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## Erosion hits Padma bridge site at Mawa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Around 80 square metre land of the Padma bridge construction yard was eroded by strong currents in the Padma at Kumarbhog of Munshiganj yesterday. The erosion damaged two jetties and some construction equipment.

It was the second incident of erosion at the bridge construction site in the last four days. The erosion was caused by strong currents and rising water levels in the river, said officials of the Padma bridge project.

Over 10,000 square metre land on the river bank has been wiped out since Sunday night. Two out of three jetties of the project have been damaged. Those were used for transporting construction materials from the shore to the mid river and beyond.

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Large portions of two jetties at Padma bridge construction yard are eroded, left, and construction materials devoured, bottom right, by strong currents. Workers, top right, were seen trying to stop the erosion by putting sandbags on the banks, but to little use. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Section 57 of ICT Act challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act which has come under severe criticism recently.

Zakir Hossain, an accused of a case filed under this section with the cyber crimes tribunal in Dhaka, submitted the petition urging the HC to declare the section unconstitutional.

According to the section, SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## 153 drugs found substandard

Drug admin tested 4,846 samples in 7 months; actions taken against manufacturers, marketers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 153 drugs were found substandard between January and July and in most cases manufacturers were unregistered companies, the Directorate General of Drug Administration yesterday said.

Of the sub-standard drugs, 43 had already been marketed and the rest were awaiting registration, said Ruhul Amin, director of the drug regulatory authority, at a press conference at its auditorium in the capital.

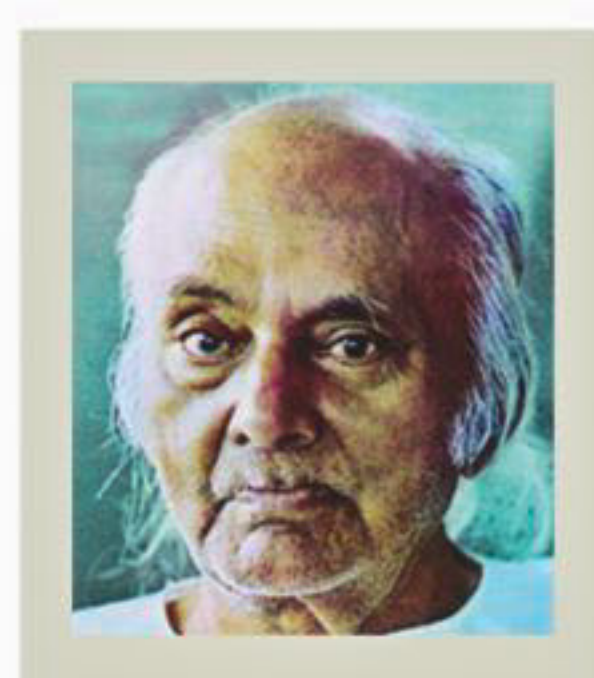
Drug Testing Laboratory tested 4,846 samples of medicines during the period,

and based on the results the authority sealed 10 companies.

Besides, it has filed cases against 499 drug manufacturers and marketers and realised Tk 54.71 lakh as fines. Twenty people were sent to jail for involvement in manufacturing and marketing sub-standard, counterfeit, unregistered, misbranded, spurious and date-expired drugs across the country, Ruhul said.

Maj Gen Md Mostafizur Rahman, director general of the drug administration, refused to name the companies responsible

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## Nazrul's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 39th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed today.

Composer and lyricist of about 4000 songs, which are collectively known as Nazrul Geeti, Nazrul's literary talent was also evident in his poems, essays and novels.

Known as the Rebel Poet, Nazrul was born on May 24, 1899 or 11th Jaishthya, 1306 in Churulia village under Asansol of Burdwan in India's West Bengal. He breathed his last in Dhaka on August 29, 1976 or 12th Bhadro, 1383.

In his childhood, Nazrul joined a folk opera group

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### PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 27

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00  
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 'It amounts to conspiracy'

Inu hits back at AL leaders for accusing JSD of creating grounds for Aug 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Huq Inu yesterday hit back at Awami League leaders for accusing his party of creating the grounds for Bangabandhu's killing in 1975, saying the allegation was tantamount to conspiracy.

He said many leaders of the AL, now a coalition partner of the JSD, had joined the government of Khandaker Moshtaque, who became the president after the August 15 bloodbath.

"No JSD leader had joined hands with Moshtaque. Nor did they join his cabinet. But many Awami League leaders ... joined the Moshtaque cabinet," Inu, who also holds the

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## Watch what you write online

Warns Mohsin Ali, raps journos again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali yesterday warned against writing "whatever one wants" on the social media and online platforms.

"These days people's images are being severely tarnished through writing whatever one wants on Facebook and other online media," he said at a meeting with district-level government officials at the Circuit House auditorium in Narsingdi.

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A man rides a motorcycle past the wreckage of a bus burnt during clashes between police and protesters in Ahmedabad, India yesterday. A curfew was imposed and paramilitary forces were deployed in the western state of Gujarat after violence broke out at a protest by a powerful clan to demand more government facilities.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Black holes: A passage to another universe?

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Humans could escape from black holes, rather than getting stuck in them, according to a new theory proposed by Stephen Hawking.

Unfortunate space travellers won't be able to return to their own universe, according to Hawking. But they will be able to escape somewhere else, he has proposed at a conference in Stockholm.

Black holes in fact aren't as "black" as

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## Bar Council polls held peacefully

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election to Bangladesh Bar Council, the licencing and regulatory body for lawyers, was held yesterday in a peaceful and festive manner across the country.

Some lawyers however failed to cast their votes at the polls centres of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Dhaka Bar Association for not carrying relevant photo identity cards.

The lawyers were supposed to show their national ID cards or passports to the election

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## VIOLENCE OVER CASTE STATUS

# Army called in as 6 killed in Gujarat

THE HINDU ONLINE

Six people have been killed, five in police firing, in the violence across India's Gujarat sparked off by the Patel community's agitation demanding other backward class (OBC) status. The Army has now been called in to control the situation.

The violence kicked off on Tuesday night following the arrest of Hardik Patel, who is spearheading the campaign. A bandh has been declared across Gujarat yesterday. Hardik Patel was released later.

A few areas in Ahmedabad, Surat, Mehsana, Visnagar, and Unjha are under curfew, while in other places paramilitary forces have been deployed to ensure law and order situation in the State. In north Gujarat

mobs set fire to the offices of a minister and two MLAs. Two bank ATMs have also been set on fire.

Internet services have been suspended in Ahmedabad.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed for peace yesterday after the mass rally in his home state turned violent. "I appeal to all brothers and sisters of Gujarat that they should not resort to violence," Modi said in a statement.

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel earlier briefed Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who agreed to provide additional companies of paramilitary forces to take the control of the situation. Meanwhile, Gujarat's Leader of the

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**Book Launching Ceremony**

Professor Rehman Sobhan's latest book "From Two Economies to Two Nations: My Journey to Bangladesh" is being published by Daily Star—BOOKS—

Launching ceremony of the book will be held on Saturday 29th August, 2015 at 3.30 pm.

Venue: Daily Star Center (3rd floor), 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Dhaka 1215

Distinguished discussants will be: Dr. Kamal Hossain, Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Professor Rounaq Jahan, Mr. Rashed Khan Menon MP, Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Ms. Sultana Kamal and Professor M M Akash.

\*The Programme is open to all.