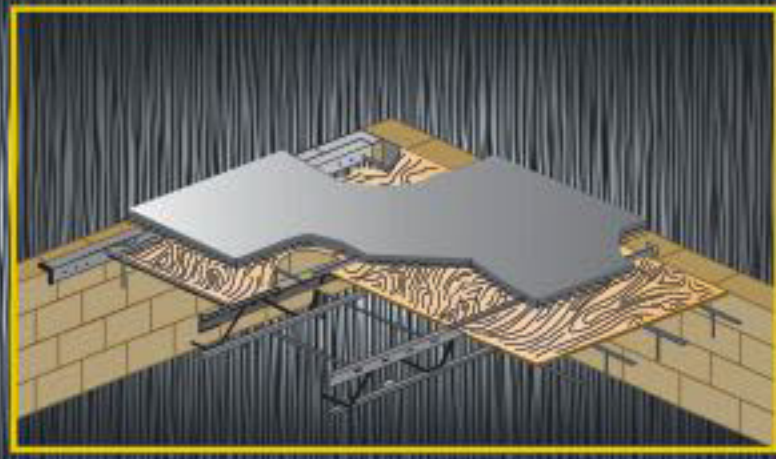


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Star to salute
ICT heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star in association with BASIS yesterday announced ICT awards, an annual event to recognise star performers in information and communication technology in an effort to inspire the promising sector.

Brac Bank and Microsoft Bangladesh also joined the initiative as partners.

Bangladesh is now ready to create a revolution in the ICT sector, said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, at a press conference organised at The Daily Star Centre to announce the awards.

Terming the ICT sector an unrecognised diamond, Anam said: "That's why we are introducing this award. We want to present the ICT heroes nationally -- with an iconic position."

He also urged the media to put the spotlight on the sector's revolutionary personalities and activities.

"If Bangalore in neighbouring India can transform itself as the next centre of ICT after the US's Silicon Valley, then why can't Dhaka?" he said.

The awards will be given on January 16 at Le Méridien Dhaka, the hospitality partner of the initiative.

TiE, a non-profit organisation dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship, is also a partner of the event, which aims to recognise individuals and organisations that are actively contributing to the prime minister's Digital Bangladesh campaign.

The Daily Star



SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

MEET THE PRESS

November 16, 2015; The Daily Star Centre



The Daily Star, in association with Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), Microsoft Bangladesh and Brac Bank, has launched the first edition of "The Daily Star ICT Awards". From left, Ashwani Nayar, general manager of Le Méridien Dhaka; Shameem Ahsan, president of BASIS; Sonia Bashir Kabir, managing director of Microsoft Bangladesh; and Selim RF Hussain, managing director of Brac Bank at the launching ceremony at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

PM's remarks
frustrate
some foreign
diplomats

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In the aftermath of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's November 8 press conference in which she indirectly accused some western countries of plotting against Bangladesh, several friendly countries have expressed their frustration over her remarks.

Several diplomats in Dhaka expressed their "serious disappointment" over the prime minister's remarks and said she almost openly and clearly pointed at the West, a few countries in particular.

Excepting one diplomat of an influential Asian country, others believe that the threat of terrorists and ongoing potential for extremist violence in Bangladesh are true and reliable.

Some of the countries, both Western and Asian, have also expressed disappointment at the prime minister's remarks and said

PROF ANISUZZAMAN
Cops identify
man who
sent threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The person who sent a death threat to Professor Anisuzzaman was identified, the police chief said yesterday.

In a text message sent on Nov 10, Anisuzzaman was threatened with death.

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque said police had tracked down the user of the mobile phone but investigators found him innocent.

"The user said someone might have cloned his phone number and sent threats to the professor. The investigators found his claim true," the IGP said addressing a programme to distribute financial assistance to the families of 14 dead policemen at the police headquarters.

"We have identified the person who is actually responsible for the threat, but we are yet to arrest

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

A hospital with
scanty facilities

Located in isolated haor area in Kishoreganj, the hospital plagued with lack of medical equipment

PINAKI ROY

It's a hospital with 31 beds but most of them remain empty all year round. Its only X-ray machine doesn't work. There's no radiologist or pathologist at the hospital to conduct any diagnosis test.

This is the picture of Ina Upazila Health Complex in Kishoreganj, the only hospital in the 401.94 square kilometer area inhabited by a population of over 1.6 lakh.

"Our only X-ray machine does not work. Also, there's no technician to operate the machine," said Dr Israil Hussain, senior physician of the hospital.

Patients have to go to the district headquarter to get any test of X-ray done, he said.

"We have an ECG machine but we cannot operate that. So, cardiac patients have to go straight to Kishoreganj district hospital if they need immediate care."

"We do not get any serious patients here. They are usually taken to Kishoreganj hospital," Dr Israil added.

