



An overloaded goods truck led to the collapse of Bailey bridge in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj. No one was hurt in the incident. PHOTO: STAR

Syria peace talks resume without govt delegation

AFP, Geneva
UN-backed peace talks for war-ravaged Syria were set to resume in Geneva yesterday, but without Syrian government negotiators, who sources said have yet to determine if they will return. "The delegation will not leave today or tomorrow for Geneva, and the final decision (on attending) has not been taken yet," a source close to the government delegation told AFP on Tuesday. An eighth round of peace talks aimed at ending Syria's nearly seven-year war began in Geneva last week. UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura announced shortly after the talks began that they would be extended by two weeks. Negotiations were paused over the weekend, but both sides were expected to return to Geneva to resume discussions on Tuesday.

Now ex-ambassador

FROM PAGE 1
mobile unreachable. She then called Rifat and informed him that she could not reach her father over the phone. Rifat then rushed to the airport and brought her home. As he did not return home till yesterday noon, Samiha lodged a general diary with Dhanmondi police. Later in the evening, police found Maroof's car (Dhaka Metro Ga-21-1399) left abandoned in Khilkhet area, close to the airport. Quoting police, Rifat said his brother was last tracked in Dakkhin Khan area, also near the airport. "We could not trace him yet," Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station, told The Daily Star around 9:30pm yesterday. The incident comes on the heels of some high-profile disappearances, including that of NSU teacher Mubashar Hasan, in the last few months. Rifat said his brother retired as an additional secretary at the foreign ministry in September 2009. He also served as the deputy high commissioner in the UK. He also said his brother was a little disturbed mentally after the recent death of his wife. "First I thought he bumped into a car and was taken to a police station from where he would return later," said Rifat, an electrical engineer now involved in business. "As he did not return till morning yesterday, we were worried and finally we filed a GD," he said. "Now I see it might be something like what we see in newspapers that people are picked up," he added. Asked whether Maroof has any political affiliation, Rifat said he was certainly not a pro-Awami League man. He was rather anti-Awami League, but he was not a threat to anybody. He was never active in politics. Earlier on November 26, a Dhaka University unit leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Mujahidur Rahman disappeared after leaving his Sher-e-Bangla Nagar home in the capital. He is a master's student of Political Science and senior joint secretary of Salimullah Muslim Hall unit of the pro-BNP student body. His wife Kamrunnahar Lucky filed a GD with Sher-e-Bangla police on November 29. With Maroof and Mujahidur, 14 people including the NSU teacher, a journalist and a number of businessmen, went missing, in recent months. Four of them returned while there is no trace of others.

Trump endorses accused child molester Moore for Senate post

AFP, Washington
US President Donald Trump on Monday officially endorsed the candidacy of embattled Republican Senate hopeful Roy Moore, who has been accused of sexual assault by multiple women when they were teenagers, including one who was 14 at the time. Trump had previously characterized the allegations against Moore as "very troubling" before changing tack and warning voters in the 70-year-old Christian conservative's home state of Alabama that a victory for his Democratic rival Doug Jones "would be a disaster!" On Monday, the White House said Trump had called Moore to offer his formal backing ahead of the December 12 special election in Alabama, a right-leaning southern state. "The president had a positive call with Judge Roy Moore during which they discussed the state of the Alabama Senate race and the president endorsed Judge Moore's campaign," said White House principal deputy press secretary Raj Shah. Moore's campaign team said he was honored to have received the president's endorsement, in a call placed from on board Air Force One. "President Trump knows that the future of his conservative agenda in Congress hinges on this election," Moore was quoted as saying. "I look forward to fighting alongside the president to strengthen our military, secure our border, protect our gun rights, defend the sanctity of life, and confirm conservative judges to courts around this nation."

