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ROHINGYA REPATRIATION PM urges Jakarta to play a role

UNB, Jakarta

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Indonesian government to play a role in the repatriation of Rohingyas.

"The Myanmar refugee issue is a big problem for Bangladesh and it needs to be resolved," she said during a bilateral meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

The meeting was held at Jakarta Convention Centre on the sidelines of the IORA Leaders' Summit.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque said the Indonesian foreign minister recently visited Bangladesh and Myanmar to take account of the Myanmar refugee crisis.

Shahidul said the issues of cooperation on railway, pharmaceutical and energy sectors between Bangladesh and Indonesia also came up for discussions at the meeting.

The PM invited the Indonesian president to visit Bangladesh at his convenient time which he cordially accepted.

Widodo told Hasina that a ministry-level delegation will visit Bangladesh within two months to set the visit agenda after discussions with Bangladesh officials.

"We're hopeful that the visit of the Indonesian president to Bangladesh will take place by this year," the foreign secretary said.

Meanwhile, Hasina urged the leaders of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) to reduce tension in the region, respect the freedom of navigation and use seas to promote friendship.

Stressing the importance of blue economy for future development, she also called on the leaders to dedicate

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina among leaders of member states at the first-ever Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) summit at the Jakarta Convention Centre yesterday. Hasina urged the leaders of IORA to reduce tension in the region, respect the freedom of navigation and use seas to promote friendship.

CU teacher found dead at home

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a Chittagong University professor from inside his home in Paharika Housing Society area yesterday.

The body of Prof Md Abul Kalam Azad of Mathematics was found hanging from the ceiling. The freedom fighter was 62.

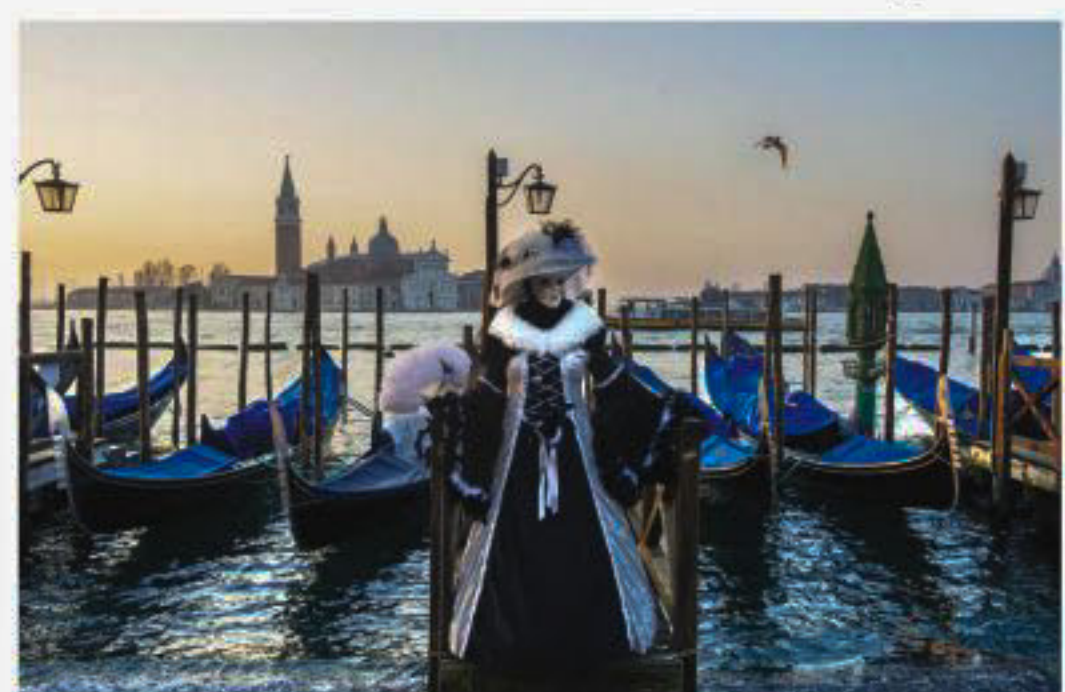
His wife Shahanara Begum, a professor of Chemistry at the same university, discovered his body when she returned home from work around 4:00pm.

Officer-in-Charge Belal Md Jahangir of Hathazari Police Station said they recovered the body around 7:30pm in presence of the upazila nirbahi officer and family members.

"No injury mark was found in his body. We preliminarily suspect that he

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Will Venice vanish within a century?



