

AUTOPSY AT KHULNA MEDICAL COLLEGE

Doctors' shortage hampering service

AHSANUL AMEEN GEORGE, Khulna

A shortage of forensic doctors is presently hampering conduction of autopsy at Khulna Medical College morgue.

Amid this crisis, the doctors from the other departments are conducting post mortem in addition to their regular duties.

The forensic department is run by only three doctors, said Principal Prof Abdullah-Al-Mahbub.

Of them, Prof Dhiraz Mohon Biswas retired on July 3 and none has been placed in that position while assistant professors Ataur Rahman and Moslema Yasmin Jui have been on sick leave and maternity leave respectively since mid-June and July 1, said KMC sources.

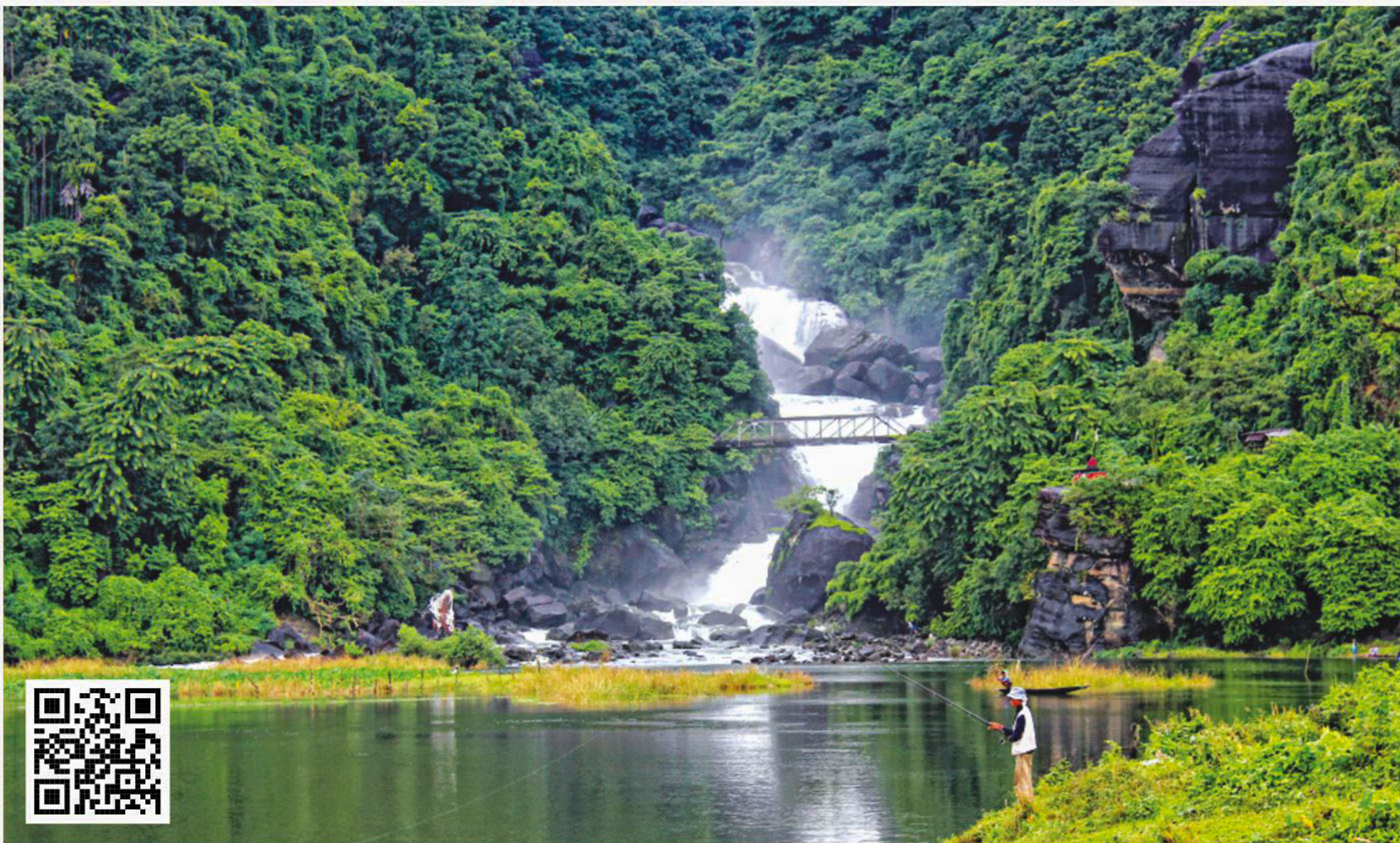
Dr Mohiul Islam, lecturer of the anatomy department, who has been given additional responsibilities at the forensic department, said he had to do it as per the order of the principal.