Human rights defenders

FROM PAGE 1
district, we are monitored for our roles in condemning the crime," he said, adding, "It is an unpleasant truth for rights' defenders," he said, while demanding safety for the field-level rights defenders. Rashed Ripon from Rajshahi, another rights defender, claimed that harassment by police was on the rise. Around 30 human rights defenders from across the country joined the discussion titled "Civil Society Dialogue with National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh". Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) organised the event at CIRDAP auditorium. ASK placed a position paper at the discussion highlighting the limitations of NHRC in investigating allegations against law enforcement agency members, the role of the commission in protecting the rights of minorities, its initiatives to stop extrajudicial killing and enforced disappearance and also to demand a law for the protection of rights defenders. While sharing their views, the rights defenders criticised the NHRC for not playing an effective role in protecting human rights. Referring to the issues of enforced disappearances, killings in crossfire and other violations of rights allegedly by law enforcement agencies, the defenders urged the commission to play a stronger role in investigation of such cases to identify the perpetrators. They also asked the commission to run more independent investigations into the cases. Referring to section 18 of the National Human Rights Commission Act 2009, the ASK said although there is no obligation for the commission to investigate allegations against law enforcement agencies, the section is often misinterpreted to mean that the commission cannot investigate such cases. ASK also brought up the misuse of section 57 in ICT act which made the government take a decision on repealing the act. They added that they want NHRC to play a significant role so that

anything like section 57 cannot be introduced in the proposed Digital Security Act. ASK further demanded that the government allow NHRC to directly investigate the cases where the law enforcement agencies are involved. Rights defenders said they want NHRC to work at grassroots by expanding its activities. A participant from Naogaon, Zakaria Al Mamun, said there is a gap between the expectation and returns from the NHRC. "The activities of the NHRC should be visible on a field level." The NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said that they proposed to open an office at divisional levels. However, appointment for the new positions was tough. He stressed that while there were no financial obstacles of the commission to recruit people, the real problem lay with the bureaucratic system of the country. "We proposed an organogram of 139 officials to open offices at divisional levels," he added. The NHRC chairman said police do not give them investigation reports in cases where law enforcers are allegedly involved. "Whenever we ask for any probe report, police say 'it's under investigation'. Six months to one year go by, but the report never comes," he said. On enforced disappearances, Reazul said they write demi official letters to home minister and inspector general of police for every such incident, requesting them to find the victims and punish the perpetrators. Some of the missing people have already returned, he added. "We do not know who is missing or who had fallen victim to enforced disappearances. But it is the responsibility of the state to find them," he said. NHRC has independently investigated a few sensational cases but cannot investigate them all, he said, adding that they take cases, which have merit, and help the victims until a charge is framed.

Committee

FROM PAGE 16
committee to further scrutinise the draft law. A public administration ministry official said Sohrob Hossain, secretary of the secondary and higher secondary education division, would lead the committee. According to the draft law, the president will be able to make 10 percent of the appointments to four superior posts of public administration from outside the civil service considering their "special merit, skill, eligibility and essentiality" if the proposed law is approved. A provision has been incorporated in the draft as a "special jurisdiction of the president" under which people can be appointed to the four posts from outside "public servants eligible for regular appointments". The Awami League, government soon after assuming office in 2009, took an initiative to frame a comprehensive law for government officials. The draft law was first placed before the cabinet in 2015. The cabinet approved it in principle but sent it back to the ministry with some observations. In November last year, the draft was again placed in the cabinet which sent it to the secretary-level committee on administrative reforms with some directives for holding discussion on the draft law. An inter-ministerial meeting was held in December last year on the proposed law. The stakeholders there discussed different provisions of the draft and gave their opinions. The public administration ministry incorporated the opinions and sent it to the secretary-level committee on administrative reforms for approval.

