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SHAH CEMENT

GULSHAN PROPERTY
Murshedy can keep possession for 8 weeks
SC issues status quo
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Abdus Salam Murshedy will be able to keep the Gulshan building in his possession for eight weeks as the Supreme Court yesterday ordered maintaining status quo on the property.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam passed the order yesterday after Murshedy filed a petition challenging an HC order.

Murshedy's lawyer Ahsanul Karim told The Daily Star that there are valid documents to prove that the property was legally transferred to Murshedy.

The HC last week ordered Murshedy to hand over the property to the government, saying that the abandoned property

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Palestinians, including children, who were injured in an Israeli air strike, wait for treatment at the al-Najjar hospital in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

ROAD TRANSPORT ACT 2018
Changes afoot to protect vehicles, workers from mobs

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After a road crash, mobs often vandalise and torch vehicles and beat up drivers they deem responsible. The government is now going to make such activities punishable under the Road Transport Act 2018.

On March 13, the cabinet meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office, approved in principle the amendments to the Road Transport Act 2018, said officials concerned.

"Yes, such activities will be made punishable offences under the act. However, the punishment for the offence has not been determined yet," ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Such offences are also punishable under the penal code.

Parliament passed the Road Transport Act 2018 only five and a half years ago but following demands made by transport workers' and owners' bodies, the government is now reducing punishments and fines in over a dozen sections of the act and apparently adding punishments in sections to protect vehicles and transport workers.

After the March 13 meeting, Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain said 12 sections of the act would be amended but officials at the Road Transport and Highways Division said the number would be higher.

For instance, section 119 of the act says that nobody can harm a vehicle involved in an accident and people cannot be violent towards the driver or conductor of a vehicle

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No construction on Kantajew temple land
DC issues order 23 days after mosque construction began

KONGKON KARMAKER

The Dinajpur district administration yesterday banned all kinds of construction work on the land of the Kantajew Temple in Kaharol upazila, 23 days after the construction of a multi-storey mosque had begun there.

On March 1, newly elected Dinajpur-1 lawmaker Zakaria Zaka laid the foundation plaque for the mosque on the land of the iconic religious structure. The construction began the very next day, stirring much controversy.

At a news briefing yesterday, Shakil Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Dinajpur, confirmed the ban on all kinds of construction on the Kantajew Temple land.

Visiting the site in the morning, he spoke to members of the mosque construction committee and ordered them to suspend the work.

He also met the leaders of the upazila's Hindu community at his office.

At the briefing, the DC said the mosque was being reconstructed on "Debattor land" (land of the Deity) of the Kantajew Temple without any permission taken by the authorities concerned, rendering the construction illegal.

However, he said, the situation is under control there and that a suitable place will be provided for the mosque's construction.

Shahiqul Islam, Kaharol's upazila nirbahi officer, went to the construction site yesterday and hung a notice banning all sorts of construction on the land.

According to locals, a mosque was established on a portion of the

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MV ABDULLAH
Talks ongoing with pirates via intermediary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

There is growing hope for the swift release of the 23 crew members held captive by pirates on board the hijacked ship MV Abdullah.

Sources say that the company that owns the ship are making progress in their negotiations with the pirates via a third party.

According to experts who have long experience in the marine service, the pirates who hijacked the ship, now anchored very close to the Somali coast, were under pressure as European Union Naval Forces deployed warships in the vicinity of MV Abdullah, keeping it under close monitoring.

They assumed that the intermediary engaged by the ship's owner would now try to take advantage of this situation, and if the negotiation went smoothly, the ship's rescue could hopefully happen very soon.

Mizanul Islam, media adviser of KSRM Group,

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Israel besieges 2 more Gaza hospitals
Orders evacuation; hunger situation worsens in the Palestinian enclave

AGENCIES

Israeli forces besieged two more Gaza hospitals yesterday, pinning down medical teams under heavy gunfire and forcing the evacuation from one hospital of most patients and displaced people sheltering there, the Palestinian Red Crescent said.

Israeli forces say hospitals in the Gaza Strip where war has been raging for over five months have frequently been used as strongholds of Hamas militants harbouring bases and weapons. Hamas and medical staff deny this.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said one of its staff was killed when Israeli tanks suddenly pushed back into areas around Al-Amal and Nasser hospitals in the southern city of Khan Younis, amid shelling and gunfire.

Israeli armoured forces sealed off Al-Amal Hospital and carried out extensive bulldozing operations in its vicinity, the Red Crescent said in a statement, adding: "All of our teams are in extreme danger at the moment and are completely immobilised."

It said Israeli forces demanded the complete evacuation of staff, patients and displaced people from Al-Amal and fired smoke bombs into the area to try to push out its occupants.

- Israel strikes 65 targets in Gaza
- 84 more Palestinians killed
- CIA, Mossad chiefs leave Qatar following Gaza truce talks
- Death toll in enclave tops 32,226

INDOMITABLE MARCH
The gates of hell cast open

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

March 25, 1971

BANGABANDHU'S LAST PRESS STATEMENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a press statement issued today, called for a general strike throughout Bangladesh on March 27 against the army's action in certain places in East Pakistan including Saidpur, Rangpur and Joydevpur.

He also expressed concern over the regrettable delay in resolving the crisis politically and termed it as "unfortunate". He said that if a "political solution is desired" by President Yahya Khan and his advisers, they should "realise that it was for them to take matters immediately, to a conclusion, and that to delay this would expose the country and its people to grave hazards."

Referring to attempts to divide Bangalees and Mohajirs, Bangabandhu said, "What is more reprehensible is that certain elements have been deployed by the anti-people forces to foment tension between locals and 'non-locals'."

He added, "I have repeatedly reaffirmed that all those who live in Bangla Desh, regardless of their place of origin or the language they speak, are our people, and they should consider themselves as such and take full part in the struggle for the emancipation of Bangla Desh. Their life, property and honour are our sacred trust."

The statement ended with the call, "Our

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Eid journey: Severe gridlock feared at Bangabandhu Bridge

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PRIME BANK

PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 25

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:43	12:45	4:45	6:15	7:45
JAMAAT 4:53	1:15	5:00	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
14	25		6:15
15	26	4:36	6:15
16	27	4:35	6:16



Sri Lanka players celebrate as Liton Das makes his way back to the pavilion with his head bowed following a first-ball duck in Bangladesh's second innings of the first Test at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. The Tigers were five down for 47 at the end of the third day, chasing a victory target of 511 runs.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Flexible solar panels achieve record-breaking efficiency

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have achieved a record-breaking level of efficiency for flexible solar panels using the so-called "miracle material" perovskite.

The lightweight solar panels, developed by researchers in Australia and the UK, were able to convert 11 percent of the Sun's energy into electricity, making them suitable for commercial use.

Their flexibility means they can also be deployed in previously impossible ways, such as on curved roofs, awnings or even vehicles.

The international team – made up of scientists from the University of Cambridge, Monash University, the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales – made the breakthrough using a new technique to print the solar cells on bendy rolls.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), an Australian government agency who led the research project, said both the scale and the efficiency achieved during the tests made it a "real game changer" for the renewable energy industry.

"The cells are printed using a roll-to-roll technique similar to newspaper printing, which allows for continuous, large-scale production," the organisation said in a statement.

