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Translate more Bangla literature

PM urges after inaugurating Amar Ekushe Grantha Mela

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for more translations of Bangla literature as her government wants to spread it across the world.

"We want to spread our art, literature and culture not only across our country but also on the international stage by improving those further," she said while inaugurating the month-long Amar Ekushe Grantha Mela 2020 in the city.

The fair began on the Bangla Academy premises and at its adjoining Suhrawardy Udyan in the city.

Stressing the need for more translations of Bangla literature, the prime minister said, "We want the people of different languages of the world to know about our literature and our culture. Bangladesh Academy has taken enough initiatives to this end."

Hasina lamented that now she cannot roam around the Ekushey book fair freely as she used to do in her student life.

Noting that this book fair is her favorite event, she said, "After becoming the prime minister, it always pains me that I don't have the liberty anymore as I had in my student life when I used to spend hour after hour roaming the book fair. I feel very good whenever I visit the book fair."

This year's book fair has been dedicated to greatest Banglaee of all-time and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a stall at Amar Ekushey Book Fair -2020 after inaugurating it yesterday in Bangla Academy premises in the capital.

PHOTO: BSS

SPORT



Tamim's record 334

Opener Tamim Iqbal set a new record in Bangladesh's first-class cricket yesterday, scoring an unbeaten 334 on the third day of their Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The East Zone batsman registered the highest individual score by a Bangladeshi - only the second triple century -- with Rakibul Hasan's 313* during the 2006-07 season being the previous instance.

READ DETAILED REPORTS ON PAGE 14

30 drug dealers to surrender today

MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, in Cox's Bazar and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN in Dhaka

At least 30 top drug dealers, who have been in police's "safe house" for the last seven months, are set to surrender in Cox's Bazar today.

The second phase of the surrender programme would be held on Teknaf Government College grounds around 3:00pm. During the first phase of the programme, held on February 16, 2019, some 102 top drug dealers surrendered.

At least 18, of the 30, were named as top narcotics in a list of drug dealers prepared by the law enforcers.

Iqbal Hossain, additional superintendent of Cox's Bazar police, confirmed The Daily Star about the second phase of the surrender programme.

Khandaker Golam Faruk, deputy inspector general (DIG) of Chattogram Range police, would be present as the chief guest at the programme.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said they were giving chance to narcotics dealers to surrender through the programmes.

"If someone avoids taking the chance of surrender and found involved in the narcotics business, they will face stern

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH

Bangabandhu's nation-building challenges



A delegation of West Bengal Gandhi Publicity Committee calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence and hands over Gandhi's books (Feb 3, 1972).

FEBRUARY 3, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ATTEND OFFICE ON TIME
Bangabandhu issues an order asking government officials to attend office timely. He warns them of strict action if they are absent and negligent in performing their duties.

SOVIET SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH

A Soviet delegation led by Valentin F Popov meets several ministers of the government and discusses possible cooperation between the two countries in various fields. USSR will donate 28,000 tonnes of rice for the Bangladeshi refugees and provide aircraft for internal and international flights, informs Popov. They also discuss the question of revival of power and irrigation system in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



4-year-old killed after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A four-year-old girl was killed after being raped allegedly by a neighbour in Chuadanga's Damurhuda upazila on Saturday night.

Police recovered the body of Sumaiya Khatun from an orchard near her home in Parkrishnapur area around 11:00pm.

Mominul Haque, 28, a landless farmer of the same village, was arrested yesterday. He later told police that he had choked the toddler to death after raping her, said Sukumar Biswas, officer-in-charge of Damurhuda Model Police Station.

He added that officers were interrogating the suspect and more would be known about him later.

Sumaiya's father Nasir Uddin, a carpenter, said his daughter came home from school around 12:00pm on Saturday and left home to play in the neighbourhood shortly afterwards.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Honk more, wait more

Mumbai cops find way to punish honkers



NDTV ONLINE

Mumbai Traffic Police has quietly come up with a unique initiative to discipline the city's perpetual honkers, who love to blare the horns of their vehicles even when the traffic signal is red.

In order to curb the alarming rise in the noise pollution levels in the country's commercial capital, it has installed decibel meters at certain select but heavy-traffic signals to deter habitual honkers through a campaign named 'The Punishing Signal'.

Joint Police Commissioner (Traffic) Madhukar Pandey said that the decibel monitors are connected to traffic signals around the island city, and when the cacophony due to needless honking exceeds the dangerous 85-decibels level, the signal timer resets, entailing double waiting time for all vehicles.

"Mumbai is one of the noisiest cities in the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Border killings on the rise

Says foreign minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is intriguing that border killings are on the rise, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday.

"This year the number of border killing has increased. India is assuring repeatedly that it won't happen. Yet it is happening," he told reporters at a press conference at the foreign ministry yesterday.

He questioned the rise, even when India-Bangladesh relations are so good.

He said the foreign ministry has already communicated with the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 3

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:52 7:15
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:56 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Stone quarry wall collapse kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A worker was killed and two others were injured yesterday as a chunk of earth collapsed on them while extracting stone illegally at Kalairag in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila.

The victim is Rubel Miah, 24, of Krishnapur village in Netrakona's Khaliajuri upazila. The identities of the injured could not be known immediately, said Suman Acharjee, Companiganj upazila nirbahari officer.

"On information, we rushed to the spot. With the firefighters' help, we recovered the victim's body and rescued the two injured."

The incident happened around 11:00am at the stone quarry, which is in possession of one Ershad Miah.

On Thursday, a teenage worker died at another illegal stone quarry in Shah Arefin Tila of the upazila.

According to Bangladesh SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Excavators being used yesterday to recover the body of a stoneworker who was killed when a chunk of earth collapsed on him and two others while they were illegally extracting stone at Kalairag in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila. According to Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, the death toll in stone quarries has risen to 78 in the last three years.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

UKRAINE AID FREEZE

White House to block sensitive 'Trump emails'

CNN ONLINE

The US Department of Justice revealed in a court filing late Friday that it has two dozen emails related to President Donald Trump's involvement in the withholding of millions in security assistance to Ukraine -- a disclosure that came just hours after the Senate voted against subpoenaing additional documents and witnesses in Trump's impeachment trial, paving the way for his acquittal.

The filing, released near midnight Friday, marks the first official acknowledgment from the Trump administration that emails about the President's thinking related to the aid exist, and that he was directly involved in asking about and deciding on the aid as early as June. The administration is still blocking those emails from the public and has successfully kept them from Congress.

A lawyer with the Office of Management and Budget wrote to the court that 24 emails between June and September 2019 -- including an internal discussion among DOD officials called "POTUS follow-up" on June 24 -- should stay confidential because the emails describe "communications by either the President, the Vice President, or the President's immediate advisors regarding Presidential decision-making about the scope, duration, and purpose of the hold on military assistance to Ukraine."

Trump's decision to withhold nearly \$400 million in US military aid to Ukraine as he pressed the country to investigate Hunter Biden and Joe Biden, his potential 2020 general election rival, are at the center of the President's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2