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Work together for women's development

PM urges int'l community

UNB/BSS, Sofia, Bulgaria

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the global community to work together to create a safer environment for women and girls alongside empowering them as agents of social transformation.

"And to achieve that, we need sincere commitments and strong leadership," she told the inaugural function of the Global Women Leaders' Forum at Bulgaria's National Art Gallery as the keynote speaker.

"Let's today renew our commitment to make this world a better place for all; a better place for women, where we can live with dignity, free from all fear. Join me in saying: We Can Do It!" Hasina said.

Referring to the adoption of a transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in New York last year, she said the new development agenda gave a strong emphasis on gender equality and empowerment of women.

Expressing her strong commitment to establish gender equality in Bangladesh, Hasina said, "I'm committed to breaking all barriers to achieve equality of men and women."

She mentioned that one of the major steps taken by her government was to formulate and implement an ambitious and groundbreaking National Women Development Policy, which guarantees equal opportunity for women.

"In this policy, we've given highest priority to education



With no protection whatsoever, a man dozes off on the roof of a running bus, oblivious to the risk of falling off the roof anytime. He may meet a terrible tragedy if the bus slams on the brakes suddenly. The photo was taken in the capital's Bashabo area on Tuesday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Govt to appoint 28,000 primary panel teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has decided to appoint 28,000 candidates waiting on a panel as assistant teachers of registered primary schools.

The ministry yesterday sent a letter to the Directorate of Primary Education asking it to appoint the candidates in vacant posts, ministry sources told The Daily Star.

Copies of the letter would be sent to deputy commissioners and district primary education officers, the sources said, adding that the decision would be implemented soon.

The ministry in April 2010 had issued a circular for the recruitment of assistant teachers to the then registered non-government primary schools, the sources said.

Tests for the recruitment were held in 2012 and a total of 42,611 candidates finally came out successful. A panel was formed to appoint the candidates and around 14,000 were appointed at different times.

But further appointment

INSULTING REMARKS ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

NGOs may face tough action

JS body proposes incorporating new provision in law on foreign donations

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended incorporating a provision in a bill aimed at taking actions against any non-government organisation (NGO) for "insulting or deregulatory remarks" on constitutional bodies.

Actions will include stopping activities of the NGO identified to be punished.

The parliamentary standing committee on law came up with such recommendations while scrutinising the bill, Foreign Donations Regulation (Amendment) Act, at a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, committee chief Suranjit Sengupta told reporters at a briefing.

He, however, did not make clear as to who would determine whether insulting and derogatory remarks were made and how.

The parliamentary watchdog made the

recommendations, addressing the demand put forward by a number of treasury and opposition bench MPs late last year that actions be taken against Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) for "derogatory" remarks on lawmakers and parliament.

The anti-graft watchdog in a study on October 25 last year pointed out a "low-level of participation" of MPs in lawmaking, question-answer sessions and discussions on important issues in the current parliament.

The TIB also called the Jatiya Party "so-called opposition" in parliament and said it was rather working as "B-team of the government".

Replying to a query, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman at the time termed the present parliament a stage of puppet show.

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CELLPHONE THEFT

Man beaten to death over allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was beaten to death allegedly by some staffers of a drinking water supplying factory for "stealing a mobile phone set" in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong early yesterday.

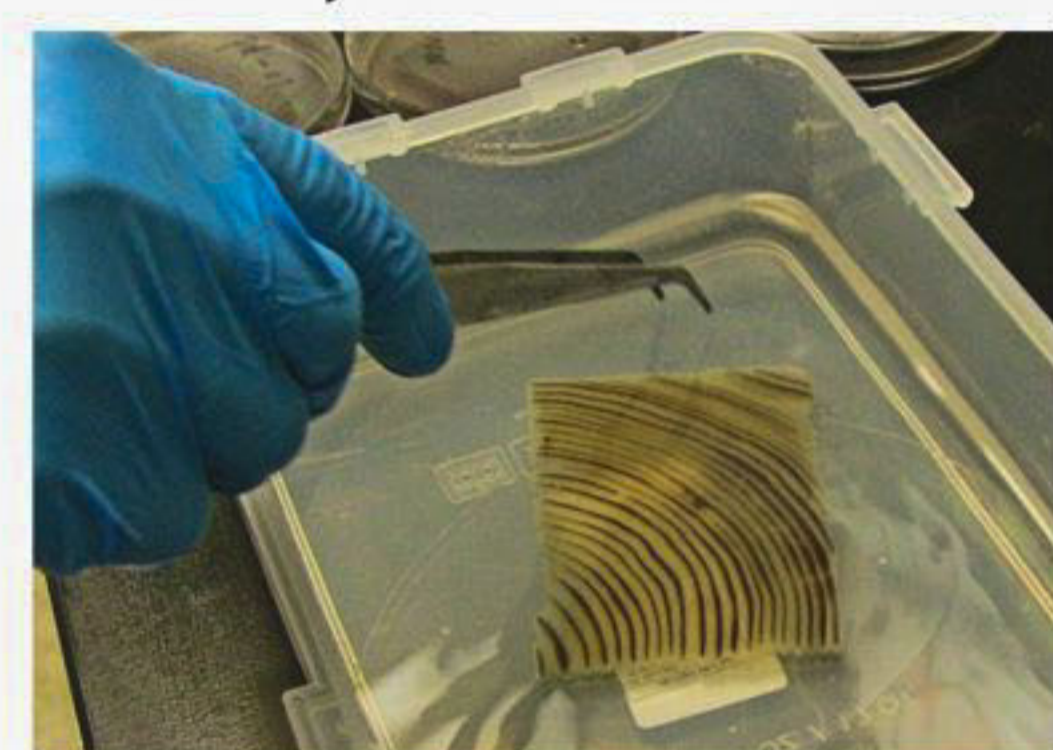
The dead, Abdul Malek, 35, was the son of Siddikur Rahman of Haziganj upazila in Chandpur, police said.

