

**EINSTEIN PROVEN RIGHT**

Danish astronomers confirm the theory of relativity

PAGE 7

EDGE OF ABYSS

Selina Mohsin draws concern over population-environment equation

PAGE 15

SUNNY NEW TIGER

ODI and T20 squad for WI series also sees Kapali and Naeem make comeback

PAGE 16

Police reform goes nowhere

Govt shelve move for new law on National Police Commission aiming to free the force from political influence

M RAHMAN

The government has shelved a move to make a law that would have curtailed its power to recruit top police officials as part of reforming the police force and free it from political influence.

The Bangladesh Police Ordinance drafted in 2007 sought to create an independent National Police Commission to make recommendations regarding appointment of the police chief and posting of other high ranking officials.

The commission would consist of 11 members, including four lawmakers, two each from the ruling party and the opposition and four non-political independent members.

The draft also called for forming an

independent Police Complaints Commission to deal with serious complaints against the law enforcers to make them more accountable to the people.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku dismissed the move taken by the caretaker government of Fakhruddin Ahmed.

"What do you mean by reform under the draft ordinance-2007?" Shamsul Haque said, rejecting the proposed law. "Are we not depoliticising the force and making it pro-people by launching need-based units?"

He said the government is "procuring modern and sophisticated equipment for the force to combat terrorism, militancy and crimes."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



Dhaka City Corporation tears down an illegal police box on Hare Road. Such structures at different intersections in the capital were dismantled early yesterday. Ad firms had built those to earn money off advertisement on the outside of the boxes.

PHOTO: STAR

Hajj pilgrims face Biman's flight trouble

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A week after leasing a Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet, Biman Bangladesh Airlines had to cancel a hajj flight yesterday because the aircraft developed an issue before leaving Dhaka.

All the 498 pilgrims who boarded the plane had to get down.

The plane was leased from Air Atlanta Icelandic last week and was scheduled to fly at 5:40pm yesterday.

Biman, however, sent 310 of the passengers to Makkah on one of its DC-10-30s aircraft at 12:30am today but the rest had to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

KILLING OF BANGLADESHIS ON BORDER

BGB, rights bodies contradict BSF claim

BSF chief claims only 7 killed this year; BGB, others count at least 27

RASHIDUL HASAN

In contrast to counts in Bangladesh, the director general of Indian Border Security Force yesterday claimed BSF personnel have killed only seven Bangladeshis along the border so far this year.

Border Guard Bangladesh puts the number at 27 and rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) at 29.

BSF Director General Raman Srivastava, however, assured his Bangladesh counterpart of bringing down the number to zero.

He was briefing journalists at the BGB headquarters at Pilkhana in Dhaka at the end of a six-day conference between the

two border forces.

A top BGB official termed "unrealistic" the number given by the BSF chief.

"Till September this year, 27 Bangladeshi civilians have been killed and 17 injured by BSF" the official told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

According to ASK, 13 of the 29 killed by BSF men in January-September were physically tortured. During the period, 53 other Bangladeshis were wounded by the border force.

Odhikar, another human rights group, said BSF killed 27 Bangladeshis between January and August this year. The number was 74 last year and 98 the previous year,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Rejoinder, our reply

In a rejoinder to a report headlined "Education MP style" and published in The Daily Star on September 26, lawmaker Abdul Mannan has refuted the allegations brought against him.

The ruling party MP said the report carried information deliberately spread against him by his local political opponents and a vested quarter just to undermine him politically and socially.

Mannan, elected from Jhenidah-4 constituency, said the report about appointments of teachers and managing committees' chairs was not true, and claimed the teachers were recruited on the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

MEDICAL, DENTAL ADMISSION

20 held for fake question trade

JU teacher among the accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion early yesterday arrested 20 people, including a Jahangirnagar University teacher, in connection with selling fake question papers for the combined medical college and dental college admission test.

Rab also seized Tk 8.26 lakh, 29 mobile phones and three motorbikes from the arrestees' possession.

The arrestees include Mohammad Firozul Hasan, lecturer of government and politics department of Jahangirnagar University, Mohammad Tariqul Islam, former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Manosh Dev, an employee of National Bureau of Revenue, Jewel Ahmed, an employee of Agrani Bank, Ashraf Alam, a Grameen Bank employee, Shohiduzzaman Shaheed, a Dhaka Medical College student, Monjur Alam, a dentist, and Jashim Uddin, a businessman.

The suspects had allegedly made a fake question paper and sold copies of it to admission seekers saying it

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5
PHOTO ON PAGE 5

BNP's dilemma over Ctg div road march

Local leaders decline to hold it before Eid

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The main opposition BNP is now in a dilemma about its October 25 road march in the port city, as party leaders in Chittagong division are unwilling to hold the programme before Eid-ul-Azha.

The party had considered Khulna as an alternate venue but the leaders there ruled out the option due to worsening flood situation in the region.

Top BNP leaders from Khulna met BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Thursday night and informed her about the flood situation in their

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

A train crosses an under-construction culvert in Hatirjheel project area near FDC in the capital. Trains running to and from Kamalapur Railway Station have to slow down here, as the tracks are held precariously by scaffolding. It means longer wait for traffic at three level crossings in the area. The culvert was supposed to be finished by July this year.

CULVERT UNDER RAIL TRACK

3-month job not done in 6 months

Authorities blame rain for slow work

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Construction of culverts for Hatirjheel Project near the capital's FDC shows little sign of progress although six months have gone by and the work keeps disrupting train service and traffic movement in the area every day.

Officials at the site yesterday said two box culverts will be built to accommodate sewer pipes beneath rail trucks at a cost of Tk 1.32 crore that also covers maintenance of affected rails.

Arman Hossain, divisional engineer of railway, said Toma Construction Limited got the culvert construction job in April and was supposed to finish it in three months.

He said they along with the firm were trying to get the job done by the Eid-ul-Azha. "But the rains have seriously hampered the work."

No representative of the company was found at the site yesterday. Some people there said Toma has engaged several small contractors to build the culverts.

Contacted over the phone, Humayun, an official of Toma Construction, denied their involvement with the construction and said another company named Sun Flower is doing the work.

Interestingly, according to the officials, the man represents his company in the project.

Nobody from Sun Flower was found either.

A group of railway engineers and employees were seen working to maintain about a 100 feet long track. A 22.5 feet deep hole has been dug beneath it.

Arman, who was supervising the maintenance, said they have put sleepers and scaffoldings to keep the rail lines usable for now. "We are monitoring the tracks constantly as they can cave in slightly."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1