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SATURDAY'S VIOLENCE Over 900 BNP men sued in four districts 19 party leaders, activists held

STAR REPORT

At least 940 leaders and activists of the BNP have been sued in four districts over Saturday's violence. Nineteen men of the party, including the one who brandished a firearm during a procession in Gazipur, have been arrested. Some 200 people, mostly the leaders and activists of the BNP, suffered injuries on Saturday as the BNP men clashed with the ruling Awami League men and police. On that day, the BNP called for a programme to march in every union parishad to press home its 10-point demand, including the next national election under a caretaker government.

The Awami League held "peace rallies" at all unions that day. In Narayanganj, police sued 50 named and some 70 unnamed activists of the BNP under the

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A SPRINGTIME SPECIAL ... A parakeet welcomes spring by surrounding itself with an abundance of strikingly-coloured krishnachura flowers, known as royal poinciana or flamboyant in English. With this season, comes the blooming of various special flowers – belli, kathgolap, sheuli, shimul and more – adorning the entire country with a fragrant, colourful aura.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Refiners seek duty cut on sugar import Demand smooth gas supply to keep its price stable in Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Refiners have called for lower import duties on sugar and sufficient gas supply in factories to keep the commodity's price normal during the upcoming fasting month of Ramadan.

At present, the regulatory duty on sugar imports stands at 30 percent.

Earlier, sugar was imported at \$430-450 per tonne; but now, it is being imported at \$510-530 a tonne, said Taslim Shahriar, senior assistant general manager at Meghna Group of Industries.

Subsequently, sugar prices have hit an eight-year high in Bangladesh.

"The price of sugar can't be reduced in any way without a revision of the duty – it's very important," he said at a meeting held at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry headquarters to discuss the import, stock, supply and price situation of essential

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STUDENTS IN SLUMS

Putting up a brave fight for a future

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and NILIMA JAHAN

In Abul's slum, or "Abuler Bosti", in the capital's Bhashantek, one of the most frequented places is his grocery-cum-tea shop.

As owner Abul Hossain is often busy collecting goods for his store, his two teenage daughters are the ones running the shop from morning till late at night.

Despite toiling through the day – preparing tea, serving the customers, washing the cups or selling groceries – sisters Papia Akter, 18, and Meghla Akter, 17, are continuing their 12th grade education, specialising in humanities, at the nearby Bhashantek School and College.

However, theirs is a rare instance in the slum. With around 400 families living there, only four adolescents, who were born and raised there, were able to attend college.

"Our father attends the shop while we attend classes, but it is difficult to juggle studies and work," said Papia.

"Since childhood, our father wanted us to continue our studies and set an example in the slum. We were also inspired by the nearby police barrack and army officers of the cantonment, and always dreamed of being like them.

"But we are uncertain about getting any such opportunity, as it is difficult to do well in school after working all day."

According to Abul Hossain, he has to spend a minimum of Tk 10,000 for their college fees, private tuition, and other schooling expenses, along with a yearly amount of Tk 12,000 for admission.

"If we saved the amount, we could live in a better place or feed them whatever they want. And if I

"As they lack basic education facilities, and the out-of-pocket education cost is so high, only those who are highly passionate and can earn, or get scholarships from different agencies, can continue their studies,"

– Iqbal Hossain, education manager of a Unicef programme.

officer and earns Tk 5,000 a month. She also does three private tuition jobs for Tk 3,000, which she spends on her sisters' tuition fees.

Chadni's elderly father Abdur Rahim is a plumber, who can barely earn a living. Meanwhile, the family faces a debt of Tk 100,000 with a monthly interest of Tk 5,000.

"I often ask for help from my relatives but to no avail," Rahim said.

However, a fire in 2021 gutted her entire home, including the books she bought to get enrolled for a BSc in Nursing.

Along with the books, her dreams too went up in flames.

She is now enrolled for a BA in Tongi Government College, while working to support her two younger sisters' education.

"I want them to fulfil their dreams, as I wasn't able to," Chadni said.

She works at an NGO as a field

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HARMING 50 TREES HC slams AL leader over 'terrible act'

Keeps him standing in court for 3.5 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday had a local AL leader Shahriar Ali Paramanik, alias Shahriar Alam, stand in the courtroom for around three and a half hours for his alleged involvement in injecting insecticides in around 50 palm trees on Baigachha Road in Rajshahi's Bagmara upazila.

Expressing sheer dismay, the bench of Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman and Justice AKM Rabiul Hassan said there are some "beasts" who have no concern for trees and can inflict damage on them for their own interest.

"Trees have lives. Those [injected with insecticide] have been injured to a point that they cannot be saved anymore.

"Such people [who harm trees] cannot be made civilised by any law if they don't learn values and norms from their families. If such beasts of the society remain unpunished, the trees will not be protected.