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Venice will be underwater within a century if the acceleration in global warming is not quelled and flood defences installed, a new climate change report has warned.

The ancient and iconic city will be flooded because the Mediterranean Sea is forecast to rise by up to 140cm before 2100, according to the research.

The same rise in sea level is predicted to swamp a 176-mile long coastline in the north Adriatic and parts of the west coast of Italy, because of greenhouse gas emissions.

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Jatiya Party to float new alliance soon

RASHIDUL HASAN

With the next general election due in less than two years, Jatiya Party is going to form a new political alliance, party insiders said.

JP chief HM Ershad is likely to announce formation of the 15-party combine next week.

As part of finalising the process of floating the new alliance, the JP chairman in the last few days had a series of meetings with leaders of different political parties, including a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (Nejami) that left the BNP-led 20-party alliance last year.

According to JP sources, all the 15 political parties to be included in the proposed alliance are not

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900m in Asia had to pay bribes

Bribery rates highest in India, Vietnam, says TI survey in 16 Asian countries last year

AFP, Bangkok

More than a quarter of people living in Asia had to pay a bribe while trying to access a public service in the past year, a watchdog said yesterday, calling on governments to root out endemic graft in the region.

The report by Berlin-based Transparency International surveyed more than 20,000 people in 16 countries spanning the Asia Pacific region from Pakistan to Australia.

From the results they estimated 900 million people were forced to fork over "tea money" at least once in the previous 12 months.

Bribery rates were highest in India and Vietnam, where nearly two thirds of respondents said they had to sweeten the deal to access basic services like public education and healthcare.

Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Australia reported the lowest incidences of bribery.

Police were the most common demanders of kickbacks, according to the survey, with just under a third of people who had come into contact with an officer in the past year saying they had paid a bribe.

The poor are hit hardest by corruption with 38 percent of respondents saying they had to pay a bribe, the highest in any income category.

Yet while poorer people were more likely to be targeted in countries like Thailand, India and Pakistan, the reverse trend was found in places like Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia.

"Governments must do more to deliver on their anti-corruption commitments," Jose Ugaz, the chair of Transparency International, said in a press release.

"Bribery is not a small crime, it takes food off the table, it prevents education, it impedes proper healthcare and ultimately it can kill."

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Dohar singer Kalikaprasad killed in road accident

STAR REPORT

India's noted folk singer and Bangla band Dohar's front man Kalikaprasad Bhattacharjee died in a tragic road accident in Hooghly district of West Bengal yesterday.

The 47-year-old folk singer was on his way to Seuri in Birbhum area with some of his band mates for a performance, our Kolkata correspondent reports.

The car carrying the band members fell into a ditch after a lorry hit the car at the National Road in

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Gas price hike to hit export, industries

Fertiliser, commodities to become costlier: MCCI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest gas price hike will fuel the cost of industrial production, transport fare and inflation and will also have a negative impact on Bangladesh's competitiveness in export, said a leading business chamber yesterday.

In a statement, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in Dhaka also said the increased gas price would push up the prices of fertilisers, basic commodities and electricity.

Considering the consequences, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) should give a second thought to implementing the gas price hike by 22.7 percent in two phases for all consumers, said MCCI.

In the first phase that came into effect on March 1, the gas price went up by half the estimated increase.

The second phase should take effect on June 1 as per the decision of the energy commission.

But the High Court stayed for six months the hike in the second phase, responding to

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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 8

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5-15	12-45	4-30	6-05	7-30
JAMAAT	5-50	1-15	4-45	6-10

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Tk 1.53cr snatched from factory staff

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Muggers yesterday snatched Tk 1.53 crore from officials of a garment factory at Hemayetpur in Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

Mahmood Alam Siddiqui, senior manager (HR and Compliance) of Babylon Group, said around 12:00 noon, four of their officials were taking Tk 2 crore from Aboni Textiles Ltd to Aboni Fashion Ltd, both are concerns of the group, in a private car to pay wages of their workers.

When the car reached Nazimnagar area, some 200 yards

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OBITUARY

Delara Thakur, wife of Late Fazlul Karim Thakur and mother of Late Hasan Karim Rumi Thakur, Jamee Thakur, Zahad Thakur, Sajjad Sayeed Thakur, Sanjida Ashraf, Farhana Zakaria and Farzana Masrur, passed away on Tuesday 7th March 2017. Inna lillahi wa Inna illaihi raziun. Her kulkhwani will be held on 11th March 2017, baadh magrib at the Old DOHS community centre. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the kulkhwani. Your presence will be appreciated.

8th MARCH

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