



NARAYANGANJ RAB RAID

They showed no IDs before half an hour passed

Say two neighbours of slain Kashem; Rab denies; five members of victim's family shown arrested

STAR REPORT

The Rab members who raided a village in Narayanganj's Sonargaon early Saturday neither wore their vest jackets nor showed their IDs to the villagers until they were half an hour into the raid, said two witnesses.



Rab officers said these claims were outright lies. During the raid the Borgaon area for arresting a suspected murderer, a 65 year old trader was shot dead and a pharmacy owner was shot in the leg. Ramiza Begum, widow of Abul Kashem, said she saw her husband get shot from a close range.

According to a High Court order issued on April 7, 2003, it is mandatory for law enforcers to disclose their identity and show ID cards on demand to the person arrested or the people present at the scene of the arrest.

There is also a Police Headquarters instruction that says cops arresting suspects while wearing plainclothes must

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Children of Gabura village in Satkhira's Shyamnagar upazila walk home after filling their water pitchers from a tube well around two kilometers away. The people of at least four different villages depend on that one tube well, the water of which also has mild salinity. Many villages in Khulna's coastal upazilas -- Koirā, Dakop, Paikgachha -- and five coastal upazilas in Satkhira, including Ashashuni and Shyamnagar, have all been suffering from fresh water crises, as most of the ponds have dried up during the dry season.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

SPORT



Champion kickboxer Ruqsana back to her roots

London born kickboxer Ruqsana Begum returned to her roots in Bangladesh in her quest to fight for the Intercontinental Flyweight Title in Dhaka. The former Muay Thai World Champion seeks to inspire boxers, and women sportspersons in general, in the country. The 39-year-old shared her inspirational journey with The Daily Star.

INTERVIEW ON PAGE 11

Pro-BNP lawyers demand date for fresh SCBA polls

Call for resignation of law minister, attorney general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP lawyers yesterday demanded that a date be immediately set for a fresh election to the Supreme Court Bar Association under an acceptable election conducting subcommittee.

They also demanded resignation of Law Minister Anisul Huq and Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, saying that they are the ones who instructed police to attack lawyers and journalists on March 15 during the SCBA polls.

The lawyers placed their demands at a press conference of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Panel (JAOP) at the South Hall on the SCBA premises.

The two-day SCBA election was held amid police assault on lawyers and journalists and clashes between pro-Awami League and pro-BNP lawyers on March 15 and 16.

Pro-BNP lawyers did not cast their votes, demanding cancellation of what they said was a "farce of an election". The pro-Awami League lawyers' panel -- Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad -- have won all 14 posts of the SCBA polls.

SCBA is the prime bar association in the country.

Yesterday, JAOP president candidate AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and secretary candidate Ruhul Quddus Kazal told reporters that there was no election on March 15 and 16 and termed the SCBA polls farcical.

Ruhul in a statement said, "The hooliganism of some overenthusiastic ruling Awami League-backed lawyers and police have undermined us lawyers before the society. It is a black spot for not only the lawyers community, but also for the entire nation."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Putin makes first trip to occupied territory

Visits Mariupol; Xi Jinping arrives in Russia today

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin made a surprise trip to Mariupol, the Kremlin said yesterday, his first visit to territory captured from Ukraine since the start of Moscow's invasion.

Just hours after Putin visited Crimea to mark the ninth anniversary of the peninsula's annexation, video distributed by the Kremlin showed him landing by helicopter in Mariupol, the port city that Moscow captured after a long siege last spring.

The visit triggered an angry reaction from Ukraine, with a presidential aide blasting its "cynicism" and "lack of remorse".

The Russian leader took a tour of the city and was seen driving a car. The Kremlin said he visited a rebuilt musical theatre and followed the presentation of a report on reconstruction work.

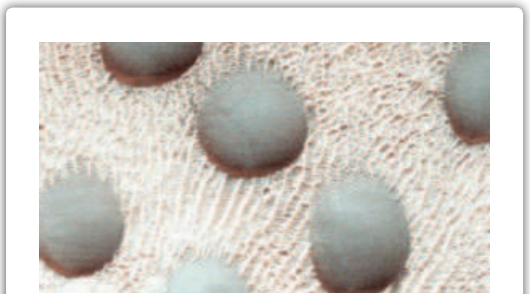
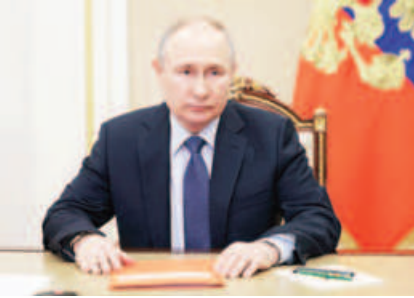
"We're praying for you," a resident told Putin, referring to the city as "a little piece of paradise", according to images broadcast by Russian state TV, showing the visit took place at night.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters the visit was "spontaneous", adding that Putin's movements around the city and his meeting with locals were not planned.

He added that the visit took place "very late" on Saturday and in the early hours of yesterday.

It was Putin's first trip to the eastern Donbas region since he launched the invasion in February 2022, and comes almost a year after Moscow announced the capture of Mariupol after a campaign that saw the destruction of the Azovstal

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Bizarre sand dunes on Mars baffle scientists

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Images of "almost perfectly circular" sand dunes on Mars that have been released by Nasa are puzzling scientists.

While sand dunes of many sizes and shapes are common on Mars, circular dunes are rare, Nasa said in a statement.

The images, taken from Mars's northern hemisphere, revealed circular dunes with asymmetrical shapes and their steep sides slanted southward, researchers from the University of Arizona said in a statement.

The discovery can reveal more about the patterns acquired by wind movement across the Red Planet.

Mars experiences cycles of four seasons -- summer, spring, fall and winter -- similar to Earth and the images were taken to monitor how frost disappears in the late winter on the Red Planet.

While in one set of Nasa's pictures, the round sand dunes appear ice free, they are covered in frost in another photo.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Rohingya youth shot dead at Ukhiya camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya youth was shot dead by miscreants at Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila Saturday evening.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Mahbub alias Hafez Mahbub, 27, son of Syed Amin of D-9 block of Moynarghona Rohingya camp number 19, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ukhiya Police Station.

The incident took place at G-7 block of Balukhali camp number 12 under Palangkhal union around 7:00 pm, the OC added.

He said Mahbub was talking to some people when 5 to 7 miscreants wearing masks took him to a nearby place and fired two shots at his chest, the OC said quoting local Rohingyas.

However, the miscreants fled the scene when a team from the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) arrived at the spot.

Mahbub, seriously injured, was first taken to MSF Hospital and later shifted to Ukhiya Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead, added the police official.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



A group of local influential leaders have been extracting sand from the Meghna in Brahmanbaria's Sarail upazila every day for almost two weeks, showing a fake lease with the permission to do so when questioned by locals. Asked, the local administration denied granting permission to any such group to extract sand from there. However, they are also doing nothing to stop the illegal dredging. Unabated sand mining could result in the collapse of the riverbed and also cause erosion.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

Adani suspends work on \$4.2b project in Gujarat

REUTERS

Adani Group has suspended work on a 349 billion rupee (\$4.2 billion) petrochemical project at Mundra in India's western Gujarat state as it focuses on consolidating operations and addressing investor concerns after the Hindenburg shortseller report, according to the Press Trust of India.

The report was carried in the Economic Times yesterday.

The group has asked vendors and suppliers to "suspend all activities of the scope of work and performance of all obligations" for Mundra Petrochem Ltd's Green PVC project "till further notice," the newspaper reported, citing mails seen by PTL.

Adani Group did not immediately respond to a Reuters' request for a comment.

On January 24, Hindenburg Research alleged stock manipulation and improper use of tax havens, and flagged concerns over debt levels at the company, which Adani has denied.

India's top court has since asked market regulator SEBI to investigate Adani Group for any lapses related to public shareholding norms or regulatory disclosures.

