



FROM LEFT ... Eric Betzig, William Moerner, and Stefan Hell (Nobel in chemistry), May-Britt Moser, John O'Keefe and Edvard Moser (Nobel in medicine), Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano, and Shuji Nakamura (Nobel in physics).

Nobel Prize goes to 9

Medicine and biology have been the big winners from nanoscopy. NOBEL IN PHYSICS Three scientists from Japan won the Nobel Prize for Physics on Tuesday for pioneering energy-efficient LED lighting, a weapon against global warming and poverty. The trio are Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura, who has since become a US national.

"This year's Nobel Laureates are rewarded for having invented a new energy-efficient and environment-friendly light source -- the blue light-emitting diode (LED)," the jury said. "Their inventions were revolutionary. Incandescent light bulbs lit the 20th century. The 21st century will be lit by LED lamps." Red, green and blue need to be mixed to recreate the white light of the

Sun. Red and green diodes had been around for a long time, but devising a blue LED was the Holy Grail -- and achieving it took three long decades. The breakthrough came in the 1990s when the three researchers, after dogged work, coaxed bright blue beams from semiconductors. LEDs are also commonplace in computers, TV, watches and mobile

phone screens. NOBEL IN MEDICINE British-American researcher John O'Keefe on Monday won the Nobel Medicine Prize with a Norwegian couple, May-Britt and Edvard Moser, for discovering an "inner GPS" that helps the brain navigate. They earned the coveted prize for identifying brain cells enabling people to orient themselves in space, with

implications for diseases such as Alzheimer's, the jury said. "The discoveries of John O'Keefe, May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser have solved a problem that has occupied philosophers and scientists for centuries," it said. "How does the brain create a map of the space surrounding us and how can we navigate our way through a complex environment?"

O'Keefe, 74, told AFP that his research explained how London taxi drivers were able to navigate 25,000 streets and know how to get from one to the other. "In the same way that GPS allows you to locate yourself in an area or even on the surface of the Earth and then find your way to a desired location, it does exactly the same thing for the brain," O'Keefe said.

Accidents kill 25 in four days

reported to have been killed in road and ferry accidents during the Eid-ul-Fitr, a little under a month and a half ago. Scanning news reports, The Daily Star research desk finds that at least 10 people were killed in road accidents across the country during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays of last year. The number of death was 40 and 46 in 2012 and 2011. Yesterday, the first working day after the Eid holidays, road accident claimed the lives of three of a family, including a senior Agrani Bank official, and the driver of their rented microbus, when they were going to Sylhet from Dhaka, reports our correspondent. Nurul Islam, 48, deputy general manager of the bank, his wife Umme Kulsuma, 45, and their daughter Mumtahina Islam died on the spot as a bus collided with their microbus at Rashidpur in South Surma upazila. Fatima Islam, 10, younger daughter of Nurul Islam, was still under treatment when this report was filed yesterday evening. Md Palash, driver of the microbus,

died at Sylhet medical college hospital. A mother and her eight-year-old twin sons died as a microbus fell into a ditch at Unzanishar village on the Comilla-Sylhet Highway in Brahmanbaria in the early morning Sunday. Ruzina Begum, 40, and her twins Sourav and Nirob lived in Tiara village of Nabinagar in Brahmanbaria. They were going to their village to celebrate Eid from Dhaka. Seven other passengers of the microbus were also injured. Six people were killed and three injured in another road accident at Bagerkanda bypass in Mymensingh Sadar yesterday afternoon. Officer-in-Charge Fazul Karim of Kotwali police said the accident had occurred around noon when a bus heading for Mymensingh collided head-on with a human hauler. In Rajshahi, three youths were killed and two others injured after two motorcycles collided head-on and caught fire at Shipaipara in the city yesterday. All the victims were passengers of the

motorcycles, said Mehedi Hasan, OC of Rajpara police. The accident took place in the wee hours of yesterday in front of the main gate of Rajshahi Central Jail. An unidentified middle-aged woman was crushed under the wheels of a train at Darigharbona level-crossing in Rajshahi. A woman died from burn injuries yesterday. She was injured when a bus rammed her CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Eid day near Tejgaon in the capital. Three others were also injured as the auto-rickshaw caught fire after the accident. Eleven people were killed and 22 injured in nine separate accidents in Mymensingh, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Pirojpur, Tangail, Feni, Noakhali and Khagrachhari on Tuesday. According to police, 3,000 people on average die every year in road accidents across the country. However, the World Bank and the World Health Organisation put the figure at 12,000 and 18,000.

Cattle markets

on August 3 had requested the LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam to ensure that the designated space was not leased out this year for cattle markets. The health ministry's hospital wing and the Directorate General of Health and Services also wrote separate letters to the DNCC, Nasim said. As traders started bringing cattle to the market towards late September, the health ministry on September 29 sought intervention of the home ministry to thwart the traders. All our pleas went unheeded, the minister said. "Patients suffered a lot due to the cattle market. Many ambulances could not even reach the hospitals," Nasim regretted, pledging to do everything to stop such malpractices. Replying to a query about any political pressure behind the DNCC's leasing of the open space as a Jubo League leader [Salauddin Jahid] won the lease, Nasim said the responsibility basically lies with the one who approved it. As a reporter inquired whether different ministries and government departments had a serious lack of coordination which failed to stop the traders, the minister answered in the negative. "There was an inter-ministerial decision on the matter. The major issue is if the DNCC considered our request. The leasing of the space [in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar] is illegal," Nasim said. Nowhere in the world there are shops or cattle markets that pollute a hospital's environment in addition to spreading diseases, he added. Contacted, DNCC Administrator MD Faruque Jalil denied receiving any letter from the health ministry. "Besides, cattle market at this venue is nothing new. We cannot stop it suddenly as the process starts well ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha," he said. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam could not be contacted for his comments as his mobile phone was switched off.

Rebound in remittance

FROM PAGE 1 when it slipped 2.66 percent. Growth in remittance to Bangladesh this fiscal year is likely to be better than the South Asia average of 5.5 percent if the remaining legal status problems are addressed and the freeze on Bangladeshi labour recruitment in Saudi Arabia and the UAE is lifted, he said. In the first three months of the fiscal year, remittance shot up 21.85 percent whereas it declined 8.10 percent during the same period in fiscal 2013-14. Last month, \$1.32 billion was remitted, up 28.63 percent year-on-year. As of yesterday, foreign reserves stood at \$22.12 billion. Furthermore, remittance costs appear to be heading downwards with the entrance of new players in the market, the use of technology to support digital payments and progress in expanding financial inclusion, the WB lead economist said. India, with its emigrant stock of 14 million people, the world's largest, will remain in the top spot, attracting about \$72 billion in remittances. It is followed by China, which is projected to earn \$64 billion. Pakistan too maintained its last year's ranking of seven with its forecasted remittance of \$17 billion. Remittances by international migrants from developing countries are on course for strong growth this year. But at the same time, forced migration due to

violence and conflict has reached unprecedented levels, the report says. Officially recorded remittances to developing countries are expected to reach \$435 billion this year, an increase of five percent over 2013. The growth rate this year is substantially faster than the 3.4 percent growth recorded in 2013, driven largely by remittances to Asia and Latin America. Remittances to developing countries will continue to climb in the medium-term, reaching an estimated \$454 billion in 2015. Remittances remain an especially important and stable source of private inflows to developing countries, as they bring in large amounts of foreign currency that help sustain the balance of payments. In 2013, remittances were significantly higher than foreign direct investment to developing countries excluding China, and were three times larger than official development assistance. Quoting a recent survey, the report says average remittances to receiving households in Bangladesh are worth twice per capita income and equivalent to almost 80 percent of the receiving household's income. The importance of remittance to Bangladesh is further underscored by their explicit inclusion in assessments by credit rating agencies, it adds.

