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বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না' একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো- 'কেন না!'

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AREA

A glimmer of hope over local fish species

Fisheries research institute in Mymensingh preserves 16 endangered varieties

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Aquaculture initiatives by the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) in Mymensingh have helped preserve 16 endangered local fish varieties in Bangladesh in the last decade.

There are some 260 native freshwater varieties in Bangladesh, 64 of which have become extinct over the years, according to scientists at the government research institution.

Some of the reasons behind the wipe out include drying up of open water bodies, environmental perturbations and destruction of natural breeding and nursery grounds, said Dr Mohammad Nurullah, chief scientific officer of BFRI Mymensingh.

Even two decades ago, 80 percent demand for freshwater fish was met through the rivers, which has now dropped to about 30 percent, said the scientist.

Farmers now rear a particular variety of fish in ponds and get good responses in the local market and are also able to export, given that size requirements are met.

This preference of farmers also has a negative impact on the ecosystem, he added. For example, the boyal fish eat up other varieties of fish and so, is a threat to fish farms.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature documented about 56 freshwater fish species as critically endangered in 1998 in the country, he added.

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Gulsha, and Pabda, inset, caught from water bodies near the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute's office in Mymensingh recently. Initiatives from the office are helping preserve 16 local fish varieties.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

HC rejects writ petition over vacant CJ post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition filed challenging the legality of keeping the post of chief justice vacant.

The bench of Justice Zinat Ara and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo rejected the petition considering that it had not been submitted since the petitioner's lawyer Eunus Ali Akond was not present before the bench, Deputy Attorney General Ishrat Jahan told The Daily Star.

Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali, who filed the petition, told this correspondent that he was not present in court as he was busy with an urgent work.

He said he would move the petition before the court again today.

Eunus submitted the writ petition with the HC on January 3 challenging the legality of keeping the post of CJ vacant and not appointing a successor to former chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

In the petition, he prayed to the HC to issue a rule

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TOP QUOTE

"Money will be in circulation a bit more this year, especially black money, as it is the election year. So you have to be cautious."

FINANCE MINISTER AMA MUHITH AT THE RUPALI BANK'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN OSMANI MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Was the UNO blind while sentencing?

HC expresses displeasure over a mobile court sentencing a man already in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed strong resentment over the sentencing of a person by a mobile court when the man was already in police custody.

The HC, while hearing a rule issued earlier about the incident, also questioned how a mobile court could do that.

"Was the executive magistrate [UNO of Lohagara, Chittagong] blind while sentencing Belal Uddin?" Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain asked. UNO Mahbub Alam, Officer-in-Charge of Lohagara Police Station Mohammad Shahjahan and sub-inspectors Helal Khan and Wasim Mia were present at the court.

The other member of the bench, Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan, asked the same question.

Advocate Farjana Sharmin, who stood for the UNO and the police officers, could not give any satisfactory explanation.

The HC bench is set to pass an order on the matter today and has asked the UNO and the policemen to appear before it.

On October 14 last year, a mobile court led by UNO Mahbub sentenced Md Belal Uddin of Adhunanagar Sardarnipra of Lohagara upazila to eight months' imprisonment on charge of possessing some cannabis.

Following a writ petition filed by Belal, the HC on January 14 summoned the UNO, OC Shahjahan and sub-inspectors Helal and Wasim to explain yesterday their conducts.

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Section 57 to be there but with some changes

Digital Security Act likely to be placed before cabinet today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet is likely to approve the Digital Security Act-2018, incorporating section 57 of the ICT Act in the proposed law with some modifications despite outcries from rights activists and journalists over the controversial provision.

Section 57 deals with defamation, hurting religious sentiments, causing deterioration of law and order and instigation against any person or organisation through publishing or transmitting any material in the website or in electronic form.

It stipulates maximum 14 years in prison for the offences.

Now, the new draft of Digital Security Act-2018 splits these offences into four separate sections with punishment ranging from three to 10 years' term, sources said.

Besides, the proposed law in another section said anyone spreading negative

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Bill Gates' quest to create 'perfect cow'

MAIL ONLINE

Bill Gates is funding genetic research to help create the 'perfect cow'.

The Microsoft founder wants to create a bovine that will produce more milk than a European cow while still being able to withstand hot temperatures.

He said: "The impact per dollar we spend is super-high in this area. You can have a cow that is four times as productive with the same survivability."

The research is part of a £28 million (\$40 million) investment by the entrepreneur in the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), which is a non-profit organisation based in Edinburgh.

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Next polls to be inclusive even without BNP

Says Quader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the next election would be "inclusive" even if the BNP did not take part in it.

"The BNP thinks, if it does not participate in the election, it will be a one-sided polls," Quader said.

"If they think like that, I will say they are living in a fool's paradise."

Quader, also minister for roads, transport and bridges, was talking to journalists after inaugurating the pilling works on the 3rd Shitalakkhya Bridge at Syedpur in Narayanganj.

"There will be no more uncontested elections in future," he said.

The last parliamentary

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Bangladeshi 'tortured to death by BSF'

OUR CORRESPONDENTS, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was tortured to death by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Burimari border in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat early yesterday, locals have alleged.

The deceased was identified as Manjurul Alam, 22, son of Asadul Islam at Fakirerdanga village in the upazila, police said.

Patgram Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sajjad Hossain told The Daily Star quoting cattle traders in the border area that BSF personnel of Changrabandha

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-35 12-45 4-15 5-46 7-15

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

This truck went off the road and flipped on the railway lines after the driver lost control in Char Babla area of Tangail's Kalihati, just a few kilometres from the Bangabandhu Bridge, around 9:20am yesterday. Khondokar Masud, an on-duty traffic patrol man from the bridge, inset, saw the vehicle and stopped an approaching train by waving his jacket, preventing a possible collision. A bystander took these photos.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BOMB ATTACK IN KABUL

Shock gives way to despair

Death toll rises to 103; 235 injured

REUTERS, Kabul

Kabul was in despair yesterday, a day after a Taliban suicide bomber killed more than 100 people and wounded at least 235 in the worst attack in the Afghan capital in months.

A week ago, the Taliban killed more than 20 people in a siege of the city's Intercontinental Hotel. Another six people were killed in an assault claimed by Islamic State on the office of aid group Save the Children in the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Despite pressure on President Ashraf Ghani's Western-backed government to improve security, the attacks show no sign of abating, giving rise to helpless anger among residents.

"How are we to live? Where should we go?" asked shopkeeper Mohammad Hanif, who was in his shop near the site of the explosion when it went off.

Interior Minister Wais Barnak said the casualty toll had risen to at least 103 dead and 235 wounded. He said at least two vehicles painted as ambulances were involved in the attack, one of which blew up at when it was stopped at a police checkpoint.

Security officials have warned of possible further attacks.

The Taliban said their attack was intended as a message to US President Donald Trump who last year sent more American troops to Afghanistan and ordered an increase in air strikes and other assistance to Afghan forces.

"The Islamic Emirate has a clear message for Trump and his hand kissers that if you go ahead with a policy of aggression and speak from the barrel of a gun, don't expect Afghans to grow flowers in response," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement, using the term the use to describe themselves.

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