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5YRS AFTER HC ORDER Govt yet to drop the word 'Kumari' from Kabin Nama

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The High Court in a 2019 judgement directed the government to drop the word "kumari", or virgin, from the marriage registration form, terming it defamatory and discriminatory against women.

It had also asked the authorities concerned to replace "kumari" with the word "unmarried", preferably within six months from the judgement copy's receipt date.

The order, however, has not yet been executed and the word "kumari" still exists in the form called "Kabin Nama".

The HC order came following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust in 2014, challenging the legality of clauses five and 21 of the marriage registration form.

Under clause five, a bride requires to make a statement on her marital status.

Under clause 21, a groom has to say whether he has any other wife. And if the answer is "yes", then he needs to mention whether he has taken approval for remarrying from an arbitration council in accordance with the Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961.

An arbitration council is a platform, led by mayors, chairmen and councilors of local government bodies, which hears family disputes and gives decisions.

Police said they receive many complaints where the word "kumari" is being used as a tool to file cases against women by their husbands over misunderstandings among themselves and their families.

Banaj Kumar Majumder, chief of the Police Bureau

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Farmers sun drying rice grains on a concrete surface near a mill in Munshiganj's Sreenagar upazila yesterday. Drying is the most critical stage after harvesting, as any delay in the process or incomplete drying can reduce the quality of the grains and result in losses for the farmers. However, with the introduction of mechanical drying, the traditional process of sun drying is slowly becoming obsolete.

DSA CASE JnU student gets 5yrs in jail with 1yr probation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal has sentenced Tithy Sarker, a suspended student of Jagannath University, to five years imprisonment in a DSA case filed for making derogatory comments about religion on Facebook.

However, it has granted her a year-long probation on eight conditions, including regular care for her aged father, following traffic rules, not harming the environment, and more, said Mamun Sikder, stenographer of the tribunal.

This means Tithy will not have to be in jail for this one year and her behaviour during the probation period will determine if her sentence will be reconsidered.

According to section-5 of the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960, a court may, for reasons

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MV Abdullah's turbulent passage ends Drops anchor in Kutubdia, 23 crewmen come ashore today

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, City

The long wait for the 23 crewmen of MV Abdullah to come home ended as the vessel dropped anchor at Kutubdia around 6:00pm yesterday.

About a month ago, the Somali pirates released the ship after holding it and its crew members hostage for 33 days.

The ship then travelled to the UAE and later set sail for Bangladesh. It reached Bangladesh's territorial waters yesterday morning.

Captain Mohammad Abdur Rashid told The Daily Star, "All the crewmen are physically fine and eagerly waiting to go back to their homes."

All the seafarers would be brought to the KSRM lighter jetty in the port city's Sadarghat area this afternoon.

Meherul Karim, chief executive officer of the ship's owning firm SR Shipping Ltd, yesterday said replacement crew members have left Chattogram for MV Abdullah on a vessel.

After crew swap, the same vessel would return with the 23 crew members, he said.

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Solitary confinement 'cruel, degrading'

Those awaiting final verdict can't be kept in condemned cells, HC says in landmark ruling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a landmark judgment, the High Court yesterday said the prisoners who have been sentenced to death but whose appeals are still pending must not be kept in condemned cells.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Md Bazlur Rahman delivered the verdict, ordering the authorities concerned to shift such convicts from the condemned cells to the ordinary cells.

The arrangements for their shifting must start immediately and be completed within two years, the bench ordered.

From the moment of conviction by a trial court, the convicts sentenced to death are kept in solitary confinement, and allowed outside of their jail cells once a day to walk around the death row block — this too depends on the authority's will.

The HC said that since conviction, 15 to 20 years is required for all the appeals, review petitions and mercy petitions to be fully disposed of.

The bench also said that keeping the prisoners in confinement for such long periods is inhuman, degrading and a form of cruelty, which are prohibited by the constitution.

If their death sentences are executed after so many years of solitary confinement, it will be like giving them double punishment.

It added that several countries in the world have banned death

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A prisoner under death sentence may be kept in solitary confinement in case of a contagious disease or mental health issues, only in the interest of security of themselves or other prisoners.