Resignation or expulsion?

party, then he would lose his MP status. But, if he is expelled from the party, he would still have a job in the House. The fate of Latif would be determined at a meeting of the party's Central Working Committee on Sunday. As per Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announcement earlier, he would be removed from the cabinet as well. After the ALCWC meeting, Latif would be served a show-cause notice asking him to explain his position on the derogatory remarks he had made over Hajj, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Tablighi Jamaat, sources in the party told The Daily Star.

He would be given time to respond, after which the party would go for action against him, AL insiders said. If he is expelled from the Awami League, he will retain his parliamentary membership, according to article-70 of the constitution. However, his membership in parliament would be cancelled if he resigns from the party. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has categorically said Latif will be removed from the cabinet and the Awami League for his comments, which means, according to party insiders, he would not be given a chance to resign. In that case, he would continue to be MP of Tangail-4 constituency.

Earlier, in the eighth parliament [2001-2006], BNP MP Abu Hena was expelled from the party for his anti-militancy remarks. He retained his membership in parliament. Jatiya Party MP HM Golam Reza was expelled from the party for violating party discipline in 2012, but he continued his job as MP in the ninth parliament. Sources in AL said the party would remove Latif from its highest policy-making body and then expel him. Since Hasina took over the reins of AL in 1981, no central committee member of the party has been expelled.

Tanners profit

FROM PAGE 16 Moreover, the supply of rawhide is estimated to rise by 10-12 percent this year due to low prices of cattle, he said. More than 65 lakh cattle were sacrificed during the Eid-ul-Azha last year, according to data of the Department of Livestock. At present, a total of 194 tanners buy rawhide during the Eid. About 22 crore sft of rawhide is collected in the country every year, half of which is stocked up during Eid-ul-Azha. Rawhide worth about Tk 4,000 crore is traded on the Eid day alone, according to industry operators. M Abu Taher, chairman of Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leathergoods and Footwear Exporters' Association, said they have cut rawhide prices this year due to a poor demand for Bangladeshi leather in the global market. Big international brands are not interested in importing Bangladeshi leather as it is processed without considering the environmental concerns, he said. Moreover, the US dollar is losing its value against the local currency, he added. Shaheen Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Tanners Association, had earlier told a press conference that the rawhide prices are witnessing a declining trend globally.

BB appoints

FROM PAGE 2 team has recently found financial irregularities in the private bank's Gulshan and Nimitali branches. Besides, five members of Shikder family, owner of the bank, are in the bank's board whereas more than two members of a family should not be allowed in a bank's board as per the Bank Company Act. The bank's financial situation has worsened further after its managing director, AKM Shafiqur Rahman, stepped down last week. The central bank is appointing observers for various reasons to five banks, including state-run BASIC Bank, Bangladesh Commerce Bank, ICB Islamic Bank and Islami Bank. Kazi Sayedur Rahman is also working as observer to Islami Bank.

India initiates efforts to implement

FROM PAGE 2 The LBA, as also the proposed Teesta river water-sharing deal and other bilateral issues had come up during Modi's first meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in New York on September 27 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Modi had at that time reiterated to Hasina India's commitment to implement the LBA. During the nearly two-hour meeting of the standing committee, the members raised several questions relating to LBA and exchange of enclaves and the Ministry of External Affairs is understood to have assured to get back replies to the questions in about a fortnight. Mohammed Selim, a CPI(M) member of the committee, is understood to have told the meeting that since some states are involved in implementing the LBA, it was necessary to obtain their views. Accordingly, the meeting unani-

Dhaka asks for info

FROM PAGE 1 He said the enemies, who resorted to terrorism in Bangladesh in the past, might not be fully inactive. Rather, they have changed their strategy. Jamaat and a section of BNP, which instigated militancy in Bangladesh are still active and the world community have of late understood that Jamaat is a militant organisation, the state minister claimed. Some police officials who deal with militancy issues in Bangladesh said they were assessing the blast incident. "We know a few leaders of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) had fled to India [West Bengal] to evade capture and are now trying to operate from there," one of them told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity. Speaking at a press briefing at the media centre of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) last month, a joint commissioner of DMP said fugitive militants frequently enter Bangladesh, hold meetings with fellow members and then go back. Earlier, Dhaka refuted recent media reports that Bangladesh-India (West Bengal) border had been sealed following the bomb blast in Bardhaman.

