



NBR BRINGS E-FILING

The system for online tax returns expected to go live next fiscal year

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GROW UP, FILMMAKERS!

Vidhu Vinod Chopra feels they should watch world cinema to stop making "stupid films"

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MODI MANIA ON

His right-wing ruling party secures strong victories in two key state polls

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Over 200 trips for 'pleasure'

Rajuk sends teams abroad in last 4 years in the name of urbanisation study; Dhaka gets no benefit of their 'knowledge'

TAWFIQUE ALI

While the planned urbanisation of the capital remains in absolute disarray, the Rajuk has arranged some two hundred pleasure trips abroad for its officials since 2010 in the name of urbanisation study tour.

The tours have cost around Tk 10 crore of public money but yielded no visible result. On the contrary, Dhaka has been ranked the worst liveable city in the world every year since 2010.

Four teams, each comprising ten officials on average and mostly including bureaucrats serving on deputation at Rajuk, go to Europe, America or Asian countries annually under the scheme.

Each team visits four cities in two countries in a ten-day period.

The bureaucrats sent regularly on such tours include joint secretaries and deputy

secretaries from the housing ministry and finance division though they have hardly anything to do with town planning.

Rajuk board members, directors of finance and audit, deputy directors of accounts and estate, eight zonal directors, and three executive magistrates also get the privilege, said its administrative officials.

Joint secretaries, deputy secretaries and PWD engineers on deputation hold nearly 35 key Rajuk positions, including the posts of five board members, four directors, five zonal directors, three deputy directors, three executive magistrates, one chief engineer, five superintending engineers and six authorised officials.

The "town planning knowledge" of the officials on deputation is hardly of any use, as they leave Rajuk after a short stint, said a Rajuk official, who went thrice on such tours.

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Families unaware of Thai voyage

Story of 2 victims found to be similar

PORIMOL PALMA

Until yesterday, Nasreen, a housewife in Shankarpur of Sathkira, was unaware that her husband has become a victim of modern-day slave trade.

The husband, Abul Kalam Azad, on September 16 left home in Kalaroa upazila saying he was going to Dhaka for work but never returned.

"My husband is a mason and he used to go to different districts every now and then [to work]," Nasreen said yesterday, adding that, she had not been able to reach him since that day.

She was shocked to find out that Azad, 35, is one of the 134 trafficking victims now staying at an immigration detention centre in Thailand.

Thai authorities rescued the victims last week after they had been confined in a Southern Thailand rubber plantation deep inside the jungle

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DETAINED BANGLADESHIS No hope of release soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladeshi nationals recently rescued from a jungle in Thailand will have to languish in a detention centre there for weeks or even months, before they can come home.

Of the 171 people rescued by Thai authorities in three phases, at least 118 are Bangladeshis, said Bangladesh Embassy officials in Thailand, quoting the victims.

They were all confined by human traffickers in a rubber plantation.

Verification of the Bangladesh nationals will take weeks, officials said.

"The Thai authorities will take one to

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SAARC'S 8 DEVELOPMENT GOALS Dhaka second to Colombo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is the second best performer in achieving the Saarc Development Goals (SDGs) and tops the list of Saarc nations in reducing fertility rate, according to a government report.

Among the members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Sri Lanka has done the best in pursuing six of the goals, says the Bangladesh planning ministry report released yesterday.

The ministry evaluated the performance of Saarc countries in poverty alleviation, health, education and environment in 2011 compared to that in 1990.

At the 2004 Saarc summit, the member states set 22 goals in the four areas with 66 measurable indicators to fight poverty. The ministry,

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Prof Salahuddin passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Professor and renowned historian Salahuddin Ahmed passed away yesterday at the age of 92.

He was laid to eternal rest at Banani Graveyard with state honour after Maghrib prayers. Earlier, his namaz-e-

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The statue of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman at the BNP headquarters in Naya Paltan was damaged by activists agitating over the formation of the new JCD committee yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

JCD trouble intensifies

10 hurt as factions clash over new committee; aggrieved activists bring allegations against two BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aggrieved JCD leaders at a meeting with Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that two BNP leaders had included many in the student body's new central committee in exchange of money.

They categorically brought the allegation against Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee and Sultan Salauddin Tuku, who were assigned by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to form the central committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), sources say.

pro-BNP student body was announced on October 14 through a media release signed by Anee, BNP's student affairs secretary.

Some JCD leaders told The Daily Star that ex-JCD chief Tuku, now assistant student affairs secretary of BNP, had picked a number of his followers for the new committee.

However, both Anee and Tuku trashed the allegations.

Aggrieved JCD men have been demonstrating in front of the BNP headquarters in Naya Paltan since the party announced the committee, which allegedly include at least 40 businessmen. On Saturday, they

locked the JCD office on the 3rd floor of the building.

The agitators postponed their demonstration after Fakhrul at the close-door meeting assured their eight-member delegation that he would raise their demands before Khaleda Zia today.

Emerging from the 20-minute meeting beginning around 5:30pm yesterday, Tariqul Islam Titu, one of the aggrieved leaders, told reporters that Fakhrul assured them of talking to Khaleda this evening about their demands for resignation of Anee and Tuku and forming the new afresh.

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POLICE VS LOCAL ADMINISTRATION Home steps in to resolve conflict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alarmed by an intelligence report of possible disorder and conflict between police and local administrations, the home ministry yesterday instructed the inspector general of police (IGP) and senior secretary of the public administration ministry to take steps in this regard.

The move came a week after the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) expressed fear of disorder in the local administration due to the conflict between superintendent of police (SP) and deputy commissioner (DC) at district

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Muhith praises Yunus for ending default culture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday praised Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus for pioneering a culture free of loan defaults in the microcredit sector.

"Microcredit borrowers in Bangladesh have proved that they are trustworthy, take loans and return loans in time," Muhith said.

"For freeing us from the default culture, I think, the nation is really grateful to Prof

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Tarique sued for calling Bangabandhu 'Pakbandhu'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A sedition case has been filed against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman for calling Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "Pakbandhu" (Friend of Pakistan).

Advocate Moshir Rahman Malek, president of Bangabandhu Foundation, yesterday lodged the lawsuit with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

After hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Asaduzzaman Nur recorded statements of the complainant and ordered

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অভিনন্দন



পোষাক(নীট) রপ্তানীতে অসাধারণ অবদান রাখার জন্য গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক ২০১২-২০১৩ সনের (C.I.P) সিআইপি. নির্বাচিত হওয়ার জন্য ইউনিয়ন ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানি লিঃ এর উদ্যোক্তা পরিচালক ও সম্মানিত ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান

প্রফেসর এমডি,এম, কামালউদ্দিন চৌধুরী-কে জানাচ্ছি আন্তরিক

অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা

ইউনিয়ন ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানি লিঃ এর সকল পরিচালক, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