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OUT OF THE MIGHTY PADMA

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building a safer nation

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CEMENT 12  
for more than years

SHAH  
CEMENT

## Scenic Jaflong under assault

100 illegal excavators lifting stones endanger the environment of the ecologically critical area



MINTU DESHWARA, back from Jaflong

The scenic and "protected" Jaflong area of Sylhet has almost been ruined as stone lifters are using over 100 illegal excavators that quarry stones with deafening noise.

According to a gazette notification issued in 2015, around 15sqkm area, from the Jaflong-Dawki river flowing into Bangladesh at the border with India to the edge of Sari-Gowainghat river, is Ecologically Critical Area (ECA).

Any kind of stone extraction or economic activity that could affect the area's environment was restricted.

A 2012 High Court order that asked the government to

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Jaflong, a tourist spot in Sylhet, continues to suffer ecological damage as illegal stone extraction goes on unabated in the Piyain River. Jaflong has been declared an ecologically critical area, and any economic activities that might affect the environment are restricted there. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO:  
SHEIKH NASIR



MK Anwar  
passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee Member MK Anwar passed away at his residence in Dhaka early yesterday. He was 86.

He breathed his last around 1:30am at his residence on Elephant Road.

The bureaucrat-turned politician had long been suffering from diabetes, heart disease and various old age complications.

The veteran BNP leader left behind two sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

His first namaj-e-janaza was held at Kataban Mosque in the capital and the second

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SP, wife have  
FDRs worth  
Tk 8.36cr

ACC sues the couple for hiding the info in tax returns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Subhash Chandra Saha was promoted to the post of Superintendent of Police (SP) of Faridpur, 11 years after passing his BCS exams.

In his new position, which he held onto for eight months, he earned approximately Tk 70,000 per month under the fifth grade of the government pay scale, his highest till date.

A recent investigation by the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) however revealed that the SP and his wife have amassed Tk 8.36 crore in only four years, an amount beyond any of their source of income.

After completion of the investigation, ACC's Assistant Director Abdul Wadud filed a case against the superintendent of police (SP) and his wife Rina Chowdhury with Bangshal Police Station yesterday under the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2012.

According to the case statement,

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## Xi tightens grip

Now ranks alongside Mao Zedong as his ideology on 'new era of socialism' included in China's Communist Party constitution

AFP, Beijing

Xi Jinping was elevated to the pantheon of China's most powerful leaders yesterday as his name was enshrined in the Communist Party constitution alongside Chairman Mao.

The inclusion of Xi's eponymous guiding philosophy at the end of a week-long congress could set him on course for an indefinite term as China's paramount leader.

He will now have an even stronger hand to lead the nation into a "new era" in which he envisions it becoming a global superpower with a world-class military by mid-century.

Communist China's founder Mao Zedong, and the architect of its market reforms, Deng Xiaoping, are the only other Chinese leaders to have their names in the constitution -- and only Mao was alive when his was included.

Xi, 64, presided over the congress's closing session where some 2,300 delegates approved the constitutional amendment to include "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era".

The concept places a heavy emphasis on the party's role in governing every aspect of the country, from the economy to what people are writing on social media.

"We must work tirelessly and forge ahead on the journey of realising the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," Xi, who is due to be reappointed as party chief today, told the congress in concluding remarks.

The honour may allow Xi to stay on as China's top leader even if he gives up the title of party general secretary when his second term ends in 2022 as



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EC alone not  
responsible  
for holding  
fair election

Says former CEC Huda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the Election Commission was not solely responsible for holding a fair, free and credible election.

"There are many players here. Political parties also have a big responsibility to make an election fair," he said.

The former CEC was talking to journalists after holding a two-and-a-half hour meeting with the EC in the city's Nirbachan Bhaban.

He called upon all political parties to participate in the next parliamentary polls to avoid any crisis and to stay away from the culture of boycotting elections.

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'GM troops will soon  
become a reality'



MAIL ONLINE

Genetically-modified superhuman soldiers 'worse than a nuclear bomb' could soon become a reality, according to Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

Speaking at a youth festival this week, Putin claimed that an army of trained killers could be created if scientists play with man's genetic code.

Putin suggested that world leaders should agree on strict regulation to prevent the creation of mass-killing soldiers who feel no pain or fear.

Putin was speaking at a youth festival in Sochi, Russia when he warned that messing with the genetic code could have serious consequences.

He said: "A man has the opportunity to get into the genetic code created by either nature, or as religious people would say, by the God. All kinds of

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INTERNET CABLE DOWN  
Disruption not as bad as feared

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shutting down of Bangladesh's first submarine cable for maintenance started affecting internet users yesterday with many getting intermittent and slow internet during peak hours.

However, the disruption was not as bad as feared.

Sabbir Ahmed an executive of a buying house in the capital claimed that yesterday after reaching his destination on a bike availed

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Magrib Esha

AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-32 7-15

JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Thumri queen  
Girija Devi  
no more

TI TIMES OF INDIA



Eminent Indian classical singer Girija Devi passed away in Kolkata yesterday. She was 88.

The vocalist was admitted to BM Birla Hospital in a critical condition after suffering a cardiac arrest in the afternoon. A spokesperson for the hospital confirmed that she breathed her last around 9:00pm (Indian local time).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences at Girija Devi's passing away.

"Saddened by demise of Girija Devi ji. Indian classical music has lost one of its most melodious voices. My thoughts are with her admirers," Modi tweeted late last night.

"Girija Devi ji's music appealed across generations. Her pioneering efforts to popularise Indian classical music will always be remembered," he said in another tweet.

Known as the "thumri



People catching fish in a canal in Signboard area of Narayanganj yesterday. Heavy rains of late have caused nearby fish farms to overflow into the local canals, releasing the fish.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DHAKA-ASHULIA EXPRESSWAY  
Chinese loan to meet 65pc cost

Ecneec okays the Tk 16,901cr project

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to build a 24-kilometre elevated expressway from Dhaka airport to Ashulia for quick entry and exit of vehicles to and from the capital.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) gave the go-ahead yesterday to the Tk 16,901 crore project, 65 percent of which will be financed by China.

Following the meeting, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said the Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway would work as a bridge between the North and South of Dhaka, leading to a boost to economic activities.

According to the project document, work on the project will begin this year to finish in June 2022. Once completed, the expressway will connect Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Abdullaahpur, Ashulia, DEPZ and Chandra on the North Bengal Highway.

It will be an extension of the 26-kilometre Dhaka elevated expressway linking the airport to the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Shanir Akhra.

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology conducted a pre-feasibility study in 2013 and a detailed feasibility study in 2016.

According to the reports submitted, the expressway will help ease traffic congestion and allow trucks to move across the capital throughout the day. Trucks are now barred from entering the city from 8:00am to 8:00pm to avoid tailbacks.

The expressway will provide five entry points at Abdullaahpur, Jirabo, EPZ, Jirani and Nabinagar to Dhaka from adjoining national highways. It will also have four intersections at Turag, Ashulia, Baipail and Chandra.

Once the project is completed, people from 30 districts

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