

TAMPACO FIRE 3 bodies handed over to families

Three bodies of the workers killed in last year's fire at Tampaco Foils Factory in Tongi were handed over to their families yesterday. The bodies were among the nine kept at Dhaka Medical College morgue as unidentified bodies. The three were identified as Rafiqul Islam, 30, Riaz Hossain Murad, 21, and Redwan Ahmed, 32, DMCH sources said. "My brother worked at the factory for over 11 years," said Sufian Ahmed, brother of Redwan who remained missing since the September 10 inferno. The three bodies were identified through DNA tests at the Criminal Investigation Department's lab. The boiler explosion at the factory in Gazipur led to the biggest industrial disaster in Bangladesh after the 2013 Rana Plaza collapse. The devastating fire claimed at least 39 lives while another 70 suffered burn injuries.



This 63kg Baghair fish was sold for Tk 1 lakh at the Poradaho Mela at Bogra's Gabtoli upazila yesterday. The 150-year-old traditional fair began yesterday. The Bou Mela, a fair for women, would be held there today. PHOTO: STAR

Job of eight Trump lashes

FROM PAGE 16
Trump, who noted he had listened to the hour-long appeals court hearing on Tuesday. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is expected to rule by week's end on whether or not to reinstate the travel ban, which created chaos at airports both in the US and abroad, and prompted large protests. The measure was suspended last Friday in a lower federal court, reopening US borders to the thousands of refugees and travelers who had been suddenly barred from the country. The Justice Department has argued that the federal court in Seattle overstepped by suspending the measure, and that national security is at stake -- a position hammered home by Trump. But the three-judge appeals court panel often appeared skeptical during Tuesday's hearing, with Judge Richard Clifton at one point calling the government's argument "pretty abstract." The White House insists the decree is in the interest of national security, giving the new administration time to beef up vetting procedures to keep potential terrorists out of the country. Its detractors claim it violates the constitution by discriminating against people on the basis of their religion.

TOUGH GRILLING
Three federal judges grilled lawyers from the Justice Department and Washington state Tuesday night as they considered whether to lift a US-wide block on President Donald Trump's travel ban. The appeals court judges sparred with attorneys over the President's use of sweeping executive power, questioned the connection between the seven affected countries and terrorism, and launched into tough questions over whether the ban discriminated against Muslims. During the telephone hearing, the lawyer representing the Justice Department, August Flentje, argued that the President had wide powers relating to immigration and national security. He contended that federal judges did not have the power to review Trump's executive order, which bars citizens of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen from entering the US for 90 days. It also prevents entry for all refugees for 120 days and indefinitely halts the admission of refugees from Syria. From the start, Flentje repeatedly sought to emphasize the government's position that a lower court acted beyond his powers when it suspended the President's executive order last Friday. Flentje argued that the President acted within his constitutional powers. "This is a traditional national security judgment that is assigned to the political

branches and the President and the court's order immediately altered that," Flentje argued. The three-judge panel at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals pressed Flentje on whether the government could show that the seven countries affected by Trump's ban were connected to terrorism. "Has the government pointed to any evidence connecting these countries with terrorism," asked Judge Michelle Friedland. Flentje, special counsel to the assistant attorney general at the Justice Department, countered that the lower court had overruled the President's judgment about the level of risk from those countries. "The district court's decision overrides the President's national security judgment about the level of risk and we've been talking about the level of risk that's acceptable," he said. Judge Friedland fired back: "Are you arguing then that the President's decision in that regard is unreviewable (by a court)?" Flentje paused and eventually answered, tentatively, "yes." Judge Richard Clifton called the government's argument "abstract," noting that procedures were already in place to vet visa applicants.

Education

FROM PAGE 2
sector, Hamid said decentralisation of higher education has been one of the great successes of the incumbent government. He hoped the authorities of private universities, alongside the government, would invest in education outside the capital. Vice-chancellor Prof MM Shahidul Hassan of East West University, its trustee board Chairperson Mohammed Farashuddin and convocation speaker Prof Mohammad Jahid Hasan spoke, among others.

Search panel too proposed

FROM PAGE 1
on EC formation. During the talks, the ruling Awami League and several other parties suggested enacting a law on EC formation. The BNP, however, didn't make any such suggestion. Unlike the previous search committee, the panel held meetings with 16 civil society members to get their views on EC formation. The eminent citizens told the panel that their opinions should be recorded and given to the next EC. The eminent persons also suggested that the panel should have a vision, and should give the next EC some suggestions.

three eminent citizens for the posts of election commissioner. The president, however, didn't pick any of them. The three are Dhaka University Professor Zarina Rahman Khan, local government expert Tofail Ahmed and Janipop Chairman Nazmul Ahsan Kalimuallah. "I would have been happy if someone from the citizens group had been included in the commission," Manzoorul said. The panel recommended 10 names to the president for the five-member EC. Of them, former secretary KM Nurul Huda was picked as the chief election commissioner and four others as commissioners on Monday night. Manzoorul said he had proposed inclusion of a member of citizens group in the EC, as the electoral process involves not only management and administration, but also many other aspects such as negotiations with contending parties, creating trust and ensuring transparency. "Besides, money and power often play a role in influencing election outcome. Someone who has both theoretic

cal and practical knowledge about these aspects would have been a valuable addition to the commission." The eminent educationist hopes the newly formed EC would try its best to create "space" for building confidence among all stakeholders. "I will request the commission to plan a 100-day work strategy where it will focus on confidence building ahead of the next general elections. The commission can outline its plan for dialogue with political parties and on how to ensure transparency and accountability in the electoral process," he added. Headed by Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, the search panel includes Justice Obaidul Hassan, a High Court judge; Muhammad Sadique, chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; Masud Ahmed, comptroller and auditor general of Bangladesh; Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, trustee board member of Transparency International Bangladesh; and Shireen Akhter, provice chancellor of Chittagong University.

Boy killed

FROM PAGE 16
School, from Golakandail area around 1:00am and sent it to Narayanjan General Hospital for autopsy. Sub-inspector (SI) Faizur Rahman of Bhulta police outpost said a gang of abductors including Sujon, an acquaintance, allegedly kidnapped Tajul promising him a cellphone on Friday morning. The gang later demanded Tk 50,000 from Tajul's father, a construction worker, for his son's release. Awal could initially manage Tk 5,000, sent them the money on Sunday and sought more time for the rest of the amount, the SI added. The police have meanwhile learned about the incident and arrested Sujon in Karimganj area of Kishoreganj on Tuesday afternoon. During primary interrogation Sujon confessed to abducting the boy and the police recovered his body following his information. Tajul's father filed a murder case. Bhulta police outpost in-charge Inspector Shahidul Alam said they would pray for Sujon's remand and arrest the others involved.

A source at the Cabinet Division yesterday said it was yet to decide whether the recommendations of the civil society members would be made public. Despite several attempts, The Daily Star couldn't reach Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam over his mobile phone. In its recommendations to the president, the panel proposed the names of

more teenage groups were formed in and around the area over the years. In 2015, some teenage groups integrated into "Fifteen Group". But internal feud among its members led to the formation of three groups -- Big Boss, Nine Star and 9 MM. The "Disco Boys" group was formed in 2009 while its associate "Big Boss" was set up last year. Their rival group, "Nine Star", was formed in 2013, said Rab. Mahmud said they would hand over the eight arrestees to the police after interrogation. Ali Hossain Khan, OC of Uttara West Police Station, said police so far arrested six people in connection with the murder. Four of them confessed to a Dhaka court about their involvement in the killing. Five of the arrestees are at a juvenile correction centre and the other is behind bars, he added.

