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Writer makes a nostalgic trip to his days as a student of Razia Khan Amin

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The law alone can do little against women's oppression

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'EXPECT NO CHANGE'

North Korea tells world in the wake of Kim Jong-il's death

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CJ warns against negligence, graft

Finds a section of dist judges affecting judicial system with their personal conflicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing disappointment with a section of district judges not maintaining their office hours, and affecting the judicial system with their personal conflicts, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday urged them to do their jobs properly.

He warned that if corruption allegations against judges and employees are proved, stern action will be taken against them.

The chief justice asked the district judges to take every corruption allegation against their subordinate judges and court staff with utmost importance and



Justice Muzammel Hossain

notify higher authorities.

He came up with the directives in his annual speech before the district judges and the judicial officials of the rank of a district judge at the Judges' Lounge of the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon.

More than 180 district judges and judicial officials from across the country, out of the 186, attended the programme, Supreme Court Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam told The Daily Star.

Justice Muzammel Hossain said, "It hurts me to learn that some district judges

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Drivers of change vital for country's progress

Prof Rehman Sobhan sees a lot of gains in 40 years since independence to feel proud of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to develop a system which rewards work, skills, and production -- but to implement the agenda some drivers of change must emerge, said eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan yesterday.

"We will need to build a system which not only guarantees the right to work but puts employment generation at the centre of our policy agenda rather than as an afterthought of our development plans," he said while presenting the keynote paper at a programme titled "40th anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence: The Vision and The Journey".

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Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen addresses a programme, "40th anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence: The Vision and The Journey", at the National Museum in the capital yesterday. Another photo on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR

Amartya wants Dhaka to lead climate battle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen yesterday said a starring role in action against global warming has significantly enhanced the prestige of Bangladesh in the international arena and now the country should take the leadership on climate change.

If Bangladesh becomes a leader in protecting the Earth from rising temperature and other climate change impacts, it can hold a big position in the world, he said.

Dr Sen, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his contribution to welfare economics and social choice theory, was

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Another hike in CNG price soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A further hike in the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) is under the government's active consideration in line with the just-increased prices of fuel oils.

The declaration of a revised CNG price may come soon, sources said.

The government has already increased CNG price twice this year -- from Tk 16.75 to Tk 25 a cubic meter in May and to Tk 30 in September.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith on November 9 told reporters that the price of CNG could go up at the end of

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MORE STORY ON PAGE 20

Govt to re-fix transport fares today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of hike in fuel prices, the government will declare revised transport fares today following consultations with the stakeholders.

"We will increase the fares reasonably," Communications Minister

Obaidul Quader told

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POSSIBLE RETURN TO JS A way out for many BNP MPs

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The main opposition BNP is looking for a way to return to parliament to retain the membership of its legislators.

Party insiders said the opposition lawmakers will have to return to the House in the winter session scheduled for January 25 if it is prolonged for more than 34 working days.

The BNP MPs have been abstaining from the House for about 48 sittings on an average.

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia herself has been

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Quit war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahriar Kabir, executive president of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, yesterday called on Ghulam Arief Tipoo, chief of the prosecution team dealing with war crimes cases, to resign.

"Chief Prosecutor Tipoo Bhai, you should

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War crimes trial to go on: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday categorically said the trial of war criminals will go on and they must be brought under the trial process.

"The trial will take place whenever and wherever the war criminals will be found and this process will continue," she said while addressing the Annual General Meeting of Bangla Academy on its premises.

Hasina said she can understand the reason behind the killings by the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War. "They were just the slaves to their master, they just did what their master had asked them

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Segments of sewage pipes, waiting to be installed, are narrowing down the busy Mirpur Road in the capital's Dhanmondi area and obstructing traffic. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: STAR

BTRC-operators strife slows down telecoms upgrade

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The relationship between the country's telecom regulator and telecom operators has become very bitter as the regulator is apparently treating the latter as "cheats" busy taking money out of the country through bad business practices.

While this attitude has made the telecom sector hostile to new investments, serious disagreements over vital issues between the telecom ministry and the Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in the last three years have also made the sector unpredictable for investors.

And in all this while, the government, which came to power promising to give shape to a "Digital Bangladesh", in reality did not introduce the much-expected 3G technology, set up a second

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Nothing on 3G technology

First locally made laptop

Bandwidth price cut

Rise in internet use

BTRC's losing power to issue licences

Illegal VoIP use on rise

Bike-riding muggers worry city dwellers

Law enforcers find it tough to tackle them

KAILASH SARKAR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Dhaka dwellers are terrified of bike-riding muggers, who in broad daylight snatch money from citizens on their way to or from banks and they do not give a second thought to hurting anyone.

Even law enforcers are worried about the recent increase in such mugging incidents.

At least 20 such incidents were reported in December alone but many incidents go unreported as victims do not believe the law enforcers

would be of any use in recovering their money. At least one person was killed, over 10 people suffered bullet injuries and one was stabbed by the criminals in the 20 reported incidents.

But the law enforcers could neither recover the money nor arrest anyone significant.

On Tuesday, a gang of armed criminals took Tk 10 lakh after shooting a shop employee dead and injuring another in the capital's Bangshal. The bike-riding gang attacked soon after the two came out of a bank

withdrawing the money around 3:30pm.

Another bike-riding gang around noon on that very day took Tk 5 lakh by shooting a trader as he came out of a bank with the money.

On Monday, criminals sped away on bikes taking Tk 10 lakh from two fabric traders. They fired shots in the air to clear their escape path in Kakrail of Dhaka.

On December 19, Tk 10.5 lakh was snatched from the city's Khilkhet and Tk 10 lakh from Shyampur.

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One killed in CHT gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

An activist of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) was killed and another injured during a gunfight with members of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sangahti Samity (PCJSS) in Bhitir Balukhali village of Rangamati on Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Supayan Chakma, 28, son of Adi Ranjan Chakma of Maishyapara village in the district.

Ataur Rahman, officer

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