



# The Daily Star

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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## MAKING PATIENTS SUFFER

Private clinics in Rajshahi enforce strike, causing sufferings to hundreds of patients

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## BOLT STRIPPED

He loses a 2008 Olympic gold medal after teammate's positive dope test

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### ANTI-IMMIGRATION MEASURES

# Trump acts fast

Orders building Mexico wall, plans to slap visa ban on nationals of 7 Muslim-majority countries



Beginning today, the United States of America gets back control of its borders.

#### AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday signed a sweeping set of immigration-related executive actions jumpstarting a wall along the US-Mexico border, cracking down on sanctuary cities, and directing significant resources toward swifter deportations for undocumented immigrants currently in the country.

Less than a week into his presidency, Trump is following through on some of his biggest campaign plans, satisfying supporters eager to combat the flow of undocumented immigrants into the US but alarming activists worried about rising xenophobia and a new era of mass deportations, reports politico.com.

Trump, who signed the orders before around 70 people at the Department of Homeland Security around 1:30pm, overall has been focusing much of his energy on

executive actions during his first week, having already cranked out documents undercutting Obamacare, freezing regulations, halting most federal government hiring, reining in abortion funding overseas, and advancing the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines.

Trump this week is set to slash the number of refugees to be allowed to resettle in the US, according to the New York Times, particularly from Syria and other Muslim-majority countries.

Around 4.8 million Syrians have fled to neighbouring countries alone, according to the United Nations.

An estimated 18,000 Syrians have fled to the US.

Former officials said Trump could slow the process down by moving resources away from processing visa requests, or cut migrant quotas and programmes, AFP reports.

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A physically challenged man tries to get in a bus in the middle of Topkhana Road in the capital yesterday. Public transport in Dhaka lacks the facilities for the physically challenged. Moreover, the seats designated for them are often occupied by able-bodied people.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

### FORMATION OF ELECTION COMMISSION

# Search committee to come up with names in 10 workdays

Justice Mahmud at its helm again; AL, JP hail, BNP 'frustrated'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

President Abdul Hamid has formed a six-member search committee, led by an Appellate Division judge, for constituting the next Election Commission.

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, who

headed the committee that recommended the members for the incumbent EC led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, has been picked to helm this committee as well.

The other members are Justice Obaidul Hassan, a High Court judge, Muhammed Sadique, chairman of

Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC), Masud Ahmed, comptroller and auditor general of Bangladesh, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, trustee board member of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), and Shireen Akhter,

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## Hasina blasts Yunus in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday termed Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus a "cheat", accusing him of not giving shares of Grameenphone profits to Grameen Bank in "breach of the promise he made before setting up of the telecom company".

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Despite fertile land loss, weather stresses and depleting irrigation water, Bangladesh's agriculture keeps contributing a fifth of the GDP each year. Along with other factors, government's policy support in the form of fertiliser subsidy plays a big part here. But misappropriation of the key agro input by a syndicate involved in shipment and transport, and mismanagement by the authorities, in this case Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, have tainted this otherwise commendable effort. If such large-scale corruption is outrageous, the culture of impunity within the corridors of the BCIC and elsewhere is worrisome. This systematic graft has cost the state about Tk 100 crore each year since 2009. In this four-part report, HASAN JAHID TUSHER exposes the corruption in the fertiliser sector.

### FERTILISER RIDDLE 2

# Cheated by the Invisible Man

Fertiliser authority mysteriously gets deceived by same trader time and again

Once bitten, twice shy. This idiom means when something hurts you once, you tend to avoid that thing or person. But this does not seem to apply to the state-run Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC). A man has been conning BCIC over and over again but the corporation continues to do business with him.

This is the story of a fertiliser transporter, who stole from the corporation, disappeared, resurfaced to steal again, disappeared once again and is now back for business.

In 2005, the Rapid Action Battalion arrested Nur Trading Company's proprietor Mohammad Elias Kanchan for misappropriating 700 tonnes of government fertiliser worth Tk 5.47 crore.

After three months he came out on bail and promptly disappeared for a few years, staying away from this lucrative business.

But with the blessing of a section of BCIC officials, he

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According to the contract, all the fertiliser was to be delivered within 21 days but he took four years. He did not deliver the rest 7,272 tonnes worth Tk 31.81 crore. He was served several notices and warnings over the years but he ignored those.



### DOCTOR STRANGE GETS OSCAR NOMINATION

# Bangladeshi Wahid's visual FX team cheers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If you watched Marvel's Doctor Strange last year, you already know how awesome its visual effects were. And the team in-charge of the mind-boggling visual effects (VFX) includes a Bangladeshi -- Wahid Ibn Reza.

Now, Wahid has every reason to get excited, because the movie, directed by Scott Derrickson, has been nominated for the 89th Academy Awards in the visual effects category.

"I worked as one of the production

coordinators of a management team leading 70 artists in VFX for Doctor Strange," Wahid, who lives in Canada, told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

The team members include a producer, a production manager and three coordinators, he said.

"This is a big achievement for me at the moment. Undoubtedly, it is excellent and cool too!" he wrote in a Facebook status after the film got nomination for the prestigious award.

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# 'I've found him at last, but dead'

Wails father as it turns out his son who'd gone missing 16 months ago was buried unclaimed

RAFIUL ISLAM

In the silence of nights, Lutfar Rahman prayed and hoped to see his only son alive, hear him call "baba" since he went missing in October, 2015.

Then the worst nightmare came true on Monday as he learnt his DNA matched that of an unclaimed body recovered from the Buriganga river two days after his son disappeared.

Nineteen-year-old Asif Imran, a first-year student of the American International University of Bangladesh, left his Uttara residence with friends on October 7 of the year.

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Asif Imran

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ধুলো ময়লার দিন শেষ

গুয়েদারকেট অ্যান্টিডার্ট লং লাইফ-এ আছে ন্যানো অ্যান্টিডার্ট, যা আপনার দেয়ালে কোনো প্রকার ধুলোবালি ও ময়লা বসতে দেয় না। ফলে বাড়ির বাইরের দেয়াল থাকে নতুনের মত - বছরের পর বছর। এবার কেড়ে ফেলুন Dust-এর চিন্তা।