



## Govt resorting to torture to suppress BNP

Alleges the party, brings out processions in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas has alleged that the government has adopted new ways of torturing the party men.

BNP leaders and activists were previously killed through enforced disappearance but now the government is killing them through torture and by putting them behind bars, he said.

Abbas was addressing a rally in front of the BNP's Nayapaltan central office in the capital yesterday afternoon, ahead of a mass procession.

The party's south and north city units organised two mass processions to press home its one-point demand – resignation of the government and general elections under a non-party, neutral government.

The procession of the Dhaka south city BNP started from Nayapaltan intersection and ended at Doyaganj intersection.

Alleging that “ill-educated people” are pushing the country towards destruction, Abbas said, “They don't

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BNP leaders and activists in a procession waving black flags in the capital's Arambagh yesterday as part of the party's one-point movement demanding the resignation of the government and general election under a non-party neutral government.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## BNP's black-flag march a mark of its failure

Says Quader at AL peace rally in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the BNP's black-flag march a “mourning procession”, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said it indicates that the party's one-point movement has fallen flat on its face.

“Why did they march with black flags? Has any of their leaders died? They held the procession to lament the failure of their one-point movement,” said Quader while addressing a “peace rally” in front of AL central office in the capital's Gulistan.

Dhaka city (south) AL organised the rally protesting the “terror and anarchy” of the BNP-Jamaat.

Claiming that the BNP's procession failed to attract the general public, Quader said, “How could they call it a mass procession when it did not have the participation of commoners? We will show the BNP what a mass procession is.”

Regarding the BNP's demand for resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he said, “Why would she resign? Around 70 percent of the people of the country like her and want to vote for her.”

Quader told the BNP not to daydream about going to power.

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## Mangoes to be exported to Russia for the first time

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

For the first time, a Rajshahi-based farming company is exporting Gourmoti and Katimon varieties of mango to Russia.

An Air Arabia flight is scheduled to leave Dhaka for Russia early today with 200kg of Gourmoti and 75kg of Katimon mangoes, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension.

“This is the first time Bangladeshi mangoes are making an entry to Russia,” said Mafizul Islam, deputy director (export) at the Plant Quarantine Wing of the department.

Mahtab Ali, CEO of MTB Agro and Garden, said a Russian company called National Electric LLC, which worked for the Rooppur power plant, is importing the mangoes.

The mangoes were collected from the orchards of a farmer named Najim Uddin in Nachole upazila of Chapainawabganj, he added.

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## Weekend trip ends in tragedy

7 people, six of them colleagues, killed as truck hits microbus



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

They wanted to take a short break from their busy professional life in the lush green landscape of some tourist spots in Sylhet.

But the weekend trip which was supposed to rid them of the monotony of daily life cut their lives short.

Six of the seven people – who were killed in a road crash in Ghasirdia area of Narsingdi's Shibpur upazila early yesterday – were colleagues.

They were merchandisers at a company in Ashulia, Savar. They had planned to spend their weekend in Sylhet. The accident took place when a microbus carrying them collided head-on with a sand-laden truck. Four other people were injured in the crash.

The deceased were identified as Sabuj Mia, 32, of Tangail's Delduar upazila; Al Amin Hawlader, 37, of Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila; Al Amin, 27, of Tangail's Mirzapur upazila; Abdul Awal, 40, of Madaripur's Kalkini upazila; Aryan alias Raihan, 25, of Barishal's Muladi

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## 2024 INDIA POLLS

Inflation hurting Modi but he may win

Says India Today magazine survey

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian voters are growing unhappy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government due to high inflation and unemployment but he is still on track to comfortably win a third term in elections next year due to his personal popularity, a key survey said.

The popularity of main opposition leader Rahul Gandhi has risen and a new, 26-party opposition alliance called “INDIA” is expected to do well, the “Mood of the Nation” survey by India Today magazine said yesterday.

