

**Industries seey to face HC over compensation from Hazaribagh tanners**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The High Court yesterday summoned the industries secretary to appear before it on February 7 for placing explanation over collecting compensations from tannery owners at Hazaribagh in Dhaka for damaging the environment.  
The HC passed the order following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) recently.  
Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told reporters that the HC in June last year directed the tanners to compensate Tk 50,000 per day each for damaging the environment until they relocate their industries to Savar.  
The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in July, 2016 ordered each of the tanneries to compensate Tk 10,000 per day after modifying the HC directive, he said.



**Dried up branches of a tree juts out of a lidless service manhole on a road in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial Area as a warning to approaching vehicles. With none bothering to rectify the situation, the hole has become a waste destination clogging the sewerage line and contributing to the area's waterlogging. The photo was taken yesterday morning.**  
PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

**We don't back any particular political party in BD**

**Says US envoy Marcia Bernicat**  
**UNB, Dhaka**  
US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat yesterday said trust, will and mechanisms in place always help resolve any irritants if these arise in a relationship.  
"...I think our two countries have what we need to do just that," she said while responding to a question from the news agency.  
Bernicat joined a Facebook chat on the Bangladesh-US relationship marking the second anniversary of her arrival in the country.  
She said the US work with all Bangladeshis to ensure that a "more inclusive political process" exist in Bangladesh.  
"We don't back any particular political party in Bangladesh. We work with all Bangladeshis to help ensure there is a more inclusive political process," she said.  
"I'm confident that the nature of the Bangladesh people and their culture, coupled with the government's resolve to fight terrorism, will defeat the terrorist threat here," she said.  
Responding to a question on restoration of US trade preference programmes - Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), she said there has been "tremendous progress" on safety issues. "But much work remains to be done on workers' rights."

**NEWS IN brief**

**JU science festival on Feb 10**

**JU CORRESPONDENT**  
A two-day science fair titled "SIBL-JUSC Science Festival 2017" will begin at Jahangirnagar University on February 10.  
JU Science Club (JUSC) in association with Social Islami Bank Ltd will organise the fair, said JUSC president Abu Sayeed at a press conference at the office of JU Journalists' Association (Juja) yesterday.  
School, college and university students can register for the festival. Registration process will start today and continue till February 7. For details one can visit www.juscdbd.com

**162nd birth anniversary of Ashwini Kumar Dutta observed**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**  
To mark the 162nd birth anniversary of educationist and social reformer Ashwini Kumar Dutta, a programme was held at Barisal Government BM College yesterday.  
The day-long programme included a floral tribute, memorial discussion and procession.  
College Principal Fayzul Hakim presided over the programme organised by the college authority.  
Aminul Islam, joint secretary of the Education Ministry, as the chief guest, and M Ziaul Haque, chairman, as a special guest, were present.  
Ashwini Kumar Dutta founded the college in 1889.

**Death anniversary**

**CITY DESK**  
Today is the eighth death anniversary of Shahidul Islam Pannu, director of SARA Advertising Ltd.  
His family members requested all to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

**7 to die for murders**

**FROM PAGE 3**  
2012. On December 11, 2012, police submitted charge sheet against six people.  
Assistant public prosecutor (APP) of the court Nasimul Karim Holy said that the trial of the rest three -- Zaman, son of Abdul Hamid; Shahadat, son of Shahajan Ali; and Shakil, son of Zahidur Rahman -- was stayed by the High Court.  
Their trial will be held in another court, he added.  
In Barisal, Additional District and Sessions Judge Rakibul Islam sentenced a Madrasa student to death for killing a youth.  
The convict is Mahamud Hasan Hafiz, son of Abdus Sobahan, and then a student of Kasipur Digirpar Hafezia Madrasa in the city.  
According to the prosecution, Hafiz and his associates used to stalk two sisters of Al Amin. On December 30, 2006, Al Amin and his father entered the madrasa to talk to Hafiz. Then Hafiz and his five associates attacked them, leaving Amin dead on the spot.  
In 2007, police submitted charge sheet against Hafiz. The court, however, released the other five.

**Govt to appoint 10 new HC judges next week**

**Law Minister Anisul Huq tells The Daily Star**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The government will appoint at least 10 new judges to the High Court next week, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star yesterday.  
He, however, did not disclose their names.  
Shortage of judges at the Supreme Court and other courts across the country is getting worse and creating a huge backlog of cases due to delay in recruitment.  
According to a latest SC study, 414,035 cases were pending at the HC as of September 30, 2016. It settled 8,449 cases from July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

