



BACK TO SQUARE ONE

What appears to be a photo of a public rally is in fact that of a road in between the GPO and Baitul Mukarram market in the capital. Pedestrians are being forced to walk on the street amid moving vehicles as street vendors conduct their business occupying the sidewalk next to the market. Dhaka South City Corporation evicted the vendors from the streets and sidewalks of Gulistan and Motijheel areas in January. It has been several weeks since the vendors started to reappear in the area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Man dies in Dhaka fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A man died in a fire at his house at Kamalbagh in the capital's Chawk Bazar area yesterday. Kafi Alam, 55, was sleeping when the fire originated from a mosquito coil in his room about 2:00am. He was trapped in the room until other family members managed to douse the fire, said his son Khokon. Kafi died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 2:30pm.

South Korea pledges \$500,000 for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
South Korea has pledged additional humanitarian aid of US \$500,000 for relief operation for Rohingyas fleeing into Bangladesh. South Korea has already donated US \$1.5 million in response to the influx this year. Announcing the fresh grant, Its Ambassador to Bangladesh Ahn Seong-doo said the additional donation would be given through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), said a press release of the embassy yesterday.

Journo Babu passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur
Nur Nobi Babu, correspondent of Bangla daily Sangbad and editor of weekly Zero Point died of kidney complications at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 42. Babu left behind his mother, brothers and sister, friends and well-wishers. He will be buried at his family graveyard at Banga-Hili in Hakimpur upazila of Dinaipur today at 11:00am, said Mostafizur Rahman Niloy, president of Hakimpur upazila press club. His untimely demise shocked the journalist community in the district.

7 factories fined for pollution

UNB, Dhaka
The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined seven factories Tk 43.38 lakh for polluting the environment in Savar and Gazipur. Following a hearing at the DoE headquarters in the capital, its Director (Monitoring and Enforcement) slapped the fine on the factories, said a DoE release. Two factories in Savar and five in Gazipur were polluting the environment by releasing toxic liquid effluents. The factories were set up and run without taking environmental clearance and permission, the release added.

Sued BCL leaders threaten to enforce strike if case not withdrawn

CU CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders, who were sued over the murder of Diaz, held a press conference at Chittagong Press Club yesterday, demanding withdrawal of the case. Diaz Irfan Chowdhury, assistant secretary of the pro-Awami League student organisation, was found hanging in his residence near the Chittagong University campus on November 20, 2016. The latest report of the autopsy, conducted at the Dhaka Medical College morgue, said Diaz was strangled. At the press conference, the BCL leaders of the CU unit said the murder allegation brought against them is false. Reading out a written statement, Mohammad Alamgir Tipu, former president of the CU unit of BCL, threatened to enforce a strike on the campus if the demand is not met. They also demanded suspension of Diaz's elder sister Jobaida Sarwar Nipa from Chittagong Bar Association accusing her of taking undue advantages using the sympathy centering Diaz's death. They sought a stop to "harassment" following the case. Jobaida, however, denied the allegation.



DIAZ MURDER

Deliver climate deal pledges

Deputy Speaker urges rich countries at sub-regional workshop
BSS, Dhaka
Deputy Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah yesterday called upon the industrially developed countries to fulfil their pledges mentioned in the Paris climate agreement to ensure climate justice. "The developed countries are mostly responsible for global warming as they emit large amounts of greenhouse gases. They must take responsibility for their emissions and contribute to the climate funds to fulfil their commitments," he said. The deputy speaker was addressing the inaugural session of the two-day 4th sub-regional workshop titled, "Community Resilience to Climate Change in the Bay of Bengal Conference 2017", at a Gulshan convention centre in the capital. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) and Concern Worldwide organised the workshop with economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, coordinator of Bangladesh Climate Change Negotiation Team, in the chair. The 2015 Paris agreement's central aim is to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius, according to the United Nations. The deal also reaffirms the obligations of developed countries to support the efforts of developing countries to build clean, climate-resilient futures. In addition to reporting on finance already provided, developed countries commit to submit indicative information on future support every two years, including projected levels of public finance. Fazle Rabbi said the developing countries like Bangladesh were not responsible for global warming but "Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change". The deputy speaker said Bangladesh was already facing the adverse effects of climate change, with northern districts and haor region seeing several floods this year. Addressing the programme, Qazi Kholiquzzaman underscored the need for taking up integrated national, sub-regional and regional initiatives to minimise the effect of global warming. He said greenhouse gas emissions were having harmful impacts on the environment, which led to frequent natural disasters across the globe.

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A damaged traffic signal light near the recently opened Malibagh section of Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover in the capital. Someone has tied a part of the lighting upside down after it came off. As it is pointing towards wrong direction, an accident can happen any time. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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CORRIGENDUM
The Sixtieth (60th) Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Flying Academy & General Aviation Ltd which was scheduled to be held on 20th December 2017 has been deferred due to unavoidable circumstances. The new date of the AGM is now 28.12.2017. The venue & time remain unchanged.
Secretary General

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Approve projects

FROM PAGE 3
they added. Meanwhile, Cox's Bazar based CSO-NGO Forum (CCNF) at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club demanded the reinstatement of legal one stop service of the NGO Bureau. CCNF is a local platform consisting of local NGOs and civil society organisations (CSOs) which have been providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the displaced Rohingyas refugees in Cox's Bazar. CEO and Chairman of Programme for Helpless And Lagged Societies (PHALS) Abu Murshed Chowdhury said if the recent government instructions for security clearance continue, health services being provided by NGOs in Rohingyas camps will be in jeopardy as the local organisations have to withdraw operation by the end of December. ADAB Director AKM Jasim Uddin said there is no evidence that registered NGOs have been involved in spreading fundamentalist propaganda till now, while they have a good track record of promoting the four principles of the Liberation War, especially secularism. If NGOs are withdrawn, the entire operation will be monopolised by the UN agencies which are now being criticised for costly emergency operations. For example, there are now around 1,000 foreign expatriates working in Cox's Bazar; if they spend \$300 (their standard per diem) per day, it would cost a total of Tk 2.40 crore per day, the forum claimed. Moderator of the event, Executive Director of COAST Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, also a co-chair of the CCNF, said there is evidence that donors are withdrawing their letters of intent of funding and do not want to place the fund due to such delay and complications.

DU registrar

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They also snatched his phone and hurled abusive words claiming that they were BCL activists, Kabir alleged. He identified the attackers as section officers Nizam Uddin and Ahsanul Kabir, and personal secretary to the registrar Sheikh Gias Uddin. Contacted, Nizam Uddin said they just had an altercation with Kanon. The VC said stern action will be taken against the officials.

HC summons

FROM PAGE 3
newspapers on the incident including a newsportal. Yesterday, Supreme Court lawyers Syed Mohidul Kabir and Kazi Helal Uddin placed the news report before the HC bench for necessary order. Issuing a suomoto (voluntary) rule, the HC also ordered Advocate Binod Bihari and news portal editor Dr Bodrul Hasan Kochi to remain present before it on December 27, Advocate Mohidul Kabir told The Daily Star.

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