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# Trump receives another blow

His pick for top security adviser turns down offer; Trump denies campaign had pre-election contact with Russia

AFP, Washington  
Donald Trump's reported pick for national security adviser turned down the job just hours after the president defended the ousted Michael Flynn, saying he "wasn't wrong" for dealing with Russia.



Retired Navy Admiral Robert Harward's rejection of the key post late Thursday leaves Trump without a replacement for Flynn, the first high profile casualty of the US leader's tenure, and it added to a perception of disarray in his administration.

Harward told CNN he bowed out because of family and financial commitments, but several US media outlets reported that he was unhappy because he had no guarantees that the National Security Council -- and not Trump's political advisers -- would be in charge of policy.

Members of the council currently include Steve Bannon, Trump's controversial far-right former campaign manager. One Harward friend told CNN that he didn't want the job because of chaos at the White House.

Flynn, a close adviser on Trump's 2016 campaign, resigned after it was revealed that he held telephone conversations during the election race with Russia's ambassador in Washington about US sanctions.

Flynn was no stranger to controversy. His past included a paid appearance at a 2015 dinner sitting next to President Vladimir Putin and suggestions that Russia's seizure of Crimea and its support for Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad

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**WHOSE FOOTPATH IS IT ANYWAY?** A ramp has been built on part of the footpath to facilitate the exit and entry of cars at the gate of a building near the capital's Bangla Motor intersection. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# First polls under new EC today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The newly formed Election Commission holds municipal polls in Rangamati's Baghaichhari Upazila today, three days after it took charge.

"This is the first election under the new Election Commission. We are giving a lot of importance to it," Election Commissioner Brig general (ret'd) Sahadat Hossain Chowdhury told journalists yesterday.

Earlier, he held a meeting with law enforcers and district election officials at the upazila parishad hall to discuss preparations for the election.

Issuing a note of warning, he said if anyone is found involved in any wrongdoing concerning the polls, the commission would take tough action.

The new EC headed by Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda took oath on February 15.

According to election officials, three candidates are vying for the mayoral post and 31 for 12 posts of

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# Samsung heir arrested in graft probe

AFP, Seoul

Prosecutors yesterday arrested the de facto head of South Korea's largest conglomerate, Samsung, on bribery and other charges related to a political corruption scandal that triggered the impeachment of President Park Geun-Hye.



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# Hard to tackle air pollution

Non-compliant brick kilns operate, rundown vehicles run despite drive against polluters, leading to deterioration of air quality

REAZ AHMAD

Regulators are having a hard time curbing the worrisome rise in air pollution in the country largely because of a "culture of non-compliance" with laws.

Brick kilns operating with pollutant chimneys, rundown public transport plying the roads and construction and development work being carried out without maintaining the standards are making it next to impossible to rein in the pollution.

Bangladesh has experienced the

steepest rise in air pollution levels since 2010, according to the State of Global Air 2017 released by the Boston-based Health Effects Institute (HEI) just a couple of days ago.

Concentration of fine particles in Bangladesh increased from 65 micrograms per cubic metre of air (65ug/m3) in 1990 to 92 ug/m3 in 2015, said HEI, an independent research organisation that receives funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

"Such deterioration of our air quality

is all our own creations. These are totally man-made. No one in the society is complying with the environmental best practices," lamented SM Munjurul Hannan Khan, who oversees the government-run Clean Air and Sustainable Development (CASE) project.

Munjurul said a "culture of non-compliance" was exposing the people to such an unhealthy environment.

He said the culture allows non-complying brick kilns to operate, worn-out and totally unfit buses and

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# Scientists discover 'eighth continent'



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

There is an entire, submerged and unrecognised continent that has been hiding until now, according to scientists.

New Zealand is sitting on top of the geological entity, most of which sits underneath the South Pacific and so can't be seen, according to a major new paper.

The continent -- known as Zealandia -- is a distinct geological entity and meets all the criteria that are satisfied by the existing seven continents, the researchers said. It is elevated above the area that surrounds it, has its own distinctive geology, the area that it takes up is well defined and it has a thick crust -- just like the seven masses we currently class as continents.

The new continent measures five million square kilometres and 94 percent of that is underwater, according to the new paper published in the Geological Society of America's journal, GSA Today. It is made up of three major landmasses: New Zealand's north and south islands, and New Caledonia to the north.

