



BOON OF STRONG DOLLAR

Apparel exporters benefit from the appreciation of the greenback

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GUATEMALA GOES US WAY

Its President Jimmy Morales decides to move embassy to Jerusalem

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'Safe water' in jar mostly unsafe

Govt study on the quality of drinking water reveals shocking findings -- 98pc jar water samples contain hazardous E. coli bacteria



- 250 jar water and 35 bottled water samples tested in the study
- Samples collected randomly from 24 points of Dhaka city
- Almost all jar water samples found unsafe for drinking
- Crooked companies selling jar water without treating properly

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A few days ago around noon, rickshaw puller Abdus Salam dropped a passenger near Khamarbari intersection and stepped off his vehicle in front of a tea stall. He told the street vendor to give him a piece of bread and some tea.

While gulping the bread, the man in his late 20s asked for a glass of water. The tea seller poured some water from a jar placed on a table and handed the glass over to him. Salam drank the water believing it was filtered and safe. The vendor had the same belief.

They were probably wrong. The water was most likely to be hazardous. In fact, it might have contained fecal coliform, a bacterium found in human excreta.

A government study has revealed that almost all such jar water sold across the capital carries risky level of the bacterium, also called fecal E. coli.

The presence of E. coli indicates that other pathogenic bacteria and viruses, responsible for diseases like cholera, typhoid, dysentery and jaundice, may also be found in the water, health experts say.

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Without any safety gear, two labourers work at an under-construction high rise in the capital's Dhaka University area. At least 294 workers were killed and 101 others seriously injured in workplace accidents in the first three months of this year, according to a survey by Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation. This picture was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

16TH AMENDMENT SCBA criticises govt for filing review petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting the government's move to seek review of the Supreme Court verdict on the 16th constitutional amendment, the Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday said the government wanted to tactfully make a decision through the apex court to keep the judiciary under its full control.

The government has taken a stand against the apex court verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment and filed the review petition against the judgment as it doesn't believe in rule of law and democracy, said SCBA President Zainul Abedin.

He was speaking at a press conference at the South Hall of the SCBA building. The 16th constitutional amendment empowered parliament to remove SC judges for incapacity or misconduct.

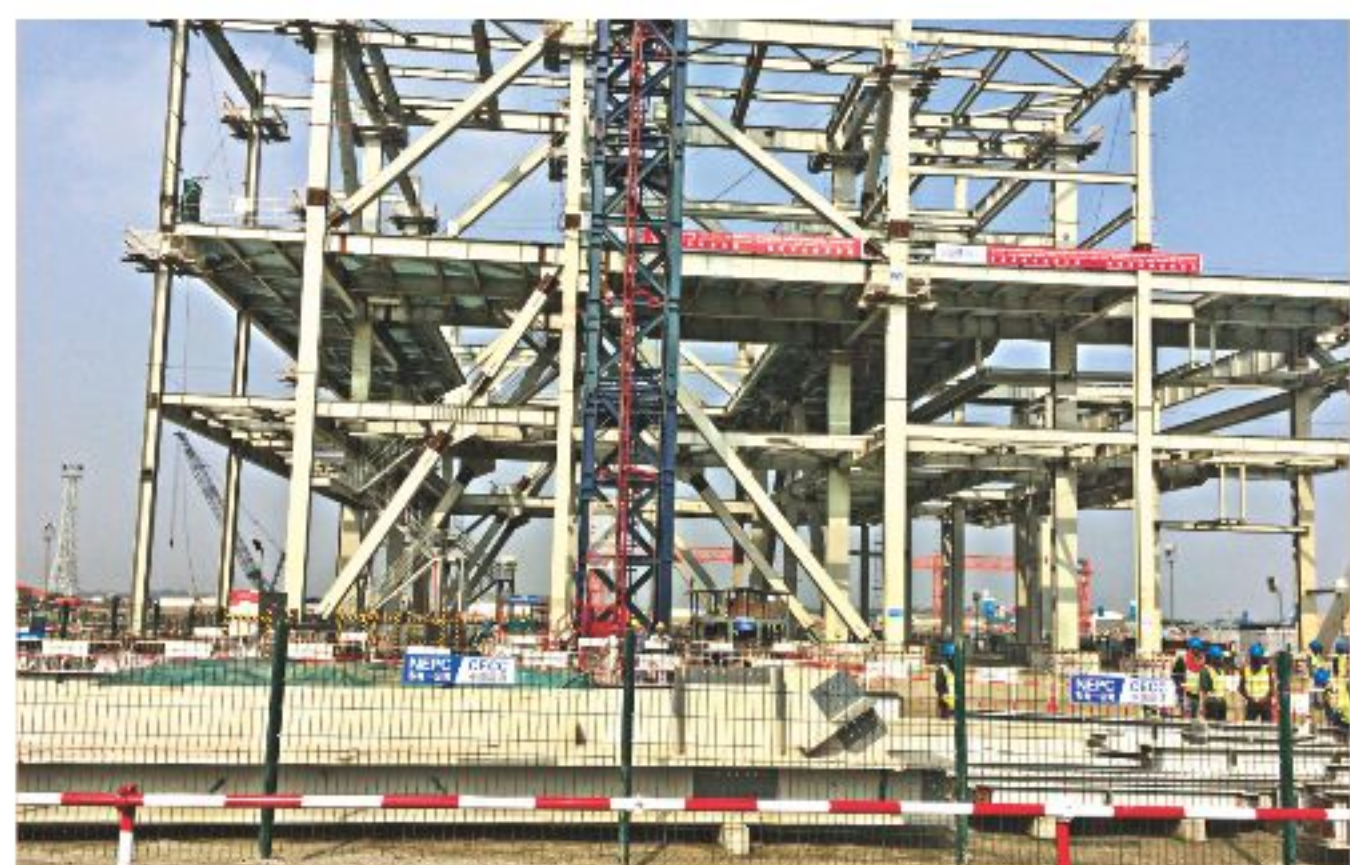
"It's clear from this verdict that the incumbent government is not an elected government. That's why it doesn't believe in rule of law and democracy," said the leader of SCBA, dominated by pro-BNP lawyers.

