



This fishing cat, caught by locals at Molinchak beel in Chapainawabganj's Gomostapur upazila on Sunday, was later released to Shib Rampur area. Fishing cat population is declining due to loss of natural habitat.

Another stone

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illegally from different quarries in the upazila in the last two months. Faruk died around 11:30am. The incident happened in a quarry in Utmachhara area, said Nasrin Jahan Fatema, vice-chairman of the upazila. She said the quarry is controlled by an influential local, Hashim Mia. Abul Hossain, president of [Companiganj] Press Club, said the same. Hashim, however, could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts. Contacted, Abul Layes, upazila nirbahari officer, said they raided the spot after the incident. They, however, did not find anyone there. Mostafizur Rahman, assistant director of the Department of Environment, said, "Action would be taken following investigation". Talking to this correspondent, several locals said a group of traders has been extracting stones illegally from different quarries in the district for long, leading to accidents and subsequent deaths of workers. "Indiscriminate stone extraction can trigger landslide any moment," Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), Sylhet chapter, said. Nasrin Jahan Fatema said despite being well aware of the risks, workers dug the quarries because they need money to feed themselves and their families.

Interns

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Rouf. They even forced him to do squats by holding his ears and made him seek an apology by touching their feet, she said. They later confined him to a room until police arrived on the spot and got him out. Interns again beat him when Rouf went to the director's room to complain and said he knew Health Minister Nasim, who also comes from his district Sirajganj, she added. The interns accused Rouf of misbehaving with a female intern. After the punishment of the interns was announced on March 2, they started a work stoppage first in SZRMCH, which later spread to other medical college hospitals across the country. There are allegations that the interns, who were penalised, were able to mobilise support for the strike countrywide because of their involvement with BCL, a reason the health minister backtracked. The minister had earlier told media that the interns' strike was totally irrational and that it would not be tolerated. Meanwhile, the family of Rouf said they did not seek justice from anyone but Allah, reports our correspondent in Bogra. His father, patient Alauddin Sarkar, 65, died on February 21, two days after the incident. Meanwhile, Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, chairman of National Health Rights Movement, said the whole incident was "a power game". "The main problem in the hospitals is mismanagement. The patients, however, assume that the frontline health workers are responsible for all that. But those linked to power want to show it off, leading to confrontations," he said. "Addressing such problems depends on improving hospital services and management," he added. Meanwhile, the interns interpreted the minister's action as improper and a misuse of power as the patient comes from his district. Intern Kutubuddin of SZRMCH said they withdrew the strike in the evening yesterday, but demanded security of all doctors in hospitals. The patients, however, suffered in different medical college hospitals at divisional levels as the interns had enforced the strike until yesterday afternoon. In Rajshahi and Bogra, the interns also formed human chains, and Bangladesh Medical Association and Swachip expressed solidarity with them in Bogra.

Historic 7th March today

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"EBARER sangram amader muktir sangram, ebarer sangram swadhinatar sangram [The struggle this time is a struggle for emancipation, the struggle this time is a struggle for independence]," the great leader added. During his deliberations amid thunderous slogans and applause, he also made a fervent appeal to people from all walks of life to prepare for armed struggle against tyranny, exploitation, subjugation and deprivation with whatever they had and turning every house into a fortress. People were overwhelmed and imbued with the spirit of Bangabandhu's speech. The whole nation responded spontaneously with a thunderous slogan "Bir Bangalee ostro dhoro, Bangladesh shadhin koro" [Brave Bangalees take up arms, achieve independence for Bangladesh]. The speech changed the course of the country's history, inspiring people to prepare for the Liberation War, which began after the Pakistani military on March 25 launched an attack on unarmed Bangalees and committed genocide for the next nine months. As soon as the attack began, Bangabandhu proclaimed independence. President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages marking the day. The president said the speech was a fervent call for freedom. "I recall with utmost respect the Father of the Nation," he said, adding that the immense courage, strong leadership and right directions of Bangabandhu led the nation into achieving independence. He said the speech would be an endless source of inspiration for generations. Sheikh Hasina termed it an unforgettable day in the thousand-year history of Bangalee nation. Bangabandhu called for the freedom of the country and gave the nation the roadmap for achieving independence, she said, adding that Bangabandhu sensed an inevitable war. She said the speech was included in the book "We Shall Fight on the Beaches: The Speeches That Inspired History" of Jacob F Field. Sheikh Hasina urged people to take up a resolution on the day for forging greater unity once again for the development of Bangladesh and

