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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



A worker perches precariously atop a light pole while carrying out maintenance work on internet cables in Dhaka's Banglamotor area yesterday. He appears to be working without any visible safety harness or protective gear amid a tangled web of overhead utility lines, risking serious injury.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Boy or girl, the right to life equal

Prenatal gender detection fuels discrimination, says HC in full text of verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court, in the full text of a recently released verdict, observed that prenatal gender detection directly facilitates sex-selective abortion, discrimination against female children, demographic imbalance and violence against women.

"Such practices violate fundamental right to life, equality and non-discrimination guaranteed under Articles 18, 27, 28, 31 and 32 of the Constitution of Bangladesh," said the HC bench of Justice Naima Haider, who resigned on February 5 this year, and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque in the nine-page verdict.

"Articles 27 and 28 ensure equality before law and prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sex. Gender detection institutionalises discrimination even before birth, resulting in structural inequality and demographic imbalance..." the judges observed.

The bench delivered the verdict on February 25, 2024, following a four-year-old petition seeking prohibition of prenatal sex detection to ensure protection of babies and

pregnant mothers.

Supreme Court lawyer Ishrat Hasan filed the public interest litigation with the High Court on January 26, 2020.

The Directorate General of Health Services has formulated a guideline titled "National Guideline for the Prevention of



Son Preference and the Risk of Gender-Biased Sex Selection, 2022", discouraging disclosure of the sex of unborn babies for non-medical reasons.

In the full text, the HC bench directed the health ministry to maintain a regularly

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'Will put you in sack and dump you in a pond'

Witness recounts threats, torture in 'Aynaghar'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former Jubo Dal leader from Jashore yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that his captors at a secret detention facility threatened to stuff his body into a sack and dump it in a pond, referring to bodies recovered from canals, wetlands, and railway tracks during the Awami League era.

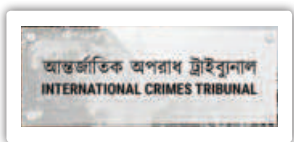
Nazimuddin, 48, a computer businessman from Monirampur who is now involved with the BNP, testified as the fifth prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case over the alleged enforced disappearance and torture of 24 people at the joint interrogation cell (JIC), widely known as "Aynaghar", allegedly operated by the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence.

The accused include former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her former defence adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique, several former DGF1 chiefs, and former officials of the agency's Counter Terrorism and Intelligence Bureau.

Describing his detention, Nazimuddin said he once developed a severe headache and lightly hit his head against the wall of his cell.

"Deep into the night, they handcuffed and blindfolded

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DEATH IN RAB CUSTODY

Three years on, no justice for Jasmine

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

More than three years have passed since the death of Naogaon's Sultana Jasmine in Rapid Action Battalion custody, but no criminal case has been filed yet.

The High Court rule questioning the legality of Rab's action in detaining Jasmine also remains unresolved.

Sultana Jasmine, 41, a land office employee, was picked up and detained by Rab on March 22, 2023. She died in Rab custody at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital two days later. Rab officers reportedly told doctors at the time that Jasmine had suffered a fall.

Md Nazmul Haque Mantu, maternal uncle of Jasmine, told The Daily Star over the phone that they did not file a case as the family had received an indirect threat after the incident, discouraging them from pursuing legal action.

"One person [Jasmine] has already died; we did not want to put ourselves

at further risk," he said.

Jasmine did not have a case against her at the time of detention. She was used under the then-controversial Digital Security Act, a day after being picked up, on allegations of "siphoning off money from job seekers using a Facebook account".

"She died due to torture in Rab custody. She had an injury mark on her head. Before detention, she was perfectly healthy," her son Shahed Hossain Saikat, a student of Chittagong University, had told the media at that time.

Jasmine's "murder" in Naogaon tarnished the image of the country, Rab and the government, the then Rab director general

M Khurshid Hossain reportedly told the then parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry on April 5, 2023.

"The [local] camp was involved in it. The battalion or the headquarters knew nothing," he said.

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Sultana Jasmine, 41, a land office employee, was picked up and detained by Rab on March 22, 2023. She died in Rab custody at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital two days later.

Recruit more women in village police force: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives

Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday stressed the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of village courts and recruit women into the village police force to ensure justice at the grassroots level.

He made the remarks during a meeting with a four-member United Nations Development Programme delegation, led by Deputy Resident Representative Sonali Dayaratne, at the Secretariat in Dhaka.

The two sides discussed the progress and institutional development of the village court project, with a focus on ensuring accessible, speedy and low-cost justice for rural people.

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'10 lakh jobs, legal aid for over 1 lakh women'

BRAC outlines plans for its next 5-year phase



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRAC has announced plans to create at least 10 lakh jobs and provide legal assistance to more than one lakh women in Bangladesh over the next five years.

The targets were outlined during the launch of its 2025 annual report at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Senior officials said the organisation is focusing on employment generation, education support, women's legal services and climate resilience as part of its next phase of work.

Executive Director Asif Saleh said BRAC aims to create 10 lakh employment opportunities through skills development and entrepreneurship programmes.

He also said the organisation plans to support learning recovery for 19 lakh students and expand

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51,581 pilgrims reach Saudi Arabia for hajj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 51,581 Bangladeshi pilgrims have reached Saudi Arabia on 132 flights as of 10:00am yesterday, according to the Ministry of Religious Affairs' hajj management portal.

The latest hajj bulletin said 12 Bangladeshi pilgrims -- 10 men and two women -- died of natural causes in Makkah and Medina as of Sunday.

This year, 78,500 Bangladeshis are expected to perform hajj, including 4,565 under government management and 73,935 under private arrangements.

Under private management, hajj operations are being handled by 660 agencies -- 30 lead and 630 coordinating agencies.

According to airline wise data, Biman Bangladesh Airlines transported

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'No RPO bar on Jamaat registration over 1971 role'

Objection sentimental, not legal, says SC in full text of verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court, in the full text of its judgement on Jamaat-e-Islami's registration, observed that the Representation of the People Order (RPO) contains no provision barring a political party's registration based on the role of its leaders during the Liberation War.

The SC made the observation in the 51-page full text of its verdict, released recently.

"The 25 writ petitioners, who challenged the legality of Jamaat's registration before the High Court, have tendered objection to the effect that due to the heinous role of its leaders during the Liberation War, it should not have been given registration to do politics in Bangladesh," the verdict said.

"Their grievance appears to be sentimental rather than legal, as the RPO does not incorporate any provision to refuse registration to any political party for the role of its leaders during the Liberation War," it added.

On June 1 last year, a four-member Appellate Division bench headed by then chief justice Syed Rifaat Ahmed scrapped a 2013 High Court verdict that had declared Jamaat's registration illegal.

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Vendors and rickshaws occupy footpaths and a significant portion of Mirpur Road in Dhaka's New Market area, just days after a police eviction drive. Despite repeated attempts by the authorities to clear the footpaths and road for pedestrians and vehicles, traders continue to return, causing obstructions. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR