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Qazi Arif passes away
STAR REPORT

Eminent elocutionist, architect and cultural personality Qazi Arif passed away last night at a New York hospital. He was 65. Doctors at Mount Sinai St. Luke's hospital withdrew life support from him around 10:55pm (BST) in front of his family members, said Ahkam Ullah, general secretary of a Bangladeshi recitation organisation, who was present at the hospital. Arif was on life support as his health condition deteriorated following a heart operation at the hospital on April 25. A freedom fighter, Arif was famous for poetry

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Tainted, yet inducted into JU BCL

Posts given to those accused of misdeeds, suspended from outfit

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Abdur Rahim Jewel was arrested in a land grabbing case in September 2015 and spent a couple of days in jail. He was then deputy information and communications secretary of Jahangirnagar University unit of BCL.

SM Sharif Ahmed, an office secretary of a hall unit, was suspended by the university authorities for his alleged involvement in forgery in last year's university admission test and subsequently, he was suspended from the organisation.

Yet, Jewel became joint secretary and Sharif deputy environmental affairs secretary of the BCL unit when its new committee was announced on Friday.

Like Jewel and Sharif, several other controversial leaders and activists got promoted to higher positions.

Sajib Kumar Saha, ex-international affairs secretary, who was caught on video taking heroin in his dormitory last year, was made joint secretary.

Besides, at least 10 BCL members previously involved in beating up journalists and students, some 20 activists having no studentship and several others suspended on several occasions for anti-organisational activities got positions in the committee, according to insiders.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

DEATH PENALTIES IN ASIA

At least 130 executions were carried out in 11 Asian countries in 2016. The vast majority of them were executed in Pakistan. However there is no data available about executions in China, still believed to be by far the world's top executioner.



Compiled by: ANN/DataLEADS

Source: Death sentences and executions in 2016

Bangladesh executed 10 people last year. Eight of them were convicted of murder while two were convicted by the International Crimes Tribunal for war crimes committed in 1971. In Afghanistan, where almost 600 people were facing death sentence by the end of last year, six were executed for terrorist activities. Indonesia executed four people, including three foreigners, for drug related offences.

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A unique initiative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

How often do we appreciate the support we get from an array of helping hands (domestic help)? Many of us don't show much respect for people helping us with our household chores. Rather, at times we ill-treat them.

Though the government has recognised domestic helps as labourers and adopted "Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Policy" in 2015, they do neither enjoy the rights of labourers nor get respect.

A civil society platform, Shomman has begun a movement to ensure that all helping hands like domestic aides, chauffeurs, gardeners, liftmen and private security guards get respect they so deserve.

Shomman is organising a unique way of showing

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



The 'visa temple'

AFP, Hyderabad

Hundreds of Indians gather daily at a 500-year-old Hindu temple in southern India where they pray for a single wish -- an increasingly elusive US visa.

The Chilkur Balaji temple dedicated to Lord Balaji -- a re-incarnation of Hindu god Vishnu -- on the outskirts of Hyderabad city, has long been a one-stop solution for prospective Indian immigrants seeking US visas, earning it the sobriquet of 'visa temple'.

But temple officials say the place has seen an increase in visitors since the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 30

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-20	12-45	4-45	6-29	8-00
JAMAAT 4-55	1-15	5-00	6-34	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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