Why changes

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Some write-ups, which are already in the religion studies books, have been included in the Bangla curriculum for class-I to class-IX following the demand of Hefajat-e Islam, a Qawmi madrasa-based organisation, added the petition. The contents that have been dropped are --- Prarthona by Golam Mostafa and Boi by Humayun Azad for class-V; Ranchi Bhraman by S Wazed Ali, Lal Goruta by Satyen Sen, Lahu by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Ramayan Kahini by Upendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury and Sabha by Sanaul Haque for class-VI. The petition read that some new contents, which are in the religion studies books, have been included in the Bangla textbooks. Sobai Miley Kori Kaj has been added to the Bangla textbook for Class-II, Khalifa Hazrat Abu Baker (RA) class-III, Khalifa Hazrat Umar (RA) class-IV and Biday Hajj and Shaheed Titumir to that for class-V. Such changes in the curriculum are the reflection of communalism and this is unlawful, petitioners' lawyer Syed Mamun Mahbub told The Daily Star.

US fears terror attacks in S Asian countries

UNB, Dhaka
The US government has said it assesses terrorist groups in South Asia may be planning attacks in the region, possibly against US facilities, citizens, and interests. "US citizens should avoid travel to Afghanistan, as no region in the country is immune from violence," said the US Department of State in a worldwide caution issued yesterday. A number of established terrorist organisations, indigenous sectarian groups, and other militants pose a danger to US citizens in Pakistan, it said. "Extremist elements are also active in India, as outlined in a recent emergency message," the message reads. Terrorists have hit a wide variety of targets and institutions in Bangladesh, it mentioned. The travel warnings are in effect for Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Trump signs

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courts moved to block its implementation and lawmakers expressed opposition. The troubled rollout also dominated the first weeks of the new administration, leaving many with the impression that it was badly planned and badly implemented. Polls show that American public opinion is deeply divided on the issue. Most indicate a slight majority of voters opposed, with strong support among Trump's political base. The Republican president criticized a court order suspending the ban as "a very bad decision, very bad for the safety and security of our country. The rollout was perfect." But he has now stepped away from a promise to challenge the matter in the courts. The second order repeals the first, spelling the end of any pending legal proceedings. Whatever the legal outcome, Trump's new ban is likely to polarize opinion further and be immensely popular with his core supporters. SHOULDER TO SHOULDER Iraq's inclusion in the first order prompted outrage in that country, including from Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. It risked scuttling cooperation between Baghdad and Washington in fighting the Islamic State group. The US and Iraqi militaries are currently fighting side-by-side in northern Iraq, trying to wrest the city of Mosul from jihadist control. The Iraqi foreign ministry yesterday expressed its "deep satisfaction" with the new order, and described it as an "important step" in strengthening relations between Baghdad and Washington. But the revised travel ban is also likely to sow further confusion about US immigration policies. Yesterday, Nigeria advised its citizens against all but essential travel to the United States, citing the lack of clarity on new immigration rules. "In the last few weeks, the office has received a few cases of Nigerians with valid multiple-entry US visas being denied entry and sent back to Nigeria," said special adviser to the president Abike Dabiri-Erewa. According to a report released Monday by travel data firm Forwardkeys, travel from the United States to the Middle East has also fallen sharply, with bookings for departure in the next three months falling 25.4 percent behind the equivalent time last year. ROILED BY RUSSIA But the ban is likely to help Trump divert attention from rolling crises on his ties with Russia. Since US intelligence publicly accused Russia of trying to swing the November election in Trump's favour, questions have swirled about whether some in Trump's campaign colluded with Moscow. The last week has seen his attorney general recuse himself from election-related investigations, after it emerged he met the Russian ambassador in Washington twice during the campaign. It has also seen Trump level unsubstantiated allegations that former president Barack Obama ordered a wiretap on the now president's phone.

