



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH President Abdul Hamid swears in Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha as the chief justice at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban yesterday.

Hackers

FROM PAGE 16 warships in the South China Sea. The tweets were subsequently deleted. A tweet from the News Corp-owned Post later noted that "Our Twitter account was briefly hacked and we are investigating." The fake tweets were not just about war. One posted on UPI said "Just in: Bank of America CEO calls for calm: Savings accounts will not be affected by federal reserve decision." UPI later acknowledged it was hacked, and said in a dispatch that "six fake headlines were posted in about 10 minutes." On Twitter, UPI noted that "World War III has not started, thankfully." Several media organizations have had their Twitter feeds hacked over the past two years including Agence France-Presse and the BBC. Also this week the Twitter feed for the Pentagon's Central Command was taken over by a group supporting the Islamic State jihadists. A Pentagon official said the tweet about hostilities with China was "not true."

Green design

FROM PAGE 16 hosted the conference fashioned Engage Dhaka 2015 with the participation of 14 globally-acclaimed historians, theorists, teachers and practitioners of architecture from home and abroad. The green building construction must comply with the regulations of authorities, said Yeang, a pioneer and practitioner of ecology-based design since 1971. Bashirul Haq, a renowned Bangladeshi architect, planner and educator, said, "Nature and culture are the foundation of my design." He is widely known for his ideological environment-responsive architectural style. Architectural design must reflect simplicity, which is an element of beautiful rural Bengal and a part of Bengali culture, he said. A building turns lively if it makes use of natural light and air and embodies local cultural heritage with efforts for urban sustainability, said Haq, who during his 45 years of professional career has designed more than 250 buildings with his signature architectural style. Remaining organic would resolve many of today's problems in the face of environmental pollution and climatic changes, he added. Han Tümerterkin from Turkey, Saif Ul Haque and Farooq Ameen from Bangladesh and renowned historian and critic of architecture William JR Curtis from France also spoke at the concluding session, among others. Students, teachers and practitioners turned up with great enthusiasm for the event. Some other world famous architects who took part in the conference included Fumihiko Maki from Japan, Kenneth Frampton, Rahul Mehrotra from the USA, Kongjian Yu from China, Anupama Kundoo from India, Palinda Kannangara from Sri Lanka and Hector Fernandez Eloorza from Spain. State Minister for Science and Technology Yafes Osman attended the concluding session.

BNP-Jamaat

FROM PAGE 16 Atikul Islam Tutul, president of Shibganj municipality unit AL, alleged that the activists of BNP and Jamaat-Shibir beat Roky to death as Roky's father is an AL leader. However, Monirul Islam, nayeb-ameer of Shibganj upazila unit Jamaat-e-Islami, denied the allegation of involvement of BNP and Jamaat-Shibir men in the murder. Jubaer Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Shibganj Police Station, said police were informed of the matter yesterday. No case was filed in this connection.

The songsmith

FROM PAGE 1 He was 84. These songs, broadcast on Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in 1971, bolstered the nation's resolve for freedom. They indeed served as the biggest source of inspiration for our freedom fighters whenever their spirits sank low due to the loss and brutalities they had endured at the hands of a well-equipped Pakistan occupation force. Halder, who had always kept a low profile, had been suffering from a kidney disease and old age complications. During his visit to India last month, President Abdul Hamid had met him at the hospital and enquired about his health and treatment. "He is one of us. He is a Muktiyoddha, a brave soldier," Hamid told reporters. Learning about his illness, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called him and took the responsibility of taking care of his treatment expenses as his family was struggling to bear the cost. Halder appeared like a saviour when there was a need for new inspirational songs to bolster the confidence of the resisting freedom fighters after the Pakistan army had launched its genocide campaign in March 1971. Mora Ekti Phul Ke Bachabo Bole Juddho Kori was aired on Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in the first week of June. His other masterpiece - Ek Sagor Rokter Binimoye - was written immediately after the war, which, to this day, is regarded as one of the greatest tributes to our martyrs. Halder, who has survived by his wife Parul Halder and daughter Gopa, was later cremated at Neemtola crematorium, reported our New Delhi correspondent. Halder is no more. But his songs will remain in our hearts forever and they will continue to inspire us whenever we as a nation will be beset with turbulent times.

