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# Sluice gates not working

Life in waterlogged Bhabodaha

DIPANKAR ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

Bhabodaha in Paira union of Jessore's Abhaynagar upazila is famous for its 21 sluice gates. The water from the lowlands and beels of four upazilas drains through the area. But for years several of the sluice gates have not been in working order, leading to channels silting up and an excess of stagnant water, a manmade deluge that has effectively closed over 200 schools.

In five upazilas, many schools are submerged due to the failure to discharge water from the Muktershari, Teka, Bhadra, Shree and Hori rivers, with 167 primary schools, 32 high schools and 16 colleges directly affected.

In many of these institutions only a few teachers can manage to reach the campus to sign the attendance book, without any possibility to take classes.

"I want to teach my students," says Shilpi Rani Paul, a teacher of Sundali Girls' High School in Abhaynagar upazila. "But every day the situation is deteriorating; water continues to rise." It's a situation that has remained unchanged since the heavy rains of August 21, 2016.

"Students have not been able to attend class for more than a month," Shilpi continues. "From the disruption, longer term impact upon the studies of the region's students is inevitable." She hopes the government can take pragmatic steps to solve the problem soon.

"Our locality has a long history of quality education," says Shusama Biswas, assistant teacher of nearby Saradanga Jamtala Government Primary School. "But the long-term water logging has damaged properties and consequently, education."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



The inundated Saradanga Daharamshihati Government Primary School in Abhaynagar upazila of Jessore. Vast areas of three upazilas in the district are under water due to broken sluice gates. Inset, police charge truncheons on locals who staged a demonstration at Noapara yesterday. More photos on page 10.

# 50 hurt in police action on protesters

STAR REPORT

At least 50 people, including several women, were injured as police charged baton on demonstrators staging a sit-in in Abhaynagar upazila of Jessore yesterday, demanding the water-logging problem in Bhabodaha be solved.

The Bhabodaha Water Drainage Action Committee had called for the protest programme at Swadhinata Chattar in Noapara at noon. Witnesses said hundreds

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# Trio win Nobel in chemistry

AFP, Stockholm

A trio of French, British and Dutch scientists won the Nobel Chemistry Prize yesterday for developing molecular machines, the world's smallest machines that may one day act as artificial muscles to power tiny robots or even prosthetic limbs.

Jean-Pierre Sauvage of France, J Fraser Stoddart of Britain and Bernard Feringa of the Netherlands "have developed molecules with controllable movements, which can perform a task when energy is added," the jury said.

Inspired by proteins that naturally act as biological machines within cells, these synthetic copies are usually constructed of a few molecules fused together.

Also called nanomachines or

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

# Yahoo secretly scanned emails for US agencies

REUTERS, San Francisco

Yahoo Inc last year secretly built a custom software program to search all of its customers' incoming emails for specific information provided by US intelligence officials, according to people familiar with the matter.

The company complied with a classified US government demand, scanning hundreds of millions of Yahoo Mail accounts at the behest of the National Security Agency or FBI, said three former employees and a fourth person apprised of the events.

Some surveillance experts said this represents the first case to surface of a US Internet company agreeing to an intelligence agency's request by searching all arriving messages, as opposed to examining stored messages or scanning a small number of accounts in real time.

It is not known what information intelligence officials were looking for, only that they wanted Yahoo to search for a set of characters. That could mean a phrase in an email or an attachment, said the sources, who did not want to be identified.

Reuters was unable to determine what data Yahoo may have handed over, if any,



and if intelligence officials had approached other email providers besides Yahoo with this kind of request.

According to two of the former employees, Yahoo Chief Executive Marissa Mayer's decision to obey the directive roiled some senior executives and led to the June 2015 departure of Chief Information Security Officer Alex Stamos, who now holds the top security job at Facebook Inc.

"Yahoo is a law abiding company, and complies with the laws of the United States," the company said in a brief statement in response to Reuters questions about the demand. Yahoo declined any further comment.

Through a Facebook spokesman, Stamos declined a request for an interview.

The NSA referred questions to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which declined to comment.

The request to search Yahoo Mail accounts came in the form of a classified edict sent to the company's legal team, according to the three people familiar with the matter.

# Bangladesh gets dot bangla domain

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has finally got the right to dot bangla (.bangla) domain to express its identity internationally.

"Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) today [yesterday] made the announcement of allocating the .bangla domain in favour of Bangladesh," State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tarana Halim told BSS over phone from Turkey.

Terminating the winning of .bangla domain as another milestone for identity, she said, "It's one more achievement of Bangla language after the endorsement of February 21 as the International Mother Language Day."

Overcoming a long procedural fight, Tarana said Bangladesh has won it due to the strong role of Posts and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

# 'Trash man' with a cause



AFP, New York

A man has been strolling around New York for two weeks weighed down with trash. Meet Rob Greenfield, an environmental activist asking America to wake up to its garbage problem.

In everyday life, Greenfield is committed to leading an environmentally sound a life as possible, but for one month he has decided to behave like the average American and generate 4.5 pounds (two kilos) of trash per day.

So he's eating fast food -- pizza, hamburgers and fries -- and downing sodas -- before stuffing the empty packaging, cups and pots into see-through bags strapped to his body for around seven hours a day.

"I'm fully embracing the American way of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# 2 JMB men surrender to home boss

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two operatives of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) yesterday surrendered to Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and high officials of the Rapid Action Battalion in Bogra.

They are Abdul Hakim, 22, of Kamarpara village in Bogra's Shajahanpur upazila, and Mahmudul

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



# HIGH ON BRIDGES

A person taking drugs on a footbridge close to the Motijheel Government Boys' High School in the capital yesterday. A number of footbridges in the city have become "spots" for such users, and early yesterday two people were killed on the footbridge near Birdem Hospital following a brawl among drug users over fair share of a contraband substance. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়ার পথে অসামান্য অবদানের জন্য  
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এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, ঢাকা  
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সেফালোস্পোরিন ড্রাই ভায়াল প্রজেক্ট, বগুড়া  
খুলনা এসেনসিয়াল ল্যাটেক্স প্লাস্ট, খুলনা  
এসেনসিয়াল ল্যাটেক্স প্রসেসিং প্লাস্ট, টাঙ্গাইল



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