AL intimidating

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The BNP wants not only an election, but also a democratic rule and a democratic government, he added. "The January 5, 2014 national election was not an election at all. Following the same style, Awami League is now trying to win in the next general election by resorting to tricks and deceiving people. But it won't be so easy." Claiming that there is no democracy in the country, he said "AL talks about democracy to fool people although it does not believe in it". Top BNP leaders, including Senior Joint secretary General Rizvi Ahmed, Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andaleev Rahman Partho also spoke, among others.

Tk 134cr illegally imported goods seized in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Huge quantity of illegally imported goods worth Tk 134 crore was found in the 12 containers seized by the customs intelligence at Chittagong Port. The seizure includes 16,170 bottles of foreign liquor, 4,074 HD, LED and curved televisions sets, 281 photocopiers and 3.84 crore pieces of cigarettes, said a senior official of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate yesterday. One Khorshed Alam using the names of two firms -- Henan Anhui Agro LC of Khilkhet, Dhaka and Agro BD & JP of Abdullahpur, Keraniganj -- imported the consignments exported by Jam Raj Industries, China. The directorate suspects not only the importer, many persons were behind the smuggling and has already started investigation to identify them. Sources in Chittagong Customs House said the clearing and forwarding agent Rabeya & Sons had completed the value assessment of the first consignment as soon as the vessel reached the outer anchorage on February 27. Sensing surveillance and enquiry by the customs intelligence, the importer tried to send the cargo back to Singapore from where the vessel came, said Director General Moinul Khan. The exporter has meanwhile sent a request letter to the commissioner of Chittagong Customs House saying the cargoes were mistakenly sent to Bangladesh. Chittagong Customs Commissioner AFM Abdullah said they had rejected the appeal. After the rejection both the importer and proprietor Jalal Uddin of the C&F firm went into hiding. The commissioner yesterday said he had already ordered to cancel the licence of the C&F firm and its entire staff. DG Moinul said they had initiated an investigation into previous records of import by the same importer and the C&F agent. He blamed the respective bank where the letter of credits (L/Cs) were opened with an importing firm having no office or factory. Mehedi Hasan, a senior official of the bank's Nayapaltna branch, said Agro BD & JP opened the account with them in 2015. Bank officials visited the address and found a tin-shed structure before opening the account, he claimed.

49pc women

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The findings said, "Average age at first marriage for men was 24 years and for women it was 16 years." About the right age for girls to be married, 25 percent female respondents said girls should be married after the age of 20, while only four percent of the male respondents opined so, it mentioned. "Overall, only 50 percent of the respondents thought that girls should have the right to choose when to marry." The majority of the respondents (66 percent female and 42 percent male) had education up to primary level. Nearly half the respondents mentioned that the husbands have right to force his wife to have sex even if she did not consent, the survey claimed. "When asked what a woman could do if she was facing marital rape, 92 percent of the male respondents stated that a woman could do nothing," it said. The survey found that male respondents, irrespective of their level of education, strongly believed that it was common in their community for a husband to physically assault his wife such as slapping or beating if she went out without telling him, used family planning or questioned him about spending money. When asked about household decision-making, at least 59 percent females stated that their husband made the decisions about household expenditure and children's education, while 61 percent male said they made these decisions themselves. While all the male respondents stated that they were involved in economic activities, only 40 percent of the female respondent said they were, it said. Moreover, when respondents were asked if women should be allowed to work to earn a living, nearly all the respondents said they should. But only 69 percent believed that women should have the right to spend their income. Speaking at the programme, Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Benoit-Pierre Laramée said they had observed that there were concerns in the Child Marriage Restraint Act-2017 which had been passed in parliament. There must be monitoring of the implementation of the law, he added. Law and Justice Division Secretary Abu

