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INFLATION RISES
The rate increased 16 basis points to 5.3 percent last month
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21 WICKETS IN A DAY
Batsmen criticise 'uneven pitch' in Sylhet as 21 wickets fall in a day in the NCL
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TROUBLE FOR TRUMP
Authorities clamp down on his charitable foundation
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MULTIPLE CASES AGAINST MILITANT Trial at one single court

Home ministry moves to cut risk, speed up judicial process

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Any militant now accused in more than one case will soon be tried in a single court for all the cases, no matter where those were filed.

The government has made the decision to expedite the trial of militancy cases and minimise the security risk during the movement of militants from one court to another.

The plan is also to avoid the hassle of witnesses who take trouble to be present at court time and again due to the lingering of trial.

The home ministry has already started working to determine which courts will be convenient for holding the trials, said a top ministry official.

"After selecting the courts, the home ministry will send a proposal to the law ministry, which will issue a gazette notification shifting all the cases against one militant to a single court," the official told The Daily Star last week, requesting anonymity.

Requested by the ministry, police have already provided a list of 83 militants who have been facing trial or under investigation in militancy cases across the country.

Although the number of militants on death row is 54, the list includes only 14 of them.

Twenty-six others who are serving different jail terms but

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Hilsas, the prized bounty of the sea, dumped to rot at Kumira Ghat of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong yesterday. After having plentiful catch in the past two days, fishermen got rid of the fish because buyers were few and high prices of salt and ice needed to preserve the fish made it unprofitable for them.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

What a waste!

Lack of storage facility leaves huge hilsa catch to rot

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong

It was a pleasant surprise for the fishermen in Sitakunda when they got huge catches of hilsa in the Bay of Bengal on two consecutive days from Sunday.

However, that pleasure did not last long as most of the fishes had to be dumped into the sea due to lack of buyers and storage facilities.

According to the local fisheries office, some 350 fishermen catch fish using 700 boats in Sitakunda. The upazila has 24 ghats and half of the boats are anchored at the largest ghat -- Kumira Ghat.

Visiting the area yesterday, this correspondent saw hundreds of dead and rotten fish floating in the sea and an adjacent canal. The entire area was thick with foul smell.

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Khadiza fighting for life, survival chances slim

Say doctors; attacker Badrul suspended from Sust; BCL insists he's not from the organisation; Sust BCL men contradict

STAR REPORT

The chances of survival are slim for the girl who was hacked in broad daylight by a Chhatra League man in Sylhet on Monday.

The attacker delivered blows on Khadiza Begum Nargis' head with a machete, and the sharp weapon went beyond the skull multiple times injuring the brain, said doctors.

"With such injuries, the chance of someone's survival is between five and 10 percent," said Rezaus Sattar, a neurosurgeon at the Square Hospitals where the girl was being treated.

Talking to reporters in front of the hospital, he said Khadiza had a neurosurgery and doctors would observe her for the next 72 hours.

He said the girl was on life support since she had been brought there yesterday morning.

Mirza Najimuddin, medical director of the



Badrul



Khadiza

hospital, said, "During the attack, she must have had initially tried to protect herself by covering her face with her arms, which resulted in injuries to her forearms."

A student of Sylhet Government Women's College, Khadiza, 23, was hacked repeatedly by Badrul

Alam, a fourth-year student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) and also senior assistant secretary of the BCL unit in Sust.

However, the BCL in a statement yesterday urged journalists not to mention the organisation's name while reporting the incident, claiming that Badrul had nothing to do with the organisation.

The statement was signed by Delwar Hossain Shahjada, office secretary of pro-ruling Awami League student body.

BCL Sust unit also issued a statement making

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Pinak R Chakravarty

Forget Saarc, think of Bimstec

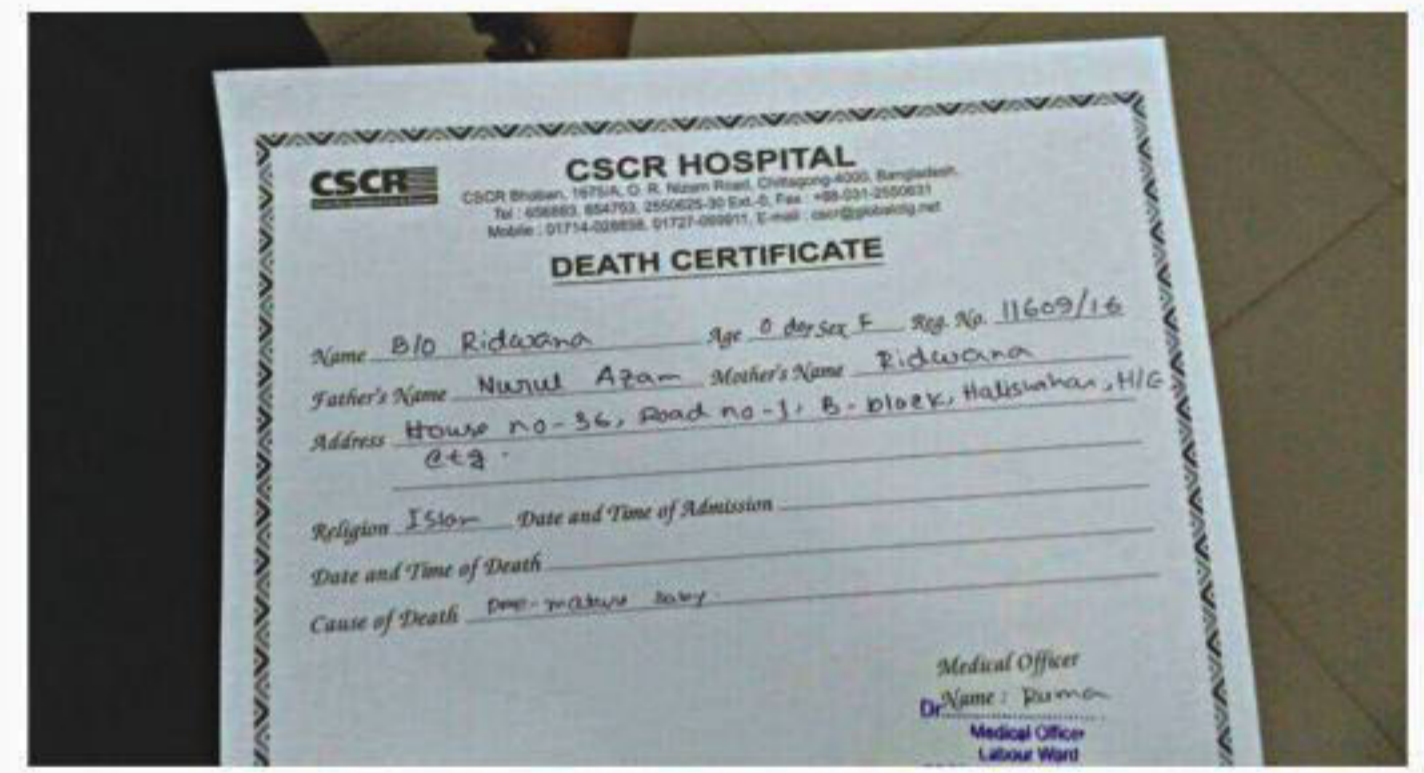
Delhi think-tank tells Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT from New Delhi

Delhi-based leading private think-tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF) has stressed the need for strengthening the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) taking all Saarc members except Pakistan on board to boost regional trade and cooperation.

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'Dead' newborn found alive, again



ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

A newborn girl was found to be alive after she had been declared dead by doctors at a private hospital in Chittagong city early yesterday.

The doctors had even issued a death certificate.

The incident happened barely two weeks after another newborn girl, who was declared dead at a Faridpur hospital, cried out moments before her burial at a graveyard there.

The baby from Chittagong was undergoing treatment at another private hospital in the port city. Her condition is critical.

Her father is a doctor and her mother a dentist. She is the couple's first child.

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TOP QUOTE

"... we deployed 21 nets ... After we retrieved 11, our boat got filled with fish. So, we had to ditch the hilsa catch from the remaining nets."

FISHERMAN SAMIRAN JALADISA WHO LIVES NEAR KUMIRA GHAT IN SITAKUNDA



Opening for the BCB XI yesterday, Imrul Kayes hit a blistering 91-ball 121 as he set the tone for his side in a practice match against England. The batsman showed off his wide arsenal of shots, hitting the ball all over the field for his 11 fours and six sixes. However, his efforts went in vain as England chased down a challenging target of 309 with four wickets to spare.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

BORDERS WITH INDIA Dhaka 'agrees' on new fencing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday said it was "agreed" with Bangladesh on putting up a new fence to secure over 250 villages outside the existing barbed wire fence along the International Border to curb cross-border crimes and alleviate problems of the population there.

The new fence would be closer to the zero line.

How close it would be to the zero line would be determined later at the operation level, KK Sharma, director general of the Indian Border Security Force, said after a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart in New Delhi.

Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed, director general of the Border Guard Bangladesh, stressed the need for ensuring that the new fence doesn't affect the lives of villagers.

"We will ensure that there are no objections from our side when the fence is erected. We need a humanitarian approach and it [new fence] could be done as the present positive relations between India and Bangladesh are an example that is nowhere to be seen in the world," he said.

The chiefs of the two border forces were speaking to the media at the end of the two-day biannual BSF-BGB DG-level talks at the BSF headquarters.

"We have taken a major decision to erect a single row fence for villages that are ahead of the present fencing and behind the IB [International Border]. This will help curb cross-border crimes, smuggling and instil a sense of security among the border population. The Bangladesh government and the BGB have given us the permission to do so," BSF Chief Sharma said after signing a joint record of discussions with his BGB counterpart.

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Bangladesh will be with India

Says home boss on India-Pakistan tension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said Bangladesh would stay beside India if the neighbouring country came under attack as a result of ongoing tension with Pakistan.

"We defeated Pakistan in 1971. We don't want to think about them. Besides, we have no common border with Pakistan. The country is situated 1,200 miles away, so we don't need to bother about that country," he said.

Kamal came up with the views in response to a query about Bangladesh's stance on the current tensed situation between India and Pakistan following the recent Uri attack and India's retaliatory surgical strikes on terror launch pads across the LoC.

Pakistan and India have meanwhile agreed to reduce tension after their national

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