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Australia buying more missiles to counter China



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'The more films release, the better it is for the industry'



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When everything comes crashing down

Shahabuddin sworn in as the 22nd president

BSS, Dhaka

Veteran freedom fighter and politician Mohammed Shahabuddin was sworn in as the 22nd President of Bangladesh in an impressive ceremony at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath at 11:00am.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's younger daughter Sheikh Rehana, cabinet members, and several hundred distinguished guests attended the state ceremony.

Cabinet Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain conducted the programme.

Earlier, wearing a black Mujib coat and a white panjabi, new President Shahabuddin, along with outgoing president Abdul Hamid and the Speaker entered the ceremony hall at 10:55am.

A military band played ceremonial music at that time.

After the swearing in ceremony, new President Mohammed Shahabuddin and outgoing president M Abdul Hamid officially switched their seats as part of the ceremony of changing the charge of the office.

Subsequently, President Shahabuddin and Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury signed the oath documents of the office.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handing over a bouquet of flowers to outgoing president M Abdul Hamid in the presence of new President Mohammad Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday. More photos on page 2.

PHOTO: BSS

The bird out of the cage, at last



If I get into politics again or take any other position, I will be humiliating the people of this country.

Abdul Hamid

RASHIDUL HASAN

With President Mohammed Shahabuddin taking the oath of office, the era of president Abdul Hamid came to an end yesterday.

Hamid was given a guard of honour and a farewell. He was quiet and calm during his farewell.

He said his life as president in the Bangabhaban often felt like living in confinement as he could not lead a free life and be among the people due to tight security protocol.

During the 10 years as president, Hamid

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GAS LEAK, BLAST FEARS

Many Dhaka dwellers out on the streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many city dwellers complained of gas leaks in parts of Dhaka last night, with some leaving their homes for the streets out of fear.

Contacted, Fire Service and Civil Defence Duty Officer Rafi Al Faruk said they received numerous complaints of gas leaks from across the capital.

They sent teams to Lalbagh, Hazaribagh, Mohammadpur, and Khilgaon areas to check on the complaints.

Shuvojit Ghosh, of Green Road, said residents of his building descended from their flats after smelling gas.

"The smell was emitting from the gas risers located on the ground floor of the building. We informed the Titas office, but no one came even after one and a half hours," he said while talking to the reporter at about 11:30pm.

"Even residents on the top floor of our 16-storey building complained of smelling gas," he said.

Many residents in Nakhla Para were also seen on the streets, fearing a blast from gas leaks.

Wishing anonymity, a top official of Titas told The Daily Star that due to high pressure on the gas lines, they were getting complaints of gas leaks.

"We're trying to reduce the pressure in the pipeline," he said.

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10 YEARS AFTER RANA PLAZA DISASTER

Memories of horror

A volunteer for CRP shares stories of survivors of the tragedy

STAR REPORT

On the morning of April 24, 2013, Babul began his day working as a machine operator on the seventh floor of a garment factory at Rana Plaza in Savar. From his workstation, he could see his wife at her workstation.

A few short hours later, when the Rana Plaza collapsed, Babul, just 17 at the time, managed to free his trapped leg and crawl through the rubble to her. The collapse had not killed her initially, but she died in her husband's arms by the time rescuers could reach them, around nine hours later.

His wife was one of at least 1,136 workers who lost their lives in the collapse. Babul is among the more than 2,438 who were injured, and survived with physical and emotional scars that continue to shape their lives 10 years later.

A lot of the survivors were treated and rehabilitated at the Center for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), which is located a short distance from the site of the country's worst industrial tragedy.

Since 2013, CRP staffers have been visiting over 40 survivors and recording their progress. Assisting them in this endeavour is Carolyn Scott, who has been a part-time volunteer at the CRP since 1994. She shared the tales of some of the survivors with The Daily Star after her recent meetings with them.

"Babul received treatment and training on electronics at the CRP for six months. Back home, he set up a successful electronics repair shop, earning enough to remarry. He enjoys being his own boss and keeping his own schedule. He did not receive compensation for the death of his first wife; rather, her family was given Tk 12.5 lakh."

Babul's sister Saima was also one of those who survived the collapse, but her life was changed forever by the events of April 24, 2013.

She was 25 at the time of the disaster, which left her a paraplegic, Scott said. While she got a "considerable" financial compensation which allowed for the construction of a new wheelchair-accessible home for her and her extended

MORE STORIES ON PAGE 5 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PANKAJ BHATTACHARYA
1939-2023

The passing of a doyen of politics

STAR REPORT

Veteran politician Pankaj Bhattacharya, president of Oikya National Awami Party (NAP) and one of the organisers of the country's Liberation War, died early yesterday.

He was 84. He breathed his last at 12:20am at a hospital in the capital, said a press release of Oikya NAP.

Pankaj was admitted to Health and Hope Hospital on April 17, said Lenin Chowdhury, a doctor at the hospital.

Speaking to The Daily Star, he said Pankaj had been suffering from old-age complications, including breathing issues. He was

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10 BODIES IN A TRAWLER

Planned murder or a robbery?

STAR REPORT

On April 7, Osman Gani of Moheshkhali upazila along with several others went to the sea on a trawler for fishing, a job the 17-year-old never tried before.

There had been no trace of the boy until yesterday morning when his mother Zahura Begum saw his body at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue, identifying him by his shirt and trousers.

He was among the ill-fated 10 who were found dead inside the locked cold storage of a fishing trawler at Nazirartek in Cox's Bazar on Sunday, according to the woman.

The nine others were fishermen from Moheshkhali and Chakaria upazilas of Cox's Bazar.

Nobody knows exactly what happened to them. Police can only suspect they might have been killed during an act of robbery.

Osman, a resident of Mithachhari village in Shaplapur union, used to work at a shop in Cox's Bazar town, but a few days before leaving for the Bay he went to the upazila and took up the job of a day labourer.

"A few days after my son left, we heard that he went to the sea with some fishermen, and robbers attacked their trawler. Since then there had been no news about them," she told The Daily Star.

The mother said she heard from locals that one Nurul Kabir had taken Osman to the sea.

"I do not understand why he took my son to the sea. It was a planned murder," she said while waiting for the body in front of the hospital morgue.

Family members of nine other victims also rushed to the hospital yesterday.

After a portion of a sunken fishing boat surfaced during the low tide to the west of Sonadia Island, fishermen of another boat pulled it ashore at Nazirartek point, adjacent to the confluence of Bakkhali river, in the early hours of Sunday.

The bodies were semi-decomposed with their hands and legs tied.

The owner of the boat, Shamsul Alam, 40, was among the victims, who police and firefighters suspect died 10 to 12 days ago.

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Holidaymakers through the Sada Pathor area in Sylhet's Jafalong, a popular tourist destination, during the ongoing Eid-ul-Fitr vacation. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Congratulations!

NIPRO-JMI Company achieves National Export Trophy

NJCL at a glance

- 100% export-oriented medical device manufacturing company
- A Japan-Bangladesh joint-venture initiative
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- CE Certified
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NIPRO JMI Company Ltd (NJCL), a concern of JMI Group, has been awarded with the **National Export Trophy** for financial year 2019-20 in recognition of its significant contribution to the country's export trade. Honourable Founder and Managing Director of JMI Group **Mr. Md. Abdur Razzaq** received the award from Honourable Commerce Minister **Mr. Tipu Munshi (MP)** on April 16, 2023. We acknowledge and congratulate all our stakeholders and well-wishers for being with us in this noble journey.

JMI Group

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