No dev project

FROM PAGE 16 and Bangalees, read the press statement which was presented by CHTC member Swapan Adnan. The statement also pointed out that there were only a few instances of fair and effective investigation into these attacks, which explained why communal attacks on indigenous people continued. Rights activist Sultana Kamal, also co-chairperson of the commission, said the conference was organised so that the mainstream population could know and understand the real condition of the indigenous community in CHT. The commission cited instances of at least 10 communal attacks on hills people over the last five years and 34 instances of violence against indigenous women, which include murder, rape, attempt to rape, abduction and attempt to abduct. In almost all the 34 cases, the perpetrators were Bangalee settlers and in two cases, violence was committed by members of security forces, said Kamal. Barrister Sara Hossain, member of the commission, said freedom of

receive the honour due to his feeble health. His daughter, Gopa Halder, received the award to a standing ovation. According to a book written by Belal Muhammad, there was a rule during the war that no foreigner could write or perform songs for the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. Halder's name was thus removed from the title list. Even after Bangladesh gained independence, his name remained absent from the credit list. "In June 1972 I went to Bangladesh to inform the Bangladesh Betar authorities about my concerns. After a bilateral agreement, they signed me on as an official lyricist and finally my name appeared on the title list of the songs," wrote Halder in an article published in Tarokalok in 1985. In his article, he lamented that even though the Betar made an agreement with him, he didn't get any royalties from the authorities concerned. "They sent me vouchers from 1972 to 1973. I signed them. But despite that, they deprived me of the modest remuneration," he wrote.

Halder was born in India's Bongaon in August 1930. After schooling in Bongaon, he did his graduation and post-graduation in Bangla from Calcutta University. Later, he joined the income tax department and retired in July 1988, said Gopa. Both President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed their profound shock at the death of Govinda Halder. They prayed for the eternal peace of his departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family. Halder, who is survived by his wife Parul Halder and daughter Gopa, was later cremated at Neemtola crematorium, reported our New Delhi correspondent. Halder is no more. But his songs will remain in our hearts forever and they will continue to inspire us whenever we as a nation will be beset with turbulent times.

Canadian orphanage volunteer in Nepal charged with rape

AFP, Kathmandu Nepalese police have charged a Canadian orphanage volunteer with rape for allegedly abusing a nine-year-old boy in a suburb of Kathmandu, an official said Saturday. Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh, 71, arrived in the Himalayan nation on a tourist visa last August and approached the Jesuit-run St Xavier's Social Service Center for homeless children with an offer of donations.

No dev project

speech is a basic right which was curbed in the Rangamati incident as the peaceful protest by the hill students was attacked by the ruling party's student wing. "When indigenous people ask for justice referring to the country's law, they are denied the opportunity and false cases are filed against them instead," she said. "Even those who speak for the indigenous people are attacked," she said, adding how investigation into the attack on CHTC member secretary in last year's July saw no headway. TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman, another member of the commission, said, "The whole situation of the country is moving towards a trend where denying rights of hills people by misusing power and using force has become a political, economical and social culture." The CHT Commission comprises civil society members from home and abroad who look into the civil, political and land rights of the indigenous communities of the three hill districts. It has also been working to implement the 1997 CHT Peace Accord.

