

JUST A HOOK TO SOME LOVED ONES' SAFETY TO US



Rooppur, Country's Largest and the First Nuclear Power Plant. Proud to be a part of a new era in progress. Rooppur project work in progress using Shah Cement. SHAH CEMENT logo.

RAILWAY NETWORK Deal signed at last to connect Cox's Bazar

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY The project to connect the country's top tourist destination Cox's Bazar with the rail network is finally destined, though delayed, to see light. Bangladesh Railway yesterday inked a Tk 416.51 crore deal with a joint venture of five companies to supervise the construction work of the rail track, a feasibility study of which was done back in 2001. And the contracts for setting up the new rail track -- Dohazari of Chittagong to Cox's Bazar (Ramu) -- will be signed tomorrow with two joint venture companies, railway officials said, hoping the project would now gain momentum. However, the crucial part of the project -- constructing track up to Gundum near Myanmar border to link with the planned Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) has been left out in the first phase of the project. In the original plan, rail track was supposed to be built from Dohazari to Ramu to Gundum. This is the only missing link of the TAR, a railway network across Europe and Asia. A railway official said the rail link from Ramu to Gundum would not be installed now in this phase due to fund crunch. The project director, Mofizur Rahman said two joint ventures comprising local and foreign companies would carry out 108-kilometre rail track construction work. SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



It's all but gone Bengal slow loris disappearing from Sylhet forests MINTU DUTTAWARA with ANDREW EAGLE Spider, snake and scorpion: all creatures, regardless of how attractive or appealing they are to the human eye, are worthy of conservation. If there was to be an award for the most adorable forest-dweller however, a winning candidate must be the wide-eyed and fluffy Bengal slow loris. Inhabiting the forests of the northeast and Chittagong Hill Tracts, the slow loris is the only SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



New Delhi with Dhaka Sushma Swaraj tells Hasina over phone; Trudeau calls Suu Kyi

STAR REPORT Indian Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj last night expressed her government's full support to Bangladesh's stance over Rohingya issue. Sushma talked to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over phone and conveyed the message to her. PM's Deputy Press Secretary Nazrul Islam said after the conversation from Gono Bhavan. Sushma said the Indian government is trying to create a pressure bilaterally and multilaterally on Myanmar to stop the persecution of Rohingyas as well as take back the refugees sheltered in Bangladesh. "Rohingya problem is not an issue for Bangladesh alone; rather, it has turned into a global matter from a regional one," Sushma SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

PERSECUTION OF ROHINGYAS Global voices get louder: Hasina

Govt to arrange temporary accommodation for refugees at Thengar Char, says the PM STAFF CORRESPONDENT Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that the entire world raised its voice against the persecution of Rohingyas in Myanmar and was calling upon the Myanmar government to take their citizens back. In her speech, the PM said, "Canadian prime minister has phoned Aung San Suu Kyi so that Myanmar takes back Rohingyas. Diplomats of 45 countries and representatives of two international organisations during their recent visit to Cox's Bazar have expressed deep concern over the atrocities against the Rohingyas. "The UN Security Council also urged Myanmar to stop repression on the Rohingyas and highly lauded Bangladesh's role for giving shelter to the refugees." The 17th session of the Jatiya Sangsad, beginning on September 10, was prorogued last night with five working days. Hasina also described the inhuman situation of Rohingyas who are now staying in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya. "It is not possible for them to live there. Therefore, we have decided to arrange temporary accommodation for them at Bhasan Char, also known as Thengar Char," the PM added. SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



23 killed in KL Islamic school blaze

AFP, Kuala Lumpur Twenty-three people, mostly children, were killed yesterday by a blaze that tore through a Malaysian Islamic boarding school, trapping them in a dormitory with metal grilles barring its windows. Pupils and teachers inside the Islamic study centre in downtown Kuala Lumpur screamed for help as neighbours looked on helplessly. Many of the bodies of the victims -- who included 21 boys mostly in their teens -- were found piled on top of one another, indicating there may have been a stampede as the students sought to escape the inferno, which erupted before dawn. Firefighters rushed to the scene and the blaze was out within an hour but it wreaked terrible devastation. Pictures showed ash-covered, fire-blackened beds in the students' sleeping quarters. The accident will increase scrutiny of the religious schools known as talibz, where many Muslim Malaysians send their children to study the Quran but which are not regulated by education authorities and often operated illegally. Norhayati Abdul Halim, who lives SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

Survival instinct! Elephants becoming nocturnal to evade poachers in Africa

AFP, Paris Like escaped convicts, elephants in eastern Africa have learned to travel at night and hide during the day to avoid poachers who are hunting tuskers into extinction, researchers reported. Normally elephants forage for food and migrate in daylight, while resting under cover of darkness. But a sharp increase in illegal hunting driven by the global trade in ivory has forced the massive land mammals -- against their nature -- to upend their usual habits. "As most poaching occurs during the daytime, their transition to nocturnal behaviour appears to be a direct result of prevailing poaching levels," said Festus Iliwogi, a researcher at the University of Twente in The Netherlands. SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



3 Bangladeshi brothers held in India for 'ABT link'

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi Three Bangladeshi brothers suspected to have links with militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team, have been arrested by the Anti-Terrorist Squad of India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, a senior police official said yesterday. The trio -- identified as Mohammad Imran, Rajiuddin and Mohammad Firdaus -- were arrested in Lucknow, the state's capital city, when they were about to board Howrah-Amritar Express train on Wednesday afternoon, ATS inspector General Asim Arun said. During interrogation, the three youths confessed that they were residents of Bangladesh, and fake Aadhaar multipurpose cards of India were found in their possession. SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Hawkers with wooden benches, steel frames occupy the foot-over bridge at New Market in Chittagong city, leaving no room for people to cross to the other side of the road. Most of the foot bridges in the city are not usable like the one in the pictures showing its two ends because people litter rubbish or unwanted objects there completely ignoring their civic responsibilities. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'BREACHING LAWS' BB asks bKash to suspend 2,887 agents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The central bank has ordered mobile financial service provider bKash to suspend activities of 2,887 agents for breaching money laundering and terrorism financing laws. The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), the anti-money laundering wing of the Bangladesh Bank, gave the order yesterday. Details of some of the accounts were sent to law enforcers for further probe and legal actions, said the order. The BFIU decision was based on information about transactions of money generated from criminal activities. The activities include taking ransom, financing militancy, and transferring foreign remittance through informal channel, popularly known as hundi. The BFIU also took into account the irregularities the central bank had SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 15. Faqr Juma Asr Maghribi Esha AZAN 4:35-12:30 4:30 6:14 7:45 JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:17 8:15 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

OBITUARY Abeda Islam Amy, wife of Mr. Nurul Islam of Madaripur, Managing Director of EPSI Shoes, and daughter of Prof. Omdadul Islam of Chittagong, passed away at her residence in Banani at 11:00am on 14th Sept., 2017. She was born on 27th December, 1942. She completed her Honours and Masters in Botany from Dhaka University. She also taught the same subject at Dhaka College for a few years. She became an expert in gardening and indoor plants and wrote numerous articles and books on the subject. She was the founder of Bangladesh Bonsai Society and helped initiate and arrange many exhibitions. She was involved in various social and welfare activities. She left behind her husband, a daughter, two sons, grandchildren and many well-wishers. Her Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at the Gulshan (Azad) Central Mosque after Juma prayers on Friday, 15th September 2017.