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TACKLING GREEN ISSUES

Bangladesh 2nd worst performer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been ranked the second worst country in the world in terms of handling environmental issues, according to the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018.

This year Bangladesh has ranked 179, the worst in Asia, out of 180 countries, down from 173 two years ago.

The EPI ranking was published yesterday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum meet in Davos.

Five countries at the bottom of the list are Nepal (31.44), India (30.57), the Democratic Republic of Congo (30.41), Bangladesh (29.56), and Burundi (27.43).

"Low scores on the EPI are indicative of the need for national sustainability efforts on a number of fronts, especially cleaning up air quality, protecting biodiversity, and reducing GHG emissions," reads the report posted on YaleNews website.

It said some countries' low scores could be attributed to weak governance.

The EPI ranking is a bi-annual report produced by researchers at Yale and Columbia universities in collaboration with the World Economic Forum.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



A man rows a boat in the Buriganga river which has turned pitch-dark in the capital's Sadarghat area due to unabated dumping of garbage and used engine oil from vessels. *Inset*, two women cover their faces from dust on a street in Banasree yesterday. Because of such pollution, Bangladesh has been ranked the second worst country in the world in the Environmental Performance Index 2018.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RUSSIA COLLUSION PROBE Trump willing to testify 'under oath'

REUTERS, Washington



President Donald Trump said he would be willing to be interviewed under oath by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 US election.

"I'm looking forward to it, actually," Trump, speaking to reporters at the White House, said on Wednesday of an interview with Mueller, a former FBI director. "I would do it under oath."

Although Trump has pledged cooperation with Mueller's probe before, Trump made his assertion as the White House and allies in Congress have stepped up attacks on the investigation's credibility and Trump himself has hedged on whether he would answer questions.

Trump's attorneys have been talking to Mueller's team about an interview, according to sources with knowledge of the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Uniform question papers for SSC

Coaching centres to remain shut from today till the exams end to check leak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's SSC and its equivalent exams under all the education boards will be held with uniform question papers.

Besides, all types of coaching centres across the country will remain closed from today, a week before the Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams scheduled for February 1, until the end of the exams.

The decisions were made in a meeting of national monitoring committee on law and order of the education ministry ahead of the SSC exams at the secretariat. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid chaired it.

Earlier this month, the ministry ordered that the coaching centres be closed three days before beginning the SSC exams. The ministry came up with the decision to check question paper leak.

Yesterday's meeting decided that any test would be cancelled if the authorities found evidence of question paper leak true. The ministry is discussing with the authorities concerned about shutting down of Facebook for a limited time in Bangladesh during the exams.

"We are very desperate this time and have taken measures to prevent question leak," the minister said while disclosing the measures taken for tackling question leak.

He said all the departments concerned were sincerely working to root out all possible sources of question paper leak.

There has been a widespread allegation of leaking of question papers of all public exams like JSC, SSC and HSC, medical college and university

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

N'GANJ MAYHEM
Police sue 400 to 500 unnamed people

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narayanganj

Police yesterday filed a case accusing 400-500 people over a clash which took place eight days ago during the eviction of hawkers from footpaths in Narayanganj City Corporation area.

Inspector (operations) Joynal Abedin filed the case with Narayanganj Sadar Police Station on charges of assaulting police, stopping them from discharging duties and hampering public interest, Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of the police Station, said.

According to the case statement, seven policemen were injured in the incident.

NCC Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy and around 50 others were also injured as supporters of local AL

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Monkeys cloned in world first



AFP, Beijing

Scientists in China have created the first monkeys cloned by the same process that produced Dolly the sheep more than 20 years ago, a breakthrough that could boost medical research into human diseases.

The two long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) named Hua Hua and Zhong Zhong were born at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Institute of Neuroscience in Shanghai, and are the fruits of years of research into a cloning technique called somatic cell nuclear transfer.

"The barrier has been broken by this work," co-author Muming Poo, director of the Institute of Neuroscience of CAS Center for Excellence in Brain Science and Intelligence Technology, told AFP.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

STUDENT KILLING
Key suspect killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Mymensingh

An alleged accused in a case filed over the murder of a college student was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Bola shpur area of Mymensingh town early yesterday.

The dead is Nayeem Mia, son of Nazir Uddin of Krishnapur area of the town. The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College morgue for autopsy.



SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 26

Fazr Juma Asr Magrib Esha

AZAN 5-35 12-30 4-15 5-46 7-15

JAMAAT 6-10 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The carcass of a dolphin in Kantorilirhat area of Chittagong's Hathazari upazila a couple of days ago.

PHOTO:
COLLECTED

Dredger danger for dolphins

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

At least 16 dolphins (*Platanista Gangetica*) have been found dead in the last three months in the Halda, according to data found primarily by Halda River Research Institute.

Their death came as a result of injuries after they had collided with large dredgers currently engaged in extracting sand from the river, it said.

The dredgers engaged by influential locals are placed along various points of the river, obstructing the movement of the dolphins. When the mammals try to navigate through their corridors, they are caught in the large propellers of the dredgers resulting in their deaths.

On January 3 and 5, locals found two dolphins weighing between 70 and 80 kg dead in the Halda river. Another was found dead a couple of days ago.

Prof Manzoorul Kibria of the zoology department of Chittagong University, also a researcher of Halda River Research Institute, told The Daily Star that along 98 kilometres of the river, there are many dams, rubber dams and dykes which impede the water flow into the Halda.

"That is why the water flow in the river has reduced to such an extent and regrettably the situation worsens when there is

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

'No pride' in genocide

Captain Cook statue vandalised ahead of Australia Day



The statue of Captain James Cook was found covered in paint yesterday.

AGENCIES

A statue of British explorer Captain James Cook has been vandalised in Melbourne in an apparent protest on the eve of Australia Day.

The monument in St Kilda, Melbourne's southeast, was splattered with pink paint and spray painted with the Aboriginal flag and the words 'no pride'.

Amid the official celebrations and ceremonies today, a series of national rallies will be held calling for Australia Day to be moved from January 26. Some protesters, who will gather in Melbourne's CBD, have dubbed the public holiday "Invasion Day".

Australia Day, the anniversary of British settlement,

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1