Modi, however, is far ahead of Gandhi with a 36-point lead as the candidate best suited to be India's next prime minister and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will win 287 seats in the 542-member

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## 2020 ELECTION CASE

## Trump gets a mugshot

Spends less than 30 minutes in Georgia jail before release on bond

AFP, Atlanta

Former US president Donald Trump was arrested at a Georgia jail Thursday on racketeering and conspiracy charges and released on a \$200,000 bond after having a historic mug shot taken.

Trump, who is accused of colluding with 18 other defendants to overturn the 2020 election result in the southern state, spent less than 30 minutes inside Atlanta's Fulton County Jail before leaving in a motorcade for the airport.

Like the other defendants in the case who have surrendered so far, the 77-year-old Trump had his mug shot taken during the booking process – a first for any serving or former US president.

In the photograph released by the sheriff's office, he scowled at the camera while dressed in a dark blue suit, white shirt and red tie.

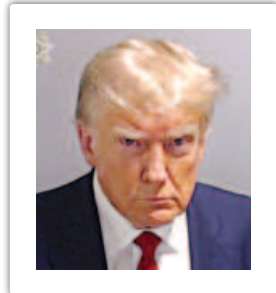
Speaking to reporters after his arrest, Trump, the frontrunner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, said it was a “very sad day for America.”

“What has taken place here is a travesty of justice,” he said. “I did nothing wrong.”

Trump posted the mug shot on his own Truth Social platform with the caption “Election Interference” and a link to his campaign website.

A short while later, he also posted it on X – formerly Twitter,

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## HASINA-XI TALKS

It'll give fresh momentum to bilateral ties

Says Chinese envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Yao Wen, said the Johannesburg meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chinese President Xi Jinping would definitely give new momentum to bilateral relations between the two nations.

“It was the first face-to-face meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since the latter's formal visit to China four years ago. We have long been waiting for this meeting...,” he told UNB in his first interview since his arrival in Dhaka, noting that it is his sacred mission to fully implement the consensus reached by the two leaders to push the “Strategic Partnership of Cooperation” between the two countries to a new level.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Xi Jinping spoke highly of the traditional friendship and good relations between Bangladesh and China “based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs”.

They re-assured mutual support on issues of their respective core interests.

Satisfied by joint achievements made under the umbrella of Belt and Road

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## Over 4,000-year-old polychrome wall found in Peru

REUTERS, Lima

An ancient polychrome wall discovered in northern Peru is believed to be over 4,000 years old and could have been part of a ceremonial temple, according to archaeologists, offering new insights into the region's historic cultures.

The wall was first stumbled upon by farmers in 2020 during harvesting work, prompting an extended dig and work to determine its origins, said archaeologist Feren Castillo, head of a research project in the coastal region of La Libertad.

“Three years later we started a new procedure whose results showed us its age ... Today we are sure it's a building built during the Pre-ceramic Period (the initial period of the Andean civilizations) between 4,000 and 4,500 years ago,” the expert said this week.

The remains of the ancient building were revealed in the Viru Valley, some 480 km (298 miles) north of Lima.



Since there is no gate to block traffic when trains approach, the gatekeeper ties a rope at the level-crossing in Hyderabad area of Gazipur. Strips of red cloth are attached to the rope to increase visibility. A proper barrier is needed to make the level-crossing on the busy street safer.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Man arrested over death of 1-yr-old son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police yesterday arrested a man on charges of killing his one-year-old son in Savar.

Alamgir Hossain, 29, an ambulance driver, was arrested after the baby's mother Kalpana Akhter, his ex-wife, filed a case with Savar Police Station.

According to the complaint, Alamgir first threw a wooden stick that hit the boy's forehead and then he threw the baby to the floor with an intention to kill, said Dipok Chandra Saha, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The baby, named Alif, was pronounced dead when taken to a hospital, he added.

After Alamgir and Kalpana got divorced a few days ago, Kalpana started living in a rented house with the child in Talbagh area.

Late at night on Thursday, Alamgir went there and the two engaged in an argument. At one stage, Alamgir attacked the baby, the OC added.