



FORMATION  
BNP 'broke  
secret' over  
its proposal

Alleges Obaidul Quader  
BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the BNP "broke the secret" about its proposal to President Abdul Hamid on forming a new Election Commission. He also termed a recent statement by a BNP leader "self-contradictory".

"BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir accused me of breaking the secrecy of the talks with the honourable president on the search committee to constitute the Election Commission, but his [Fakhru] statement is definitely self-contradictory," he said.

Quader was speaking at a memorial meeting for AL leader MA Aziz organised by the Dhaka South city unit of the AL.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was critical of BNP leaders, saying, "How did Awami League come to

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ENCROACHERS AT IT AGAIN



In June 2015, the BIWTA demolished illegal shops, top left, built on the bank of the Buriganga between Sadarghat and Shyambazar, but the photo, bottom left, taken in October that year shows the shops were rebuilt. Later, the authorities again knocked down the shops, and built a 50-foot wide road there to ease traffic jam in Old Dhaka. But the photo taken this month, right, shows illegal shops are occupying it too.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



AL lawmaker  
sued for  
war crimes

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Mymensingh

A freedom fighter yesterday filed a case against Awami League lawmaker Muslem Uddin and 15 others for their alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Jalal Uddin, also a local ruling party leader of Phulbaria upazila, filed the case with the Cognisance Court-2 of Senior Judicial Magistrate Mahbulul Haque. The court issued an order to send the case documents to the

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SOLVING ROHINGYA CRISIS

Myanmar seeks  
'time and space'

Pledges action against rights abuses

AFP, Singapore

Myanmar's deputy defence chief yesterday urged the world to give his government "time and space" to solve a crisis involving the Rohingya Muslim minority amid concerns jihadists could exploit the situation.

Rear Admiral Myint Nwe told a security forum in Singapore his government is "fully aware of the growing concern about the widespread reports on (the) situation in Rakhine state" where the Rohingya live, and was committed to address the issue and punish wrongdoers.

Since October Myanmar's army has carried out "clearance operations" in the north of the western state to root out insurgents accused of deadly raids on police border posts.

At least 66,000 Rohingya have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh, alleging rape, murder and torture at the hands of security forces.

Myanmar has long faced international criticism over its treatment of the Rohingya. Most people in the majority Buddhist community consider them illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

"The government does not condone rights abuses against innocent civilians. Legal action will be taken in response to any substantiated claim," Myint Nwe said.

The admiral was responding to a keynote address by Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein at the Fullerton Forum organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

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No efforts yet  
to salvage  
sunken ship

Pollution feared in  
Sundarbans river

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Ten days have gone but nobody seems to be in a hurry to recover MV Aichgati, which went down in the Pasur near the Sundarbans with 1,000 tonnes of coal.

An environmentalist said leaving the ship there for so long would harm the mangrove forest in the long run.

Officials concerned said if it was not recovered, silt would pile up over the vessel and it could reduce navigability at the estuary of the Pasur.

Sources said the capsized lighter vessel was old and most of its equipment was outdated. The goods and the vessel were insured and probably that's why the owner is not too keen on recovering the vessel.

Vessel owner Gazi Golam Faruq, however, refuted the allegation. "We've discussed with a company in Chittagong for recovering the vessel. It'll take some time," he told The Daily Star.

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Scientists develop  
'fake news' vaccine



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have created what they say is a vaccine against the kind of fake and hyper-partisan news that is spreading quickly across Facebook.

The researchers claim that by showing people lies, they can teach them to better see the truth. The solution works in a similar way to a real vaccine - exposing people to a small amount of the problem to help them better respond to larger amounts of it.

The solution could help social networks and news organisations battle against fake news, which has been credited with helping the vote for both Brexit and for Donald Trump.

The study claims that if people are shown

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2 Bangladeshis  
arrested in  
Malaysia for  
alleged IS links

STAR REPORT

Two Bangladeshis have been held in Malaysia for their suspected links to Islamic State (IS).

Malaysian Special Branch's Counter-Terrorism Division arrested four people, including the two Bangladeshis, in separate raids between January 13 and 19 in Kuala Lumpur and Sabah, New Straits Times, a local English daily, reported yesterday.

The suspects included a 31-year-old Filipino man and a 27-year-old Malaysian woman.

The Bangladeshis, aged 27 and 28, worked as salesmen, and were arrested last Thursday in Kuala Lumpur. They were suspected of having ties to suspected IS militants in Bangladesh and

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AL man held  
after he shot  
at villagers

30 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kushtia

A Kushtia court yesterday sent an Awami League activist to jail in two cases filed in connection with opening fire on some villagers by his licenced firearm in Daulatpur upazila that left at least 30 injured on Sunday evening.

The AL activist is Abdus Salam of Beltola village in the upazila.

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Bangladesh fast bowler Taskin Ahmed had to work overtime as a batsman as his seniors and more celebrated teammates surrendered their wickets meekly for the second Test in a row as Bangladesh lost the second and final Test against New Zealand by nine wickets late on the fourth day at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch yesterday.

PHOTO:  
AFP

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 24  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:43 7:15  
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:47 7:45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION