



আমি পূর্ণ গাড়িপার
মঞ্চে হোক,
ভেয়া কেউ আমিনি

G7 TALKS

Trump isolated over Paris climate change deal

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UPCOMING BUDGET

What to expect from it and what not to?

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DEATH OF JU STUDENTS

Police, BCL men attack protesters as they block Dhaka-Aricha highway

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Cops' mission impossible

Police see lethal arms in the hands of peaceful protesters, sue 140/150 for murder attempt; 4 detainees sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a peaceful protest procession. The participants were hardly a hundred odd youths who thought the unceremonious removal of Lady Justice's statue from in front of the Supreme Court building in the early hours of Friday did not go well with the country's secular fabric.

Some onlookers, who witnessed the march the next morning advancing towards the capital's Doel Chattar, saw no brick chips or sticks, let alone any arms, in the hands of the protesters.

There was no scuffle or confrontation between the youths and the police. And all the youths, except some 10 to 12, left after the law enforcers lobbed tear gas canisters and sprayed coloured waters using water cannons near the High Court Mazar gate.

The police action left around 20 protesters injured. Four of the agitators, including Bangladesh Chhatra Union General Secretary Liton Nandi, were detained.

Yet, hours later, the law enforcers filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station against 140-150 protesters, including the four detainees, claiming that they were equipped with lethal weapons and attempted to kill policemen.

"Armed with bricks, sticks and lethal weapons, demonstrators obstructed police from discharging duty and intended to kill the law enforcers. They [accused] attacked

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HAPPY HEFAJAT TO TARGET ALL SCULPTURES -- PAGE 2



A handful of unarmed protesters hold a banner in front of a police barricade while the law enforcers use water cannon and tear gas on them. Yet, police deemed it fit to arrest Liton Nandi, marked, and charge at least 140 people, including him, with "attempt to kill policemen" and "carrying lethal weapons". The photo was taken near the Supreme Court on Friday.

Lady Justice reinstalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The statue of Lady Justice, which was taken down early Friday, was reinstalled last night in front of the Supreme Court's annex building.

The reinstallation work started around 7:00pm.

Sculptor Mrinal Haque told The Daily Star that he considered the new home of the sculpture not a home at all since people would hardly notice it now.

He said the previous location was the best place for the sculpture but he was happy that it, at least, has finally found a home.

"The Supreme Court authorities notified me about relocating the sculpture there this [yesterday] morning," he said.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, however, told The Daily Star that he did not know anything about the relocation and the chief justice was also not informed about it.

Law Minister Anisul Huq also made similar statements when this newspaper contacted him late last night.

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Fahim heroics stun Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER

Fahim Ashraf, a player who is yet to make his debut in international cricket, channelled his inner Shahid Afridi to lead Pakistan to a two-wicket win against Bangladesh in a warm-up match yesterday.

The Tigers seemed in control when they had sent back Shoab Malik and had Pakistan teetering at 227 for six with just under 12 overs to go, but they let it slip when the heat was on.

23-year-old Fahim came in with Pakistan needing 99 runs from 9.3 overs and with three wickets in hand, but the situation quickly worsened as Imad Wasim departed just seven runs later.

However, much like Tamim Iqbal's authoritative innings before the exchange, Fahim -- who walloped an unbeaten 64 off 30 balls with four fours and as many sixes -- took full advantage of the ridiculous shorter boundary.

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26 lakh jobless

Govt survey finds employment scenario nearly unchanged since 2013; independent expert says number could be higher



MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and WASIM BIN HABIB

Mazhar Hossain stopped counting the number of copies of his curriculum vitae submitted seeking jobs since he completed his master's degree five years ago.

The 32-year-old from Satkhira took several recruitment tests. In a number of cases, he made it through to viva but that was it. He is still unemployed.

"I'm really frustrated. It seems you either need good connections or some backing to get a job. Otherwise, you will remain unemployed like me for years," said Mazhar who passed from a reputed institution in Jessore.

His story is shared by thousands others as the latest survey of the government has found 26 lakh unemployed people in the country.

The unemployment rate has slightly changed from 4.3 percent in 2013 to 4.2 percent last year though the government created massive job opportunities over the period. The report on the survey conducted between July 2015 and June 2016

will be released today.

According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey Bangladesh 2015-16 done by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, rural areas have 18.2 lakh unemployed people, more than double the number of those, 7.7 lakh, in urban areas.

The urban-rural population ratio is 30:70 in Bangladesh.

The BBS says it has followed the international standard definition of unemployment while conducting the survey on various aspects of people's economic activity.

As defined by the International Labour Organisation, people who are out of work, want a job, have actively sought work in the previous four weeks and are available to start work within the next fortnight come under unemployed category.