group. Two days later, members of "Nine Star" group retaliated, assaulting "Big Boss" leader Chhoton. Members of "Disco Boys" and "Big Boss" pounced on the "Nine Star" men on January 6. Adnan came under attack during the incident while their "prime target" Raju, leader of "Nine Star" group, managed to escape, said the Rab director. About education of the arrestees, the Rab said Shetu of "Disco Boys" is a BBA student at Daffodil University and Jahid is a tenth-grader at Uttara School and College. Chhoton claimed himself to be a student of class ten at Unique Educare. All the other arrestees of the "Big Boss" group are school dropouts, except for Sumon who passed HSC exams, the elite force added. According to Rab, teenage gangs were first formed in Uttara in 2001 with one named "Kakra Group". Later, around 30

SC seeks

FROM PAGE 16
determine rules for removing its judges for incapacity or misconduct, as the draft of the law in question was prepared when a relevant case was pending with the HC. Bangladesh

8 of Uttara 'teenage gangs' held

FROM PAGE 16
spray colours, and cannabis from the arrestees. During primary interrogation all the eight admitted their involvement in the murder. Jahid admitted to have attacked Adnan with a sharp knife, Mahmud added. A student of Uttara's Trust School, Adnan came under attack on January 6 allegedly from members of "Disco Boys". The critically injured schoolboy was rushed to a Uttara hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. Victim's father Kabir Hossain filed the murder case with Uttara West Police Station, naming nine people and accusing around 10-12 unnamed people. The Rab yesterday said some teenage gangs in Uttara were caught up in a feud on January 3 when some members of "Disco Boys" and "Big Boss" groups beat up Raju, the leader of "Nine Star"

advancement." Rakiuddin, who was accompanied by other commissioners at the press conference, also wished the upcoming EC well. The four commissioners are Mohammad Abdul Mobarak, Mohammad Abu Hafiz, Brig Gen (ret'd) Md Zayed Ali and Md Shah Nawaz. The new EC, appointed by the president on Monday, will take oath of office on February 15. The 2019 general election will be held under this EC. Former secretary KM Nurul Huda will head the new commission. The four other members are former additional secretary Mahbub Talukder, former secretary Md Rafiqul Islam, former district and sessions judge Begum Kabita Khanam and Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury.

EC worked impartially
FROM PAGE 16
the BNP-led alliance because it was held under the ruling Awami League-led administration, and not under a caretaker government as demanded by the alliance. In that election, 153 out of the 300 lawmakers were elected unopposed. Besides, the commission held city corporation, municipality, upazila parishad and union parishad elections, most of them mired by violence and irregularities. In most cases, the EC neither investigated those nor took any legal action against the offenders. When his attention was drawn to this, Rakiuddin said, "We held over 60,460 elections during our tenure... We have been successful in holding all the elections fairly and impartially save for some isolated incidents of violence." Talking about the January 5 election,

First nanosatellite

FROM PAGE 1
orbit, at an altitude of around 410 kilometres, sometime next month through Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. Taking 90 minutes to complete one revolution and passing over Bangladesh four to six times every day, it will be able to take high quality photographs of Bangladesh, from which topographical data can be gathered, say the BRAC University authorities. It can also relay audio signals and be used for communication during emergencies via amateur "ham" radio equipment. It will be able to measure atmospheric density before disintegrating on re-entry at the end of its six-month lifespan, they added. It will also play the national anthem on days of national importance, observe space environment and help monitor its own location, they said. The university has already started building a ground station at its Mohakhali campus in the capital. BRAC University Vice-Chancellor Prof Syed Saad Andaleeb received the nanosatellite from Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech) President Prof Yuji Oie in Kitakyushu, Japan. Connecting, via Skype, to a ceremony on the Mohakhali campus, he said, "It will generate the kind of information which will help us in policy planning. Space is one frontier where we have to look at now. Space keeps many promises for us." The project was costing "a few crore taka", he responded to a journalist's query.