He said five out of the seven judges, who delivered the judgment, were still carrying out judicial functions at the Appellate Division of the SC. He hoped they would dismiss the review petition in line with their previous judgment.

Among the seven judges, Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana retired on July 6 and then chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha,

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PAYRA 'POWER HUB' Dev frenzy wakes a lonesome land



REJAUL KARIM BYRON, back from Patuakhali

Just nine months ago, Dhankhali in Kalapara of Patuakhali was nothing but a barren land with a handful of houses. But now there is activity, on a massive scale.

More than 3,500 Bangladeshi and Chinese engineers and workers are working round the clock there to get the country's first plant of the coal-based "power hub" up and running.

The electricity generation plant of the "power hub" is being built on the Payra river nearly 70km from Patuakhali district town at a cost of \$1.6 billion.

Already 31 percent of the work is done and the authorities are hopeful that a 660MW unit will be commissioned by April 2019 and another 660MW one by October the same year.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid along with a media team visited the power plant on Friday.

"Even three months ago the site was a barren land. But our engineers have been going ahead faster than the schedule they had been given," the minister told reporters.

The government plans to generate around 9,000MW from the coal-based "power hub" in the next five years, he said.

Nasrul Hamid said this was a desolate area without any road network

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3 BSF men detained for trespassing

Released hours later

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Border Guard Bangladesh detained three members of Indian Border Security Force for illegally entering the country's territory on Majhardiar frontier in Rajshahi yesterday.

The BGB strongly protested against the trespass and sent the three BSF members back through a flag meeting five hours later.

The three are Assistant Sub-Inspector Harnam Singh and constables Rakesh Kumar and Santosh Kumar of Harudanga BSF camp of Murshidabad district, said Lt Col Shamim Masud Al Iftekhar, director of BGB 1 Battalion in Rajshahi.

They were caught with their firearms, wireless sets and mobile phones one kilometre into Bangladesh in Hajir Bathan area around 8:30am, he added.

The BSF members

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CALL FOR END TO ROHINGYA PERSECUTION China, Russia oppose UNGA resolution

Refugee crisis enters fifth month; UN still unable to take tough action

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution urging Myanmar to end the military campaign against Muslim Rohingyas.

It also called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to assign a special envoy to the country, despite opposition once again from China, Russia and some regional countries.

The resolution, put forward by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), was adopted by a vote of 122 to 10 with 24 abstentions.

It further called for Myanmar to grant access to aid workers, ensure the return of all refugees and give full citizenship to them.

China, Russia, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Belarus, Syria and Zimbabwe opposed the resolution.

December 25 marks four months since the start of the Rohingya refugee crisis and the situation remains dire. The UN has been unable to take tougher action against Myanmar. China and Russia have both prevented the UN Security Council (UNSC) from making any decision on Myanmar to

protect Rohingyas from atrocities, opposed UNSC in issuing statements and voted against adopting any resolution in the UN General Assembly.

An estimated one million forcibly dis-

122 nations back resolution

10 countries oppose

24 abstain from voting

placed Myanmar citizens have been living in Bangladesh.

Only 34 percent of the \$434 million needed until February 2018 to provide assistance to the 1.2 million people, including host communities in Cox's Bazar district, has been raised.

"Humanitarian partners are working round the clock to respond, but the reality remains that the needs are massive and urgent, and the gaps are wide. More funding is needed," Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh, said recently.

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শোক বার্তা

জিবিবি লিমিটেড এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান ও জিবিবি পাওয়ার লিমিটেড এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক প্রকৌশলী ফৌজউল আকবর গত ২৪/১২/২০১৭ তারিখে ৭৩ বৎসর বয়সে ঢাকার একটি হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। তিনি বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কেন্দ্রীয় ছাত্র সংসদের ১৯৬৬-৬৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে সাধারণ সম্পাদক নির্বাচিত হন। ১৯৬০ এর দশকের সংগ্রামী নেতা ও জনপ্রিয় সংগঠক হিসাবে তিনি ছাত্র ও রাজনৈতিক মহলে সুপরিচিত ছিলেন। স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামের সক্রিয় গেরিলা যোদ্ধা হিসাবে তিনি একাধিক অপারেশনে লিপ্ত হয়েছিলেন। মৃত্যুকালে তিনি স্ত্রী, এক পুত্র, এক কন্যা এবং এক দৌহিত্র সহ অসংখ্য গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন।

আগামী ২৯/১২/২০১৭ তারিখ শুক্রবার বাদ আছর ধানমন্ডি আবাসিক এলাকার ৫ নং রোডের ১৭ নং বাড়ীতে অনুষ্ঠেয় কুলখানীতে সকল আত্মীয় শুভানুধ্যায়ীকে উপস্থিত থাকার অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে।

অনুরোধ ক্রমে, মরহমের পরিবারবর্গ।



RAPE OF 4 IN CTG Police admit failure to deal with case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Police yesterday admitted that they failed to timely record as well as begin investigation into the rape of four women of a family during a robbery in Chittagong's Karnaphuli upazila on December 13.

"We have partially failed to handle it with proper attention soon after the incident," said Harun-Ur-Rashid Hazari, deputy commissioner (port zone) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, while addressing a press briefing at Karnaphuli Police Station.

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আজ হাটহাজারীতে ৬৯তম শাখার

শুভ উদ্বোধন

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