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INT'L MATH OLYMPIAD

Bangladesh bags four medals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With two silver and two bronze medals, Bangladeshi students have taken 26th place among contestants from 111 countries in the 58th International Mathematical Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro of Brazil.

Bangladesh secured the first place among the South Asian countries.

According to the results announced yesterday, Asif E Elahi from Sylhet MC College and Ahmed Jawyad Chowdhury from Cantonment English School and College in Chittagong won silver medals.

Besides, Rahul Saha from Dhaka College and Tamjid Morshed Rubab from Notre Dame College received bronze medals, Bayezid Bhuian Jewel, coordinator of Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad, told The Daily Star.

Asif scored 24, just one shy of gold. Jawyad scored 23, Rahul 18 and Tamjid got 17, he said.

Two other participants -- Sabbir Rahman of Notre Dame College and SM Naimul Islam of Amrita Lal Dey College in Barisal -- were given honorary recognitions.

With 170 marks, South Korea stood first followed by China and Vietnam in second and third places.

Among the South Asian countries, India was placed 52nd with a score of 90 while Sri Lanka 62nd with 80 and Pakistan 81st with 58. Nepal, which took part in the

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The Bangladeshi students, who secured two silver and two bronze medals and two honorary recognitions, in the 58th International Mathematical Olympiad held in Rio de Janeiro of Brazil yesterday. Bangladesh stood first in South Asia and 26th among the 111 countries that took part in the competition.

PHOTO:
COLLECTED

Country gets first digital toll booth

BSS, Narayanganj

The country's first ever digital toll booth was opened at Meghna Toll Plaza in Sonargaon of Narayanganj yesterday.

"The system, Touch and Go, has been installed in Bangladesh for the first time.... If you have a card, then you can go by touching it at the booth," Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader told reporters after inaugurating the system.

He said eight booths would be set up at the toll plaza and two of them

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**SIBL Foundation Hospital
& Diagnostic Center**

PRAYER TIMING JULY 23
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	4-15	12-45	5-00	6-54	8-15
JAMAAT	4-50	1-15	5-15	6-58	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Muslim world in peril for militancy

Says PM after opening hajj programme

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Muslim Ummah was facing danger and crisis as some people chose the wrong path of militancy.

"The whole Muslim Ummah has got trapped in danger due to some people's move to take a confusing path [of militancy]. We won't allow militancy and terrorism to be active in our country," she said.

The PM was inaugurating the Hajj Programme-2017 at the Hajj Camp in the city's Ashkona.

Some people were misusing Islam by killing innocent people in the name of the religion, she said. "As a result, innocent Muslims across the world are facing harassment and even losing their lives."

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also said Islam is the religion of peace and there is no scope in Islam for killing innocent people, Hasina told the programme.

"No one has the right to kill innocent people; the almighty Allah will give the last verdict. Why can't they keep confidence and trust in Him?"

About suicidal attempts by militants, she said Islam never permits taking own life.

"Islam never said one would go to heaven by committing suicide. Some people are creating this confusion...we don't want our people to take this confusing path."

Terming hajjis the guests of Allah, Hasina urged them to pray for Bangladesh so that people can live in peace and the government can continue the pace of development.

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SC lawyer sued under section 57

STAR REPORT

A Supreme Court lawyer has been sued under section 57 of the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Act over Facebook posts.

The case was filed amid growing demands for repeal of the section for its alleged misuse.

One Shafiqul Islam filed the case against Imtiaz Mahmood with Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station on Friday in connection with hurting his sentiments and inciting communal violence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Police have already started an investigation and would take the next step if the probe finds evidence in favour of the allegation, Tareq Mohammad Abul Hannan, officer-in-charge of Khagrachhari Sadar police, told The Daily Star yesterday.

