

PROUD TO BE THE CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

BE SAFE  **BSRM**
the ultimate steel

SHAH CEMENT

HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT
in Bangladesh **now for 12 years**

[f /shahcementbd](https://www.facebook.com/shahcementbd) | www.shahcement.com

Diversify products to increase export

PM tells entrepreneurs, opens Dhaka Int'l Trade Fair

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the business entrepreneurs to come up with innovative ideas, knowledge and qualitative strategy to diversify their products in line with global demand.

"Bangladesh needs to expand its trade and business across the world to survive in the global community keeping its head high," she told the inaugural ceremony of the month-long Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF)-2016 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The commerce ministry and Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau have been jointly organising the fair for 21 consecutive years.

The PM said the DITF is now recognised as a centre of international trade and commerce. It has given Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and business bodies an opportunity to connect themselves with the world business community, and also prove their capacity in the fields of productivity, trade and commerce.

Urging the producers to take special care about the standard of products, branding and productivity, Hasina said it would be easier and beneficial for the country if it could export goods under its own brand.

Stressing the need for promotion of the country's traditional agro-based economy, the premier said agro-products are in huge demand abroad. "So, we should find out new markets for traditional and non-traditional agricultural commodities."

She asserted that her government was not in power to do business as it is an affair of businesspeople. The government would do its best to create and ensure a congenial environment for business, she pledged.

Hasina said local workers should be skilled and knowledge-oriented in order to strengthen the capacity to survive and overcome various barriers.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with other dignitaries after inaugurating the Dhaka International Trade Fair 2016 in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday.

AL to discipline 23 rebel-backer MPs

Decides fate of 55 grassroots leaders on Jan 9

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League has listed more than twenty of its lawmakers who will have to face disciplinary action for backing rebel candidates in Wednesday's municipality elections, say party insiders.

AL dissidents came out winners in 19 municipalities and the party found that 10 of its MPs directly patronised 11 of those winners.

Besides, another 13 MPs backed the rebels who couldn't secure victory but caused defeat of AL-nominated candidates or made the party's victory hard-earned.

AL President Sheikh Hasina, at a Gono Bhaban meeting with leaders who supervised the party's electioneering, said those MPs would not get party tickets in next parliamentary polls, according to insiders.

"Those who were against boat [election symbol of AL] don't deserve boat. The party will not consider nominating the MPs for the next national polls," an AL central leader, who was present at the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



'Helpless, shocked'

Polls officials narrate how ballot-stuffing took place

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

"Less than an hour after the voting began, some seven to eight ruling party men stormed the booth I was assigned to. Identifying themselves as Chhatra League and Jubo League activists, they tried to take the ballots away from me."

"When I protested, they told me, 'Do not create any scene. You do your job and let us do ours.' It was clear from their attitude that they would go to any length to do what they wanted."

"Helpless and shocked, I sought help from the law enforcers there, but to no avail. They then stamped on several ballot papers, stuffed them in the ballot boxes and left the scene."

This is how an election official described his experience at a polling station in Shailakupa municipality of Jhenidah during Wednesday's election there.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Terror threat, fires hit New Year celebrations

Railway stations evacuated in Moscow; Germany lifts alert of Munich attack

AGENCIES

Millions of people around the world have welcomed in the year 2016 on high security alert, with train stations in Germany evacuated over an "imminent threat" and fire-works cancelled in Paris and Brussels, while huge fires ripped through a Dubai hotel and destroyed 1,000 homes in the Philippines.

Only hours before the New Year celebration in Germany, police shut down two main train stations in the city of Munich after receiving "very concrete information" from the intelligence service of a friendly country that the Islamic State militants had planned to carry out "suicide attacks" in the southern city on New Year's Eve.

"I think this was the right decision because I believe that we cannot take risks regarding such concrete threats about concrete places and concrete times," Bavaria Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann told a news conference yesterday.

The two train stations later reopened after the authorities lifted terror alert, reports Al Jazeera.

Munich police chief Hubertus Andrae

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Tourists from different parts of the country fly colourful kites and release balloons in celebration of the New Year on the Cox's Bazar sea beach yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Sujan was a key figure in IS's cyber war

MIRROR ONLINE

Siful Haque Sujan, the Bangladeshi national killed in a recent US drone strike in Syria, became a key figure in the terror group's cyber war against Western spy agencies.

The Pentagon described Sujan, a businessman from Cardiff who became one of ISIS' top hackers, as a senior ISIS leader who had been killed as part of a drone campaign to defeat the militants "striking at the head of the snake".

Sujan's death on December 10 in ISIS stronghold Raqqa in Syria came less than 18 months after he left his home in Cardiff.

Arriving in the UK in 2003, he first studied at the University of Glamorgan,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

CURBING AIR POLLUTION New Delhi begins car rationing

BBC ONLINE

Authorities in the Indian capital, Delhi, have launched major restrictions on private cars to curb alarming levels of pollution.

Private cars with even and odd number plates are being allowed on alternate days from yesterday in an initial two-week trial.

Emergency vehicles like ambulances, police cars, fire engines and taxis have been exempted

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Two sisters 'raped' in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two sisters have allegedly been gang-raped together in Noanai union of Noakhali Sadar upazila.

They are around 18 and 16 years old. The younger one is a class-VI student at a local school.

Police have arrested one of the alleged rapists, Sumon, 22, at his village, Ramkrishnapur, in the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Malaysian hospitals eye Bangladeshi patients

PORIMOL PALMA, back from Kuala Lumpur

Inspired by a steady rise in the number of Bangladeshis seeking healthcare in Malaysia, the Southeast Asian nation is eyeing Bangladesh as a lucrative market for its internationally accredited hospitals.

The number of such patients from Bangladesh going to Malaysia doubled to around 20,000 in 2015 over the last five years.

"We are expecting annually 25,000 to 30,000 patients [from Bangladesh] in the next two years," Kavitha Mathuvay, regional director of market development at the

Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC), told a team of journalists during their visit to Kuala Lumpur from December 7 to December 10.

Most of these patients seek treatment for cardiac and orthopaedic problems, according to the MHTC, an agency working under the Malaysian health ministry to promote medical tourism.

Several lakh Bangladeshis travel overseas for treatment every year, but most of them visit India, Singapore, and Thailand.

MHTC officials said they want to get a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
সোশ্যাল ইসলামিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 2

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-30 7-00
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bangladesh Army University of Science & Technology (BAUST)
Saidpur Cantonment, Saidpur.
SPONSORED BY BANGLADESH ARMY
Approved by Govt. and UGC

ADMISSION 2016

Admission Test: 25 February 2016

Programs:

- B.Sc in Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE)
- B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)
- B.Sc in Mechanical Engineering (ME)
- B.Sc in Industrial and Production Engineering (IPE)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

• Adequate laboratory facilities. • Experienced faculty members.
• International standard curricula. • Secured and serene environment.

Detail information at www.baust.edu.bd

Contact Details: 01769675551, 01769675552
01769675553, 01769675554
admission@baust.edu.bd

Last date for Application form collection and submission: 18 February 2016