Dr Masum Iqbal of the community medicine department echoed Mohiul.

Observing the current situation, a doctor at the hospital, seeking anonymity, said there was a possibility of making a mistake in conducting autopsy as the non-forensic doctors were not experts on it.

Acknowledging the facts, the principal said, "A letter, sent by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on July 10, allowed us to do so on an emergency basis."

A doctor, seeking anonymity, said there is a possibility of making a mistake in conducting autopsy as the non-forensic doctors are not experts on it.



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A misty waterfall stream in greenery at Bisanakandi, Sylhet. The photo is an entry for The Daily Star photo contest, inPixel.

PHOTO: MD ANAMUL HAQUE

Gloria Jean's Coffees partners with Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gloria Jean's Coffees and The Daily Star yesterday started a joint campaign to promote different publications of the leading English daily among the audience.

The two organisations signed a memorandum of understanding in the latter's Gulshan branch in the capital as part of "The Daily Star Coffee Shops Partnership Programme".

The Australia-based coffeehouse chain will serve the customers with their quality coffees in a pleasant environment where The Daily Star publications will be available for reading and buying.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam also inaugurated a centre of Daily Star Books in Gloria Jean's Coffee shop.

FM Murshed Elahy, head of operations of Gloria Jean's Coffees in Dhaka, said they were delighted to partner with the country's largest circulated English newspaper.

"We are committed to providing our best services to our valuable customers in an enjoyable atmosphere with our best

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Greens want coordinated policy to save rivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Green activists in Barisal division yesterday urged the government to formulate a coordinated policy to save rivers across the country.

The demand came at a human chain on the bank of the river Kirtankhola at Ferry Ghat in the city. A rally was also staged there in the morning.

The speakers highlighted the value of rivers as well as other water bodies saying that public awareness in this regard is increasing around the world.

The programme styled "Save the

rivers from encroachment and pollution" was organised by voluntary organisations Integrated Community Development Association, Angikar Bangladesh, Mobilisation for Alternative Programme, and Action for Behavioral Change Foundation, marking World Rivers Day, which is observed on the last Sunday in September.

They said Bangladesh might turn into a desert if its rivers were not protected.

Unfortunately, those are dying due to a lack of well planned development projects and encroachment, they added.

Bridges, culverts, sluice gates as well as flood control embankments are sometimes set up in an unplanned way barring the free flow of rivers, they said.

Once Barisal was considered as the "Venice of Bengal" as it had nearly 600 ponds and large lakes. Right before 1971, there were more than 22 canals in and around the city while the number reduced to 17 during the post-Liberation War Bangladesh. And now, there are only six canals, which connect the river Kirtankhola, in the city.

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RIVER INTERLINKING

India to 'keep int'l protocols in mind'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday reiterated that international protocols, environmental laws and sentiments of states involved will be kept in mind when any step to implement the ambitious project of interlinking of rivers is taken.

Water Resources Minister Uma Bharati told reporters here that her ministry has given "renewed thrust" to interlinking of rivers. The Ken-Betwa link project between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh states would be the first interstate river linking project to be completed.

As the project would mean submergence of several hectares of land of a tiger reserve, the Madhya Pradesh state government has agreed to compensate the land so that the "territory of the tigers" is not compromised.

Asked whether the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National

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Customers go through a book at the newly launched centre of Daily Star Books at Gloria Jean's Coffees in the capital's Gulshan yesterday where publications of the English daily are available for reading and buying. The Daily Star newspaper readers will get opportunities to win surprise gifts while enjoying coffees at the Australia-based coffeehouse chain.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Khaleda to join Jamalpur rally today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will visit Jamalpur today to address a rally on the Zila School grounds.