Record rise in inequality

FROM PAGE 16
development so that policymakers can address the issues of vulnerable individuals and communities to achieve the global development targets -- the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN -- by 2030. Apart from income and asset inequalities, the research found 97 percent of the population suffer from one or the other form of vulnerabilities. Researchers measured the vulnerability of people by developing a "Vulnerability Index" based on 10 criteria -- income, gender, geographic location, life cycle, disability, education and skills, health, occupation, religion and ethnicity, as well as shock-induced vulnerability. Debapriya said there was an underbelly of the decent growth performance of Bangladesh. "The observed economic growth has been regrettably coupled with growing number of disadvantaged and marginalised people." The vulnerabilities of these people emanate from economic status, life cycle, location, gender, physical challenges and social stigma, he said. The report reveals that gender gap persists though it has been decreasing in certain cases. Individuals with no or little education find less opportunity for decent work while unemployment is higher among relatively higher-educated individuals. "The rural population continues to be left behind," said the report, adding that Barisal is the worst-performing division. The study found that regions such as the Chittagong Hill Tracts are prone to vulnerability. The average wealth of households in the CHT is much lower compared to the rural, urban and national averages. "Wealth ownership and literacy rate is abysmal in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area," it said, adding that religious and ethnic minorities are also lagging behind. "While vulnerability is most often associated with poverty, it can also arise in situations where people are isolated, insecure and defenceless and that vulnerable groups differ in their exposure to risks based on factors such as their age, gender or social group," said the report. For example, a wide infrastructure gap appears to be especially acute for Adivasi, and the Char and Haor communities owing to their remote geographical locations. The study found that women and children are most frequently addressed by policies but sanitation, infrastructure, sustainability and sustainable use of water are not. The report suggested enactment and enforcement of anti-discrimination laws and called for a large-scale social movement so that no one is left behind.

Russia banned

FROM PAGE 16
Olympic Games. The IOC told a news conference that the Schmid report confirmed "the systematic manipulation of the anti-doping rules and system in Russia." Samuel Schmid, author of the report, told journalists: "The results are not based only on (whistleblower) Grigory Rodchenkov's testimony. There is scientific evidence, witness statements documents and correspondence. "The facts are that in Russia there was systemic manipulation of doping and the anti-doping system ... that also took place at Sochi 2014 (Winter Olympics)." The IOC's decision comes 18 months after it had refused an outright ban of Russian athletes at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and told international sports federations to decide individually on the participation of Russians in Brazil. While all the track and field athletes bar one and the entire weightlifting team were banned from Rio, around 70 percent of Russia's original 387-strong squad ended up taking part at those Games. Tuesday's decision, however, looks to have taken into account growing vocal protests from other countries, major national anti-doping agencies and individual athletes who felt they had been robbed by their Russian opponents for years and had demanded a full suspension of Russia.

HC summons Laxmipur ADC

FROM PAGE 1
Nuruzzaman sent Salahuddin Sharif, a former acting civil surgeon of Laxmipur, to three months in jail after a brawl between Salahuddin and Murshidul on Monday. A Laxmipur court granted bail to Salahuddin. Meanwhile, ADC Murshidul was made an officer on special duty yesterday, adds UNB. In a circular, the public administration ministry said he has been attached to the ministry. Yesterday, the HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why the action of the executive magistrate "abusing the process of the mobile court for personal grudge as evident from the news of The Daily Star" should not be declared illegal. Secretaries to the ministries of law, public administration, the deputy commissioner of Laxmipur, ADC Murshidul and Executive Magistrate Nuruzzaman, the Laxmipur Sadar upazila nirbahi officer and the civil surgeon of the district have been made respondents. The bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Hassan MS Azim seeking necessary order based on a report published in this newspaper yesterday. The court also asked Salahuddin to be present before it during the proceedings on December 13. Hassan told this correspondent that the HC said similar incidents had happened before. The executive magistrates had a high-handed attitude in the past and therefore, an example should be set so that the rule of law can be upheld, he said. The executive magistrates should be made accountable to the law and answerable to this court (HC) to uphold the rule of law, he added. ABM Altaf Hossain appeared for the petitioner. SALAHUDDIN GETS BAIL Our Noakhali correspondent reports: Additional District Magistrate Meer Shawkat Hossain yesterday granted bail to physician Salahuddin.

