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No comparison between the AL and the BNP

Hasina tells Kotalipara rally

BSS, Gopalganj

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there is no comparison between her party and the BNP.

"The BNP doesn't want people's welfare. They burnt people alive and played ducks and drakes with their fate. But, the AL is a party of this soil and its people and it works for countrymen. So, no comparison can be drawn between the Awami League and the BNP," she said.

The premier was addressing a grand rally after inaugurating 43 development schemes and laying foundation stones of five others involving Tk 329 crore by unveiling a plaque at the Talimpur Telihat High School ground in Sadullapur union in Kotalipara.

She said people formed the AL for achieving their rights and through struggle, while the BNP was formed illegally by military dictator Zia who grabbed state power unlawfully after breaching country's constitution.

Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman were made the BNP's leaders despite both of them are convicted, she said, adding, "The BNP's organogram even doesn't allow making leader of any convicted person. But, both Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman are convicted."

The premier posed a question that whether the BNP



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BARBARIC TORTURE Teacher sent to jail for abusing boy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A madrasa teacher was sent to jail yesterday for torturing a 12-year-old boy using barbaric methods in Chattogram.

Abu Hanif, 30, used a blade to cut a student in the back and then put chilli powder on the wounds, said a complaint made by the boy's mother.

Following the complaint, police on Friday night arrested Hanif of Imam Azam (R) International Hifzul Quran Academy in Anwara upazila.

According to the complaint, Hanif first beat the boy with a cane when he could not memorise his lessons last week.

On another day, Hanif used a razor blade to cut the boy on his back before pouring chilli powder on his wounds to further punish him.

The boy, who is a resident student at the madrasa, returned home on Thursday and showed his mother and brother his wounds.

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Five held with mortars, AK-47

Army says they are members of 'Mogh party'



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Bangladesh Army detained five suspected militants and seized mortars, foreign-made firearms, and ammunition in Khagrachhari Manikchhari upazila.

The operation was conducted Friday night by army personnel from the district's Sindukchhari zone.

On information, they conducted a raid at a house and detained the five.

Four mortar and shells, one AK-47 rifle, one M1 rifle, one LG (local gun) short barrel, one LG long barrel, one China-made pistol, two walkie-talkies, Indian rupees, and 67 bullets were recovered from the house.

The detainees were involved in various criminal activities and were active members of the militant group named "Mogh Party".

This is the first instance that members of the "Mogh Party" have been apprehended in Khagrachhari.

The army said militants held the house owner hostage and were using it as a hideout for their criminal activities.

Talking to The Daily Star, Fatikchhari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Masud Ibne Anwar said, "Army personnel handed the five detainees to us. Legal steps will be taken against them soon."

The army said militants held the house owner hostage and were using it as a hideout for their criminal activities.

Indigenous woman raped in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A woman from the Marma community in Bandarban's Lama upazila was raped by a man on Friday afternoon, said a police complaint.

Her family members said they could not file the case with police until 9:30pm yesterday as they were kept waiting for hours.

The duty officer at Lama Police Station, Hafizur Rahman, had told The Daily Star that the case would be filed once Officer-in-Charge Shahidul Islam arrived.

"We have recorded the case and will send the woman for a medical test to Bandarban General Hospital tomorrow morning," the OC said when contacted around 10:30pm yesterday.

"Police are trying to arrest the accused, a Bangalee man," he added.

However, Shahidul hung up when the correspondent asked him about the delay in recording the case.

One Md Kaisar, 36, of Hargaja Futer Jiri area, abducted the woman

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Webb Telescope finds huge galaxies that 'shouldn't exist'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope has found a set of massive galaxies that should not exist.

The equipment was used to observe a set of massive galaxies that formed around 500-700 million years after the Big Bang, when the universe was only three per cent of its current age.

Those galaxies have stellar masses as high as ten billion times that of our Sun, and one that could be as massive as 100 billion of our Sun.

In all, scientists found six galaxies, which together threaten to change what scientists know about the beginnings of galaxies in our universe. Researchers say they refer to the objects as "universe breakers" and that they are in tension with 99 per cent of existing models of the universe.

Such galaxies should not be expected to be so big so soon after the beginnings of the universe, the researchers say. The mass of the stars examined in the new research are as much as 100 times greater than researchers had previously thought.

"These objects are way more massive than anyone expected," said Joel Leja, assistant professor of astronomy and astrophysics at Penn State, who modeled light from the galaxies, in a statement.

TURKEY-SYRIA QUAKE Death toll tops 50,000

Ankara begins to rebuild for 1.5m left homeless

REUTERS, Antalya/Ankara

Turkey has begun work to rebuild homes following this month's devastating earthquakes, as the combined death toll in Turkey and Syria surpassed 50,000.

More than 160,000 buildings containing 520,000 apartments collapsed or were severely damaged in the Feb. 6 earthquakes that killed tens of thousands in Turkey and neighbouring Syria.

The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) announced the death toll in Turkey rose to 44,218 on Friday night.

With Syria's latest announced death toll of 5,914, the combined death toll in the two countries rose to above 50,000.

Facing an election within months, President Tayip Erdogan has pledged to rebuild homes within a year, although experts have said the authorities should put safety before speed. Some buildings that were meant to withstand tremors crumbled in the latest earthquakes.

"For several projects, tenders and contracts have been done. The process is moving very fast," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity, adding there would be no compromise on safety.

Authorities say tents have been dispatched for the many who are homeless, but people have reported trouble

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Despite a High Court order on February 6 to remove all posters and graffiti from flyovers in the capital within two weeks, the pillars and walls under the Moghbazar flyover can barely be seen as they are covered from top to bottom by political posters and banners. Poster sticking and graffiti writing were made punishable offences in a 2012 act.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Rohingya imam found dead after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police recovered the body of a Rohingya imam from a refugee camp in Ukhia of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

A group of masked men abducted Samsu Alam, 38, around 8:00pm on Friday. His body was found around 10:00am yesterday, said police.

Samsu, imam of a mosque at Palangkhali refugee camp, was an inhabitant of Block-C at Camp-17, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Ukhia Police Station.

Seeing the body, inhabitants of the camp informed the Armed Police Battalion. Later, a team of Ukhia Police Station recovered the body.

There were several stab marks on the body, he said, adding that the body was sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.