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NOT FUNNY, ANYWAY

Even though the High Court issued a set of eight directives to protect the dignity and sanctity of the Central Shaheed Minar a few years ago, things have not changed much. A series of photos taken recently shows littering, posters on the wall, and a homeless family having lunch there. A tourist couple who had gone to see the monument built to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of the people of this country for their mother tongue are pestered by urchins. The behaviour of the children forces them to leave.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Chevron in sticky stew

Faces \$19b asset freeze order in Argentina over Amazon pollution
REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Two Chevron subsidiaries on Friday appealed a freeze on up to \$19 billion worth of the company's assets in Argentina, part of an environmental lawsuit by Ecuadorean villagers that has spanned two decades and several countries.

The subsidiaries, Chevron Argentina and Ing. Norberto Priu, argued that they are not directly owned by Chevron Corp, which was the target of the litigation in Ecuador.

"Chevron Corp, the sole judgment debtor, has no

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Prioritise science action plan

Neglect to scientists, researchers lamented at The Daily Star roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has to promote scientific research and popularise science studies by offering rewarding career to students to achieve faster economic growth, said leading scientists and researchers at a discussion yesterday.

The Daily Star organised the discussion at The Daily Star Centre on implementation of the recently-made National Science and Technology Action Plan.

The action plan, gazette-notified last month, contains 11 strategic areas and 246 actions for the development and advancement of science and technology while the National Science and Technology Policy of 1986 was updated last year.

In yesterday's discussion, Prof Ahmed Ismail Mustafa, chairman of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), said scientists had totally been neglected in Bangladesh although the country's poverty alleviation depended much on their financial wellbeing and autonomy of research institutes.

He said despite being an autonomous body and mandated to invent technologies for industrialisation, the BCSIR had to seek ministerial endorsement for all decisions, even for a scientist's visit abroad.

The interest in science education sharply declined in the country, as commerce studies had become much rewarding, said Prof Ahmed, adding that job

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Belarus PM due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Expansion of trade and investment, and cooperation in agriculture, industry, defence and education will figure prominently in the dialogues during Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich's three-day visit to Bangladesh, beginning today.

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FREE, FAIR POLLS Sit together, sort it out

Seminar presses major parties for consensus, strong EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for political consensus and strengthening of the Election Commission (EC) to hold a free and fair parliamentary election and avoiding any political violence.

The major political parties have to sit together in a dialogue to determine the system of government for the election period to overcome the ongoing political crisis, they said. The seminar focused on the verdict relating to the 13th amendment and political crisis at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) auditorium in the capital.

Veteran journalist ABM Musa, however, expressed his fear that the ongoing political crisis, which was created over constituting the election-period government, would not be resolved without violence.

All political problems of Bangladesh had been solved in the past on the streets and after violence, he said.

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with AL Leader Syed Ashraful Islam that the Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir resorted to violence and attacked the police with the help of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia?

Yes (62%)
No (37%)
No Comments (1%)

TOTAL VOTES: 581

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to blame government forces and associate bodies of the ruling Awami League for the September violence in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING November 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:00	5:35
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:22	5:25
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



CTG 8 MURDER Interpol arrests convicted Shibir cadre in India

STAR REPORT

Interpol has arrested in India a Bangladeshi fugitive convicted of murdering eight people in Chittagong in 2000.

An activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir, Sazzad Hossain, 33, was convicted of shooting dead the eight. Of the victims, seven were members of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), an associate body of the ruling Awami League.

The Interpol branch of India's Central Bureau of Investigation detained him at Amritsar airport in Punjab on Thursday when he was about to flee to Dubai with fake travel documents, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Sazzad is now in police custody in New Delhi.

India has informed Bangladesh of his arrest and sought details of the eight-murder case. If the Bangladesh government makes a formal request, India will definitely hand over the arrestee to them, a highly-placed source told The Daily Star yesterday.



Sazzad Hossain

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27 killed in Sri Lanka's prison riot

AGENCIES

At least 27 people were killed and a senior police officer seriously wounded in a gunfight in Sri Lanka's biggest prison that began when police came under fire from inmates, officials and police said yesterday.

The army brought the violence under control before dawn and freed staff held hostage at the Welikada prison in the capital Colombo, jail officials and military said.

Twenty seven people have been confirmed dead, prisons minister Chandrasiri Gajadeera told parliament. The gunfight also injured 59 people including the head of the Special Task Force (STF), deputy inspector-general R M Ranawana.

Friday's violence was the worst prison riot in Sri Lanka since July 1983 when more than 50 ethnic Tamil prisoners were

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অবৈধ ব্যাংকিং ও মিথ্যা প্রলোভন থেকে সতর্ক থাকুন

লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, মাল্টি লেভেল মার্কেটিং (এমএলএম) পদ্ধতিতে পরিচালিত এবং সমবায় সমিতি বর্ণনাধারী কতিপয় প্রতিষ্ঠান অবাস্তব উচ্চ মুনাফার (কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠান মাসিক ১০%-১৬% সুদের হার কিংবা দশ মাসে দ্বিগুণ লাভ) প্রলোভন দেখিয়ে সরল বিশ্বাসী জনসাধারণের নিকট থেকে প্রতারণামূলকভাবে বিপুল পরিমাণ অর্থ সংগ্রহ করছে। উল্লেখ্য, এ ধরনের ব্যাংকিং লেনদেনের অনুরূপ কার্যক্রমের অনুমোদন বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক প্রদান করেনি এবং সেকারণেই তা সম্পূর্ণ বেআইনী। এসব প্রতিষ্ঠানের কোনো কোনোটি অভিনব এমএলএম পদ্ধতিতে সংগৃহীত আমানত ও মূলধন সুকৌশলে গ্রুপভুক্ত অন্যান্য প্রতিষ্ঠান ও প্রকল্পে অথবা নিজেদের হিসাবে স্থানান্তর করছে। তাছাড়া, ইন্টারনেট ভিত্তিক অবাস্তব মুনাফা বা নানা ধরনের পুরস্কার জয়ের প্রলোভন ভিত্তিক আকর্ষণীয় প্রচারণাও আজকাল চোখে পড়ছে। অবাস্তব উচ্চ মুনাফার লোভে বিনিয়োগ করলে প্রতারিত ও নিঃস্ব হওয়ার আশঙ্কা অত্যন্ত বেশি বিধায় এরূপ প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে যে কোন আর্থিক লেনদেনের ক্ষেত্রে সতর্ক থাকার জন্য জনসাধারণকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক