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TRANSCOM **ODIGITAL**



SAYEDEE'S TRIAL Defence accused of threatening witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tribunal yesterday a prosecution witness in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami SEE PAGE 6 COL 1 .

Witnesses must be protected

Roundtable for security of those testifying about war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security and support are crucial for war crimes witnesses · to prevent a repetition of the trauma endured by them during the War of Liberation in 1971, speakers at a : roundtable said yesterday.

The International Crimes Tribunal should offer protection to the witnesses appearing before it to ensure an effective trial, they noted at a roundtable, 'Trial of International Crimes Tribunal: National and International Obligations', at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

"As ironic as it may seem, the moment a victim At the International Crimes : receives justice may be the moment he becomes the most vulnerable [emotionally]," said Laurel E Fletcher, clinical professor of law at the International Human · Rights Law Clinic of University of California.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

KL extends regularisation deadline

Be sure about the

steel used inside.

Good news for 12,000 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 12,000 irregular Bangladeshi workers have got the scope of getting regularised after the Malaysian authorities extended the deadline to complete the legalisation formalities of irregular foreign workers for an indefinite period.

"This is surely a good news for our workers," Mantu Kumar Biswas, labour attaché of Bangladesh mission in Kuala Lumpur, told The Daily Star over phone yesterday evening.

Earlier, the deadline for

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia emerging from a Dhaka court yesterday after submitting her bail bond in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

РНОТО:

Stop MPs' meddling in UP business

Union chairmen, councillors want to work freely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Union Parishad (UP) chairmen and councillors from across the country yesterday claimed that they cannot perform their duties properly due to 'interference' from local members of parliament (MP) and Upazila Parishad chairmen.

MPs and upazila parishad chairmen demand personal shares from government's allocation of provisions for the poor, UP officials claimed.

Officials yesterday outpoured their grievances at a convention held by Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (Bupf) - a body of over 4,500 UP chairmen and 54,000 councilors - in city's Diploma Enginners Institute auditorium.

Chairmen and councillors from 640 UPs from across the country attended the day-long assembly.

Speaking at the program, chairmen of **SEE PAGE 19 COL 8**

Irene Khan takes over as IDLO DG

STAR REPORT

Noted rights activist Irene Khan took up office as the first ever woman director general of the International

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Serve rural people or face stern action

PM warns doctors unwilling to stay in villages

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

of western

The western countries are playing

a double standard regarding the

Commission (NHRC) Chairman Dr

Mizanur Rahman expressed this

view yesterday, referring to his talks

Speaking at a roundtable on

court, the NHRC chief mentioned.

National Human Rights

war crimes trial in Bangladesh.

with a US diplomat a recently.

international standard.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned that the government would take stern actions against the doctors who will not stay in their stations in rural areas.

The doctors, who will be posted in rural areas, will have to go there with their family members, and there is no way to avoid this, she said.

Hasina made the remarks while inaugurating the newly built Academic Bhaban of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College here in the morning.

The premier said her government is planning to turn Dhaka Medical College Hospital into a full-fledged medical university in order to enhance medical research in the country.

She iterated her call to the affluent section of society to donate generously for the expansion of healthcare services.

HR boss critical

countries' role

"Trial of war criminals: national duty", organised by

Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad and held at the Jatiya

Press Club, he said the diplomat told him that the trial of

war crimes in Bangladesh will have to be done following

Asked about international standard, and if it is like the

"Then I said the trial in our country is being done in a

trial of Saddam Hossain, the diplomat replied Saddam

was tried in a national court, not in an international

national court and why you (diplomat) are raising the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

ECONOMIC FREEDOM Bangladesh makes little headway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is the 130th freest country for doing business, according to the Index of Economic Freedom released yesterday. Even though Bangladesh improved its score this year, its ranking remains the same as last year's.

