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MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER



Big hike in salaries of high-ups

Rajuk plot, flat for MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The House last night unanimously passed three bills for almost doubling the remuneration and privileges for the Speaker, ministers and MPs.

On top of that, the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha has taken up a residential project where MPs of the current parliament, who do not have any plot or flat in the capital, would have reserved plots or flats for them.

Law Minister Anisul Haq placed "Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2016" and "Member of Parliament (Remuneration and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2016" before the House yesterday while Agricultural Minister Matia Chowdhury moved the bill "The Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2016".

All three bills were passed by voice votes.

The bills proposed increasing the monthly salary of the Speaker to Tk 1,12,000 from the existing Tk 57,200; for the deputy speaker and ministers to Tk 1,05,000 from Tk 53,100; for state ministers to Tk 92,000 from Tk 47,800; and for deputy ministers to Tk 86,500 from Tk 45,150.

One bill proposed raising the MPs' monthly remuneration to Tk 55,000 from the existing Tk 27,500.

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The bin is missing; only the stand that holds it is there near the underpass of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital yesterday. This was one of the hanging bins, like the one in the inset, set up by the city corporation authorities just a few days ago. The renewed efforts by the authorities to keep the city clean will yield hardly any results if these bins remain unprotected.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

BROADCAST POLICY Officials of info ministry change draft

The draft committee unaware of the changes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The draft of the Broadcast Act-2016 could not be finalised yesterday, as officials of the information ministry added a new section to the draft, saying the issuance of broadcast licence will require the government approval.

The section was not in the original draft that suggested giving the authority to issue the licence to the proposed Broadcasting Commission.

A meeting between the ministry and different stakeholders was held at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) to discuss stakeholders' opinions on the draft after it was put on the ministry's website on April 20.

The draft was supposed to be finalised yesterday for sending it to the cabinet for approval.

Prof AJM Shaiful Alam

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Changes only after talks with journos

Press Council chairman on proposed amendment to law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Press Council Chairman Justice Md Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed yesterday categorically said no changes would be brought to the Press Council Act if journalists opposed.

He made the comment at a seminar jointly organised by Kagoj Kolom, a weekly newspaper, and Abasan News, an online portal, at the Jatiya Press Club. The programme was organised to mark the World Press Freedom Day, which was on May 3.

The council has taken a move to amend its current laws. It has proposed to include a provision of suspending the publication of any newspaper for one to three days if it does not follow the directives of the council.

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8 killed as truck, auto collide

Five of a family including two kids among the dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Ten-year-old Kakoli Akhtar was stunned and absolutely silent after she was told that her entire family had been wiped out in a road crash in Mymensingh yesterday.

"She is not talking ...," said Ziaur Rahman, Kakoli's uncle. Her father Kajal Fakir, 35, was taking her mother Shirina Akhtar, 30, to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital to see a doctor. Shirina had jaundice.

With them were their four-year-old son Tuhin and six-year-old son Tahsin and Shirina's brother Ujjol Miah, 22.

They all died when the CNG-run auto-rickshaw they were travelling in was involved in a head-on collision with a truck on Mymensingh-Netrakona road.

Passenger Ashraf Islam, 28, another unidentified passenger and auto-rickshaw driver Saidul Islam, 35, also lost their lives.

"All eight people were crushed to death on the spot when the truck heading for Netrakona collided head on with the CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 11:45am at Gachhtola area in Mymensingh," said Mohammad Ali Sheikh, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Mymensingh Police Station.

Kajal, an auto-rickshaw driver in the capital, went to his village home a few days ago to harvest paddy, said Ziaur, his cousin.

Second-grader Kakoli is now the only living member of the family and relatives can't find ways to console her.

She was left behind on the trip because she had school. Ziaur blamed reckless driving for the tragedy.

Talking to this correspondent, transport leaders and workers, however,

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Govt decides to conserve Bogra palace

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Amid protests by different cultural organisations, the government has decided to conserve Bogra's historic Nawab Palace, which was sold to a group of local businessmen last month.

Bogra Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Uddin yesterday received a letter from the cultural affairs ministry asking the local administration to take necessary steps in this regard.

The DC said the district administration would take measures as per the ministry directive.

The news went viral in the social media and was celebrated across the town with heritage enthusiasts distributing sweets among the people.

The palace has the merit to be considered a heritage site and should be protected under the Antiquities Act, 1968, said the cultural affairs ministry letter signed by its Senior Assistant Secretary Saniya Akhtar.

The ministry would soon issue a gazette notification, dictating ways of preserving the heritage site, a source in the DC office said.

The 150-year-old Nawab palace was

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World running out of rice?



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The world is expected to suffer a major rice shortage after global production was hit by extreme weather patterns - potentially fuelling an international price crisis.

Hot weather and droughts brought on by the El Nino system continue to affect production in India, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam, where 60% of the world's rice is grown.

Grain stocks in those countries are forecast to plummet to 19 million tons by the end of the year, down from a peak of 43 million tons in 2013.

Dr Samarendu Mohanty from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) told The Independent: "There is no doubt that the supply situation is very tight, and this will inevitably cause a spiral in demand."

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Rangpur girl suffers burns as stalkers throw acid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A madrasa girl suffered severe burns as stalkers threw acid at her when she was studying in her room in the district's Methapukur upazila on Wednesday night.

The victim, Dipa Rubaiya Ritu, 15, the daughter of Dulu Sarker of Gopinathpur village, is a class-X student of Bhandabari Dakhil Madrasa in the upazila.

She was first taken to

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 6

	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-20	12-30	4-45	6-29	8-00
JAMAAT	4-55	1-15	5-00	6-34	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Rolling Stones tell Trump to stop using their music

BBC ONLINE

The Rolling Stones have told Donald Trump to stop playing their songs during his presidential campaign.

The band have issued a statement saying that the US presidential candidate does not have permission to use the band's music.

"The Rolling Stones have never given permission to the Trump campaign to use their songs and have requested that they cease all use immediately."

The candidate has been playing their songs at his rallies for months.

Their 1969 hit You Can't Always Get What You Want has been a particular favourite.

The band are not the first to protest at the reality TV star and businessman -- now the Republican front-runner -- using their music during his campaign.

In February, Adele issued a statement distancing

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Locals call it *Pakhbari* or the House of Nest. Emdadul Haque has created a sanctuary for birds by planting a lot of trees at his house by the road of Sylhet-Companigonj road in Sylhet Sadar upazila. It has now been more than a decade that birds, including herons, egrets and cormorants, take shelter at his house in Chhhalia area from May to October every year.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

HISTORIC INDO-BANGLA LAND SWAP At 103, Indian man votes in first polls

AFP, Cooch Behar

Frail, aided by his grandson and beaming with pride, 103-year-old Asgar Ali was among thousands who cast their ballots for the first time in elections held in eastern India yesterday.

Caught in one of the world's most intractable border disputes, Ali had been stuck in stateless limbo for decades until a historic land swap last year between India and Bangladesh.

Ali, his 18-strong family and thousands of others became Indian citizens under the deal in which their Bangladeshi enclaves on the Indian side of the border ceased to exist.

Yesterday, they voted for the first time, in the final phase of assembly elections in West Bengal state, which have been dominated by feisty Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her regional party.

"I am very happy to have voted," Ali told AFP through

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PHOTO: AFP

Asgar Ali, centre, aged 103, is helped by his grandson Jamal Ali after casting his vote at a polling station in Cooch Behar district yesterday.