**HC bans 3-wheelers on highways**

**Govt asked to submit reports in every six months**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The High Court yesterday imposed a ban on plying of improvised motorised three-wheelers, known as Nasimon, Karimon, Bhatboti, on highways across the country to reduce the number of road crashes.  
The court directed the government to take legal action against those who will run such poorly engineered locally made vehicles on the highways defying the ban.  
The HC also asked the authorities concerned to submit reports on compliance of the directives before the court in every six months.  
Yesterday, the bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo came up with the verdict after hearing a writ petition filed by the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh seeking necessary orders to stop plying of these vehicles on highways.  
Following the petition, the HC earlier on February 10, 2014, had ordered the government to withdraw these vehicles from highways in 10 districts -- Jessore, Khulna, Jhenaidah, Magura, Meherpur, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Norail, Kustia and Chuadanga.  
During hearing earlier, petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told the court that hundreds of people across the country lose their lives everyday due to plying of unfit and illegal vehicles on the highways.  
Earlier on July 27, 2015, Road Transport and Bridges Ministry also issued an order, banning the three-wheelers and other slow-moving and unfit vehicles on 22 highways to curb road accidents and loss of lives. The order came into effect on August 1.  
A day after enforcing the ban, transport owners and drivers on August 2, 2015, put barricades on different highways protesting the ban and clashed with law enforcers, leaving at least 20 people injured and 75 vehicles damaged.  
Later, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary MAN Siddique at several programmes announced that the ban would strictly be enforced.  
But these slow-moving vehicles are still plying defying the ban.  
Talking to The Daily Star, Kazi Md Shifun Newaz, assistant professor of Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet, said operation of such vehicles is one of the major causes of accidents on the highways.  
He also underscored the need for constructing separate lanes for such vehicles considering huge public demand for these vehicles.

**ASSAULT ON PRO-VC BSMMU fails to reach consensus**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The authorities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) until yesterday failed to reach a consensus as per the advice of the health minister.  
On Tuesday, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim asked the BSMMU authorities, when the latter met him, to follow alternative rules in recruiting the nurses since the allegation of corruption came to the fore over the issue.  
He also directed BSMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Kamrul Hassan Khan to apologise to Pro-VC [Academic] Prof ASM Zakaria Swapan for his reported assault on the latter on Thursday over publication of a report in a newspaper on the nurse recruitment.  
But the consensus had yet to be reached until yesterday as the pro-VC [academic] quit the meeting hearing the VC's proposal to recruit nurses from those qualified in the written exams, according to the top officials of the country's lone medical university.  
The pro-VC told the VC that the minister asked them to follow other rules since previous examination process was shrouded in question, said the sources. As the VC remained stuck to his decision, the pro-VC left the meeting.  
Contacted, BSMMU pro-VC [administration] Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed said both the VC and the pro-VC agreed to work together on the routine affairs of the university and the hospital.  
"We will talk to the minister again and take his opinion to finalise the nurse recruitment process," he told The Daily Star.

**AMA Muhith turns 84**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
AMA Muhith, Bangladesh's longest serving finance minister, yesterday turned 84.  
"At the age of 84, I am still strong and able-bodied. I have continued working. That is the matter of great happiness," he told a book launching ceremony at the Officers' Club marking his birthday.  
Chandrabati Academy published the book titled "Smritimoy Karma Jibon" (Memory-filled Work Life) written by Muhith.  
Commerce minister Tofail Ahmed, cultural affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor, author Selina Hossain, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University and former secretary M Mokammel Haque joined the discussion.



**Despite a government ban battery-run rickshaws and rickshaw-vans continue to ply the Dhaka-Aricha highway, increasing risk of accidents. The photo was taken Monday.**  
PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

**RP SHAHA KILLING IN 1971 ICT wants probe report if any on March 29**

**Another war crime accused of Netrakona dies**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the prosecution to submit investigation report, if have any, on March 29 in a case filed over the abduction and killing of philanthropist Ranada Prasad Shaha, known as RP Shaha, and his son Bhabani Prasad Shaha during the 1971 Liberation War.  
Yesterday was fixed for submitting the investigation report. But Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta sought three months' time, which the court allowed.  
The lone accused of the case, Mahabubur Rahman, of Boiratiapara village in Mirzaganj upazila of Tangail, is in jail.  
Mahabubur worked under the leadership of his father, late Abdur Wadud, chairman of Mirzapur Peace Committee, an anti-liberation organisation, according to the prosecution.  
On May 7, 1971 the Pakistani occupation army men, accompanied and supervised by Mahabubur, attacked Kumudini Complex to kill Ranada, who owned it, but did not find him there, it said.  
Raiding another residence of his in Narayanganj around 11:00pm on the same day, they abducted Ranada, Bhabani and three other men and they were later killed, it added.  
**WAR CRIMES ACCUSED DIES**  
A war crimes accused of Netrakona, Enayet Ullah Manju, 70, died "due to old age complications" at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday, Sub-Inspector Bacchu Miah, in-charge of DMCH police outpost, told The Daily Star.  
He was admitted to the hospital on November 3 last year after he fell sick in jail, he said.  
Prosecution on November 28 last year pressed five charges against Enayet, his brother Hedayet Ullah Anjuand and Sohrab Fakir of Kulshree village in Atpara of the district.  
Of them, Sohrab is in jail while Anju on the run.

**HC verdict on three Indian TV channels Jan 29**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The High Court yesterday fixed January 29 for delivering verdict on a petition seeking its directive on the government to stop telecast of three Indian television channels -- Star Jalsha, Star Plus and Zee Bangla -- in Bangladesh.  
Syeda Shahin Ara Laily, a Supreme Court lawyer, submitted the petition to the HC in September 2014, saying programmes broadcast by the three channels left adverse impact on social and cultural life of Bangladesh people.  
Education of the students and regular activities of housewives are being hampered due to watching the channels' programmes, she mentioned in the petition.



**Worker busy preparing stalls for the month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela (book fair), which begins on the capital's Bangla Academy premises and on a part of Suhrawardy Udyan from February. The photo was taken at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.**  
PHOTO: PALASH KHAN