





West Bengal passes anti-CAA resolution

Becomes 4th Indian state to do so
NDTV ONLINE

West Bengal became the fourth state yesterday to pass a resolution against the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee declaring that the protest “is not only of minorities, I thank my Hindu brothers for leading this protest from the forefront”.

Similar resolutions have already been passed by Left-ruled Kerala and Congress-ruled Punjab and Rajasthan.

“In Bengal, we won’t allow CAA, NPR, and NRC. We will fight peacefully,” Mamata said during her address at the state assembly. “As per the CAA, you have to become a foreigner to become a citizen... this is a terrible game, pushing people towards death. Don’t fall into their trap,” she added.

“The label of doubtful citizens, detention centres... is unacceptable. The way things are, it was better not to have been born. Today, people are scared that they may have to leave this country. They are queuing up for all kinds of cards,” Mamata said.

She also said the Citizenship Amendment Act goes “against the Constitution and humanity”.

Dubbing the BJP the “Brand Ambassadors of Pakistan”, she said “They always talk of Pakistan and less of Hindustan”.

Kerala, which was the first state to pass a resolution against the law, had invited other opposition-ruled states to follow suit.

While the BJP has questioned the efficacy of such resolutions, declaring that it would not overturn the law

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Plastic coming off laminated posters hung up on a street in the capital's Shahjahanpur area. The High Court on January 22 ordered the authorities concerned to immediately stop production and display of laminated posters that pose threat to the environment. Most of the city streets are still flooded with such posters of Dhaka city polls candidates. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Laminated posters not removed in the capital

HC ordered their removal last week
MATHEWS CHIRAN

Even after the High Court order to immediately stop production and use of laminated city polls campaign posters, they are still seen across the capital.

Several councillor candidates said they laminated the posters with plastic to save them from being damaged.

However, environmentalists say such posters pose a serious threat to the environment.

Visiting different wards in Dhaka north and south city corporations within this week, it was found that no laminated posters were taken down.

In their disclosure of election expenditures, 140 mayor and councillor candidates of 745 mentioned that they would print nearly 50 lakh posters.

DNCC

Mofizur Rahman, an Awami League-backed councillor candidate for ward-19 under Gulshan Police Station, who is running for re-election, said he printed 50,000 posters and 10,000 of them were laminated.

“I’ll remove all the laminated posters by this [yesterday] evening. The process is underway,” he said while talking to this correspondent.

Jahangir Mollah, a BNP-supported contender for ward-38 under Badda Police Station, said he printed several thousand posters and 4,000 of them were laminated.

Most of them were torn by supporters of his rival AL candidate, he alleged.

He added that he would remove the remaining laminated posters soon.

DSCC

Shafiqul Islam Shamim,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 28

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:35	12:45	4:15	5:46	7:15
JAMAAT 6:10	1:15	4:30	5:50	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



World mourns Kobe Bryant

AFP, Los Angeles

Basketball legend Kobe Bryant’s death in a helicopter crash along with his teenage daughter sparked an outpouring of grief across the worlds of sports and entertainment yesterday.

Bryant, 41, was traveling Sunday with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven other passengers and crew when their helicopter slammed into a rugged hillside in thick fog in Calabasas, west of Los Angeles. There were no survivors.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

3 schoolgirls raped after abduction

Four alleged rapists arrested in Tangail; the victims held hostage for hours for ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three schoolgirls were allegedly raped after being held hostage in Tangail’s Ghatail upazila on Sunday.

Police yesterday arrested four suspected criminals. Of them, the victims have identified Yousuf, 25, and Babu, 26, after seeing their photos, Amir Khasru, assistant superintendent of police (Gopalpur Circle), told The Daily Star.

Police, however, did not reveal the identities of the two others “for the sake of investigation”.

“We are conducting drives to arrest rest of the criminals,” the ASP said.

Father of one of the victims yesterday filed a case with Ghatail Police Station against six to seven unnamed people.

According to the case statement, four girls and two boys went to Jharka forest area in the upazila for an outing on Sunday morning.

Some six to seven local youths held the group hostage and demanded ransom from their families.