An assistant professor at the University of Texas in Austin, Arifur Rahman Khan, first came up with the idea of the nanosatellite project while teaching at Kyutech. It was then taken forward by his acquaintance, Associate Professor Md Khalilur Rahman of the BRAC University computer science and engineering department. People initially felt hesitant to take up the challenge but later on realised the benefits, said Arifur on joining from the US via Skype. BRAC University started space and remote sensing research in collaboration with Kyutech and Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation in 2014. The three nanosatellite developers -- Raihana Shams Islam Antara, Abdulla Hil Kafi and Maisun Ibn Monowar -- are now postgraduate students of applied science for integrated system engineering at Kyutech. "We will have five to six minutes to collect data from the satellite when it will pass over Bangladesh each day," said Kafi. "It is like a dream come true," added Antara. BRAC University mathematics and natural sciences department Chairperson Prof AA Ziauddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Chairman Shahjahan Mahmood and First Secretary Toshiyuki Noguchi of the Japanese embassy in Bangladesh, among others, attended the event in Dhaka.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 2
Sustainable Development Goals with Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Replying to another query, Hasina said 1840MW power would be added to the national grid in 2017, as her government has a plan to produce 24000MW of electricity by 2021 to ensure electricity for all. She also said the government has a plan to import 6500MW of electricity from neighbouring countries by 2030. Currently, she said, Bangladesh is importing 600MW power from India under sub-regional cooperation. "Discussions are on to purchase hydropower from Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and the north-eastern part of India." The premier said per capita power consumption in Bangladesh is now 407 kilowatts, which was 220 kilowatts eight years ago. Mentioning that 12 mega coal-based power plants with the capacity of 9,840MW of power are now under construction, Hasina informed the House: "Highest security measures have been taken for environmental protection while constructing coal-based power plants in the country." She also said some 3,100MW of power would come from renewable energy.

Govt to make list

FROM PAGE 16
The information minister, however, didn't say anything about the process through which the "genuine journalists" would be scrutinised across the country. According to the Sangbadik Kalyan Trust law, passed in parliament on July 1, 2014, there is a 13-member board of trustee with the information minister as its chairman and information secretary its vice-chairman. Other members of the board are principal information officer, a director general-level officer to be nominated by the Prime Minister's Office, a finance division officer with the rank and status of not below a joint secretary, director general of Bangladesh Press Institute, joint secretary (press) of the information ministry, two representatives from Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and three other journalists to be nominated by the government. The government is supposed to appoint its managing director who

will also act as the member secretary of the board. The government is supposed to set up a permanent fund for the trust and also to mobilise funds from the local authorities like city corporations, private organisations, individuals and foreign donors. The law is aimed at ensuring welfare of the insolvent, wounded and sick journalists and dependants of the deceased ones. In reply to another query, Inu said 1,925 online-based newspapers, televisions and radios applied for registration with the government. "The country's private electronic media have been enjoying full freedom in terms of telecasting news by remaining under the existing rules and regulations," he said. In this connection, the minister said constitutional provisions and existing laws, rules and regulations are being followed to run the activities of the print and electronic media.

liantly. On a side note, no longer can you use the non-inviting issue to win those little cricketing debates with your Indian friends. The inaugural aspects aside, this is probably going to be the toughest assignment Bangladesh have undertaken since their golden run began in 2015. Going by the way Bangladesh gifted away the last two Tests to New Zealand and the manner in which they struggled in the two-day practice match against India A, it could be a challenge for Bangladesh to be competitive, let alone win the Test. The wicket at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, which is set to host the Test from 10:00am today, is expected to assist the spinners. As a result, Bangladesh is likely to field three spinners and two pacers today. Soumya Sarkar is set to continue opening in place of the injured Imrul

will also act as the member secretary of the board. The government is supposed to set up a permanent fund for the trust and also to mobilise funds from the local authorities like city corporations, private organisations, individuals and foreign donors. The law is aimed at ensuring welfare of the insolvent, wounded and sick journalists and dependants of the deceased ones. In reply to another query, Inu said 1,925 online-based newspapers, televisions and radios applied for registration with the government. "The country's private electronic media have been enjoying full freedom in terms of telecasting news by remaining under the existing rules and regulations," he said. In this connection, the minister said constitutional provisions and existing laws, rules and regulations are being followed to run the activities of the print and electronic media.

will also act as the member secretary of the board. The government is supposed to set up a permanent fund for the trust and also to mobilise funds from the local authorities like city corporations, private organisations, individuals and foreign donors. The law is aimed at ensuring welfare of the insolvent, wounded and sick journalists and dependants of the deceased ones. In reply to another query, Inu said 1,925 online-based newspapers, televisions and radios applied for registration with the government. "The country's private electronic media have been enjoying full freedom in terms of telecasting news by remaining under the existing rules and regulations," he said. In this connection, the minister said constitutional provisions and existing laws, rules and regulations are being followed to run the activities of the print and electronic media.

