



THE COLOSSUS RISES OUT OF THE MIGHTY PADMA

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Blindness not an obstacle

Habiganj teacher makes education's light shine

MINTU DESHWARA with ANDREW EAGLE

To make sense of the world around us, everybody sometimes relies on mental visualisation, using the proverbial "mind's eye". Teacher Sanjit Chakrabarty, 70, from Sayestaganj town in Habiganj has fine-tuned this ability. When he buys groceries at the market, in the 37 years of his remarkable teaching career, it's primarily his "mind's eye" that guides, since it's his only sight. Sanjit is blind.

"As a child," says Samiron Chakrabarty, who was Sanjit's first student and is currently a teacher at Sreekuta Adorso High School, "I thought he saw my books. It was only later I realised he didn't see from his eyes."

"I had some exceptional teachers," says Abdus Salak, another student of Sanjit, who is now a police inspector. "One of them was Sanjit Sir." Sanjit's teaching has touched many lives, including at least 2,000 students who completed higher education. Among former pupils are bankers and teachers.

"A teacher needs a good mind," Sanjit says. "Knowledge of subject, the curriculum, and creativity are most important." He believes it is vital that students learn to think for themselves. "It is most frustrating if students merely repeat their lessons from memory, without developing their minds."

Sanjit's reputation has earned him the respectful moniker "Sanju Thakur". "Sanju is able to motivate students," Jalal Uddin, a college lecturer, says. "Parents have confidence in him."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Visually impaired teacher Sanjit Chakrabarty, of Sayestaganj town in Habiganj, believes in teaching students to think for themselves. For 37 years he has excelled in contributing to primary and secondary education.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Govt to equip NSI with mobile tracking system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will equip the National Security Intelligence (NSI) with a digital tracking system to build up its capacity in tackling criminal activities conducted through mobile phones and internet.

To this end, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved a Tk-38.5 crore project to buy necessary equipment, including mobile phone and wi-fi network interceptors. The devices will be bought under the direct procurement method.

According to finance ministry documents, criminals are increasingly using mobile phones and internet in carrying out various terror and criminal activities, including extortion, defrauding and militancy.

The sophisticated equipment (interceptors) will help the intelligence agency trace such criminals quickly. They can be tracked down through monitoring their mobile phones and internet

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Folk singer Bari Siddiqui no more

STAR REPORT

Eminent folk singer and flautist Bari Siddiqui passed away at Square Hospital in Dhaka early yesterday.

The 63-year old singer breathed his last at around 2:00am. Siddiqui had been kept on life support there since the night of November 17 after suffering a heart attack.

He had also long been suffering from diabetes and complications in both

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Green technology for construction

Private firms producing eco-friendly building materials, seek policy support from govt

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

At a time when several thousand brick kilns are causing large-scale air pollution and loss of topsoil across the country, around 20 private firms are making eco-friendly construction materials without any baking.

They are producing different types of alternative building materials, including hollow blocks, concrete bricks and pavement blocks, and these are stronger than the traditional ones, people involved in the sector told The Daily Star.

According to the seventh five-year plan, the government would construct 75 buildings using such materials in a number of villages across Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE PM's statement proves govt involved: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through her statement on enforced disappearance in parliament has "admitted that the government is involved", BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

On Thursday, the PM in the House said the incidents of enforced disappearances were happening not only in Bangladesh, but also in developed countries.

The prime minister has admitted that the government is involved in the incidents of enforced disappearances, Fakhrul made the comment while replying to a query at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

The BNP leader alleged that the government was making its opponents disappear using law enforcement agencies.

"The incidents of enforced disappearances have been taking place in Bangladesh for the last few years ... families of all the victims are claiming that their near ones have been picked up by law enforcers."

He also alleged that the government has so far not taken any initiative to prevent

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

John Lennon diaries recovered in Berlin

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Diaries written by John Lennon are among hundreds of items belonging to The Beatles icon to be found by police in Berlin, Germany.

The collection of items were stolen from Lennon's widow Yoko Ono in 2006. According to the BBC, German media reported that Ono identified them from photos shown to her at the German consulate in New York.

Many of the items were confiscated after being discovered at a Berlin auction house, sparking a police hunt for the rest of the stolen goods.

A 58-year-old man has been arrested, according to police, while a second suspect - who used to work for Ono - is "unattainable at the present time".

Martin Steltner, a spokesman for the Berlin prosecutors office, said it was not clear when the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Nepal readies for historic polls

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal tomorrow votes in historic elections for new national and provincial assemblies that many hope will bring much-needed stability to the desperately poor country, which has cycled through 10 leaders in the last 11 years.

The elections are the first under a new post-war constitution that paved the way for a sweeping overhaul of the political system intended to devolve power

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Robber killed in 'shootout' with police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged robber was killed in what police claimed was a shootout between police and his armed cohorts in the capital's Khilgaon area early yesterday.

Billal Hossain Selim, 45, son of Syed Ali of Tangail, was killed hours after police had picked him up from Demra in Dhaka.

He was suspected to be a leader of an inter-district robbery gang and was accused in at least 10 cases, mostly for robbery, police claimed.

Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner (Motijheel) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said a team of Khilgaon police took Billal on a drive in Mostafa Majhir area to arrest his cohorts and recover fire-arms around 2:00am.

As the police reached there, an armed group opened fire on them in an attempt to free Billal. The law enforcers claimed they returned fire and Billal was shot at one point.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

The locomotive and the wreckage of the lorry after they collided at Boktarpur level crossing in Kalikoir of Gazipur early yesterday. The electric pole-carrying lorry had broken down on the level crossing. The assistant train driver was killed in the incident.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Mnangagwa sworn in as president

Vows sweeping reforms in Zimbabwe, praises Mugabe

AFP, Harare

Emmerson Mnangagwa vowed sweeping change as he was sworn in as Zimbabwe's president yesterday, seeking to reassure foreign investors and pledging to fight poverty and corruption after Robert Mugabe's shock resignation.

In his inaugural address, the new president set out a programme of dramatic change that promised a stark reversal of many of Mugabe's signature policies.

He pledged that his government would compensate white farmers whose land was seized by Mugabe, protect international investments in the country, and re-engage with foreign powers.

Elections scheduled for 2018 would go ahead as planned, he said.

"I humbly appeal to all of us that we let bygones be bygones," he said at the ceremony in the 60,000-seat national stadium, which was packed to capacity.

"We must work together -- you, me, all of us who make this nation."

"I stand here today, to say that our country is ready for a sturdy re-engagement programme with all the nations of the world," he said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

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