Prof ATM Nurul Amin, chairman of the economics and social sciences department at Brac University, said the unemployed population should be higher than what was found in the survey.

The definition should be set considering local context, he said, adding that in

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VAT stays at 15pc

Insists Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith backtracked from his earlier position to cut the VAT rate saying that the rate would be 15 percent but the number of items and firms exempted from the indirect tax will be increased under the new law.

"The reduction will upset the whole system. Even if we reduced it, it would be minimal. But it would create problems in calculation," he said at his secretariat office yesterday.

He shared the latest position when reporters reminded him about his previous promise of a cut in VAT rate under the VAT and Supplementary Duty Act 2012, which is scheduled to be implemented from July of this year.

His comments came after a senior minister had hinted that the VAT rate might be 12 percent.

Muhith also clarified on the speculation about the possibility of multiple rates under the new law.

"One rate will be implemented," he said, adding that there would be no multiple rates.

Earlier, Muhith had assured of giving a more comfortable rate amid concerns that application of a uniform 15 percent VAT would fuel living costs and affect small and medium businesses.

Under the existing VAT Act 1991, the government collects indirect tax at varying rates, ranging from 1.5 percent to 15 percent, on a number of goods and services.

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CPD ON BANKING SECTOR

Growing cancer for economy

Think-tank wants VAT rate to be 12pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Burdened with rising bad loans and lack of governance, the banking sector of Bangladesh has become a growing malignancy for the economy, according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

"If the current trend of mammoth non-performing loans, inefficiency and lack of governance continues, the banking sector can cripple a flourishing economy instead of contributing," CPD Research Fellow Towfiqul Islam Khan said yesterday while unveiling its interim review of Bangladesh economy for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Moderated by CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun, the organisation's distinguished fellows Debapriya Bhattacharya and Mustafizur Rahman also spoke at the programme in the city's Brac Centre Inn.

The independent think-tank said Bangladesh's economy would post a respectable growth in the current fiscal year, but termed the persistent weakness in the banking sector, falling remittance inflow and sluggish export growth "disquieting signals".

The CPD said the banking sector burgeoned over the years in terms of number of banks, volume of assets and contribution to the economy. Despite achieving a significant growth, the sector is currently faced with some serious challenges.

"The overall performance of banks, particularly of the state-owned commercial banks, is far from satisfactory," said the CPD, adding that the sector was struggling to recover from the setbacks of large financial scams in some public and private banks unearthed in recent years.

"Most of the indicators reveal a poor health and lack of discipline in several banks," said the CPD in its review.

It suggested that the VAT rate should be 12 percent under the new VAT law.

The VAT rate should be lowered in phases, if not possible at a time. Otherwise, the new VAT law would put increased pressure on producers and consumers, said the organisation.

The CPD said non-performing loans (NPL) rose to Tk 73,409 crore during January-March of 2016-17 fiscal year from Tk 62,170 crore in the

BB SHOULD LOOK INTO ISLAMI BANK ISSUE: ANALYSTS -- PAGE B1 SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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EMI পартনার-

চাকা : *কাটাঘন *নিউ এলিফেন্ট রোড *লেভেল-০১, শ্যামলী হুয়ার, শ্যামলী *যমুনা ফিউচার পার্ক *রিং রোড-১, মোঃপুর *শোলওয়েল কার্বেশন, উত্তরা *রাপা পুজা, ধানমন্ডি *টেক্সিও হুয়ার, মোঃপুর *লালমার্গিয়া (আডং সংলগ্ন) *তাজমহল রোড, মোঃপুর *প্রলশান এডিনিউ, প্রলশান-২ *নিউ সার্কুলার রোড, মালিবাগ *সীমান্ত হুয়ার, ধানমন্ডি *জসিমউদ্দিন রোড, উত্তরা *মিরপুর শপিং সেন্টার, মিরপুর *রিং রোড-২, মোঃপুর *ব্লক-সি বনশ্রী, রামপুরা *নিউ মার্কেট *শেওড়াপাড়া বাসস্ট্যান্ড, মিরপুর *মেইন রোড, বনশ্রী, রামপুরা, টাঙ্গাইল * মেইন রোড, টাঙ্গাইল, গাজীপুর * বাবেয়া কমপ্লেক্স, গাজীপুর চৌরাস্তা, সিলেট * আশরাফা পল্টন, নারায়নগঞ্জ * ২নং ডিআইটি মার্কেট পিইই শ্রুত উদ্বোধন : *লেভেল-০১, শ্যামলী হুয়ার, শ্যামলী *পুলিশ পুজা, হাতিরবিল * হাজীপাড়া, রামপুরা *জিইসি, চট্টগ্রাম