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Driven by love for orphans

Woman devotes herself to raising 55 kids

ABDUL WAHED, KURIGRAM

One may derive inspiration for good deeds from different sources, but for Bilkis Banu, a foster mother of 55 orphans, it came from a dream in which she saw Mother Teresa.

Recalling how she started the privately-run orphanage, Golap Kha Shishu Sadan in Kurigram's Nageshwari upazila, 42-year-old Bilkis told The Daily Star an intriguing story.

"In the late 90s, I used to look after five orphans in my house located not far from the present Shishu Sadan. I also did some social work like giving free tuition in Bangla and social science to poor children in my neighbourhood," she said.

"On a winter day in 1999, on the 27th of Ramadan, a mentally challenged Hindu woman named Jharna came to my house with a baby girl," said Bilkis, recalling how Jharna had given birth to the child one and a half years ago on the porch of a shop in Nageshwari Bazar.

"She could hardly take care of her daughter. She never cleaned her or gave bath to her. The baby used to sleep with her mother almost everywhere, even with the dogs sometimes," Bilkis said.

"One day I asked Jharna for the child and she gave her to me. I named her Pritilata."

The night Bilkis took Pritilata into her lap she had a vision in her dreams. She saw none other than Mother Teresa, the Roman Catholic missionary who dedicated her



CHANGE MAKERS
Bilkis Banu among children during a cultural programme on her orphanage compound in Kurigram's Nageshwari. Fifty-five boys and girls of different ages get free accommodation, food and education there, thanks to this 42-year-old philanthropist. The photo was taken last month.

Power plants asked to step up security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has instructed the authorities to enhance security at power plants across the country in the wake of twin terrorist attacks, officials said yesterday.

The order came at a meeting of the state-run companies tied to electricity generation, supply, transmission and distribution at the energy, power and mineral resources ministry at the secretariat.

An assessment was done there of the existing security arrangements at the power plants and substations, said Mohammad Hossain, director general of Power Cell of the ministry.

And then instructions were given to strengthen security measures, he added.

Security measures have already been beefed up at state-run power stations and substations following the terror attacks at Holey

TIB report baseless: DIP

The watchdog stands by its findings on the passport sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP) yesterday dismissed as baseless a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report that claimed the passport sector had been found to be the most corrupt sector.

However, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman told The Daily Star that they stood by their findings as the report was prepared

Lower courts to get 215 new judges

Move on to fill vacant posts, ease case backlog

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The process for recruiting 215 new lower courts judges is underway to fill vacant posts and ease the massive case backlog.

Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC) has already picked 100 candidates through holding tests and initiated the process of selecting another 115 for the posts of lower court judges.

The commission nominated 100 candidates and around four months ago recommended the law ministry appoint them, BJSC Secretary Paresh Chandra Sharma told The Daily Star on May 27.

A preliminary test was held on May 20 for

Ask Jamaat to apologise for its 1971 role

Pro-BNP professionals, intellectuals advise BNP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP professionals and intellectuals last night advised BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to ask the Jamaat-e-Islami to apologise to the nation for opposing Bangladesh's independence and the crimes it committed in 1971.

At a view-exchange meeting with Khaleda, they

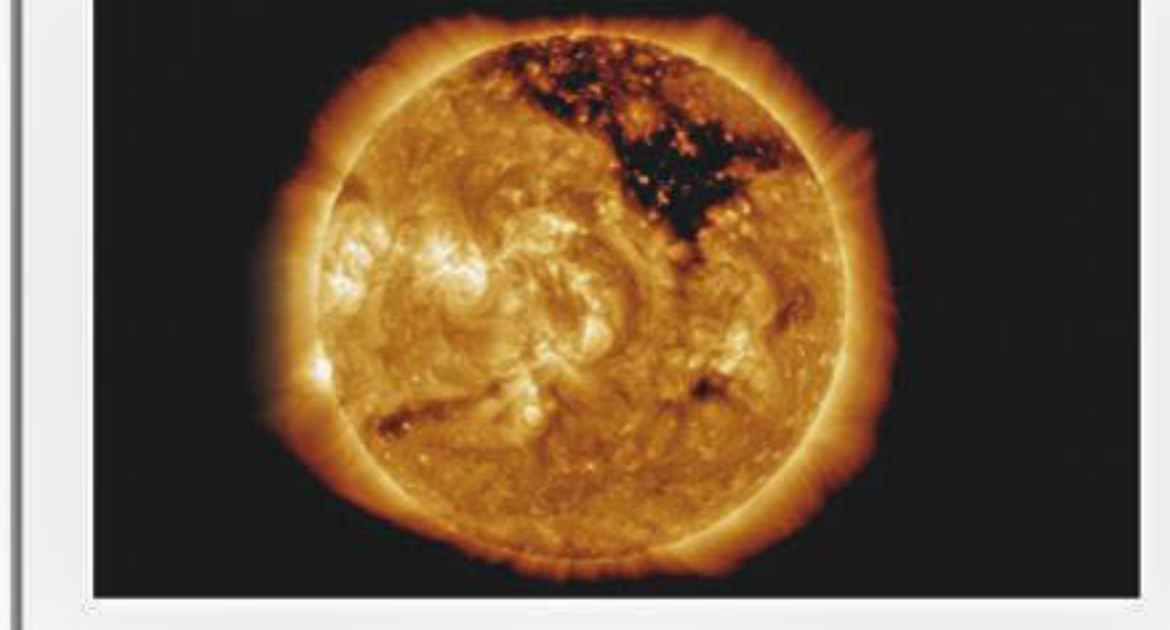
There's a hole in the sun!