PM asks BNP

FROM PAGE 2 make sure such conspiracy cannot take place and affect the mass people. Talking about the responsibility of the media, Hasina said whenever the media publish such a news item it should mention its sources as well. "It's not right to confuse people by publishing unnecessary news."

Rab man held

FROM PAGE 16 a 10-day remand prayer. The court issued a seven-day remand order. Ruhul, a lance corporal at Bangladesh Army, was on deputation at Rab-11 during the time when seven-murder was committed. He had gone on the run since the murder. He was arrested at his village in Patuakhali on Tuesday. Mamunur made the claim about Ruhul's involvement quoting former Rab officers Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, Maj Arif Hossain and Lt Commander MM Rana. The three were first sacked and then arrested for their alleged involvement in the murders. Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam, his driver and three associates, and senior lawyer Chandan Sarker and his driver were abducted separately but around the same time on April 27 from Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road. Their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river a few days later. Rab men's involvement in the killings came to light when Nazrul's father-in-law Shahidul Islam alleged that some Rab personnel had abducted and killed Nazrul in exchange for Tk 6 crore from ward councillor Nur Hossain and his associates. Nur and Nazrul were political rivals. A total of 13 people, including 11 Rab personnel, have so far been arrested in connection with the murders. The main accused of this case Nur Hossain is in an Indian jail. He had run off to India following the murders.

Chimpanzees to get

FROM PAGE 16 as a "dark, dank shed," and should be transferred to a chimp sanctuary in Florida. The legal mechanism Wise is using in Tommy's case is usually filed on behalf of people such as prison inmates, who claim they have been unlawfully imprisoned. Wise is part of The Nonhuman Rights Project, which claims it is the only organisation working toward "actual legal rights for members of species other than our own." He has said that "as a matter of both liberty and equality, Tommy should be seen as a person". Previous lawsuits involving Tommy's

legal rights have not ruled in the chimpanzee's favour, but Mr Wise is appealing this decision, and said that if the New York State appeals court rules in the animal's favour it could lead to further cases asking for rights of intelligent animals such as elephants, dolphins, orcas, and other non-human primates. Wise, who is based in Boston, added: "The next argument could be that Tommy also has the right to bodily integrity, so he couldn't be used in biomedical research." Legal experts including the US Circuit Judge Richard Posner have criticized the quest for legal rights for animals however.

ously decided to elicit the views of governments in states like West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya, said the sources. It may be mentioned that Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal has consistently opposed signing of the Teesta deal and had in the past voiced reservations against the LBA. Some BJP members of the standing committee wanted to know about the steps to be taken for rehabilitation of those who want to leave the enclaves in Bangladesh and cross over to enclaves in West Bengal following the implementation of LBA. They sought a clear-cut policy for their rehabilitation. West Bengal government has already demanded that federal Indian government meets the funds for the rehabilitation and compensation package. Among the members of the standing committee are Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi and Trinamool Congress lawmaker Sugata Bose but neither was present at Tuesday's meeting. Although India and Bangladesh signed the LBA way back in 1974, an additional protocol was inked in September, 2011 during the then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka. The constitution amendment bill could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha last year, when Congress party-led United Progressive Alliance was in power, due to resistance by a number of political parties including BJP, Asom Gana Parishad and Trinamool Congress. It is understood that the Narendra Modi government is now keen to see the passage of the constitution amendment bill in the Rajya Sabha, whose winter session is likely to start in November, before he meets Hasina for the second time in Kathmandu on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in the same month.