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Promotion for prestige

Most of the officials will do the same job even after promotion

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The latest round of promotion in the civil administration will hardly bring any dynamism in bureaucracy as most of the promoted officials will do the same work but with additional perks, according to top admin officials.

For the newly promoted 85 additional secretaries, the government will have to spend an additional over Tk 17 lakh a month from July. They were promoted from the post of joint secretary on Thursday.

The government will have to deal with the frustration of several hundred officials who were not considered for promotion, sources in secretariat said.

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder said promotions without additional responsibilities are meaningless. "It can't be the goal of the public administration ministry. Promotions from the deputy secretary rank should be given following a strict process of evaluation," he told The Daily Star.

He questioned why the government would have to spend additional money if the promoted officers remained in situ. Such a decision contradicts with the government's own policy, he pointed out.

He feared that as the top tier of the civil administration has become quite heavy for a long time now, it might cause a disaster for the government anytime.

A newly promoted official of the road transport ministry said, "This is an honour for us. We'll get additional salaries and allowances, but we'll have to do the same work as all the posts of additional secretaries are already occupied."

The official used to draw a monthly salary of Tk 82,000,

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Bags of aman rice are weighed and loaded on trucks at the wholesale market at Meghnaghat of Ashuganj in Kishoreganj. Farmers from nearby districts bring their produce here to sell to rice millers. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MYANMAR BORDER 3 mortar shells recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday recovered three unexploded mortar shells from a place near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Bandarban's Thanchi upazila.

Col Habibur Rahman, Bandarban BGB sector commander, said one of their patrol teams found the shells in a remote hill

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80 killed so far by lightning this year

Rising temperature behind increase in lightning storms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 80 people have been killed so far by lightning this year, according to the department of disaster management.

In the last two days alone, around 50 people lost their lives after being struck by lightning in different parts of the country.

"It is unusual that so many people were killed by lightning strikes in just a couple of days," Abdul Mannan, an official at the meteorological department, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The rising temperature could be one of the main reasons behind the increase in lightning storms, said the meteorologist.

More lightning storms are expected throughout this month, the Met Office said.

Experts, however, couldn't say for sure whether the rise in lightning storms is related to climate change.

Dr Samarendra Karmakar, former director at the meteorological department, said it would require extensive research to find any links between the frequency of thunderstorms and climate change.

"In Bangladesh, lightning storms occur mostly in the afternoon in May when the temperature is high.

People should exercise caution and stay in safe places during this time, said Samarendra.

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Recent attacks denounced by majority of Bangladeshis

Says US official

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States says the recent spate of attacks in Bangladesh has been denounced by the overwhelming majority of Bangladeshis.

"...we're troubled by the recent spate of extremist attacks in Bangladesh. We're confident, however, that these attacks do not represent the views of and are rejected by the overwhelming majority of Bangladeshis," a US State Department spokesperson said on Thursday.

Elizabeth Trudeau, director of press office of the department, was speaking at a daily press briefing in Washington DC.

Replying to questions on Bangladesh, she said the attacks were being carried out by a small group of

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CHECKING HUSBAND'S PHONE Saudi women face flogging, jail



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Women in Saudi Arabia face flogging and imprisonment if they check their husband's phone without his permission, a government official has warned.

The offence would be prosecuted as a violation of privacy because it is not covered in the country's Islamic laws, senior lawyer Mohammad al-Temyat has said.

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35 infected with anthrax

Reports come from Sirajganj; there is nothing to panic, says IEDCR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 35 people have been infected with anthrax in Sirajganj in the last couple of weeks, according to health officials in the district.

Twenty of the affected people are from Jamtoli village in Kamarkhand upazila while the rest are inhabitants of Kojjuri village in Shahjadpur upazila.

People coming in contact with the meat of anthrax-infected animals were getting the bacterial disease, Eman Ali, senior health education officer in Sirajganj, told The Daily Star.

Two specialised medical teams from the district civil surgeon's office were working to provide treatment to the affected people in their areas.

"The patients are being cured," said Enam, who is

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00

JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A house at Barisal Baptist Mission Church colony. Land grabbers attacked poor families of the Christian community in the area yesterday to evict them, leaving at least seven people injured. Bottom, cops were posted in the area to stop any further incidents.

PHOTO: STAR

Seven injured over land grabbing bid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The hired goons of a real estate company allegedly injured some seven people during an attempt to grab the land of an ultra-poor community of Baptist Christians in Barisal yesterday.

At least 25 families of Baptist Christians, mostly carpenters and labourers, live in a colony on the 2.53-acre land by Baptist Mission

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Army gets along with Suu Kyi govt

Says commander-in-chief of Myanmar military

REUTERS, Naypyitaw

The commander-in-chief of Myanmar's military said yesterday the army was carrying out its duty under the leadership of the newly elected civilian government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, aiming to assuage worry over tension between them.

Relations between the armed forces and Suu Kyi will define the success of Myanmar's emergence from decades of isolation and military rule that began when the army seized power in 1962.

"We don't have any reason to reject the leadership of the elected civilian government," said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a rare news conference at the military headquarters on the outskirts of the capital, Naypyitaw.

The army is the single most powerful institution in the Southeast Asian country. It ruled directly for nearly 50 years then, in 2011, handed over to a government led by retired officers which organised an election in November last year.

Suu Kyi's party won by a landslide after years of opposition to military rule.

A government controlled by Suu Kyi took over in April after a transition dominated by discussion over the army-drafted constitution, which bars Suu Kyi from the presidency.

The military maintains a significant political role with control of three security ministries. It also holds a quarter of

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