Quoting locals, Iftekher Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station, said one Azam along with some employees of the factory dragged out Malek of his rented house at Shitalpur around 12:30am after a mobile phone went missing from the factory.

Locals found the body of Malek on a road in the morning and informed the police.

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Scientists create transparent wood



MAIL ONLINE

Researchers have unveiled a radical new way to use wood by making it transparent.

They say the breakthrough could lead to new materials for windows, and is even strong enough to use in cars. The team behind the chemical treatment also say it could be used to build advanced solar panels.

"It can be used in automobiles when the wood is made both transparent and high strength," said Dr Mingwei Zhu, the co-first author of the paper, a visiting professor at the University of Maryland. "You could also use it as a unique building material."

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RAPE OF TEACHER

Nahid orders investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday asked the deputy commissioner of Kushtia to investigate the incident of a teacher being raped allegedly by the headmaster of her school.

Citing the report published in The Daily Star on May 17 in this regard, he also instructed Deputy Commissioner Sayed Belal Hossain to take stern action against whoever is found

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 19

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



SUSPICIOUS WITHDRAWAL

Chinese man held with ATM cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Chinese national was detained yesterday at an ATM booth in the capital's Kataban on suspicion of his involvement in a card scam.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officials who detained the Chinese suspected that he was part of an international syndicate of ATM card fraudsters.

The name of the detainee is Zou Jianhui, 38, according to his passport. He was taking out money from an automated teller machine (ATM) of Prime Bank Limited using several

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MASS PROTESTS

Sri Lanka to shelve coal power plant

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka will cancel plans for a 500 megawatt Indian-built coal-fired power plant at its strategic eastern port city of Trincomalee and will instead opt for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plant, a cabinet minister said late on Tuesday.

Chandima Weerakkody, Sri Lanka's petroleum minister, said President Maithripala Sirisena told Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the decision at a meeting on Saturday during Sirisena's visit to the island nation's larger neighbour.

"We do not want to hurt India. So President Sirisena in his visit has offered an LNG plant instead of the coal plant," Weerakkody told Reuters. "This has been discussed at the highest level and there is consensus."

Sri Lanka is trying to increase its power generation capacity after a recent blackout that was the worst in 20 years, government officials say.

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Cargo vessels carrying fuel, coal and fertilisers lie stranded near Paturia and Daulatdia ferry ghats for the last couple of days due to poor navigability in the Jamuna river. The vessels are supposed to go to the northern districts. The photo was taken on Tuesday. PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

Jamuna losing navigability

Dozens of cargo vessels stranded near Paturia, Daulatdia ferry ghats

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Around 50 laden cargo vessels heading towards the northern region have been stranded near Paturia and Daulatdia ferry ghats for the last couple of days due to poor navigability in the Jamuna river.

It is feared the current Boro cultivation in 16 northern districts might be disrupted as the cargo vessels ferry, among other goods, fuel, coal and fertilisers.

During a visit to the areas on Tuesday, around 30 cargo vessels were found anchored at Mandrakola, three kilometres off the Paturia ghat in Shibhalaya upazila of Manikganj. Around 20 other vessels were anchored near the Daulatdia ghat under Goalanda upazila in Rajbari.

The stranded vessels were heading to the northern districts from Dhaka, Narayanganj and Chittagong, said the crewmembers.

They added movement of cargo vessels have been hampered for the last three weeks due to poor navigability at 10-12 points on a 25-kilometre-long route between Paturia-Daulatdia point and Baghabari Oil Depot in Sirajganj.

The vessels need 10-12-foot-deep waterway, but the points with poor navigability are only seven to eight feet deep.

The companies are counting loss as they are forced to transport their goods to their destinations with small engine boats, the crewmembers added.

Ruhul Amin, an official of Deshbandhu Company, said five cargo vessels of his company were forced to anchor at Mandrakola. He added they had to count additional Tk 2 lakh for unloading the goods and chartering small boats.

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