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**Wooden trawler industry dying**



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**Do we need branches of foreign universities?**

## A new era in energy cooperation

Hasina, Modi open Indo-Bangla pipeline

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline will play a pivotal role in ensuring fuel security in Bangladesh.

"[And]... at a time when many countries are faced with fuel crisis due to the Russia-Ukraine war," she added.

The prime minister was addressing a programme marking the inauguration of the 131.57 km pipeline yesterday, reports UNB.

The PM and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi formally opened the pipeline through videoconferencing.

Hasina was connected to the event from her official residence Gono Bhaban while Modi joined the programme from his office.

The pipeline has been built as part of energy cooperation between the two neighbours. Using this infrastructure, Bangladesh will import petroleum, especially diesel, from



This bridge over the Pona river is of no use to the locals in Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila because there are no roads to access it. The bridge has been in this state since it was constructed four years ago.

PHOTO: KM HABIBUR RAHMAN

## 65-year-old killed in late-night Rab raid

The force claims it was in self-defence, witnesses say officers opened fire during altercation with villagers

SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

A 65-year-old man was shot dead and another was shot in the legs during a raid by Rab in a village of Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj early yesterday, locals said.

Rab Commanding Officer Lt Col Tanvir Mahmud Pasha said the law enforcers used their firearms in self-defence after miscreants opened fire on them and tried to snatch a murder suspect from custody in the Borgaon area after midnight.

But around 12 witnesses, including the widow of the deceased, said the victim, Abul Kashem, 65, and the others present at the scene were unarmed and the men in plainclothes aimed at his stomach and shot him from close range during an argument.

Hearing the gunshot, more villagers began to gather at the scene, thinking there was a robbery, they said, adding that the men in plainclothes then shot local pharmacy owner Humayun Kabir, 50, in both legs.

Police found that neither of the men who

got shot had any criminal records, according to Chai Lau Marma, additional superintendent of police in the district.

The number of deaths due to so-called "crossfires" and "gunfights" fell significantly after the United States imposed sanctions on Rab and some of its officials on December 10, 2021.

**"They hit my husband with sticks. When he yelled at them, one of them identified himself as Rab and shot him in the stomach."**

— **Ramiza Begum**, widow of the 65-year-old man shot dead by Rab in Narayanganj

Over 20 witnesses told this correspondent there was no way to tell that the men picking up a villager named Selim after midnight were law enforcers. They assumed the men were criminals.

Ramiza Begum, widow of Kashem, said she and her husband heard a commotion outside

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## BUDGET FY 23-24 IMF conditions, inflation, polls 3 key issues

Finance minister begins pre-budget talks today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Three issues would be dictating the upcoming fiscal year's budget, the last of the Awami League government's present five-year term: the International Monetary Fund's conditions, the persistently high inflation and next year's national election.

The finance ministry has already identified seven priorities for the fiscal 2023-24's budget with the view to maintaining GDP growth and low inflation, according to a draft prepared by the ministry.

The seven priorities include keeping the supply chain strong to attain the maximum possible GDP growth; tackling the imported high inflation, expanding

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## Mahi out on bail hours after arrest

Detention of the actress in DSA case sparks criticism



STAR REPORT

Actress Mahiya Mahi was released from jail yesterday, around six hours after she was arrested in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Gazipur Metropolitan Magistrate Md Iqbal Hossain granted her bail in two cases around 5:00pm.

The second case was filed against her over the alleged extortion and assault of a businessman.

Mahi, who is nine-month pregnant, was arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:45am after she landed in Dhaka from Saudi Arabia, where she and her husband Rakib Sarkar had gone to perform Umrah.

Her husband did not return with her, and she was taken into police custody.

This triggered widespread criticism from the entertainment industry

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## Tigers feast on biggest ODI win

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh showed authority in their favoured 50-over format, registering their biggest victory in terms of runs as they won the opening ODI against Ireland by 183 runs at the Sylhet International Cricket stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh's biggest win in terms of runs prior to yesterday was a 169-run win against Zimbabwe at the same venue in 2020.

Debutant Towhid Hridoy and Shakib Al Hasan missed out on centuries, both being dismissed in the nineties, while Mushfiqur Rahim scored a quickfire 44 during his 26-ball cameo as Bangladesh posted their highest-ever ODI total of 338 for eight in 50 overs. Bangladesh's previous highest total for was 333 for eight against Australia during the 2019 ODI World Cup.

In chase, Ireland were eventually bundled out for 155 in 30.5 overs. Ebadot

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Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan pulls one during his 93-run knock against Ireland in the first ODI at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Shakib later took one wicket as the hosts won the match by a record 183 runs.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## All-out efforts on to bring Arav back

Says home boss; ex-IGP Benazir denies knowing the fugitive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said they were making all-out efforts to bring back Arav Khan, a fugitive accused in a case filed over the murder of a police inspector in 2018.

"Interpol's cooperation has already been sought to detain him [Arav Khan]," he told the reporters after a programme in Tejgaon, marking the 103rd birth anniversary of Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The home boss, however, did not clarify under which law Arav Khan will be brought back to the country through Interpol as the accused holds an Indian passport.

Meanwhile, Benazir Ahmed, former inspector general of police, yesterday denied having any acquaintanceship with Arav Khan.

"I want to assure you all that I don't know anyone named 'Arav aka Rabiul aka Hridoy'. I don't even have any primary acquaintanceship with him," he posted on his verified Facebook account.

"I have spent my entire law enforcement career fighting murderers, terrorists, drug dealers, smugglers, counterfeiters, and criminals, [while] never developing any relationship with them."

The post added, "Thank you for your endless love, support and cooperation."

Rabiul Islam, who goes by the name Arav Khan, recently came under the spotlight as Bangladesh cricket superstar Shakib Al Hasan was invited to inaugurate his jewellery

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Arav Khan