SARADHA CASE CBI conducts raids in West Bengal

NDTV ONLINE The CBI yesterday searched nine locations in West Bengal including the office and residences of directors of the Win Realcon chit fund company, an agency official said. "Searches are being conducted at nine locations in West Bengal in the residential as well as official premises of Win Realcon and its directors," a Central Bureau of Investigation official said. Many teams of CBI officers conducted the searches across Barrackpore, Khardaha, Sodepur and Habra in North 24 Parganas district and seized several documents. Win Realcon is one of the several non-Saradha group companies against which the CBI has registered cases while probing the multi-crore-rupee chit fund scam. The case against Win Realcon, on allegations of criminal breach of trust, cheating, criminal conspiracy and violation of Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act, was registered in November last year.

3,000 in Turkey linked to Islamic State: report

AFP, Istanbul Around 3,000 people in Turkey are believed to be linked to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group, a Turkish intelligence report said on Saturday, warning of possible attacks by extremists. The report called for enhanced surveillance of the 3,000 people, including identifying their rank within the extremist group or whether they were active within it, the Hurriyet newspaper reported on Saturday. A "red alert" had also been sent to security units warning of possible attacks on the embassies of Western countries by IS jihadists following last week's deadly Islamist attacks in France, the report said. Security at the diplomatic missions had been increased to the maximum level, the report said, adding that NATO facilities and Western nationals were also potential targets. And it warned of possible bomb attacks "anywhere and anytime" in Turkey by "sleeping cells."

Most of the vehicles stolen in Turkey ended up in the hands of IS jihadists, it said, warning that they could be used in car bomb attacks in the country. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Thursday said up to 700 Turkish nationals had joined the IS. He added that Turkey had barred entry to around 7,250 people from abroad who were planning to join IS and said 1,160 would-be jihadists were also deported. Turkey has long been accused of not doing enough to stem the flow of jihadists seeking to join the IS group which has captured large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq. The Turkish government said on Monday that Hayat Boumediene, the wanted partner of one of the gunmen involved in last week's Paris attacks, crossed into Syria via Turkey days before the assaults, amid reports that she may have joined IS.

Cold wave

FROM PAGE 16 "So, there were light rains, but the weather will clear out by Sunday," the official said. According to BMD, minimum temperature in Dhaka yesterday was 16.5 degree Celsius and the national lowest was 11 degree Celsius in Rajshahi division. The lowest temperature during this winter was 7.2 in Ishwardi, but the country as a whole has not seen any cold-wave as such, the BMD official said.

No talks

FROM PAGE 16 Presided over by Mahfuza Khanom, the seminar was also addressed by Shirin Akhter, MP, Jatiya Nari Jote President Afroza Huq Rina, former Adviser to the caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury, Nazmunnesa Mahtab, Prof Kaberi Gayen, among others. He also extended his support to the recent statement of the director general of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on shooting the anarchist, saying, it does not violate human rights in anyway. "The director general of the BGB did not say anything about shooting the innocent people but to open fire just to ensure security and safety of the people and in self defence. For securing self-defence, BGB man does not need to make any prior announcement. When his life is coming under threat, he does not need to sit for discussion with anybody. Shooting in self-defence is fully legal. It does not violate law or human rights," said Mizanur.

Gunmen seize Yemen leader's chief of staff

AFP, Sanaa Gunmen yesterday seized Yemeni President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi's chief of staff, whose nomination as prime minister last year was rejected by Shiite militiamen controlling the capital, an official said. The Huthi militia, who overran Sanaa last September, are suspected of being behind the abduction of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, the official added. "An armed group set up a checkpoint in Hada," a southern district of Sanaa, and "captured Mubarak with his companions," the official from the national dialogue secretariat told AFP. Mubarak is secretary general of the national dialogue set up to oversee the political transition following the 2012 resignation of veteran president Ali Abdullah Saleh after a bloody year-long uprising. He was "driven away to an unknown location," the official said, adding that the abductors "are suspected of being Huthi militiamen". Yemen has been dogged by instability since Saleh's ouster, with the Huthis and Al-Qaeda seeking to fill the power vacuum. Mubarak, a southerner, was one of the representatives in the dialogue of the Southern Movement, which seeks autonomy or secession for the formerly independent south. Hadi named him as prime minister in October, but Mubarak turned down the job following strong opposition from the Huthis and from Saleh's General People's Congress party. The Huthis are widely believed to be backed by Saleh. The UN Security Council in November slapped sanctions -- including a visa ban and asset freeze -- on Saleh and two rebel commanders for threatening peace. Mubarak's abduction comes a day after one of two Huthis Hadi appointed as presidential advisers late last year announced he was quitting because his advice had been spurned. "I had done all I could in recent months to try to achieve reconciliation between the (Huthi) rebels, and the presidency and government, Saleh al-Sammad wote on his Facebook page on Friday. "I tried offering the president and the government advice on the need to reassure the rebels by taking measures