Take measures

FROM PAGE 2
came hard on the heels of Bangladesh's first wheat imports from Brazil, which has been struggling with the fungal disease for long. There was a huge public outcry against alleged quality compromise over imports of those wheat consignments from Brazil. The fungal disease damaged wheat crops in Bangladesh for two consecutive seasons last year and this year.

Tigers face litmus test

FROM PAGE 1
various points in the last decade and a half. The critical voices were especially high when Bangladesh had knocked India out of the 2007 World Cup. It is not as though playing this series has given Bangladesh a new status in international cricket. After all, your true virtue is not realised after just one series or one game. It takes a long period of good performances and wins to actually be recognised as a force. However, what this series symbolises is a change in era. The last time India toured Bangladesh and lost the ODI series, there were questions made by Indian journalists asking the Indian team if Bangladesh would be capable of replacing Pakistan as the new rival for India. To go from being commercially non-viable to an almost-rival goes to show how much Bangladesh have progressed over the years and this tour of India just sums it all up quite bril-

ly. On a side note, no longer can you use the non-inviting issue to win those little cricketing debates with your Indian friends. The inaugural aspects aside, this is probably going to be the toughest assignment Bangladesh have undertaken since their golden run began in 2015. Going by the way Bangladesh gifted away the last two Tests to New Zealand and the manner in which they struggled in the two-day practice match against India A, it could be a challenge for Bangladesh to be competitive, let alone win the Test. The wicket at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, which is set to host the Test from 10:00am today, is expected to assist the spinners. As a result, Bangladesh is likely to field three spinners and two pacers today. Soumya Sarkar is set to continue opening in place of the injured Imrul

ly. On a side note, no longer can you use the non-inviting issue to win those little cricketing debates with your Indian friends. The inaugural aspects aside, this is probably going to be the toughest assignment Bangladesh have undertaken since their golden run began in 2015. Going by the way Bangladesh gifted away the last two Tests to New Zealand and the manner in which they struggled in the two-day practice match against India A, it could be a challenge for Bangladesh to be competitive, let alone win the Test. The wicket at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, which is set to host the Test from 10:00am today, is expected to assist the spinners. As a result, Bangladesh is likely to field three spinners and two pacers today. Soumya Sarkar is set to continue opening in place of the injured Imrul

ly. On a side note, no longer can you use the non-inviting issue to win those little cricketing debates with your Indian friends. The inaugural aspects aside, this is probably going to be the toughest assignment Bangladesh have undertaken since their golden run began in 2015. Going by the way Bangladesh gifted away the last two Tests to New Zealand and the manner in which they struggled in the two-day practice match against India A, it could be a challenge for Bangladesh to be competitive, let alone win the Test. The wicket at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, which is set to host the Test from 10:00am today, is expected to assist the spinners. As a result, Bangladesh is likely to field three spinners and two pacers today. Soumya Sarkar is set to continue opening in place of the injured Imrul

ly. On a side note, no longer can you use the non-inviting issue to win those little cricketing debates with your Indian friends. The inaugural aspects aside, this is probably going to be the toughest assignment Bangladesh have undertaken since their golden run began in 2015. Going by the way Bangladesh gifted away the last two Tests to New Zealand and the manner in which they struggled in the two-day practice match against India A, it could be a challenge for Bangladesh to be competitive, let alone win the Test. The wicket at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, which is set to host the Test from 10:00am today, is expected to assist the spinners. As a result, Bangladesh is likely to field three spinners and two pacers today. Soumya Sarkar is set to continue opening in place of the injured Imrul