



## BAD SIGNS FOR BANKS

Rising defaults take a toll on lenders

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## REAL CONQUER THE WORLD

Cristiano Ronaldo hat-trick sees Real Madrid lift Club World Cup

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## LET THEM KEEP IT!

Trump says China should keep the US drone it seized in South China Sea

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# President hopeful, BNP happy

Bangabhaban welcomes Khaleda's proposal to form a search committee for an acceptable EC

"Any dialogue opens up multiple paths to resolving a problem."

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

President Abdul Hamid yesterday said the formation of a strong Election Commission would be possible through talks with political parties.

He expressed this hope while inaugurating a dialogue process through a discussion with the BNP for the formation of the next EC which will oversee the 2019 general elections.

"I think today's discussion and your well-thought-out opinions will play an important role in the formation of a strong Election Commission," he told an 11-member BNP delegation led by party chief Khaleda Zia.

The president said any dialogue opens up multiple paths to resolving a problem.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia handed the president her party's proposals which include forming a search committee to pick the EC members, bringing amendment to the Representation of the People Order and strengthening the EC.

She proposed that a former chief justice could be the convener of the search

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President Abdul Hamid and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia talking to each other yesterday at the Bangabhaban when a BNP delegation met him as part of a dialogue on the formation of a new Election Commission.

PHOTO: PID

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Talks history offers food for thoughts

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The history of dialogue in Bangladesh politics in the last 25 years is an eventful saga of success and failure.

One may draw inspiration from successes to resolve a political dispute. Others may follow ways how to deepen a crisis, let alone work towards its resolution.

Take some shining and gloomy examples of dialogues as President Abdul Hamid opened talks yesterday with political parties seeking their opinions to form an acceptable Election Commission.

After the fall of autocratic ruler Gen Ershad, the first instance of successful talks among political parties paved the way for smooth transition to democracy in 1991.

They reached an agreement through talks and requested

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## LECTURER APPOINTMENT AT 8 PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

# TIB finds anomalies, illegal transactions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unauthorised financial transaction has been one of the key catalysts in the recruitment of lecturers at eight public universities, leading to irregularities and corruption there, says a report of Transparency International Bangladesh.

Political leanings and nepotism are two of the dominant factors in the recruitment process at the 13 public universities surveyed, while regionalism and religious identity play a major role in appointment of lecturers in many of these institutions, it mentions.

The report titled "Recruitment of Lecturers in

Public Universities: Governance Challenges and Ways Forward" was released yesterday.

It found allegations of unauthorised financial transactions in eight public universities.

The report, however, didn't name any of the 13 universities.

To secure the job of a lecturer, one had to make an unauthorised payment of Tk 3 lakh to 20 lakh. And in cases of such transactions through influential stakeholders, good academic results, political leanings, nepotism and regionalism didn't get importance, it says.

This trend of financial transaction was observed

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## Fire orphans 2-yr-old

Mother, father dies of smoke inhalation after flames in their home was doused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two-year-old Adiat keeps looking for his mother. His grandmother tries her best to distract him but to no avail.

He gets restless and calls out desperately for his parents.

Adiat is too young to understand the cruel reality. His parents died of smoke inhalation during a fire in Bolirhat area of Chittagong city early yesterday.

Syed Hossain, 35, a staff of Memon Maternity Hospital, and his wife Nahida Sultan Rina, 26, a master's student of Government City College, Chittagong, lived in Shahjeepara with their only child, Adiat.



PHOTO: STAR

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Kamar Uddin Arman, in white shirt, holding a child with cleft lip along with other patients and their family members at the Lion Mukhlesur Rahman Children Hospital in Chittagong. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Making people smile

Stand-up comedian uses his social connection to help people with cleft lips

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

A smiling face, irrespective of age, warms up his soul. He believes a sincere, warm smile has the power to bring peace between enemies.

Such beliefs made Kamar Uddin Arman embark upon bringing smiles to people's faces as a stand-up comedian six years ago and as a volunteer helping those with cleft lips get connected with different non-government organisations for free treatment.

His hobby to make people laugh earned him a celebrity status in June this year after he clinched 2nd runner up position at Mirakkel - Akkel Challenger 9 at the Indian television channel Z Bangla. He has now been using his popularity in making people aware that the defect many children get at birth is treatable and the treatment is available free of cost.

Arman, who was called Wada Kumar (one who keeps his promises) in Mirakkel, has spread his network

far and wide across the country engaging youths in the campaign.

Most of the volunteers from 11 districts, including Comilla, Sylhet, Khagrachari and Chakaria, who now work with him are actually his fans. Arman met them as they came to watch his shows.

"In my shows, no matter where it is organised, I start my performance talking about cleft lips to raise awareness among people. I then request

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**শুরু হতে যাচ্ছে...**

**REHAB FAIR-2016**

বঙ্গবন্ধু আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্র। ২১-২৫, ডিসেম্বর ২০১৬ ইং

সকাল ১০টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

**"যশোনীল আবাসন, সবুজ দেশ, লাল সবুজের বাংলাদেশ"**

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প্রতিদিনের র্যাফেল ড্র'তে থাকছে আকর্ষণীয় পুরকারি

প্রধান অতিথি: জনাব আবুল মাল আবদুল মুহিত, এমপি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয় গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।

বিশেষ অতিথি: ইঞ্জিনিয়ার মোশাররফ হোসেন, এমপি মাননীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী, বিদ্যুৎ জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয় গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।

সভাপতি: জনাব নসুরুল হামিদ, এমপি মাননীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী, বিদ্যুৎ জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয় গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।

জনাব আলমগীর শামসুল আলামিন (কাজল) সভাপতি, রিহাব।

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