Two die of bird flu in China

AFP, Beijing Two people have died of the H7N9 strain of avian flu in China's eastern province of Fujian, state media said yesterday, quoting local health officials. Fujian has confirmed 15 cases since the start of 2015, Xinhua news agency reported. It did not say when the two patients died. Another human infection was reported in the adjacent province of Jiangxi on Friday, Xinhua said, while both the municipality of Shanghai and neighbouring Zhejiang province have reported cases "this winter". Cases of the virus accelerated in China in 2014, with statistics compiled by health authorities in Beijing showing 310 cases were diagnosed on the mainland from January until December 10, including 132 deaths. Another death was recorded on December 29.

Violent demos

FROM PAGE 16 "Our biggest advantage, major, is that our Muslim populations -- they feel themselves to be Americans," Obama told a joint press conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron. "There are parts of Europe in which that's not the case. And that's probably the greatest danger that Europe faces... it's important for Europe not to simply respond with a hammer and law enforcement and military approaches to these problems." Europe has struggled with integrating its Muslim immigrants and recent elections have pushed calls for stricter controls on Muslim immigration and more policing of their communities into the continent's political mainstream. In 2010, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose country has a large Turkish Muslim population, was one of the first European politicians to broach the subject, saying German multiculturalism had "utterly failed." In his first reaction to the violence, which also erupted in Pakistan on Friday, President Francois Hollande stressed yesterday that France was committed to "freedom of expression."

They're talking

FROM PAGE 1 At the same programme, Rab boss Benazir Ahmed had said the next election would be held as per schedule (in 2019) and people would exercise their right to vote. BGB Director General Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed on Thursday had said the paramilitary force deployed to maintain law and order would use "lethal weapons" if the force or the people came under attack. Signed by BNP Vice-Chairman Selima Rahman, the statement of the alliance said, "Extremely partisan people have been posted at the top-most level of law enforcement agencies and they barely follow their jurisdiction and service rules." It said the IGP and the Rab DG had made statements like politicians at Mithapukur. "They threatened people and the opposition and warned them of dire consequences for waging movement against the government. They even commented on when the next election will be held." The statement said the BGB chief had threatened supporters of the anti-government movement the same way. "Such instances are unimaginable in a civilised, independent and democratic country." The alliance deplors such audacious and biased behaviour of the government employees, it said. It asked officials of law enforcement, who have the desire for undue benefits and are ambitious, to quit their jobs and join politics. It said officials under them were not obliged to follow their illegal orders and instructions. "You [law enforcers] will remain beside the people against the real criminals and will discharge your duties lawfully." Mentioning the seven murders of last year in Narayanganj allegedly by Rab members, the statement said instead of restoring the force's image, the new Rab DG has made himself controversial. The alliance welcomed the UN Human Rights Commission's statement issued on Friday that called on the government to make sure that its measures taken to restore law and order were in line with the international human rights law, including respect for the freedom of peaceful assembly, movement and speech. The alliance expressed doubt whether the "non-representative government" and the partisan state organs, including law enforcement agencies, would be able to carry out neutral and effective investigation into the ongoing violence.