speed of sound, but nearly 100,000 times a second. It helps us get a stronger sense of what Mars is like."

The findings are reported in a new paper, 'The sound of a Martian dust devil', published in Nature Communications on Tuesday.

Climate change to fuel humanitarian crises in 2023: study

REUTERS, Mexico City

Climate change will accelerate humanitarian crises around the world in 2023, adding to the issues created by armed conflict and economic downturns, according to a study by the NGO International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The agency, based in New York and led by former UK politician David Miliband, flagged that the number of people in humanitarian need has skyrocketed in the last decade, approaching 339.2 million versus the 81 million seen in 2014.

Climate change is among the key factors accelerating humanitarian emergencies, the IRC noted, despite the fact that the 20 countries on its emergency watchlist - like Haiti and Afghanistan - contribute just 2 percent to global CO2 emissions.

"2022 has shown that the role of climate change in accelerating the global humanitarian crisis is undeniable," the report noted.

It pointed to record-long periods of rains, which have "brought catastrophic food insecurity to Somalia and Ethiopia," and killed thousands in Pakistan.

The IRC also flagged the need to "proactively invest in climate change prevention and mitigation."

Meanwhile, food insecurity is already rife due to growing conflict as well as the economic crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the coronavirus pandemic, it said.

In addition, the gap between humanitarian needs and its financing has grown to a global deficit of \$27 billion as of November 2022.



Farmers winnowing their Aman grains in Khulna's Batiaghar Bazar yesterday. The grains can be sold at Tk 1,500 per maund. According to the DAE, Aman is cultivated on at least 83,185 hectares of land in the district. At least 30 percent of it has been harvested till December 14.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Power import from Adani plant delayed

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Power import from the controversial Adani Godda power plant has been delayed once again as the 1,600 megawatts thermal plant is yet to be complete.

The first unit of the 1,600 megawatts coal-fired power plant located at India's Jharkand was supposed to start exporting power to Bangladesh from December 16.

"There is no chance of starting commercial operation at the Adani plant by tomorrow," Mohammad Hossain, director general of the power cell of the power ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday.

A new date will be announced soon.

Asked the reason for the delay, he said: "It is close to completion. But, as of now, we don't need that much electricity as the demand has already dropped for winter. The synchronisation of the power plant is going on. We hope it will come into operation when it is needed."

The \$1.7 billion, 1,600-megawatt coal power plant situated 60 miles from the border is 92 percent

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