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Caab eyes more staff

New organogram drafted to create 10,000 posts

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh is going to restructure itself by creating 10,000 new jobs.

The new organogram is being prepared keeping the demand for the next 20 years in mind.

Caab officials said several sections are suffering from manpower shortage due to which they struggle to carry out regular necessary safety and air worthiness inspections. Control towers, the area control centre and radars are so under-staffed that just one person carries out duties in those places.

The existing organogram was originally prepared in 1977 but it was implemented in 1986-87 following government approval, said top Caab officials involved in drafting of the organogram. Caab now has 3,760 employees.

Wishing anonymity an official involved in the preparation of the draft organogram said the shortage of manpower in fire control section in Chittagong and Sylhet airports is so acute that they often have to send people from Dhaka to carry out their day-to-day work.

Asked whether shortage of manpower is causing any financial loss to the civil aviation watchdog, the official said, "Definitely it is causing financial loss."

The official, however, could not give any figure.

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Saarc finance ministers meet in Dhaka Monday

REZAUL KARIM

Finance ministers from the Saarc nations will meet in Dhaka on Monday to further expand regional cooperation in economic and financial sectors.

The daylong meeting also aims at setting out the benchmarks to establish a customs union and leading subsequently towards an economic union; and ensuring greater integration, harmonisation and standardisation of the financial systems.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the Fifth Meeting of Saarc Finance Ministers at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, said foreign ministry sources.

Prior to this meet, the eight finance secretaries from the South Asian Association for Regional

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Hawkers occupy a major part of Cox's Bazar sea beach, spoiling the beauty and threatening biodiversity of the world's longest beach. The photo was shot last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Jahanara Begum passes away

STAR REPORT

Jahanara Begum, wife of eminent industrialist late Moqbul Rahman, passed away at United Hospital in the city yesterday.

She left behind one son and two daughters to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held on Gulshan Azad Mosque premises after Asr prayers today. She will be buried at Banani graveyard, said a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend her funeral prayers.

Sick politics obstacle to changes

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's political culture is so sick that bringing a change here is difficult, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

He said this responding to a speech by economist Prof Abul Barkat at a

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Cocaine found at UN

AFP, United Nations

A 16-kg (35.5 pounds) consignment of cocaine lost by Mexican drug traffickers has turned up in an unlikely place -- the United Nations in New York.

Police and UN officials on Thursday told how two fake UN diplomatic

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Muggers on bikes worry city cops

KAILASH SARKAR

Bike-riding muggers have become a menace in the capital, which concerns law enforcers as they are yet to find a proper way to stop these criminals.

In broad daylight, the gangs snatch money from citizens going to or coming out of banks injuring the victims sometimes fatally.

The issue was in focus at a monthly conference held at Rajarbagh Police Lines on January 23 where key personnel of Dhaka Metropolitan Police discussed what steps should be taken to prevent such crimes.

Meeting sources said the city's police

stations recorded 35 incidents in which people had been shot and wounded during such muggings last month alone. Law enforcers could neither recover the money taken away nor arrest anyone significant.

Several DMP officials told The Daily Star that the actual number of such muggings was much higher as many incidents are not reported.

On December 11, biker gangs shot two people in Chankarpul in the capital to get away snatching over Tk 12 lakh in broad daylight. One of the victims later died.

On Saturday last at Shanti Nagar in Dhaka, a gang shot a father and his son to

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Saraswati Puja today

BSS, Dhaka

Saraswati Puja will be celebrated today across the country with traditional gaiety and religious fervour.

The Puja will be performed on the Vasant Panchami day every year mostly in educational institutions, where the Hindu students seek the blessings of Goddess Saraswati.

A mythological consort of Lord Brahma, Saraswati is the personification of knowledge - arts, science

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Islam no threat to democracy

Arab Spring leaders insist at Davos summit

AFP, Davos, Switzerland

New leaders from the countries of the Arab Spring sought to reassure their Western counterparts at the Davos forum that the rise of Islamist parties poses no threat to democracy.

Last year, when a wave of popular revolt swept the Middle East and North Africa, many in the West hoped it might herald a victory for liberalism.

Instead, wherever free elections have been held, well-organised Islamist parties have been the big winners, leading some to fear that the tyranny of secular autocrats might be replaced by repressive theocracy.

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government's firm stance against collecting additional admission fees will stop the private schools from doing it?

Yes (20.1%)

No (78.3%)

No Comments (1.6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 318

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the latest monetary policy of the Bangladesh Bank will bring any significant changes in the present economic situation?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

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A worker polishes memorial busts of Language Movement martyrs at Bangla Academy yesterday as the Ekushey Book Fair is to begin on the premises on February 1.

PHOTO: STAR

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AFP, Baghdad

A suicide bomber set off an explosives-packed car outside a Baghdad hospital yesterday, killing 31 people in the capital's deadliest day in a month, amid a political crisis that has stoked tensions.

The attack in a predominantly Shia

neighbourhood, which also left 60 people wounded, came days after al-Qaeda warned it would continue targeting Shia Muslims and barely a month after US troops completed their withdrawal, raising fresh concerns about the capabilities of domestic security forces.

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Kushtia Jubo Dal leader murdered

3 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Jubo Dal leader was killed by three alleged drug peddlers following a feud over illegal drug trade in Housing Estate area of Kushtia town on Thursday night.

The victim, Asadur Rahman alias Colonel, 25, was the office secretary of Mazampur ward unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, youth wing of the BNP.

Police arrested the three while they were fleeing after killing Asadur on the same night.

"Asadur was a drug trader, and the killing might be the result of a conflict over distribution of money earned from

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