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FREEDOM FIGHTER KILLING Not a robbery but murder plotted by son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Halim, a 72-year-old freedom fighter, was the victim of a planned murder that was executed by his son, who then tried to mislead the investigators by staging the crime scene to look like a robbery, police said yesterday.

On February 1, police recovered Halim's body from his home in Narayanganj's Fatullah.

Afterwards, Masud stated that robbers broke in, tied him up, and killed his father before escaping with cash and jewellery.

Police found the place ransacked, but, did not find any signs of breaking and entering.

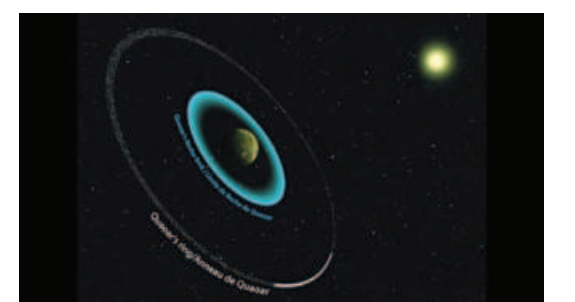
Later, it was discovered that Masud had hired a killer, Rubel, and together they strangled Halim in his sleep, stole cash from the cupboard, and ransacked the room.

The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) unravelled the murder mystery after arresting Rubel and recovering the missing CCTV footage.

Rubel used to help the family out with household work from time to time.

"Masud planned the murder to steal Tk 30 lakh that his father withdrew from the bank recently," Monirul Islam, superintendent of PBI in Narayanganj, told a press briefing at the PBI

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Scientists find ring around planet in our solar system

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A ring that scientists had thought couldn't exist has been found around a planet in our Solar System.

The ring is similar to those that famously wrap around other nearby planets, such as Saturn. But it was found on a much smaller world: the newly discovered dwarf planet Quaoar.

What's more, the ring is much further away than scientists thought it could possibly be. The new ring is twice as far from Quaoar as researchers had thought was allowed by physics.

As such, it requires a rewrite of our understanding of the formation of planetary rings and the physics that govern them. That in turn could help us better understand the more famous rings around better known planets, such as Saturn and Jupiter.

But further work is required to better understand how the object can even exist at all, scientists say.

Together, the dwarf planet and its ring orbit the Sun, beyond Neptune, and represent just the seventh such system to be found.

The discovery was made by an international team of astronomers using HiPERCAM – an extremely sensitive high-speed camera developed by scientists at the University of Sheffield.



A footbridge is not far, but people are choosing to walk through the obstacles of the under-construction road divider to go across Sat Masjid Road in the capital. Besides, the risk of getting pierced by the pointy rods, they also risk being runover by vehicles.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SOHEL CHY MURDER 2 prosecution witnesses go 'hostile' Give deposition in favour of accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two hostile prosecution witnesses of film actor Sohel Chowdhury murder case yesterday testified before a Dhaka tribunal.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 of Dhaka recorded the statements of Major (ret'd) Enamul Hafiz Khan, also the then manager of Trumps Club, and Rowshon Ara Tuli, said the prosecution.

The prosecution declared them hostile and cross-examined them after they started testifying in favour of the defendants.

In his statement, Maj Hafiz said he was at the

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Investment in textile slows for energy crisis

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Date: 13.02.2023

Notice inviting Tender (NIT)
OPEN TENDER METHOD (Domestic Competitive Bidding)

1. BIFPCL invites tender from eligible tenderer for the following package:

NIT/IFT Ref No:	BIFPCL/OTM/Site C&M/2023/256
Name of the tender	Annual Rate contract for Supply of various printing-signage materials for smooth functioning of office of MSTPP Site, Rampal, Bagherhat
Tender Security	BDT 27,000/- (Twenty Seven Thousand only)
Tender document Sale date and time	From 13/02/2023 (Monday), 09:00 Hrs. to 04/03/2023 (Saturday), 23:59Hrs.
Last date for submission of Tender	05/03/2023 (Sunday), 11:00 Hrs.
Opening of the Tender	05/03/2023 (Sunday), 11:30 Hrs.

If the Tender opening day is declared as holiday by the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bid will be opened in the next working day.

2. For Qualifying Requirements, Scope of Work, availability of tender Document (free of cost), and other details, please visit our website at www.bifpcl.com or contact Chief Procurement Officer, BIFPCL, Level-17, Unique Heights Borak, 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000, Tel. Nos. +88-0258314264, email: cpo@bifpcl.com or DGM (C&M), MSTPP, Rampal, Dist. Bagerhat, Bangladesh, Tel. Nos. +88-01678582809 email: jkbhaskar@bifpcl.com / punabikundu97@bifpcl.com.

Md. Ziaur Rahman, Chief Procurement Officer, BIFPCL