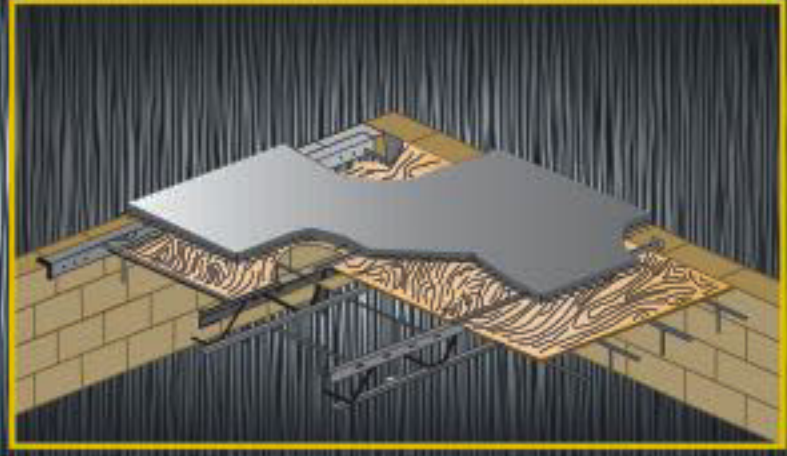


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**Teesta talks in progress quietly**

*Says Indian envoy*  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian envoy Pankaj Saran yesterday said there has been progress over long-pending Teesta issue behind the scene, indicating conclusion of the water sharing deal soon.

"I think it's better to work quietly behind the scene rather than advertising the progress," he said in a country lecture, adding "Teesta will also happen soon like the settlement of Land Boundary Agreement between our two countries."

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) arranged the lecture styled "Recent Developments in Bangladesh-India Bilateral Relations and Its Prospects"

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**THE FORLORN BRIDGE**

This bridge over Amsara canal in Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon stands useless for the last 28 years, as its approach roads were washed away by floodwater in 1987. Due to this, several thousand people of 10 to 12 villages in the upazila have to travel some 19km more to go to Dinajpur.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



**Turnbull topples Abbott**

AFP, Sydney

Australian conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott was dramatically ousted yesterday in a snap party vote forced by challenger Malcolm Turnbull, a millionaire former banker who will become the nation's new leader.

Abbott, who came to power in a decisive general election victory in 2013, was forced into a leadership ballot among his Liberal Party colleagues after Turnbull said the coalition government faced defeat without change at the top.

"I will be a candidate and I expect to win," Abbott said ahead of the ballot, before losing 44 to 54.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, who had reportedly sided with Turnbull to call on Abbott to quit earlier in the day, retained her position as

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**LOWERING GIRLS' MARRIAGE AGE**  
**Study disproves govt's reasoning**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) study has revealed that 5.79 percent of girls under 18 have love marriages with parental consent while 1.5 percent elope or engage in premarital relations.

This low rate contradicts the government's stance that the excessive number of

premarital relationships calls for lowering girls' marriageable age to 16.

As per the current Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, the minimum marriageable age for girls is 18 years. According to data of a 2009 Unicef report, 66 percent of girls get married before 18.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 5

**TCB to start open sale of onion at Tk 50**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) will start selling onions today at a subsidised rate of Tk 50 per kg across the country in efforts to bring down the price of the essential cooking ingredient ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, says a press release.

The state-run agency made the move at a time when the onion price rose 22 percent higher to Tk 60-80 each kilogram

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**Mymensingh to become division**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday gave final clearance for declaring Mymensingh as the country's eighth administrative division.

The decision came at a meeting of the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reforms (Nicar), with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Earlier on January 26, the cabinet approved a proposal to set up the new division which will consist of four districts -- Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Netrakona.

Tangail and Kishoreganj, two other districts of greater Mymensingh, were

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A rickshaw overloaded with empty plastic and tin cans plies in close proximity to other rickshaws on a busy road in the capital's Mirpur area, running the risk of accident anytime. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

**Taliban free 355 in major jailbreak**

*Storm Afghan prison in military uniform*

AFP, Ghazni

Taliban insurgents in military uniform stormed an Afghan prison yesterday, freeing hundreds of inmates after detonating a car bomb and killing four policemen in the country's largest jailbreak in years.

The brazen raid in the eastern city of Ghazni comes as the Taliban ramp up attacks on government and foreign targets despite being embroiled in a bitter leadership transition.

The interior ministry said 355 of the prison's 436 inmates escaped. Most were Taliban and other militants.

"Around 2:30 am six Taliban insurgents wearing military uniforms attacked Ghazni prison. First they detonated a car bomb in front of the gate, fired an RPG (rocket-

propelled grenade) and then raided the prison," deputy provincial governor Mohammad Ali Ahmadi told AFP.

Ahmadi said the raid came hours after inmates protested at government moves to shift up to 20 Taliban prisoners to Kabul -- a possible indication that the jailbreak was coordinated.

He added that daggers and knives carved out of furniture pieces were found on some of the inmates.

The Taliban, who launched a country-wide summer offensive in late April, claimed responsibility for the raid.

"This successful operation was carried out at 2:00 am and continued for several hours. The jail was under Taliban control," spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement.