Central and district leaders of the BNP made the announcement at a press conference at the venue of the rally yesterday.

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Revision trial

FROM PAGE 3

the BSF authority informing of the adjournment.

On Thursday, he had received a fax from VP Badla, commandant of 181 BSF Battalion in Cooch Behar, around 10:00pm requesting to bring Nur, who is a witness, in the afternoon the next day alongside the PP, added the commanding officer.

He also said they had sent names of two witnesses, Nur and Felani's maternal uncle Abdul Hanif, last month as per a letter from the Indian government.

The revision trial began on September 22.

Nur and Hanif had earlier testified on August 19, 2013 before the first special court which had acquitted the lone accused, BSF constable Amiya Ghosh, of the murder charge. Nur rejected the verdict.

On returning from Delhi and on her way home with her father, Felani, 15, was crossing the border illegally through Anantapur border in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram and was shot as her clothes got stuck in the barbed-wire fence on January 7, 2011.

The photo of her body hanging at the top of the fence triggered a huge outcry around the globe.

This was the first time a BSF jawan had been put on trial for such a killing.

FOOD SECURITY Bina scientist gets IAEA award

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mirza Mofazzal Islam of the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (Bina) received "Outstanding Achievement Awards" in the 58th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna on Wednesday.

Dr Islam got the award for his success in releasing nine improved mutant varieties of fiber jute, vegetable jute, mung bean and chickpea which have increased yield from 20 to 45 percent compared to other existing crop varieties.

IAEA with Food and Agriculture Organization gave the award.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Rare to Extinct

Scientists estimate that 133 bird species have become extinct worldwide since 1500, 103 of them since 1800. There are many famous birds among them, including the Dodo, the Great Auk, the Pink-headed Duck and the Passenger Pigeon.

The Dodo was a native of Mauritius where it existed in peace for so long that it lost its ability to fly. Thus it was in trouble when Portuguese sailors – the first humans on that island – landed there. The settlers found a convenient source of nutrition in the Dodo, decimating it over the years. The last Dodo bird was killed in 1681.

Passenger Pigeons in North America were once prolific. Gigantic flocks of them, perhaps in the millions, flew together like a black cloud covering the sky. The great ornithologist John James Audobon witnessed one such flock in Ohio in 1813. The flock flew at over sixty miles per hour and the sky darkened suddenly like in an eclipse when it arrived. An estimated two billion Passenger Pigeons lived in North America during that time.

However, they decreased as the growing European population in America hunted them for food. The giant flocks of Passenger Pigeons were shredded into smaller groups which could not protect themselves from humans and other predators.

The last Passenger Pigeon in the wild was a female, shot by a fourteen-year-old boy in Ohio on March 24, 1900. Some remained in captivity but none bred. Today only dead ones can be found in museums.

The Great Auk was a large flightless bird of the North Atlantic islands. It became extinct in 1844 due to hunting by humans. When it became rare, museum directors, anticipating their disappearance, raced to collect their body parts. The last few Great Auks were thus captured and killed by the agents of museums.

The most interesting part about the Great Auk was its egg. Sought after by collectors, it was shaped like a top to prevent rolling off the top of cliffs where the bird dwelled. Its beige shell was marked by a unique, intricate pattern resembling calligraphy. Some speculate that parent Auks could recognize their own egg from those of other parents based on this calligraphy.

Driving a species to its extinction is tragic, but it also has unintended consequences. For example, there is a species of tree in Mauritius that lives up to 300 years. But ever since the Dodo disappeared, no new seedling has appeared and the last of its breed



Great Auk egg

PHOTO: INTERNET

are dying. Apparently the Dodo ate the fruit of this tree, and the seed somehow fertilized while passing through the digestive system of the Dodo.

While about two dozen species of birds have been extirpated from Bangladesh (that is, they were once here, but no more), only one of our birds, the legendary Pink-headed Duck, has become globally extinct. (Why is it that bird species become famous after they have become extinct?) A common bird of my childhood, the White-rumped Vulture, is now rare and considered "Critically Endangered." It has been decimated since the early 1990s due to the use of diclofenac to treat cattle. Consuming the carrion of such cattle has proved lethal for the vultures. In addition, many of our bird species are threatened by the destruction of their habitat due to population pressure.

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