

BCL central leader found hanging in Ctg house

CU CORRESPONDENT
A central leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League was found hanging in his rented house at Duinang Gate of Chittagong University last night. The deceased, Diyaj Irfan Chowdhury, was assistant secretary of the pro-Awami League student organisation. His family members and followers said his body was hanged from the ceiling fan after murdering him. The crime was committed due to internal feud of the BCL, they claimed. Witnesses said Diyaj used to live on the first floor of a four-storey building with his family members who were not present at that time. Mokaddes Mia, in-charge of Chittagong University Police Outpost, said they are investigating the incident.



Though mainly female workers take up the role of preparing brickfields following the shutdown in production during the monsoon, they get Tk 350 toiling all day long, Tk 50 less than what males get, a disparity hirers justify claiming the latter "do more". The photo was taken at Savar's Boliarpur yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

THIMPHU REJECTING BBIN AGREEMENT Dhaka to act for positive change

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
With Bhutan parliament's upper house rejecting the BBIN motor vehicle agreement last week, Bangladesh is set to hold negotiations and take up diplomatic efforts as it expects the country to hold internal consultations to change its decision. Additional Secretary to the road transport and bridges ministry Belayet Hossain informed of Dhaka's plans talking to The Daily Star. "Of course the process...will be delayed...but we are hopeful for operationalisation of the agreement soon," high government officials said yesterday. India's external affairs ministry also stated that they were also hopeful. A senior foreign ministry official said Dhaka was yet to receive any formal letter from Bhutan regarding its decision. Transport ministers signed the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) agreement in Thimphu in June 2015 for the seamless movement of passengers and cargo vehicles across the territories. A joint statement said 30 transport corridors would become economic ones, potentially increasing intraregional trade by almost 60 percent and with the world by over 30 percent. The countries mapped out a six-month action plan scheduled to begin in July 2015. But the process was delayed due to internal procedures. The infrastructures would require an estimated \$8 billion, with each government catering to their own territory with donor agencies' support. Of the Bhutanese upper house members, 13 voted

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Utilise BNP's proposal as basis for talks on forming EC

Fakhrul urges govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday called upon the government to hold talks on forming an "acceptable" Election Commission (EC) on the basis of the party chief Khaleda Zia's proposal. "The government should take our chairperson's proposal positively. It has paved the way for holding talks," said Fakhrul. He was addressing a discussion marking BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman's 51st birthday anniversary, at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital. On Friday, Khaleda proposed a set of recommendations to the formation of a new EC in consensus with all the political parties involved, with the current commission's tenure nearing its end. Her proposals included bringing a change to the Representation of the People's Order (RPO) to strengthen the EC and constitute a "search committee" to select the next election commissioners. The ruling Awami League (AL), however, rejected Khaleda's proposals. The ruling party rejected the BNP chief's call for forging unity after the Gulshan attack, and it did the same in connection with the proposals to form the new EC, said Fakhrul, adding that Khaleda put forward the proposals to

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Localising SDGs big challenge for govt

BCAS nat'l consultation told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Development experts have suggested engaging and empowering local government institutions and communities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the UN late last year for the period of 15 years. SDGs aim to maximise the economic benefits for all and making them environmentally sound and socially just, said Dr Atiq Rahman, executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), addressing the inaugural session of a national consultation. "And this can only be done with the maximum participation of people," he told the programme on "localisation of SDGs and implementation challenges in Bangladesh", organised by BCAS with support from the Christian Aid at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. Dr Atiq said localisation of SDGs was one of the key challenges facing Bangladesh, and engaging people at all levels and explaining what SDGs meant to them and strengthening the local government institutions could help overcome the challenge. Robert Watkins, resident coordinator UN, Bangladesh, said, "Sometimes we get little bit confused that the SDGs are going to be the path of glorious future. I think we have to be little more realistic and little more humble about this. It is a planning tool. It is the tool that we use in different ways to achieve common objectives." Praising the Bangladesh



Participants at the national consultation

PHOTO: STAR

PM for strategy to attain SDG of water, sanitation

UNB, Dhaka
Vowing to ensure cent percent safe water for the country's people, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised framing such a strategy paper through which Bangladesh could become a role model for the rest of the world for attaining SDG-6 of safe water and sanitation. "I believe in both the sectors, Bangladesh would become an example across the globe," she said in a statement at the inaugural session of the national workshop for preparing the country paper on Sustainable Development Goal-6 at the Prime Minister's Office. Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury read out the statement of the prime minister as she could not attend the programme due to sickness. Out of the 17 SDGs, the prime minister said, the number six goal is ensuring safe water and sanitation. "We'll have to achieve a success in this regard like the MDGs." Mentioning that her government has already attained an epoch-making success in ensuring safe water for people, Hasina said currently around 98 percent of the country's people are getting safe water. "We want to supply safe water for hundred percent people and we'll be able to ensure that much ahead of the UN stipulated timeframe." She said some 61 percent of the people of Bangladesh have come under the sanitation system while the rate of open defecation has now come down to 0.88 percent which was 42 percent in 2003. The Ministry of Water Resources and Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) organised the workshop. Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud at the event said an overall strategy country paper for SDG 6 would be finalised on behalf of Bangladesh after finalising six targets under the SDG-6. He said the government needs to concentrate more on addressing the problem of safe water, especially in the southern and coastal regions, and northern districts alongside making sustainable the use of surface water.