For over a decade, The Wall Street Journal and **SEE PAGE 7 COL 4**

Rooppur nuke power plant in 6 years

UNB, Dhaka

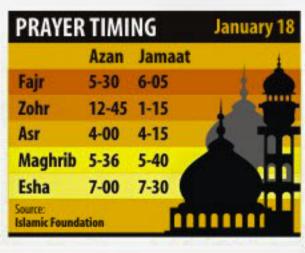
to 6 years.

The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna will go into operation in 2018 and its construction work will be completed within 5

Outgoing Ambassador of the Russian Federation Gennady P Trotsenko said this while paying a farewell call on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the capi-

tal yesterday. The Russian envoy also informed the president that Prime Minister

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



A 20-kilometre-long tailback on Bangabandhu Bridge approach in Tangail yesterday afternoon leaves vehicles stranded on the highway following the long march and street meetings of Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad at Elenga. The gridlock was triggered after a few hundred vehicles on the long march entered Mirzapur upazila at around noon. Vehicular movement was also halted on the busy highway during another street meeting at Natiapara in Basail upazila around 1:00pm. PHOTO: STAR

Ershad's poll campaign thru' Teesta 'long march'

PANKAJ KARMAKAR, from Rangpur

Launching a long march towards Teesta Barrage in Nilphamari demanding immediate signing of Teesta water-sharing deal, Jatiya Party (JP) yesterday called for forging national unity to get the due share of Teesta waters.

Though the programme was about Teesta waters, party Chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad conducted an electoral campaign in all the street **SEE PAGE 19 COL 1**

Bibiyana bid draws good response

PDB opens bids asking bidders to bring fund for 1700 MW power

SHARIER KHAN

As the Power Development Board is unsure of private power tenders ultimately materialising, it went ahead with floating tenders for six new public sector power projects to generate around 1,700 megawatt by 2015-2016.

These projects would be different from typical public sector plants. Unlike previous public sector projects, which are funded by the government or lenders, the PDB has asked bidders to bring in the finance and submit the lowest competitive rate for engineering, procurement

and construction of the plants. Except for one plant, which will be

based on Barapukuria coal, all of them will be gas fired. The third phase Bibiyana gas-fired 450MW power plant tender was opened

yesterday and it received good response.

According to the PDB the six bidders who submitted their proposals are: Chinese companies CNEC, Shanghai Electric, Sepco, China National Technical Export-Import Corporation; a joint **SEE PAGE 6 COL 6**



ONLINE POLL The prime minister in a meeting with UK Minister for

International Development Andrew Mitchell claimed that there is no violation of human rights in the country and democracy is 'fully functioning'.

Agree: (18.2%) (81.8%)Disagree:

TOTAL VOTES: 688 TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP's rejection of the president's proposal of forming a search committee to form the next Election Commission is justified? PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

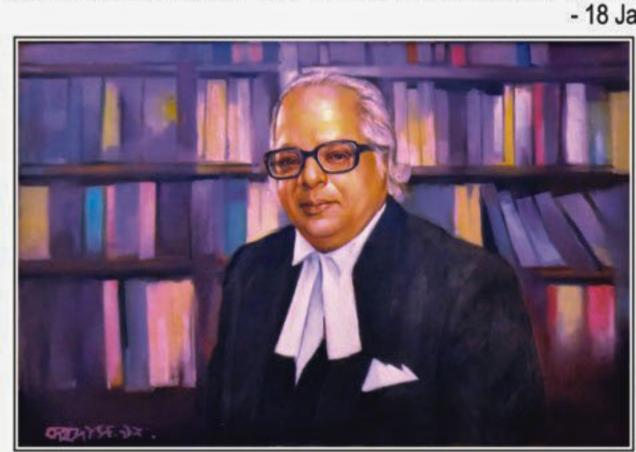
ANNOUNCEMENT

SYED ISHTIAQ AHMED'S 80TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Dr Mizanur Rahman

- 18 January, 2012



He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again. -William Shakespeare (Hamlet, Act I, Sc.2)

-Sufia, Refaat, Raina, Anat, Liya, Roshanak and Raaid