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# Helpless boy gets shelter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The maimed preteen boy stuck at Dhaka Medical College Hospital has finally found a place to live, thanks to a generous initiative by the women and children affairs ministry.

Following The Daily Star's report on the boy, Robin, on Thursday, the ministry asked its partner NGO Aparajeyo-Bangladesh to rehabilitate him. The NGO would take him to its shelter home in the capital's Kamalapur

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# 1,000 Rohingyas could be sent abroad

Say UNHCR officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UN refugee agency UNHCR is trying to rehabilitate 1,000 Rohingya refugees to Canada, some other European countries and the USA from Bangladesh, officials of the UN refugee agency said.

"The UNHCR has sought permission from the Bangladesh government to rehabilitate the 1,000 Rohingyas to other countries," Shinji Kubo, the agency's Bangladesh country representative, told BBC Bangla service yesterday.

There are around 34,000 registered Rohingya refugees at two camps in Bangladesh, and the agency has selected 1,000 from them, said Kubo, adding that they have been

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A helpless Rehana sits beside the ruins of her home at Tinshed Colony in Mirpur's Pallabi yesterday following a fire that is believed to have originated when the batteries of some auto-rickshaws were being recharged at a garage using an illegal electricity line. About 30 tin-roofed houses were gutted in the incident. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# 'Outlaw' killed in 'gunfight' with police

Yaba trader dies as two groups 'exchange fire'

STAR REPORT

An alleged outlaw was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Rajbari's Pangsha, while a suspected yaba trader was killed in "an exchange of fire" between two groups of yaba traders in Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The man killed in Pangsha upazila was Moazzem Fakir, 32, a "member outlawed Sarbahara Party", reports a correspondent from Faridpur, quoting police.

Moazzem, of Modyapatta village in the upazila, was also the second-in-command of "Bipul Bahini" which is involved in different criminal activities like extortion, said police.

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## তুমি রবে নীরবে ...

শামসুন্নাহার রহমান পরাণ

(মৃত্যুঃ ১৮ই ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০১৫ ইং)

“সবুজ ঘাঙ্গেরে ধ্বংসে দুঃখিয়ে মাথা জোমাদের দেবে পরাণের বারতা।”

‘মাসফুল’ প্রতিষ্ঠাতা শামসুন্নাহার রহমান পরাণ-এর আজ দ্বিতীয় মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী। তিনি আমাদের ছেড়ে আমাদের দায়িত্ব দিয়ে বিশ্রাম নিতে চলে গেছেন। তাঁর বর্ণাঢ্য কর্মযাত্রের মাঝে তিনি আজীবন বেঁচে থাকবেন আমাদের মাঝে।

- মাসফুল পরিবার

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**বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল**

২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী, (পুরাতন ৮৬, বিজয়নগর), ঢাকা-১০০০  
ফোন : ৯৫৫৫৫৩৮, ৯৫৮৬৭২৭, ফ্যাক্স : ৯৫৫৫২৩৬  
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**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১। রোগীর জন্য ব্যবস্থাপত্রের (প্রেসক্রিপশন) লেখা সহজবোধ্য করতে তা স্পষ্টভাবে এবং বড় হরফে (Capital Letter) লিখার বিষয়ে কার্যকর পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করার জন্য বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল এর প্রতি মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট নির্দেশনা প্রদান করেছেন। বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল (বিএমএন্ডডিএসি) সকল নিবন্ধিত চিকিৎসকগণের প্রতি এ নির্দেশনা প্রদান করেছেন যে, এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর হতে তাঁহারা যেন সব সময় তাঁহাদের ব্যবস্থাপত্রে ঔষধের নাম স্পষ্টাক্ষরে (CAPITAL LETTER) লিখেন এবং ঔষধের ব্যবহার বিধি স্পষ্ট ও বোধগম্যভাবে লিপিবদ্ধ করেন।

২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী (পুরাতন ৮৬, বিজয় নগর) ঢাকা-১০০০

# COASTAL SHIPPING WITH INDIA Pangaon receives first cargo vessel

UNB, Keraniganj

The first container ship, MV Nou Kollan-1, arrived from Kolkata at Pangaon Inland Container Terminal in Keraniganj yesterday.

The vessel berthed at the terminal under the Coastal Shipping Agreement between Bangladesh and India. The deal, signed during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in 2015, allows direct movement of ships at sea between the two countries.

It has helped improving the connectivity between the two neighbours by reducing shipping time from 30-40 days to 4-10 days.

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