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**Bring back Harris with Interpol help**

*Asma Kibria urges govt*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asma Kibria, wife of slain Awami League leader SAMS Kibria, yesterday urged the government to bring back BNP leader Harris Chowdhury with the assistance of Interpol and have charges framed against him in his presence.

She expressed disappointment that charges against Harris have been framed in absentia in Kibria murder case.

Talking to The Daily Star, Asma also called upon the government to find "two masterminds" behind the grisly assassination of the former finance minister, also a top intellectual and a high profile diplomat.

"There were two masterminds behind the killing. One was the planner and the other was the financier of grenades [used in the assassination]. We want to know about them," she said.

She asked why the then Habiganj deputy commissioner Emdadul Haque's name

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**The jobs robots will steal first**

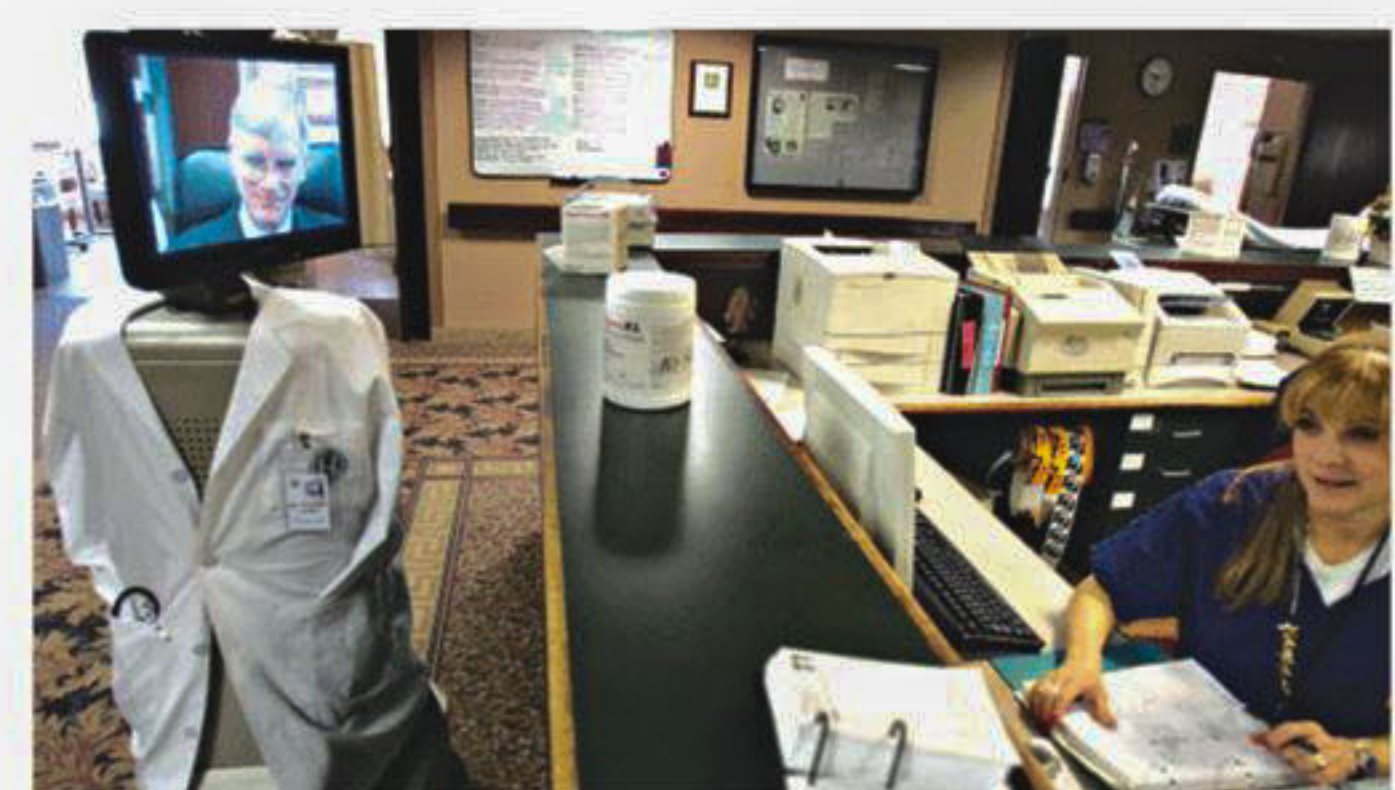
INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have created a huge, in-depth analysis of what jobs are under threat from robots — with salesmen, chefs and even models all in the firing line.

Researchers have assembled a full list of all the things that robots are good and bad at, and so what jobs they are likely to take. In all, about 35 percent of jobs are likely to have been taken on by robots in the next 20 years, the researchers said.

Some professions — such as therapists, personal trainers and

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The Daily Star Brings back **in Pixel** Star Photo Contest

Theme: Rain  
Submission: Sep 15-28



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The Daily Star

**ORION** FOOTWEAR

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with some educationists that imposing VAT on education is not rational and morally justified?

Yes (79%)  
No (21%)

TOTAL VOTES: 159

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that public university teachers' demand for a separate pay scale is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 15

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-09 7-45

JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-12 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION