



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXX No. 10 | MAGH 9, 1426 BS | **Your Right to Know** | JAMADIL AWAL 26, 1441 HIJRI | 20 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE: Tk 12.00

Big scammers top defaulters' list

Finance minister unveils the list in JS; 8,238 owe Tk 96,986.38 crore to public, private banks

DATE	AMOUNT OF TOTAL LOANS (in crore taka)	AMOUNT OF DEFAULT LOANS (in crore taka)	PERCENTAGE OF DEFAULT LOAN
Dec 31, 1995	31,028.53	9,942.23	32.04
Dec 31, 2008	2,08,362.04	22,481.41	10.79
Sept 30, 2019	9,69,882.22	1,16,288.31	11.99

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of loan defaulters stands at 8,238 who owed Tk 96,986.38 crore to various public and private banks till November last year.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal disclosed this at a question-answer session in parliament yesterday.

He further said Tk 25,836 crore was

recovered from different defaulters as of November.

Apart from individuals, both public and private organisations are on the list.

Many of the business organisations, which swindled huge sums from different banks in recent years, dominate the list. Bangladesh Bank unearthed their financial scams by carrying out inspections.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina scans her e-passport at a model immigration counter while inaugurating the distribution of electronic passports in a programme held at the Bangabandhu International Convention Centre yesterday. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: PID

DEMOCRACY INDEX Bangladesh moves eight notches up

India slides 10 places

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has moved up eight notches on the Democracy Index 2019 of the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Bangladesh falls in the "hybrid regime" category, which means that substantial irregularities often prevent the elections from being free and fair, said the report by the research and analysis division of the Economist Group.

"Government pressure on opposition parties and candidates may be common. Serious

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Stop production, use of laminated posters: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to immediately stop production and display of laminated city election posters to save the environment.

The court also asked the authorities to properly dispose of the laminated posters which have already been produced and displayed.

The HC also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to stop production and display of laminated posters across the country.

Environment and forest ministry secretary, LGRD secretary, health secretary,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ROHINGYA GENOCIDE CASE

ICJ ruling today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is set to deliver an order today in response to The Gambia's seeking provisional measures to stop genocide against the Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine.

The top UN court, situated in The Hague, Netherlands and comprised of 15 judges, is scheduled to start delivering the order at 3:00pm (Bangladesh time).

The Gambia filed the case with the ICJ, also known as the World Court, in November last year. The West African nation, which is predominantly Muslim, took the legal step on behalf of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which has held a series of meetings to encourage its 57 members to support the case.

Lawyers from The Gambia and Myanmar took part in the hearing held on December 10-12.

During the hearing, Justice Minister and Attorney General Abubacarr Marie Tambaou led the Gambian side, while the Myanmar side was headed by the country's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

How Gambia took the case to the ICJ

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh and The Gambia are located nearly 11,000-kilometre away and share no significant economic or political relation. But the countries stand together for one cause, justice for the Rohingyas.

The Gambia, a small country in West Africa, is a member of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). After the Rohingyas started fleeing their home in August 2017 following

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BCL men at it again, torture 4 at DU dorm

They do it after branding them as Shibir activists, hand them over to cops who later release them

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra League activists of Dhaka University's Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall tortured four students for nearly three hours before handing them to police early Tuesday.

The BCL men labelled them as Shibir activists and handed them to Shahbagh police around 3:30am in the presence a team of officials from the DU proctor's office.

Shahbagh police released the four hours later but didn't say whether they found

their involvement with Shibir.

With bruises on his face, M Mukim Chowdhury, one of the four, began a sit-in at Raju sculpture on campus around 5:00pm yesterday, saying he would not leave until getting justice.

The student of tourism department said he had never supported Shibir and had been involved with the BCL.

Sanwar Hossain of political science, Minhaz Uddin of Islamic history, and Afsar Uddin of Arabic were the others who had been beaten up.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



The much-talked-about demolition of the BGMEA building began yesterday. Inset, Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim inaugurating the ceremonial demolition.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



ILLEGAL BGMEA BUILDING Demolition to take 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha yesterday started knocking down the much-talked-about BGMEA Bhaban, which was constructed illegally over a decade ago.

Rajuk officials said the 16-storey building was partially blocking Hatirjheel's water flow in the capital and that it would be demolished in six months.

The building is also like a "tumour on the beauty of Hatirjheel", Housing and Public Works Minister SM Rezaul Karim said while inaugurating the demolition work on the ground floor.

"Gradually, all illegal structures will be removed from the Hatirjheel," he said after making a hole on the floor with a drill machine.

Rajuk took the initiative to pull down the building in October last year but failed as Messrs Four Star Enterprise, which was hired for the demolition, expressed reluctance to do the work.

The company showed the reluctance after the city development authority allowed the Bangladesh Garment

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT

MUJIB BORSHO CUP

GOLF TOURNAMENT 2020
DHAKA BANK LIMITED

Jan 22 - Jan 25
Army Golf Club, Dhaka

DHAKA BANK LIMITED
EXCELLENCE IN BANKING

www.dhakabankltd.com

BERGER COLOR CARNIVAL 2020

Offer validity January 5- 31, 2020

BERGER express painting 40% OFF SUPERVISION CHARGE

BERGER illusions UP TO 20% OFF AND GIFT VOUCHER

NEW YEAR NEW MAKEOVER for Your WALLS
For superb finishing and painting experience, come visit Berger Experience Zone

BERGER EXPERIENCE ZONE
One-Stop Painting Solutions

FREE CALL 24x7 ০৪ সর্বসম্মত বেসকন সমাধানে
08000-123456

f/bergerexperiencezone