MAIL ONLINE

An enormous black hole has been spotted in the sun - but do not fear, it doesn't spell the end of our solar system.

Instead, the giant dark spot is a gap in the sun's

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



Manpower export won't be affected

Says minister about terror attack fallout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent two deadly terror attacks, which drew international communities' attention towards Bangladesh, will not hurt the country's manpower export to different countries, claimed Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam yesterday.

"Our people have goodwill abroad. They are very hard-working. All countries

NATURE QUEST

Spoon-billed Sandpiper on Sonadia Island in Cox's Bazar. This attractive little bird is hurtling towards extinction. It has a very small population and that too is rapidly declining. The main threat to its survival is habitat loss, which is compounded by hunting and the effects of climate change.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

2 'JMB men' detained in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab claimed to have detained two members of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) along with a pistol and nine crude bombs from the capital's Uttara early yesterday.

They are Kamruzzaman alias Sagar, 24, of Jessore, and Rashed Gazi alias Rashed, 22, of Satkhira.

IS boasts killing '5,200 people' in Ramadan

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The so-called Islamic State group has bragged about murdering and maiming a total of 5,200 people in "military operations" during the holy month of Ramadan.

In an infographic in the jihadists' weekly magazine, al-Naba, IS lists 14 different terrorist attacks the group carried out in Europe, the US, Asia, Africa, Syria and Iraq.

The thousands include 49 people killed in an attack at a gay club in Orlando, Florida, in June, and 22 hacked to death in Dhaka, Bangladesh, at the beginning of July.

SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING JULY 15

| | | | | | |
|--------|------|-------|---------|------|------|
| Fazr | Juma | Asr | Maghrib | Esha | |
| AZAN | 4-10 | 12-30 | 5-00 | 6-55 | 8-17 |
| JAMAAT | 4-45 | 1-15 | 5-15 | 7-00 | 8-45 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Detailed Engineering Assessment
সম্পাদনের জন্য Consultant ফার্ম তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Readymade Garments সেক্টরে National Initiative এর আওতায় ভবনের **Structural Integrity** নিশ্চিতকরণের নিমিত্তে কারখানা ভবনের **Detailed Engineering Assessment** সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে Consultant ফার্মের তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

- ২। অগ্রাধী **Engineering Consultant** ফার্মের নিম্নলিখিত যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবেঃ
 - সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ফার্মের ন্যূনতম ০৩ (তিন) বছরের পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
 - ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ফার্মে ০২ (দুই) জন অভিজ্ঞ প্রকৌশলী আবশ্যিক (০২ জন স্ট্রাকচারাল অথবা ০১ জন স্ট্রাকচারাল ও ০১ জন জিও টেকনিক্যাল) যাদের উভয়ের পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতার সমষ্টি ১৫ বছরের কম হবে না এবং এদের কারোরই ব্যক্তিগত পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতা ০৫ বছরের কম হবে না।
 - বিগত ০২ বছরে ন্যূনতম ০৩টি গার্মেন্টস কারখানায় DEA সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
 - ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ফার্মের ফেরোক্যানার এবং কোর কাটার যন্ত্রপাতি থাকতে হবে।
 - ফার্মে রাজউক/চট্টগ্রাম উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (DMINB) এর নিবন্ধিত ন্যূনতম ০১ জন প্রকৌশলী থাকতে হবে।
- ৩। **আবেদনপত্রের সংশ্লিষ্ট নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্র সংযোজন করতে হবে।**
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 - ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালকের নাম ও ঠিকানা
 - ট্রেড লাইসেন্স
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 - ফার্মে নিয়োজিত প্রকৌশলীগণের প্রোফাইল ও সনদ
 - ফার্মসমূহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র
 - DEA সম্পাদন করেছে ফার্মে প্রাপ্ত কমপ্লিশন সার্টিফিকেট
 - ফার্মে কর্মরত জনবলের তালিকা
 - ফার্মে ব্যবহৃত টুলস এর তালিকা
 - DEA সম্পাদিত কারখানার ভবনের নাম ও ঠিকানা সম্বলিত তালিকা
- ৪। অগ্রাধী **Engineering Consultant** ফার্ম আগামী ০৭ আগস্ট, ২০১৬ পর্যন্ত নির্ধারিত ফরমে মহাপরিদর্শক, কলকারখানা ও প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিদর্শন অধিদপ্তর বরাবরে আবেদন করতে পারবে।
- ৫। যারা ইতিমধ্যে তালিকাভুক্ত হয়েছেন তাদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

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