



PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM

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SHAH CEMENT

Boost light engineering

Directs PM while opening Dhaka int'l trade fair

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the 25th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF), announcing the "Light Engineering goods" as "Product of the Year" for 2020.

"As a part of export policy, we are declaring Light Engineering [goods] as the product of 2020 aimed at encouraging the product based export while we are calling for more investment," she said.

The premier said this while opening the month-long DITF-2020, jointly organised by Commerce Ministry and Export Promotion Bureau, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in Dhaka.

She simultaneously stressed the need for taking appropriate measures to strengthen the light engineering sector and help explore its export potential.

The prime minister said that the light engineering products such as bicycle, motorcycle, automobile, auto-parts, electric and electronics, accumulator battery, solar photovoltaic module and toys have the potential of attracting more investment.

She said importance were earlier given on leather and leather goods, jute and jute goods and other products, adding, "But, this year we are giving importance on the light engineering as it has also huge potential of attracting investment."



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A motorcyclist riding with three pillion passengers, including two little boys without helmets, on Abdul Gani Road in the capital yesterday. Sadly, such blatant disregard for children's safety and traffic laws is all too common on the streets.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ILLEGALS IN MALAYSIA 30,000 wait to return home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis made up a large part of the 195,471 undocumented migrants who registered under the Malaysian government's amnesty programme "Back for Good (B4G)", which ended on Tuesday.

About 165,040 undocumented workers have already been repatriated to their respective countries, Malaysian newspaper Malay Mail reported yesterday.

Of them, some 38,734 Bangladeshis were repatriated under the programme as of mid-December, according to the media report.

Last week, a top official at Bangladesh expatriates' welfare ministry said at least 10,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers who registered under the programme were waiting to return home.

The repatriation of some other 30,431 migrants hinged on their flight dates, the Malay Mail report said, quoting the country's

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HUNGER STRIKE DAY-4 20 jute mill workers taken to hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Many workers of nine state-run jute mills in Khulna fell sick as they continued their fast-into-death for the fourth consecutive day yesterday to press home their 11-point demand.

The demands include implementation of the 2015 wage commission award and timely payment of wages.

Abdul Hamid, convener of Collective Bargaining Agents (CBAs) and non-CBA Sangram Parishad, claimed that 20 workers were admitted to local hospitals and clinics since the beginning of the protest at 3:00pm on Sunday.

Besides, at least 576 others became ill during the same period.

Yesterday, around 200 students of Platinum High School joined the demonstration on BIDC road in Khulna city's Khalishpur area. Many of them are dependents of jute workers.

During a visit there, this correspondent

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GUNFIGHT WITH MILITANTS 2 Indian soldiers killed in Kashmir

Mobile phone SMS facility, internet services at govt-run hospitals in J&K restored

AGENCIES

Two Indian soldiers were killed yesterday in a gunfight with suspected militants along the border that divides the disputed territory of Kashmir between India and Pakistan, officials said.

The two were killed during an operation to intercept Pakistani infiltrators who were attempting to cross the heavily-militarised border into India, the Press Trust of India news agency reported officials as saying.

The operation was still in progress, army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Devender Anand said in a statement.

An armed rebellion against Indian rule has raged for decades in Kashmir, and has left tens of thousands dead, mainly civilians.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of arming and training anti-India rebels and sending them across the border to launch attacks on Indian forces.

Islamabad denies the charge, saying it only provides diplomatic support to Kashmiris' right to self-determination, reports AFP.

Indian-administered Kashmir has been tense since New Delhi revoked the region's semi-autonomous status in August and imposed a security and communications lockdown.

Some of the restrictions have since been eased. Broadband internet service was restored in government-run hospitals and SMS facilities were restored on all mobile phones yesterday, after over four-and-a-half months

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ILLEGAL BRICK KILN Ex-UZ chair jailed for 10 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A special court of environment department yesterday awarded a former chairman of Bandarban Sadar upazila with 10 years' imprisonment and Tk 17 lakh fine for illegally establishing a brick kiln near the country's highest peak Tazing Dong.

Samiul Alam Qursy, chief of Bandarban's Department of Environment, said Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Abdullah-Al-Mamun passed the order against convicted Abdul Kuddus.

On September 23, locals of Tazing Dong submitted an application to the deputy commissioner of the district to stop operations of the illegal brick kiln in the area.

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China launches world's first smart high-speed trains



MAIL ONLINE

China has introduced its first 'smart' high-speed trains to connect Beijing and Zhangjiakou, the two host cities of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

The carriages are equipped with an automated driving system, 5G signals, intelligent lighting as well as wireless charging docks, and can travel at a top speed of 350 kilometres (217 miles) per hour.

The \$6billion project is the first 'smart' high-speed railway in the world, a Chinese expert has claimed.

Covering 174 kilometres (108 miles) with 10 stops, the Jing-Zhang High-speed Railway officially

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11 hurt as cops, JCD men clash

20 detained over wearing shoes on Shaheed Minar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

At least 11 people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between Chhatra Dal men and police in Bogura town's Khokon Park area yesterday over walking on the Shaheed Minar wearing shoes.

Police detained over 20 leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 2

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A primate perched on a tree close to the Lawachhara forest in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar. The forest department has halted its move to chop down 6,632 trees it had earmarked, inset, following protests and flak from environmentalists.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

FELLING 6,000 TREES IN SRIMANGAL

Forest dept scraps plan after outcry

MINTU DESHWARA

The forest department has halted its move to cut 6,632 trees in Srimangal, including natural fruit trees which are the source of food for wildlife, after it led to protests and drew flak from environmentalists.

The trees had been marked for felling under a social forestry programme in

Chautali beat, close to the Lawachhara forest, in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar.

Visiting the Chautali beat area in mid-December, this correspondent found that Chapalis, Bohera, Dumur, Haritaki, Amlaki, Jamrul, Ritha, Dewwa, Lotkon, Lukluki, and wood nut trees, among others, have been marked and numbered in red.

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QULKHANI

Rukhsana Samad beloved wife, mother and grandmother passed away on the morning of 24th December 2019 (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un). She was 68.

A gentle woman who lived her life making others smile and touched every single heart she came across in her life's journey..

A dua will be held at the Gulshan Society Mosque road 62 baad Maghrib on Friday January 3rd 2020 .

It will deeply touch our souls and make us most happy if you kindly join us in our prayers for her peaceful & eternal rest.

Towhid Samad , Faisal Samad Denebe, Raveen , Tanzania



Rukhsana Samad 1951-2019