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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STAR
WEEKEND


EXPORTS BUOYANT

Shipment rose 6.42pc year-on-year
to \$2.84b in October

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PRITI PATEL RESIGNS

The British minister quits over unofficial
meetings with Israeli officials

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Sewage taints rivers, canals

80pc of city's human waste
goes directly to water bodies;
water becomes untreatable

TAWFIQUE ALI

In the absence of modern treatment facilities, a cringe-worthy 80 percent of the capital's sewage goes directly into rivers and water bodies.

The mindless dumping through the city's storm drainage system is wreaking havoc on the water sources and eventually affecting public health.

At its plant in Narayanganj's Pagla, Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is able to treat sewage from only 20 percent of the city area, according to official documents.

"It is really deplorable that 80 percent of the waste produced by 1.75 crore people in the capital has increased many times the pollution of rivers around the city turning it very difficult to treat the water," a local government ministry letter reads.

The letter addressed to the housing and public works minister on June 7 says that rivers are being contaminated by septic tanks illegally connected to the storm drains.

The LGED and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain in his letter called upon the housing minister to make Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) ensure proper septic intake at every house and prevent such connections while issuing building permits.

The 1984 building construction rules dictate that each owner should set up septic tanks or soak pits and manage the sewage on their own. But to avoid cleaning costs, most

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Skeletons of under-construction buildings jut out from the marshlands near Signboard bus stand by the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Demra. The owners of the structures claim to have construction permits, even though the buildings don't have any planned access road. Officials of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) say that in 90 percent of the cases, the buildings are raised illegally. Permits are not granted if there are no planned road facilities, according to Rajuk. It says some owners obtain building "permits" from the local union parishads but those are not legal.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Chandika era comes to a close?

SPORTS REPORTER

Head coach Chandika Hathurusingha has tendered his resignation to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) but the reason behind the decision was not clear.

The 49-year-old Sri Lankan was supposed to continue in his role as head coach of the Tigers until the 2019 World Cup in England. But as news circulated in media circles that Hathurusingha was quitting, BCB president Nazmul Hassan took the trouble of arranging a press briefing at his Beximco office yesterday evening, confirming that the board had received a letter of resignation from him during the recent tour of South Africa.

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'Bandhan' between Kina, Kolkata

Sheikh Hasina, Narendra Modi inaugurate
new train service, two railway bridges

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh wanted to cooperate with India and other neighbouring countries for creating a "peace area" in South Asia where everyone would live together as good neighbours and pursue constructive policies for the benefit of all.

She was addressing a programme at the Gono Bhaban marking the inauguration of the end-to-end immigration and customs of Maitree Express, flagging off Bandhan Express (Kolkata-Kolkata) and launching of train communication on the newly-built 2nd Bhabar and 2nd Titas railway bridges, reports UNB.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee joined the programme through videoconference.

Hasina said there has been an excellent relationship between Bangladesh and India and continuation of such

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Five lives lost just for a canal

50 injured as spear-wielding villagers clash over the water body in Kishoreganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Five people, including three brothers, were killed and around 50 others injured as rival groups from two neighbouring villages clashed over control of a canal in Kishoreganj's Mithamoini yesterday.

The dead are Ferdous Mia, 55, Mahbub Mia 42, Masum Mia, 35, sons of Abdul Aziz of Paschim Hiti village, and Rajib Mia, 28, Mahbul Mia, 30, of Chariganj village.

Police and locals said there has been a longstanding dispute between the groups over the canal, which falls between the two villages. The members of the groups had clashed several times before and also filed cases against each other.

One of the sides is led by Pallab Mia of Paschim Hiti village and the other by Maruf Mia of Chariganj.

Around 12:30pm yesterday, the groups,

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This time, no trace of book importer

Rab picks up Bir Protik Habibul, releases him hours later; missing NSU teacher still traceless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Plainclothes men picked up a book importer from his house in the capital on Wednesday morning, barely a day after a private university teacher had gone missing in the city.

Tanvir Yasin Karim, owner of Karim International and Darus Salam Publications, was taken away by a group of plainclothes men from his house in Gulshan around 5:00am and there was no trace of him since then, said Zakir Hossain, accounts manager of Karim International, quoting Tanvir's mother.

Seeking anonymity, a few other staffers said a group of 20 men went to the bookstore owned by Tanvir in the city's Manupurpara early Wednesday, and picked

up two security guards from there.

Taking the guards with them, they then went to Tanvir's flat around 5:00am. As they knocked on the door, Tanvir's mother opened it and asked about their identity. But without identifying themselves, they entered the flat and started searching it, added the staffers quoting his mother.

Later they took away Tanvir and the two guards with them. The guards were released later in the city's Farmgate area. But there was no trace of Tanvir as of last night, said the staffers.

A general diary was filed with the Gulshan Police Station by one of Tanvir's cousins, said the victim's family sources.

Contacted, Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of the police station, declined to

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'No revenge on Hasina'

Khaleda tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said she would not indulge in politics of vengeance despite her political arch rival Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's "abusive remarks" about Ziaur Rahman's family members.

"I clearly announced that I have personally forgiven her [Hasina], despite Sheikh Hasina's continuous indecent statements and vengeful behaviour against me and Shaheed Ziaur Rahman's family members. I will not indulge in politics of vengeance against her," Khaleda said in a statement.

The former prime minister said this while delivering her self-defence statement before a court in Babulbazar area of Dhaka in connection with the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

She claimed that she has always tried to create an atmosphere of tolerance and compromise.

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A group of Rohingya refugees, who fled from Myanmar by boat last night, walks towards a makeshift camp in Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Address Rohingya crisis at APEC, ASEAN meets

Rights body urges world leaders

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch has called on world leaders meeting in two summits in the Philippines and Vietnam to address the Rohingya crisis.

Heads of government from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), including the United States, China, Japan, Russia, Canada, Australia, and Mexico, would be meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam, today.

Leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) would be meeting in Manila, Philippines, on Sunday for the 31st Asian Leaders Summit. They were scheduled to hold side-summits, with the US, European Union, Japan, and South Korea, on November 13-14.

The Rohingya crisis is among the most human rights catastrophes in Asia in years and demands concerted global action," said Brad Adams, Asia director of Human Rights Watch.

"World leaders shouldn't return home from these summits without agreeing to targeted sanctions to pressure Burma [Myanmar] to end its abuses and allow in independent observers and aid groups."

HRW said leaders at the Asia summits should jointly call on the Myanmar government to allow access to northern Rakhine State by the UN fact-finding mission created by the Human Rights Council in 2016, as well as other UN human rights and humanitarian staff.

Meanwhile, foreign ministry officials in Dhaka expects that the ongoing humanitarian crisis would express

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