In a meeting at the civil surgeon's office on Monday night, doctors of Laxmipur Sadar Hospital threatened to go for a movement, including work abstention, if Salahuddin was not released by yesterday noon. Witnesses and officials said ADC Murshidul and Salahuddin engaged in an argument at Kakoli Kindergarten School in the town, where they went to pick up their son and grandson yesterday morning. The argument started over why one of them did not let the other pass through the narrow entrance of the school first. At one stage, they were locked in a scuffle. A mobile court conducted by Executive Magistrate Nuruzzaman at deputy commissioner's office later sent Salahuddin to jail. In another development, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday termed the incident of sending Salahuddin to jail unfortunate. Nasim was speaking as the chief guest at the concluding programme of burn and plastic surgery camp at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Memorial KPI Specialised Hospital and Nursing College in Gazipur, reports BSS.

Tillerson vows 'quick wins' for US diplomacy

AFP, Brussels
US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson attempted to strike an upbeat tone Tuesday as he embarked on his first foreign trip since the White House called his future into question. Tillerson arrived in Brussels for talks with EU and NATO leaders trailed by reports that President Donald Trump is frustrated with his performance and plans to sack him.

লিগ্যাল নোটিশ

The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 এর ১৩৮ ধারা অনুযায়ী লিগ্যাল নোটিশ।

(নোটিশ প্রতিহতাপত্র)

- ১। এরিয়ান কেমিক্যালস লিঃ, চন্দ্রশীলা সুবাস্টা টাওয়ার (১৩ তলা), স্যুট নং-১৩ / সি, ৬৯/১, পাছপথ, ঢাকা-১২০৫।
- ২। সাইমন এ. পেরেরা, চেয়ারম্যান, এরিয়ান কেমিক্যালস লিঃ, প্যানোরামা এপার্টমেন্ট-ই-৩, ৯৯/ডি, বড় মগবাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৭।
- ৩। মোঃ ওমর শরীফ, ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর, এরিয়ান কেমিক্যালস লিঃ, ১৫২/৮, গ্রীন রোড, ঢাকা-১২০৫।
- ৪। এ.টি.এম তাইজুল ইসলাম সরকার, পরিচালক এরিয়ান কেমিক্যালস লিঃ, ইনস্ট্রেক্ট নিহারিকা, ফ্লাট নং-৩-বি, বি-৩৪৫/৩-৫, খিলগাঁও, তালতলা, ঢাকা-১২১৯।
- ৫। মোঃ ইউসুফ মজুমদার, পরিচালক, এরিয়ান কেমিক্যালস লিঃ, ৩৫/১, কাজীরবাগ, গোলাপ বাগ (৭ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০৩৩।
- ৬। মোঃ হুসাইন আল শাহরিয়ার/পরিচালক, এরিয়ান কেমিক্যালস লিঃ, নক্ষত্র (৪র্থ তলা), বাড়ী নং ১৫/বি-২, তালতলা রিয়াজবাগ, খিলগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৯।
- ৭। মোঃ শহিদুল আলম, পরিচালক, এরিয়ান কেমিক্যালস লিঃ, সাউথ কাজলপা, নয়ামগর, ডাকঘর-দনিয়া, মাত্রাবাড়ী, ঢাকা-১২৩২।
- ৮। নাসরিন আক্তার, পরিচালক, এরিয়ান কেমিক্যালস লিঃ, স্যামি মোঃ ওমর শরীফ, ১৫২/৮, গ্রীন রোড, ঢাকা-১২০৫।

সকলের ব্যবসায়িক ঠিকানা:-
এরিয়ান কেমিক্যালস লিঃ, চন্দ্রশীলা সুবাস্টা টাওয়ার (১৩ তলা), স্যুট নং-১৩ / সি, ৬৯/১, পাছপথ, ঢাকা-১২০৫।

(নোটিশ দাড়াঃ)

