



Religion is for the individual, state is for all

Says PM at Dhakeshwari Temple

UNB, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday called on people of all religions to work together to build Bangladesh, saying that everyone should be recognised first and foremost as a Bangladeshi, regardless of religious identity.

"When someone suffers, we don't look at their religion. Likewise, when people are doing well, we don't look at their religions. We see that you are human, and I am human."

Tarique Rahman

"This country belongs to you and me. Let us all work together, shoulder to shoulder, to build the country," he said while addressing members of the Hindu community during a visit to the Dhakeshwari National Temple in the capital on the occasion of Durga Puja.

"Religion may be different. I may follow one religion and you another. But the state belongs to all of us. In Bangladesh, you have rights just as I do. You have duties towards this country, just as I do," the PM said.

He said the state is responsible for ensuring everyone's

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Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the mandap of the Dhakeshwari National Temple in the capital on the occasion of Durga Puja yesterday. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and Social Welfare Minister AZM Zahid Hossain were with him. PHOTO: PID

From sports ground to 'drug den'

Decay, neglect and drug allegations haunt Moulvibazar's Saifur Rahman Stadium

MINTU DESHWARA *and* **ANISUR RAHMAN**

Built at a cost of Tk 4.86 crore, M Saifur Rahman Stadium in Moulvibazar was envisioned as a centre for sports and recreation. Named after former finance minister Saifur Rahman, it was inaugurated by him in his hometown in April 2005. Today, poor maintenance, deteriorating infrastructure and allegations of drug-related activities after dark have left the facility struggling to serve its purpose.

YOUNG ATHLETES LOSE THEIR TRAINING GROUND

The stadium has a one-tier gallery, a District Sports Association (DSA) office, dressing rooms and a playing field. Project information puts its area at 1,800 square feet. Four Dhaka-based firms handled construction in four phases, with work extending beyond the original schedule.

The playing surface has become hard and uneven, raising injury concerns. No comprehensive renovation has reportedly been undertaken in years. Plaster is peeling,



rusted iron rods are exposed near the western pavilion gallery, and soil erosion beneath the northeastern gallery has left a large hole. Fencing and collapsible gates are damaged, while sections of the boundary wall have collapsed.

Weeds and grass have overrun the grounds, rubbish piles up around the pavilion and washrooms, and cattle and goats graze on the field. Only a small, net-enclosed paved area in the south remains available for cricket practice.

Ali Hossain, who trains there for lack of

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Goats graze on the playing surface of M Saifur Rahman Stadium in Moulvibazar (top), while weeds engulf the fence before its dilapidated galleries (bottom). Built for Tk 4.86 crore, the stadium now suffers from neglect, deteriorating facilities and allegations of drug-related activities after dark. PHOTO: STAR

Fishermen attack MP during hilsa ban drive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Shariatpur*

Two members of a fisheries department team were injured when fishermen attacked them during a drive to protect mother hilsa in Shariatpur's Zajira upazila yesterday morning. The fishermen also hurled brickbats at a speedboat carrying Shariatpur-1 MP Sayed Ahmed Aslam, who escaped unhurt.

The incident occurred around 9:00am at Char Kolikal, a remote area of the Padma river in Palerchar union. During the drive, conducted from 4:00am to 12:30pm, the authorities detained 41 fishermen and seized a boat, three lakh metres of current nets and 30kg of mother hilsa, Shariatpur District Fisheries Officer Shwajit Kumar Deb told The Daily Star.

He said members of the Coast Guard, police, upazila administration and fisheries department launched the

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Kyiv got 'no early warning' from allies

Says Zelensky after Russian strikes on energy sites

- 500,000 Ukrainians without power after attack: Zelensky
- Putin proposes summit with Trump, Xi on Ukraine deal

AGENCIES

Ukraine did not receive an early warning from allies about incoming Russian ballistic strikes that targeted energy facilities in 11 Ukrainian regions, President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday.

Russia launched 16 ballistic missiles at the Kyiv region and over 200 drones across the war-torn country, Zelensky said. AFP reporters heard air alerts and explosions ringing out in the capital.

"Another Russian ballistic missile attack came in several waves overnight, and once again, there was no early warning from our partners," Zelensky said on social media.

More than half a million people across Ukraine are without power due to the massive Russian strike against energy facilities and other critical infrastructure overnight, he said.

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CRIME IN FOCUS

Woman, two children found dead at home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A court yesterday sent a woman's husband and parents-in-law to jail in a murder case filed over the deaths of the woman and her two minor children in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur.

The bodies of Swarna Akter, 24, her two-year-old son Safayat Hossain and nine-month-old daughter Raifa Moni were recovered from their home on Sunday night.

Swarna's father, Khairul Islam, filed the case against her husband, Shakil Hossain, 28, and her parents-in-law, Mahatab Uddin, 50, and Ismat Ara alias Tara Banu, 46, along with several unidentified people.

Police suspect that Shakil, a battery-run rickshaw-van driver, killed his wife and children, said Md Mahmudun Nabi, officer-in-charge of Chirirbandar Police Station.

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Jubo Dal leader hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

A Jubo Dal leader was hacked to death allegedly by rivals in Narayanganj's Rupganj on Sunday night.

The victim, Ripon Mia, 45, was a vice-president of the Jubo Dal's ward-7 unit in Bholabo union, said Mahfuzur Rahman Humayun, president of Rupganj upazila BNP.

The incident took place around 11:00pm in the Paiska area.

Ripon's daughter Shila said, "Several men chased my father and hacked him. My father had a rivalry with them."

Family members also alleged that Ripon had received death threats from his rivals.

According to local BNP activists, there had been a rivalry between supporters of Narayanganj-1 MP Mustafizur Rahman Bhuiyan and Kazi

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