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# Air pollution costs world \$2.9tn a year

Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, Greenpeace Southeast Asia say in report

AFP, Paris

The global cost of air pollution caused by fossil fuels is \$8 billion a day, or roughly 3.3 percent of the entire world's economic output, an environmental research group said yesterday.

The report from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and Greenpeace Southeast Asia is the first to assess the global cost of air pollution specifically from burning oil, gas and coal.

"We found that the China Mainland, the United States and India bear the highest costs from fossil fuel air pollution worldwide, an estimated \$900 billion, \$600 billion and \$150 billion per year, respectively," the report said.

Particles thrown off by fossil fuel usage account for 4.5 million premature deaths each year around the globe, including 1.8 million in China and a million in India, the researchers found.

The new figure is in line with World Health Organization (WHO) estimates of 4.2 million deaths each year linked to ground-level air pollution, mostly from heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and acute respiratory infections in children.

Living in the New Delhi area of India is like smoking 10 cigarettes a day, the report said.

TREAT IT AS NATIONAL CRISIS - PAGE 3 SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Ahead of Pehela Falgun and Valentine's Day celebrations, a girl tries to sell some flowers to people in a car in Dhaka University's TSC area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Shariat Boyati denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to folk singer Shariat Sarkar aka Shariat Boyati in a case filed on charges of hurting religious sentiments.

The court, however, issued a rule asking the government to explain in two weeks why Shariat should not be granted bail in the case.

The bench of Justice Md Emdadul Huq and Justice Md Akram Hossain Chowdhury issued the rule following a petition filed by Shariat seeking bail in the case.

Shariat's lawyer Monera Haque told The Daily Star that the case was filed against her client on false allegations.

The statement attributed to Shariat in the original case did not corroborate with what he actually claimed, she argued.

Monera said she had submitted the original statement of her client in writing to the HC.

One Mohammad Faridul Islam filed the case under the Digital Security Act with Mirzapur Police Station on Feb 11.

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# TRAWLER CAPSIZE IN BAY Coast Guard sues 26 for human trafficking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Coast Guard yesterday filed a case accusing at least 26 men of human trafficking after a boat capsized in the Bay on Tuesday, killing 15 Rohingya.

MS Islam, contingent commander of Coast Guard in St Martin's accused 19 named and 7-8 unnamed people in the case.

At least 15 Rohingyas were killed as a trawler sank in the Bay of Bengal near St Martin's Island in Teknaf upazila early Tuesday. They were trying to go to Malaysia illegally.

Seventy-two people were rescued alive and at least 50 other people onboard the boat remain missing.

Coast Guard and Navy personnel are searching for the missing people.

Eight of the accused have been arrested and sent to jail, and law enforcers are looking for the rest of the accused, police said.

Four of the arrestees were rescued after the boat sank, and police arrested the four others in different areas of Teknaf upazila.

A Cox's Bazar court recorded their statement and sent them to jail yesterday evening.

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

# Bangladesh not to accept liabilities



Bangabandhu and President Justice Abu Sayeed Choudhury at Dhaka Stadium to meet the players in a charity match on February 13, 1972.

FEBRUARY 13, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**POPOV MEETS BANGABANDHU** Soviet Chargé D'affaires V. Popov calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence. Popov tells newsmen that matters connected with Bangabandhu's forthcoming visit came up for discussion.

**PM VISITS OLD DHAKA**

In the morning, Bangabandhu visits some of the mahallahs of Old Dhaka and enquires from the local people about their welfare and difficulties. During the visit, local people talk to Bangabandhu and describes to him the suffering they had undergone during the nine

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

# JIHAD'S DEATH HC acquits 3 railway officials, contractor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted three railway engineers and a contractor accused in a case filed over the death of four-year-old Jihad who died after falling into an unprotected shaft in the capital's Shahjahanpur in 2014.

The four were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment by a lower court.

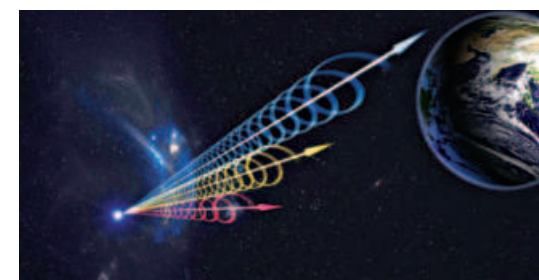
Jihad fell into the deep shaft while playing with other children at Shahjahanpur Railway Colony in the capital on December 26, 2014.

His body was pulled out by a group of volunteers the following day, shortly after officials said there was no sign of the boy inside the well and called off the rescue bid.

Jihad's father Mohammad Nasir

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# Radio signals bouncing from space



CNN ONLINE

Mysterious radio signals from space have been known to repeat, but for the first time, researchers have noticed a pattern in a series of bursts coming from a single source half a billion light-years from Earth.

Fast radio bursts, or FRBs, are millisecond-long bursts of radio waves in space. Individual radio bursts emit once and don't repeat. But repeating fast radio bursts are known to send out short, energetic radio waves multiple times. And usually when they repeat, it's sporadic or in a cluster, according to previous observations.

Between September 16, 2018 and October 30, 2019, researchers with the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment/Fast Radio Burst Project collaboration detected a pattern in bursts occurring every 16.35 days. Over the course of four days, the signal would release a burst or two each hour. Then, it would go silent for another 12 days.

The findings are included in the pre-print of the study.

# 18 expelled for skipping school picnic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Eighteen students of Jamirhaat High School in Parbatipur upazila were expelled and issued transfer certificates yesterday for taking part in a family picnic instead of the one organised by the school.

Guardians of some of the expelled students said the school, which has 540 students, hosted the yearly picnic at Tajhaat Jamidar Bari in Rangpur on Monday. Each of the participants paid Tk 400 to the school for joining the event.

Moslem Uddin, father of one of the expelled students

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## PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:25 12:45 4:30 5:57 7:15  
JAMAAT 6:00 1:15 4:45 6:01 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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