8 Biman

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Saklain, assistant commissioner of the DB, appealed to the court to issue warrants for arrest of the fugitives who had gone into hiding just after the filing of the case. The charge sheet doesn't mention three FIR-named accused as their actual addresses were not found during the DB probe. Supplementary charge sheets will be submitted if their correct addresses are known, the IO said in the charge sheet submitted yesterday. Finally, the eight Biman employees, who are facing charges, are SM Kamrul Hasan, junior security officer; Abu Jafar, sweeping supervisor; Masudur Rahman, aircraft mechanic; Anis Uddin Bhuiyan, assistant aircraft mechanic; Mojibur Rahman Mojib, aircraft mechanic; Md Shahjahan Siraj alias Babul, senior inspection officer; Saleh Uddin, engineering officer; and Rayhan Ali, a Biman staff. The other accused are Gourango Rosan, a Nepalese national and alleged owner of the seized gold bars; Milon Sikder, chairman of SS Cargo; Abdul Barez Tarafdar, an agent of Gourango, and Gourango's accomplices Saleh Ahmed Khan, Manik Miah, Subrata Kumar Das alias Liton, SM Nurul Islam, Sirajul Islam, Saleh Ahmed and Jasim Uddin. Of them, Gourango, Nurul Islam, Rayhan, Sirajul and Jasim are fugitives. Asked about the delay in submitting the charge sheet, Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of the DB, told The Daily Star it took time as customs filed the case more than a year after the incident, and since there is a foreign accused, information about him needed to be verified.

INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL ANALYTICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICE
Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR)
Dr. Kudrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi Dhaka-1205.
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Date: 06.03.2016
1. Ministry/Division: Ministry of Science and Technology
2. Agency: Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR)
3. Procuring Entity Name: Director, Institute of National Analytical Research and Service.
4. Procuring Entity District: Dhaka
5. Invitation for: Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment.
6. Invitation Ref. No & Date: 39.382.035.00.00.001.2016 & Date: 06.03.2017
7. Procurement Method: National Open Tendering Method (OTM)
8. Budget and Source of Fund: GOB
9. Tender Package No: 01/2017
10. Tender Package Name: Lot 1: Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipments (Item 01- Item 04).
11. Tender Publication Date: 07.03.2017
12. Tender last Selling Date: 21.03.2017 up to 1:00PM
13. Tender Closing Date and Time: 22.03.2017 at 12:30 Noon
14. Tender Opening Date and Time: 22.03.2017 at 12:30 PM
15. Name and address of the office of Selling Tender Document: Office of the Director, Institute of National Analytical Research and Service, BCSIR, Dr. Kudrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
16. Name and address of the office of receiving & opening Tender Document: Office of the Director, Institute of National Analytical Research and Service, BCSIR, Dr. Kudrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
17. Eligibility of Tenderer: Any reputed firm/distributor/supplier/manufacturer having up-to-date valid trade license, VAT, Tax Registration Certificates and Bank Solvency Certificates with Experience in supply of office equipment to the private autonomous / government organization of Bangladesh.
18. Brief description of works: As Per Schedule Specification
19. Brief description of Related Services: N/A
20. Price of Tender Document (Tk): Tk. 500/- (Five hundred only) (Non refundable)
Group Lot No. Identification Lot Location Tender Security Amount (Tk.) (Refundable) Completion Time in days
Lot 01 Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipments (Item 01 - Item 04) Dhaka 85,000/- 60 days from the date of Notification of award.
21. Name of Official Inviting Tender: Dr. Samina Ahmed
22. Designation of Official Inviting Tender: Director, Institute of National Analytical Research and Service.
23. Address of the Official inviting tender: BCSIR, Dr. Kudrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
24. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender: Telephone No. 9664959 email: dir-inars@bcsir.gov.bd
25. Special instruction: (a) The purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders prior to acceptance without assigning any reason whatsoever. (b) If the tender closing and opening date is disturbed by any unavoidable circumstances the next working day will be applicable for the same.
Dr. Samina Ahmed
Director
INARS,BCSIR