As the families refused to pay the ransom, the perpetrators drove the two boys away and raped three of the girls, the statement said.

The rapists spared one of them perhaps because she was known to the perpetrators, it mentioned.

Following the incident, the four girls took shelter in the maternal grandfather’s place of one of the victims.

A police team rescued the girls later in the day and took them to the police station.

The three girls were sent to Tangail General Hospital yesterday for medical tests, ASP Amir said.

SECONDARY LEVEL EDN Govt thinking of common syllabus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government mulls abolishing the three streams -- science, humanities and business studies -- at the secondary level to equip students with the knowledge of all the three academic disciplines.

“We are considering to do away with the groups in classes IX and X,” Education Minister Dipu Moni said in parliament yesterday.

Such a move might mean there would be a common syllabus for the students.

Dipu Moni said studying all the subjects under the three disciplines would strengthen the foundation of the students’ education and that the pupils would be able to pick one of the groups in class-XI.

In this regard, the textbook curriculum of the secondary level was being upgraded, she said.

Currently, students have to choose one of the three academic disciplines in class-IX. Before that, students of the same class follow a common syllabus.

While replying to a question, the minister said the Education Act would be placed in parliament soon following approval at the cabinet.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Buses that suck pollution from air



CNN ONLINE

Using public transport is often a greener alternative to driving a car, and now one company is taking its green ambitions a step further -- by developing a pollution-sucking fleet of buses.

Go-Ahead Group, a British transportation company with a fleet of 5,000 buses in total, confirmed to CNN that it is rolling out 11 new buses in towns and cities across England that clean the air as they go.

The buses will be fitted with a three-filter rooftop filtration system that sucks dirt and ultra-fine harmful particles out of the air.

It developed the filtration technology with Pall Aerospace, a company that also develops filtration systems for commercial and military aircraft.

The rollout, which begins this summer, follows a successful trial of one bus in Southampton, which was found to be capable of “cleaning” 3.2 million cubic meters (113 million cubic feet) of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

5,000 sued over clash with police in Tentulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police yesterday sued some 70 named and four to five thousand unnamed people in two cases filed over Sunday’s clash between stone extraction workers and law enforcers in Bhajanpur area of Panchagarh’s Tentulia.

The clash left one worker killed and 20 others injured.

The cases were filed with Tentulia Police Station, said Johurul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station. However, he did not disclose the names of the accused “for the sake of investigation”.

One case was filed over the murder of a worker and the other was filed on charges of attacking police, vandalising a police vehicle, obstructing police from discharging their duties and destroying public properties.

Following the cases, many of the quarry workers have fled their homes

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



This 60-foot-long bridge over a canal in Kamlapur area of Gopalganj’s Musksudpur upazila is of no use as there is no approach road on one side of the structure. The bridge was built by the Local Government Engineering Department nearly two years ago. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

3 rockets hit US embassy in Iraq

Three hurt; Washington blames Iran-led military factions for attacks

AFP, Baghdad

Three rockets slammed into the US embassy in Iraq’s capital on Sunday night in the first direct hit reported after months of close calls, as thousands of protesters kept up anti-government sit-ins across the country.

The attack marked a dangerous escalation in the spree of rocket attacks in recent months that have targeted the embassy or Iraqi military bases where American troops are deployed.

None of the attacks has been claimed but Washington has repeatedly blamed Iran-backed military factions in Iraq.

On Sunday night, one rocket hit an embassy cafeteria at dinner time while two others landed nearby, a security source told AFP.

A senior Iraqi official told AFP at least three persons was wounded, but it was not immediately clear how serious the injuries were and whether the person was an American national or an Iraqi staff member working at the mission.

The US embassy did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The US State Department called on Iraq late Sunday to “fulfil its obligations to protect our diplomatic facilities”.

The attack took place earlier in the day than usual, with AFP reporters hearing the booms on the western bank of the river Tigris at precisely 7:30 pm (1630 GMT).

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi and Speaker of Parliament Mohammed Halbusi both condemned the incident, saying it risked dragging their homeland into war.

Iraq has already been dragged into a worrying tit-for-tat between the United States and Iran over the last month.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2