Unless compelled to, people seeking treatment for serious diseases try to avoid the hospital.

Even if someone wants to go there, they find it hard to reach the hospital due to a shockingly poor communication infrastructure.

The haor area remains under water for about six months a year, boats are the only means of communication during that time. And in the dry season, people have to walk over miles of lowlands for hours to reach the nearest road.

If a pregnant woman faces delivery complications, she has to be taken to

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

DU BIJOY EKATTOR HALL
Where stay to be
10 times costlier
than other halls

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

The Bijoy Ekattor Hall of Dhaka University is going to be no match for other dormitories with regard to its annual charge.

The authorities of the DU's newest hall have asked the students to pay Tk 3,600 each in annual fees, 10 times higher the charges in eight other dormitories.

They cited high operational cost as the only reason for the hefty annual fee, much to the anger of the students.

Inaugurated in November, 2013, the hall authorities started taking in students in 2014-15 academic year. At that time, each student paid around Tk 5,000, including annual charge, said hall sources.

On November 9, the authorities put up a notice at the dormitory saying that each student has to pay Tk 3,600 in annual charge by December 10 to renew their identity cards. Failure in paying the fee would result in automatic cancellation of their seat allotment, it added.

However, hall Provost Prof A J M Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan last night told The Daily Star that they decided to reduce the fees to Tk 3,300 from Tk 3,600. The amount will be payable in three instalments, he added.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Town pays people
to cycle to work

BBC ONLINE

An Italian town will pay people hundreds of euros per year if they cycle to work instead of using their cars.

The council in Massarosa, just north of Pisa, says the pilot scheme will see cyclists paid 25 cents per kilometre travelled, up to a monthly cap of 50 euros (£35). That means commuters who switch to two wheels could pocket up to 600 euros (£424) in a year. It's said to be the first such scheme in Italy.

Fifty workers will be included in the 12-month pilot, which will use a smartphone app to record the distance travelled each day. The scheme is being funded from fines collected from traffic tickets in the town, which by law has to be reinvested in road safety, the site points out.

"The Bike to Work scheme will offer incentives to citizens to ensure the area becomes more liveable," says local councillor Stefano Natali, adding that it will naturally mean less traffic on the

s t r e e t s ,

JRC meeting
'very soon'OUR CORRESPONDENT,
New Delhi

Seeking to give a fresh push to reach a deal on sharing of the Teesta and other common rivers, Indian Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti will travel to Dhaka "very soon" for attending the Joint River Commission meeting (JRC).

This was stated by visiting Bangladesh Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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TIMING

NOVEMBER 17

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5:05	12:45	3:45	5:21	7:00
JAMAAT	5:40	1:15	4:00	5:24	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Socceroos
in Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

The Socceroos are now in Dhaka to play their World Cup qualifier against Bangladesh. The team landed in the capital yesterday night at around 8:30pm. The much-anticipated match for football fans in this part of the world will kick off at 5:30pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The Australian football team, which had their plea to play the Bangladesh game at a neutral venue due to 'security concern' overruled by the games governing body FIFA, trimmed their Bangladesh trip to as little as possible.

The Socceroos flew in the city from Singapore, where they were based for training for a few days, last night and skipped the vital training session at the match venue. The Socceroos, who stayed at Westin Hotel in Gulshan last night, are scheduled to leave Dhaka on completion of the game.

Australia had won their

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



The Australian football team get off the team bus at the entrance of the Westin hotel where they will be staying the night ahead of their 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Bangladesh due to take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

PHOTO:
FIROZ AHMED

MEETINGS WITH INDIA

Dhaka wants
militant info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would request the sharing of information on militants and cooperation in tackling militancy when the secretaries of Bangladesh and India sit today in Dhaka.

"Although the militancy issue is not on the agenda, we will raise it," Senior Secretary to the Home Ministry Mozammel Haque Khan told The Daily Star last night.

The two neighbouring countries have already been sharing information on militants and cooperating particularly after Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) carried out an explosion at a Burdwan house on October 2, 2014, that killed two people.

The two-day home secretary-level meeting started at a city hotel yesterday and on the first day the joint working group of Bangladesh and India discussed several issues.

Mozammel and his Indian counterpart Rajiv Mehrishi are scheduled to sit today and sign "joint minutes of agreements", a source said.

Exchange of prisoners, border killings, human trafficking, drugs smuggling, problems over the recently abolished enclaves and other border-related issues are on the agenda.

Yesterday, India raised the issues of the influx of fake Indian currency, cattle smuggling, and illegal infiltration and sought Dhaka's cooperation to completely stop these, while Bangladesh strongly spoke for the end to border killings.

Asked about deportation of top criminals, the Bangladesh home secretary said they had been seeking the handover of the criminals for a long time.

"Now with the handover of Ulfa leader Anup Chetia to India and bringing back of Nur Hossain, we have been

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6