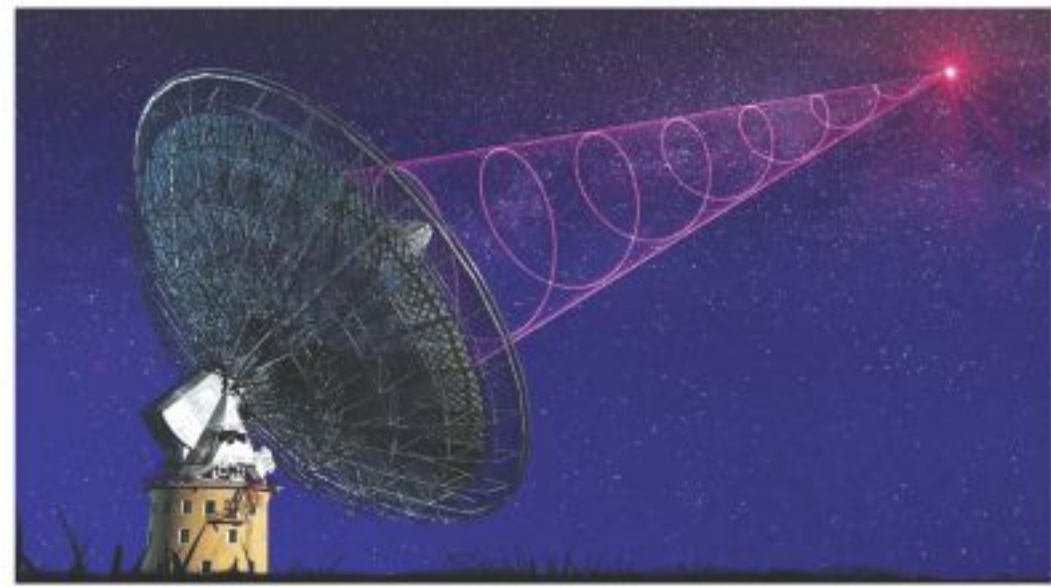
Citing the first information report (FIR), the OC added that Shafiqul had accused Imtiaz of making several posts on July 1-10 regarding some false incidents in the CHT region.

The plaintiff alleged that Imtiaz had tried to instigate communal violence in

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It's not aliens

Astronomers solve mystery of space signal



AFP, Miami

Astronomers have finally solved the mystery of peculiar signals coming from a nearby star, a story that sparked intense public speculation this week that perhaps, finally, alien life had been found.

It hasn't. The signal, which has been formally named "Weird!" was interference from a distant satellite.

Of course, astronomers said all along that extraterrestrials were quite far at the bottom of the list of possibilities for the signals detected from Ross 128, a dim star known as a red dwarf some 11 light-years away.

To experts, the true mystery was that they couldn't figure out if the bursts were unusual stellar activity, emissions from other background objects, or interference from satellite communications.

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TENSIONS OVER AL-AQSA

Fear grows for more violence

Three Israelis killed in West Bank after 3 Palestinians killed in Jerusalem; Abbas freezes Israel contact

AFP, Jerusalem

Stabbings and clashes that left six people dead raised fears of further Israeli-Palestinian violence yesterday as tensions mount over new security measures at a highly sensitive Jerusalem holy site.

Friday's violence -- a stabbing attack that killed three Israelis and clashes which left three Palestinians dead -- was among the most severe in recent years.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan denounced what he called "excessive use of force" by the Israeli security forces in the clashes over the Haram al-Sharif compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount.

The site in Jerusalem's Old City that includes the revered Al-Aqsa mosque and Dome of the Rock has been a focal point for Palestinians.

In 2000, then Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon's visit to the compound helped ignite the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, which lasted more than four years.

Tensions have risen throughout the past week because of new Israeli security measures at the compound following an attack nearby that killed two policemen on July 14.

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With illegal occupation of roads and careless parking, it is hard to tell that this is a four-way intersection known as the Mohammadpur-Beribandh Chowrasta in Dhaka. One road goes towards Basail, one towards Hazaribagh, one towards Mohammadpur and the other towards Gabtoli. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

Erratic rainfall a curse for tea gardens

No rain, too much rain damage crop, trigger spider and insect attack

MINTU DESHWARA with ANDREW EAGLE

Consider a cup of tea: too much water and it's barely delectable; not enough and no amount of sugar can mask the bitterness. Sylhet's tea gardens are in a similar conundrum this year, thanks to erratic rainfall. Deluge has followed dry spell. Tea growers have had to manage sapling growth through periods of water scarcity, and then deal with spider and insect infestations arising from overly wet conditions. It's not good news for the industry, which may experience a production shortfall this year.

"Either too little or too much rain will stifle tea leaf growth," says Shahjahan Akondo, tea leaf researcher and the general manager of New Samanbagh tea estate. "Heavy rain damages and clogs the soil, making it more difficult for tea plants to effectively tap into water reserves, especially in flat areas. As a result the leaves become brittle and crop quality is reduced."

Rain also creates ideal conditions for infestations of red spiders and helopeltis, the insect pest that is commonly known as the tea mosquito or mosquito bugs. Both spiders and tea mosquitoes damage tea leaves.

"High rainfall has left gardens vulnerable to pest infestation," observes Md Nurul Mohmain Milton, general secretary of the environmentalist journalist forum. He believes the erratic rainfall pattern is a symptom of climate change.

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