Armed Forces Day today

BSS, Dhaka
The country is set to celebrate Armed Forces Day today. "On this day during the Great War of Liberation in 1971, the Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising army, navy and air forces, came into being and launched an all-out attack on the Pakistani occupation forces," said an ISPR statement yesterday. It said the day's programmes will begin with the offering special prayers after Fazr prayers at all the cantonments, naval and air force bases mosques seeking divine blessings for the prosperity of the nation and progress of the armed forces. President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in their separate messages, greeted the armed forces members. They will place wreaths at the "Shikha Anirban" at Dhaka Cantonment to pay homage to the martyred armed forces members. They will be followed by the chiefs of army, navy and air force in performing the ritual on behalf of their respective forces. State-run BTV will air a special "Anirban" programme illustrating the significance of the day after the 8:00pm news bulletin. Various programmes have also been chalked out at different army garrisons, naval ships, installations and bases of the air force outside Dhaka.

NHRC CHAIRMAN FOR TWO TERMS HC questions legality of appointment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of Kazi Reazul Hoque's appointment as chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for two terms. The court also issued a rule asking Reazul to explain in four weeks under what authority he has been holding the office of NHRC chairman. The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond. He submitted the petition on November 9 saying Reazul's appointment is a violation of relevant provision of the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2007. According to section 6 (3) of the law, a person cannot be appointed as member of the commission for more than two terms. Reazul was earlier appointed as a NHRC member for two terms, he said in the petition. A chairman of the commission is also its member, he added in the petition.

SC upholds Bodi's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that granted a six-month bail to convicted Awami League lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi in a corruption case, clearing the way for his walk out of jail. Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division passed "no order" on a petition filed by Anti Corruption Commission seeking a stay on the HC order. Following the SC move, the bail will remain in force, Nashreen Siddiqua Lina, a lawyer for Bodi, told The Daily Star. A Dhaka court on November 2 sentenced Bodi to three years' imprisonment in a graft case.



A model fighter aircraft in the capital's Bijoy Sarani being cleaned up on Saturday for Armed Forces Day, being observed around the country today.

PHOTO: STAR



Children of the Khasi community perform a dance at the Sylhet catholic diocese grounds in Sylhet's Pargana bazar yesterday during a festival named Jingiaseng thanking their god for the prosperity they have been showered with in the past year.

PHOTO: STAR

Produce four prisoners serving without trial: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain why four prisoners, who have been serving in jail without trial for years, should not be granted bail in murder cases. Issuing a suomoto rule, the court ordered the jail authorities to produce the four under trial prisoners -- Chan Miah, Makbul Hossain, Sentu Kamal and Billal Hossain, who are in Kashimpur jail, before it on December 4 for hearing their statements. Of them, Chan Miah has reportedly been serving in prison for 18 years, Billal for 17 years and Mokbul and Sentu for 16 years in connection with separate murder cases. The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice JBM Hassan also called for the records of the cases from the lower courts concerned as they were not settled for a long time. The judges came up with the rule and order following a November 16 report of a private television channel about sufferings of the four in jail and state of the cases. Supreme Court lawyers Aynun Nahar Siddiqua and Cumar Debul Dey placed the

7 lakh Yaba pills seized in Teknaf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar
Border Guard Bangladesh seized nearly 7 lakh Yaba pills, worth over Tk 20 crore, from a boat in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar early yesterday. No one was arrested during the drive as the Yaba traffickers had fled the scene before the BGB personnel arrived, said Lt Col Md Abu Zafar Zahid, commander, 2 BGB Battalion in Teknaf. The boat was carrying 6,91,104 Yaba pills at Alugula project area in Teknaf through Naf River. "The traffickers jumped to the shore from the boat sensing our presence and fled to Kewra forest," the commander said, adding that a case was filed.

TV report before the HC judges seeking necessary orders. According to the report, Chan Miah has been in Kashimpur jail since 1999 in a case, which is pending with Paribesh Appeal Adalat (Environment Appellate Court) in Dhaka. Makbul Hossain from Madaripur was arrested in 2000 in a murder case, which is pending with a Dhaka court. Sentu Kamal from Motijheel AGB Colony was arrested in 2001 and was produced before the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka last month. Billal Hossain from Comilla has been suffering in jail since 2002 in another case, which is now pending with another Dhaka court. The same HC bench on November 8 this year had granted bail to one Shipon, who was imprisoned for about 17 years in a murder case without any trial. The Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee on November 16 sent letters to the jail authorities across the country asking them to provide information about the under trial prisoners for providing legal assistance to poor prisoners.