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US TV news legend Barbara Walters dies

AFP, New York
Pioneering television journalist Barbara Walters, who upended a male-dominated industry as the first woman to anchor an evening news show in the United States, died on Friday at the age of 93, her long-time employer ABC said.
Walters interviewed a host of US presidents, foreign leaders such



THE BLEAK WINTER ... A little boy lights a fire with discarded wood shavings to keep his baby sister warm on a road divider in the capital's Manik Mia Avenue. As chilly winds gush in with the first cold wave of the season, children living on the streets are the worst sufferers. More often than not, they end up putting themselves in danger around open fires just for some warmth.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

COLD WAVE
Paediatric wards overflowing in the North

STAR REPORT
The mild cold wave sweeping over different districts is causing people, mostly children and the elderly, to suffer from various cold-related diseases.
The cold wave is sweeping over Nilphamari, Panchagarh, and Srimangal, said a bulletin of Bangladesh Meteorological Department yesterday. In some districts, sunshine lasted only a few minutes around noon as fog covered the sky almost the entire day.
The numbers of patients suffering from cold-related diseases are skyrocketing at hospitals across the north.
At Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, the paediatric ward was full of children suffering from cold related diseases. Beds were being shared by multiple patients.
"We usually see a rise in the number of patients with cold related diseases during cold waves," said the hospital's director Brig Gen Shamim Yazdani.

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Khandaker Mahbbub no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Eminent jurist and former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Khandaker Mahbbub Hossain passed away at a hospital in Dhaka last night.
He was 84.
Mahbbub, also a vice-chairman of the BNP, breathed his last at 10:40pm while undergoing treatment at the Evercare Hospital.
Mahbbub was on life support at the hospital since Wednesday.
He had been suffering from different health complications. Mahbbub left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.
Khandaker Mahbbub was born on March 20, 1938, in Barguna's Banna village. His father Khandaker

Space for civil liberty shrinks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra observed that people's right to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression shrunk in 2022.
Human rights organisations face various forms of repressions and they are not able to work properly, ASK Executive Director Nur Khan told a press conference yesterday.
"The human rights situation in the country is dire," he said.
About the revelation of secret detention centres, Nur Khan said, "Secret prisons or detention centres or places of interrogation should be closed. Our law and constitution do not support these. Those who operate them should be identified."
The constitutional right to engage in politics, organisation, freedom of assembly are shrinking, said the ASK statement released during the event at the organisation's office in the capital.
The law enforcers are responsible to ensure the rights recognised by the constitution, but they are the ones using excessive force. Also, when the ruling party activists attack others exercising their rights, the police do not take action, ASK observed.
Filing of phantom cases and conducting mass arrests before and after political programmes have become a regular practice by the law enforcers, it said.
During BNP's 10 recent rallies in different parts of the country, the party

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BANGLADESH 2022

- Political violence kills **70**
- "Gunfight" with Rab **4**
- Enforced disappearance **5**
- Death in law enforcer's custody **15**
- Death in jail custody **65**
- BSF shot dead **16**
- Journalists tortured **226**
- Women raped **936**
- Children raped **560**
- Children killed **516**
- Attack on Hindus **12**
- Mob violence Kills **36**

SOURCE: AIN O SALISH KENDRA

faced intimidations by law enforcers and ruling party supporters, it said, adding that such acts were clear violations of Article 36 of the constitution.
According to the ASK report, in 479 incidents of political violence in 2022, 70 people were killed and 6,914 were injured.
Section 144, which restricts assembly, was issued at least 36 times.
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
Calls to amend the Digital Security Act have fallen on deaf ears while the law

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JP FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY
Shadow cast on celebrations

RASHIDUL HASAN
As rifts persist between Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader and the chief patron Raushan Ershad, the party is going to mark its 37th founding anniversary today.
The rivalry started over who gets to be at the helm of the party when JP founder HM Ershad fell terminally ill early 2019.
The conflict reached its peak after Ershad died in

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Musk makes history by losing \$200b



AGENCIES
Elon Musk became the only person in human history to lose \$200 billion from net worth, Bloomberg Billionaire Index showed.
After Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Musk was the second person with more than \$200 billion of "personal fortune", a figure he achieved in January 2021.
Elon Musk's wealth plummeted to \$137 billion after Tesla shares declined in recent weeks. This includes a massive 11 per cent fall in Tesla shares

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গ্লোবাল রেটিং: **(B+)** (S&P Global Ratings)

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