PATIENT'S DEATH Hospital blames those who were stuck in the lift

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Hours after a patient died while stuck in a lift on Sunday, the authorities of Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital blamed the people inside for banging on the lift's door and causing the "door safety" system to fail.

The lift was opened manually by its operator within 15 minutes after the door went out of order, the hospital authorities said in a letter, signed by director (acting) Jahangir Alam, sent to the Directorate General of Health Services the same day.

However, the victim's family members rejected the claim and said they were stuck for around 45 minutes and chaos was created because 16 to 18 people were in the lift amid a suffocating condition.

Fifty-three-year-old Mumtaz Begum of Barigao village in Gazipur's Kapsia upazila died allegedly of suffocation.

"The lift got stuck between the eighth and ninth floors at 11:15am due to a power outage. Once the lift gets stuck, the ARD [Automatic Rescue Device] needs one minute to start working," said the letter.

"But the lift's door safety system did not function after some of those in the lift, including patients, banged on the door," it said.

Those stuck opened the door and came out before the operator could

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Israel push into Gaza from north, south 57 more Palestinians killed in air strikes, shelling

AGENCIES

Israeli forces pushed deep into the ruins of Gaza's northern edge yesterday to recapture an area where they had claimed to have defeated Hamas months ago, while at the opposite end of the enclave tanks and troops pushed across a highway into Rafah.

With some of the most intense fighting for weeks now taking place on both the northern and southern edges of Gaza, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have again taken flight, and aid groups warn that a humanitarian crisis could sharply worsen.

Israeli forces ordered medical staff at Rafah's Kuwaiti Hospital to evacuate. Medics based at the hospital fear that an attack on the hospital would mean a "complete collapse" of the limited medical system in Rafah, reports Al Jazeera online.

In sprawling Jabalia, the biggest of Gaza's eight camps built 75 years ago to house Palestinian refugees from what is now Israel, tanks pushed towards the heart of the district. Residents said tank shells were landing at the centre of the camp and air strikes had destroyed clusters of houses.

Thick clouds of black smoke from explosions could be seen rising over northern Gaza from the Israeli border.

Palestinian health officials yesterday said they had so far recovered 20 bodies of Palestinians killed in the overnight air strikes on Jabalia, while dozens were injured.

The Palestinian death toll in the offensive has now risen to 35,091, according to Gaza health officials who fear many more bodies are lost under the rubble. The toll includes at least 57 deaths over the past 24 hours.

- 20 bodies recovered from Jabalia camp after Israeli strikes
- Medical staff ordered out of Kuwaiti Hospital in Rafah

DB officer points gun at woman's head during raid

B'baria police forms committee to probe incident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Brahmanbaria police has formed a three-member committee to investigate the incident involving a DB police officer pointing a firearm at a woman's head after failing to nab her husband during a raid on Friday.

Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain, superintendent of police (SP) in Brahmanbaria, said the committee, headed by additional SP Zainal Abedin, has been asked to submit its report within three working days. "Action will be taken as per the probe report."

Meanwhile, the woman yesterday filed a complaint against the police officer with a court in Brahmanbaria over the incident, said her lawyer, Shawkat Ali.

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Palestinians pack their belongings as they prepare to flee Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

62.9pc turnout in fourth phase

Sporadic incidents of violence reported in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday voted in the fourth phase of a seven-week long general election as the campaign rhetoric became more strident over economic disparities and religious divisions.

The world's most populous nation began voting on April 19 in a seven-phase election in which nearly one billion people are eligible to vote, with ballots set to be counted on June 4.

A voter turnout of 62.9 percent was recorded till 8:00 pm yesterday in the fourth phase of Lok Sabha polls in 96 constituencies spread over 10 States and Union Territories amid incidents of violence in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal as well as reports of poll boycott in some Uttar Pradesh villages.

The voter turnout in the first three phases of the Lok Sabha elections held on April 19, 26 and May 7 was 66.14 percent, 66.71 percent and 65.68 percent, respectively.

Among the high profile contestants in the fourth phase were Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav in Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh), Congress' Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (Baharampur), TMC's Shatrughan Sinha (Asansol), Mahua Moitra (Krishnanagar) and Yusuf Pathan (Baharampur) as well as BJP's S S Ahluwalia (Asansol) and Dilip Ghosh (Bardhaman-Durgapur).

There were also reports of EVMs malfunctioning at



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