দি কো- অপারেটিভ ক্রেডিট ইউনিয়ন লীগ অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ (কালব), বাড়ী নং-৮, ব্রক- বি, ফুল রোড, খিলবাড়ী টেক, ভাটারা, গুলশান, ঢাকা-১২১২।
জনাব/জনাব,
আমার মোয়াক্কেল "দি কো- অপারেটিভ ক্রেডিট ইউনিয়ন লীগ অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ (কালব)" কর্তৃক ক্ষমতা প্রাপ্ত হইয়া আপনাদেরকে নিম্নোক্ত লিগ্যাল নোটিশ প্রদান করিতেছি:-
১। আমার মোয়াক্কেল "দি কো- অপারেটিভ ক্রেডিট ইউনিয়ন লীগ অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ (কালব)" সম্বায় অবিদগুণ কর্তৃক নিবন্ধিত একটি ঋণ প্রদানকারী/বিনিয়োগকারী আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান।
২। আপনারা মোটিশ প্রতিহতাপত্র কোম্পানি আইনের অধীনে নিবন্ধিত কোম্পানি, উহার চেয়ারম্যান, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ও পরিচালক হইতেছেন। আপনারা আপনাদের কোম্পানির ব্যবসায়িক লেন-দেন ও কাজ করণে সহিত সাক্ষর জড়িত আছেন।
৩। আপনারা আপনাদের কোম্পানির মূলধন বৃদ্ধির লক্ষে ও আর্থিক প্রয়োজনে আমার মোয়াক্কেলের নিকট হইতে বিগত ১১/১১/২০১৫ ইং তারিখ হইতে ২২/০৬/২০১৬ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত মোট ৭৭,০০,০০০/- (সাতাত্তর কোটি) টাকা ঋণ গ্রহণ করেন। বিগত ২৮/০৯/২০১৬ ইং তারিখে আপনারা সকলে উক্ত ঋণ গ্রহণের চুক্তিপত্র দলিল সম্পাদন ও রেজিস্ট্রি করেন।
৪। আপনাদের জ্ঞাতসারে উক্ত ঋণের অংশিক পরিশোধের নিমিত্তে আপনাদের কোম্পানির নামীয় ও পরিচালিত ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিঃ, এলিফ্যান্ট রোড শাখা, ঢাকা এর হিসাব নং-০০৫৫-০২১০০০২৩৪০ এর চেক নং-৪৮৯৮৬৪২ তারিখ ২০/১১/২০১৭ ইং টাকার পরিমাণ ১০,০০,০০,০০০/- (দশ কোটি) আমাদের মোয়াক্কেলকে প্রদান করেন।
৫। আপনাদের জ্ঞাতসারে মোয়াক্কেল উক্ত চেকটি নগদায়নের জন্য গত ২০/১১/২০১৭ ইং তারিখে শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিঃ, প্রগতি সরণি শাখা, ঢাকার তাহাফের একাউন্টে জমা প্রদান করেন। কিন্তু আপনাদের একাউন্টে টাকা না থাকায় ঐ তারিখেই চেকটি "Insufficient Fund" মন্তব্যে ডিজ্ঞ অনার হয়। যাহা শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিঃ আমাদের মোয়াক্কেলকে লিখিত ভাবে অবহিত করে।
৬। আমাদের মোয়াক্কেল নিশ্চিত ভাবে বুরিতে পরিয়াছেন যে, আপনাদের একাউন্টে টাকা না থাকা সত্ত্বেও প্রতারণার উদ্দেশ্যে উক্ত চেকটি প্রদান করিয়াছেন।
৭। সেহেতু অত্র লিগ্যাল নোটিশ পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিনের মধ্যে উক্ত চেকের ১০,০০,০০,০০০/- (দশ কোটি) টাকা নগদে প্রদান করিবেন এবং আমাদের লিখিত ভাবে অবহিত করিবেন, অন্যথায় আমরা মোয়াক্কেল আপনাদের বিরুদ্ধে The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 আওতায় মামলা দায়ের করিতে বাধ্য হইবেন।

(খন্দকার গুলজার হোসেন)
এডভোকেট, বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট
কম নং-১০০৩ (এনেক্স), সুপ্রীম কোর্ট বার ভবন শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০।