



PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT
IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS
RECOGNIZES
World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

A forgotten promise

Border killings by BSF tripled last year compared to 2018 despite India's assurance of 'zero death'; 4 more killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Zero death."
These words come up whenever a Bangladeshi national is killed at the border.
In the inevitable flag meetings that follow the killings, Bangladesh expresses concern and India makes promises of stopping the killings.
But the killings at the border continue unabated.
The number of border killings tripled last year compared to 2018, according to rights watchdog Ain O Salish Kendra.
At least 43 Bangladeshis were killed by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in 2019 while it was 14 in 2018, it said.
At least seven people got killed along the border this month.
Meanwhile, the two governments keep claiming that Bangladesh-India relationship has reached new heights in the last decade.
Four Bangladeshis were killed in the Noagaon and Jashore borders yesterday and two others were shot dead in Lalmonirhat the day before.
"It is surprising that killings along the border are going on even after the issue has been discussed in different forums of the two governments on multiple occasions. It means the Indian government is not sending the message to its trigger-happy border force," said CR Abrar, professor of international relations at Dhaka University.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3



Tamara Abed and Shameran Abed, children of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, receive Yidan Prize for Education Development on behalf of their father from Dr Charles Chen Yidan, the founder of the prestigious award, at a function at the capital's Brac headquarters yesterday. Abed, who passed away recently, won the award for his ground-breaking work on education.

PHOTO: BRAC

Sir Fazle Abed's family receives Yidan Prize on his behalf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Charles Chen Yidan, founder of the Yidan Prize, presented the prestigious award to Brac Founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, which was accepted by his son and daughter in the capital yesterday.
Dr Yidan visited Bangladesh last week to present the prize for Education Development to late Sir Fazle Abed at a ceremony organised at Brac headquarters.
Tamara Abed and Shameran Abed accepted the award, according to a press release.
Dr Yidan presented the gold medal to Tamara, managing director of Brac Enterprises and chairperson of the board of trustees of Brac University. The certificate was presented to Shameran Abed, senior director of Brac Microfinance and Ultra Poor Graduation Programme.
"Sir Fazle lived a life of service with true

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3



SATIRE DAY ON SATURDAY

Given the hilarity that is our reality, it is hard to take news reports seriously. Thankfully, The Daily Star's latest supplement, Satireday, does not take things too seriously and circumvents all censorship landmines! Debuting on January 25, Satireday comes chock full of humour, dark and otherwise, and a healthy dose of irreverence that helps us see the flaws in the status quo. Obviously, it comes out every Saturday.
BUT THERE'S MORE: Are you into satirical cartoons or write-ups? Mail a sample of your work to satireday@thedailystar.net and we may just run it!
-- Editor

TI CORRUPTION INDEX 2019

Bangladesh moves three notches up

Only fares better than Afghanistan in South Asia; impunity, rare action on high-profile graft among possible major obstacles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has moved three notches up but scored the same on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), which indicates the government needs to strengthen measures to combat graft.
The CPI 2019 also shows that the country's position among the South Asian nations remained the same compared to the previous year: second lowest and ahead of war-torn Afghanistan.
Besides, Bangladesh ranks fourth lowest among 31 Asia-Pacific countries named on the index, just ahead of Cambodia, Afghanistan and North Korea.
The TI's flagship report described Bangladesh's performance as "mixed", saying the rise in ranking was "insignificant" and it left "no scope for complaisance."
The Berlin-based global graft watchdog listed a host of reasons as "possible factors" behind the country's failure to score more than 26 out of 100. The global average is 43.
The country had the same score on CPI 2018.
The factors included high-profile corruption being rarely addressed; weakening institutions of accountability; impunity; deficit of effectiveness

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

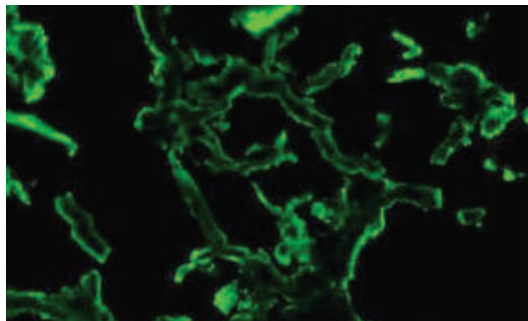
Uniform entry test from next academic year

WASIM BIN HABIB

Students seeking admission to the country's public universities will no longer need to sit for separate tests from the next academic year as a centralised entrance test will allow their entry to the universities.
The decision to hold the uniform admission test was made unanimously at yesterday's meeting between vice-chancellors and University Grants Commission, the statutory apex body for higher education, at the latter's office in the capital.
"We've decided that there will be a single admission test at the public universities from 2020-2021 academic year," UGC member Prof Muhammed Alamgir told The Daily Star.
He said students from humanities, business studies, and science groups would be eligible to take the admission test, which will be held based on HSC syllabus.
The universities will enrol students on the basis of their scores in the exam and

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

Oldest mushroom found in DR Congo



MAIL ONLINE

The world's oldest mushroom has been discovered in the Democratic Republic of Congo and dates back to around 810 million years ago.
Preserved in rock, the fossil fungi were found near the city of Mbuji-Mayi in a "major" discovery that smashes the previous age record by some 350 million years.
The fungi played a key role in the history of life by helping to create primordial soil that would later allow plants to first grow on the land.
The primitive mushrooms grew in a lagoon or coastal lake, the researchers said.
"This is a major discovery — and one that prompts us to reconsider our timeline of the evolution of organisms on Earth," said paper

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

BANGLADESHI MIGRANTS

KSA deports another 217 in last 2 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia has deported some 217 Bangladeshi migrant workers in the last two days, according to Brac Migration Programme.
The oil-rich Gulf country has so far deported about 2,500 such Bangladeshi workers in the past three weeks, says the Brac.
Of the latest deportees, 103 workers returned in a Saudi Airlines flight

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 24

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:30	4:15	5:43	7:15
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:47	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK IN CHINA

Millions on lockdown

Wuhan, Huanggang shut transport links, outgoing flights as Singapore confirms first case; 17 deaths reported so far

AGENCIES

China put millions of people on lock down in two cities yesterday at the epicentre of a coronavirus outbreak that has killed 17 people and infected more than 630, as authorities around the world worked to

prevent a global pandemic.

Health officials fear the transmission rate will accelerate as hundreds of millions of Chinese travel at home and abroad during week-long holidays for the Lunar New Year,

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

Pakistan still shelters insurgents

Says Afghan president

REUTERS, DAVOS

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani said yesterday that Pakistan continued to give sanctuary to an insurgent group that helps the Taliban in its war against Kabul and the United States, directly contradicting an earlier statement by Pakistan's prime minister.
On Wednesday, Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan told reporters at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that the Haqqani network, which

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

IN FOND MEMORY

Mrs. Anwara Islam, died on 24-01-2006 - exactly the same day and date as her husband Mr. Sirajul Islam who died twenty four years earlier in 1982.

Please join us in praying to the Almighty Allah to grant them eternal peace.

Lubna, Akbar, Duree, Arife & Bunty (Children)
Anika, Talita, Numair (Grand Children)
Amani, Tijaan & Jinaan (Great-Grand Children)

Ms Lubna Choudhury
Founder-Principal, B.I.T



A small minivet spotted in Babu Dyeing area of Chapainawabganj Sadar. The colourful passerine bird moves in flocks and forages for insects in trees. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN