



Good move; now follow them up

Experts suggest settling pending issues discussed during Hasina-Modi summit

PORIMOL PALMA

The Bangladesh-India prime minister-level summit on Thursday was a remarkable step forward in advancing not only bilateral relations but also regional connectivity and economic integration, analysts have said.

They observed that the outstanding issues, including water-sharing deals, border killings, trade barriers need to be settled at the earliest, clearing the path for continued progress between the two friendly neighbours who share a common history.

The summit also created scope to deepen friendship as the countries will be celebrating jointly and separately the 50 years of Bangladesh's victory, which is also a victory for India whose army fought against Pakistan for Bangladesh's birth in 1971, and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Foreign relations experts say there were

some concerns in Bangladesh over India's National Register of Citizenship (NRC) and Citizenship Amendment Act. Leaving those aside, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her counterpart Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke with great warmth, albeit virtually, in a clear demonstration of the will to move ahead.

The two premiers signed seven MoUs for advancing cooperation on modernising agriculture, digital economy, renewable energy, hydrocarbon, environment conservation, technology transfer and trade and investment.

A significant event in the summit was the inauguration of the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link after 55 years. The Karimganj-Mahisashan rail link on the Assam side is likely to become operational in 2022. With these, all six rail connections between the two countries will be operational, making it easy for mobility of goods and passengers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Gemcon Khulna players celebrating with the Bangabandhu T20 Cup trophy at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. They beat Gazi Group Chattogram by five runs in an enthralling final of just the second cricket tournament held in the country amid the coronavirus pandemic.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mahmudullah sparkles as Khulna take the title

STAR SPORT DESK

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad played the decisive hand to help Gemcon Khulna overcome Gazi Group Chattogram by five runs in the final of the Bangabandhu T20 Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Bangladesh's T20I captain hit a polished, unbeaten 70 to fish his side out of trouble and post a competitive 155 for seven. Chattogram, a young team led by Mohammad Mithun and the form team in the tournament, fought till the very end courtesy of a sparkling 53 from Shykat Ali, but fell short in the end.

Yesterday's final also marked the successful hosting of the second

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Approval from 3 authorities must for foreign trips

Rules HC about officials below rank of jt secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has ruled that any government official below the rank of joint secretary must take permission from the cabinet division and finance ministry, along with the approval from his or her own ministry, for any official foreign tour.

This is to ensure that public money spent for the trip is not misused.

The bench of Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque made the observation on Thursday while delivering verdict on a writ petition filed in 2016 in connection with the issue. Deputy Attorney General Sk Shaifuzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said Jonny Corporation, a fog light importing company, filed the petition challenging the legality of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation's action to confiscate the contractor's bank security money of Tk 28 lakh as the company had imported and supplied 10 substandard fog lights for BIWTC ferries plying the Mawa and Paturia routes.

The lights were imported from the US in 2016.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Mujibnagar officials to get 9 months' arrears

December 19, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU LAUDS SERVICES OF PROVISIONAL GOVT Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman acknowledges the highest sense of patriotism and sacrifice of the officials who helped run the provisional government from Mujibnagar. While addressing a function arranged by Mujibnagar Karmachari Samity, Bangabandhu says today that the independence of the country has been their greatest reward. He announces the government's decision to pay nine months' arrears to the officials who worked from Mujibnagar. This announcement is greeted with cheers.

Bangabandhu, however, upbraids the officials who stayed back and helped the occupation forces.

IMPART VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO YOUTH: BANGABANDHU Bangabandhu has stressed the paramount need to impart vocational training to the youth of the country. He tells a delegation of the teachers of the technical institute of Mohammadpur that the new nation needs a large number of technically trained hands who would contribute their expertise to the development of the country. The prime minister points out that since Bangla has become the national language of the country, a



SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Sculpture of Bagha Jatin vandalised in Kushtia

Case filed; cops quiz 4

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Some unidentified miscreants have vandalised a statue of British revolutionary leader Bagha Jatin on the campus premises of Kaya College in Kushtia's Kumarkhali upazila.

The nose and some parts of the right cheek of the statue was damaged on Thursday night, said police.

An under-construction sculpture of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was also vandalised in the district town on December 5.

Principal of Kaya College Harun-ur Rashid filed a case with Kumarkhali Police Station yesterday against a group of unnamed people.

Meanwhile, police summoned four people, including the principal, for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Chicken-sized dinosaur with fur mane discovered



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A new chicken-sized dinosaur with flamboyant features used to attract mates or intimidate foes has been discovered.

Ubirajara jubatus, which lived about 110 million years ago, had elaborate plumage including a long fur mane and stiff ribbons projecting from its shoulders.

Researchers said these shoulder ribbons were not scales, fur or feathers and are believed to be unique to the animal. Each had a small sharp ridge running along the middle.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

7 held over gang rape in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police yesterday held seven men over gang-rape of a woman in Gazipur's Kapasia upazila.

The prime suspect, however, was still at large, said Sub-Inspector Aminul Islam, in-charge of Kapasia Police Station.

The woman, a mother of one, was visiting her parents' home in Kapasia. One Shakhawat, the prime

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 19

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:20 12:45 3:45 5:22 7:00
JAMAAT 5:55 1:15 4:00 5:25 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A solitary patient receiving treatment while the other beds of the eight-bed ward on the 8th floor of the Mugda Medical College and Hospital remain empty. While the ICU was full, the number of patients at the general wards had halved over the last three or four days. There was an even greater reduction in the number of Covid-19 tests at the facility.

PHOTO:

ANISUR RAHMAN

Covax to begin vaccine delivery in early 2021

Says WHO; Moderna shots set for imminent US approval; India ready to start voluntary inoculation

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization and partners yesterday said that the Covax facility, created to ensure equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines worldwide, expected to begin delivering jabs early next year, as Moderna's vaccine was set for imminent approval in the US.

The UN health agency, the Gavi

vaccine alliance, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) announced they had now secured nearly two billion doses of various vaccine candidates still under development on behalf of the 190 countries taking part in Covax.

"The arrangements announced today will enable all participating economies to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

LABOUR-RECEIVING COUNTRIES Govt ready to negotiate low-cost hiring

Says expatriates' welfare minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday said he was ready to negotiate different issues with labour receiving countries to send abroad as many workers as possible at low cost.

"But I will not go down this road if I find that my

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
UGC Bhaban, Plot # E-18/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Website: www.ugc.gov.bd

Commonwealth Scholarships (PhD) in the United Kingdom-2021
Applications are invited from Bangladeshi nationals for higher study under the Commonwealth Scholarships (PhD) in the UK-2021.

Eligibilities of the Scholarships

1. Doctoral degrees, of up to three year's duration.
2. Applications are invited under six themes (mentioned below) for PhD Program:
(i) Science and technology for development (ii) Strengthening health systems and capacity (iii) Promoting global prosperity (iv) Strengthening global peace, security and governance (v) Strengthening resilience and response to crises (vi) Access, inclusion and opportunity.
3. Candidates must mention the Broad Subject under the Six Themes (The Broad Subject means on which the applicant has obtained his/her first degree (Hons/Bachelor)/terminal degree (Masters).
4. Qualification for PhD program: Holding a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honors standard, or a second class (2:2) degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification (a Master's degree).
5. Not have commenced and be currently registered for a PhD, or an MPhil leading to a PhD, in the home country or elsewhere.
6. The Application Form must be typed (not hand written) in the prescribed form. Additional papers can be attached with this form for the description of the publications (if necessary).
7. Candidates for medicine or dentistry must show the year of passing of each part of MBBS/BDS, marks obtained, total and average marks in the application form.
8. Incomplete or faulty applications will be rejected.
9. All the information (including the soft copy of the application form, direction/s, short list/s, interview date/s, selection/s and result/s etc.) will be uploaded at UGC website (www.ugc.gov.bd) under the heading of "Notice Board" or "Scholarship". Applicants must check and collect all the information from the UGC website by his/her own responsibility. No communication will be done with the applicants from UGC side.
10. Completed application form (Hard Copy) must be submitted to **"The Secretary, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207"** within **07 January 2021**. No application form will be received after the last date of submission. Attested copies of certificates, mark sheets of examinations passed, result sheets of IELTS (if any) etc. examination and 1 (one) copy of passport-size attested photograph must be enclosed with the application.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman
Secretary (Additional Charge)
UGC

GD-2012