



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



STYLE

REMITTANCE SLIDE

It tumbled 22.68 percent year-on-year in Sept

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THE WAIT IS OVER?

Arundhati Roy to publish her second novel next year

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Critical area at a stake

Nearly 150 industrial units springing up within 10kms of Sundarbans

PINAKI ROY

The ecologically critical area of the Sundarbans is becoming an industrial zone with the permission of the Department of Environment and the government has done nothing to stop it so far.

In the last three years, 150 industrial units of different kinds were set up in the government demarcated ecologically critical area (ECA) within 10 kilometres of the Sundarbans in Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira districts.

Powerful people are snapping up lands within the ECA to set up industries posing additional threats to the unique mangrove forest.

The department of environment gave site clearance to some of these industrial plots.

The government declared 10 kilometres from the Sundarbans as Ecologically Critical Area in January last year.

"We gave permissions to three industries within the ECA area, but we did not renew their licenses since then," said Dr Mallick Anwar Hossain, director of the department of environment at Khulna.

"All industrial units have to take permission from the department of environment to get electricity connections. But all units are not harmful to the Sundarbans," said Hossain. But those permissions were given before the ECA area was declared.

When asked about the new industrial plots sprouting up

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With the government going ahead with the Rampal Power Plant Project, numerous industrial and housing projects, like the one in the photo, are sprouting in and around the ecologically critical area of the Sundarbans. Farmlands and homesteads there are being turned into commercial and industrial zones, which may pose threat to the unique mangrove forest.

PHOTO: STAR

WB secretly funds Asian 'coal boom'

Says a group

AFP, Washington

The World Bank is indirectly financing a boom in some of Asia's dirtiest coal-fired power generation despite commitments to end most funding for the sector, a development advocacy group charged yesterday.

The power plants, which contribute to climate change and deforestation as well as premature deaths due to illness, are cropping up from Bangladesh to the Philippines, all with financing provided by financial intermediaries supported by the Bank, said a report produced by the organization Inclusive Development International.

In a policy shift in 2013, the Bank said it would end virtually all support for the creation of coal-burning power plants, supporting them only in "rare circumstances" where there are no viable alternatives.

However, since that pledge, 41 coal projects have

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Tahmid didn't cooperate in probe

Police claim, saying his link to Gulshan attack not found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tahmid Hasib Khan, a Gulshan café attack survivor, was allowed to return to his family as the siege ended the next day, according to a police petition submitted to a Dhaka court.

He had promised to come back to the officials of DMP's Counter Terrorism and

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Should innocent too suffer?

Tahmid treated badly by investigators, media

INAM AHMED

We will never be able to feel his pain and trauma. We will never know his helpless nights in the dungeon of the jailhouse. Because even the strongest empathy will fail the experience.

A young man just on the verge of stepping into the world as he prepared to go to Nepal for an internship at Unicef was suddenly hauled up on a suspicion most shameful for any innocent.

It's more painful that there was no exact charge against him for the last three months. All this while for two months he languished in prison. And before landing in jail, nobody knew of his whereabouts after he was picked up by detectives. He remained traceless for that one month.

And now finally Tahmid Hasib Khan, a student of a Canadian university who landed in Dhaka just a day before the bloody Gulshan café militant attack, has been freed on bail as police found no evidence of his involvement in the mayhem in which 22 people mostly foreigners died.

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TOP QUOTE

"Many developing countries in the world can learn important lessons from Bangladesh to reduce extreme poverty and to promote sustainable development."

WORLD BANK PRESIDENT JIM YONG KIM ON BANGLADESH'S SUCCESS IN REDUCING EXTREME POVERTY

AL embarks on a lavish council

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League is planning a grand triennial council at the Suhrawardy Udyan with an estimated cost of Tk 10 crore.

Shaped like a boat, the party's electoral symbol, a 25-foot stage with a seating capacity of 120 would be made for Tk 90 lakh. It would look like it is floating on water from a distance.

There would be 35-foot tall LED screens as background of the stage.

The 20th triennial council of the party is scheduled to be on October 22-23 with an estimated cost of over Tk 10 crore, said party insiders. The party slogan for the event is: "We are marching down the development highway, now is the time for Bangladesh to stand tall."

They said AL President Sheikh Hasina has warned party men that no fund raising in the name of council would be tolerated. The sub-committees formed for the council will manage the fund and she will pay for the any fund shortfall, they said.

Sources said the party president during her weekly cabinet meeting had mentioned that the AL would meet all costs of the council from its own funds. They said the AL has around Tk 21 crore in three banks.

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- Estimated cost Tk 10 crore
- Tk 90 lakh set aside for stage alone
- Tk 2 crore set aside for food
- Fairy light decoration of public places across the country
- Political party reps of over 50 countries to be invited



Pope likely to visit Bangladesh next year

AFP, Aboard The Papal Plane

Pope Francis announced on Sunday he would "almost certainly" visit India and Bangladesh in 2017, as he wrapped up a three-day tour in the Caucasus and headed home to Rome.

Asked on board the papal plane what his plans for the coming year were, the Argentine pope confirmed he would join the big annual pilgrimage to Fatima in Portugal next year.

According to Catholic tradition, the Virgin Mary appeared to three young shepherds six times over the course of the year 1917, the first time on May 13. The sanctuary will mark the centenary of the

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An Election Commission staff scanning the iris of a voter at a temporary camp set up at Siddheswari Girls' College in the capital. Below, some jubilant voters showing their smart national ID cards outside the camp. Distribution of the cards with biometric details began yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, AMRAN HOSSAIN

How to get smart NID card?

PANKAG KARMAKAR

The newly introduced smart national identity (NID) card will put an end to forgery as it has 25 security features.

The machine-readable card will have 32 types of basic information of a citizen embedded in its microchip, said Election Commission officials.

Currently, NID cards are required for availing at least 22 types of services, including passport, banking, driving licence, trade licence and share trading. In future, it would be required for getting many more services.

EC Secretary Sirazul Islam said, "Many perpetrators of crimes forged the existing NID cards and we could not prevent it. But forging the smart NID cards would be almost impossible."

Anyone will be able to verify some basic information

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Three militant siblings surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Three siblings, who were members of banned militant outfit Hizb-ut Tahrir, surrendered to Jessore police yesterday.

"Realising their mistake", they went to Jessore Police Station around noon, Deputy Inspector General Monir-uz-Zaman of Khulna Range told reporters at the press briefing held in this connection.

Tanjib Ashraf, Tanjir Ahmed, and their sister Masuma Akhter were arrested in connection with militancy last year but were released on bail.

They then jumped bail. Jessore police released a list of 11 fugitive militants on September 6. Names of six people of their family, including these three, were on the list.

Tanjib told the press that he used to hang out at tea stalls of Dharmatola in the town when he was a student of Botany at Jessore Government City College in 2014.

There, he got introduced to Hizb-ut Tahrir leader Sajal who gave him various books and leaflets on religious issues to read.

He gradually got involved in the organisation and later convinced his siblings to join.

Tanjib said after the recent brutalities carried out by militants in the country and the prime minister's and police high-ups' appeal to the militants to return to the right path, they had realised their mistake.

They repented and decided to surrender and try to lead a normal life.

DIG Monir said the case of the three siblings would be humanely dealt with as they wanted to leave the path of militancy and return to normal life. They will be provided legal assistance as well.

The DIG said six members of their family were involved

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