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SHAH CEMENT

# Helping S Sudan move forward

Bangladeshi peacekeepers build roads, provide education, medical aid to locals

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA from South Sudan

Seven years into its independence, the youngest country in the world still remains one of the most violent.

South Sudan's civil war, provoked by ethnic divide, has so far killed as many as 300,000 people and displaced almost a quarter of its 12 million people.

In the South Sudanese capital, Juba, Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been stationed since as early as 2005. They were the first UN Bangladeshi contingent to arrive, and at that time the runway was barely a strip of concrete surrounded by motley tents.

"When we first arrived here on a UN flight, the father of the nation of South Sudan Dr John Garang de Mabior welcomed us at the airport," said Major



Muhammad Shoeb Shafiq, who was in the first Bangladeshi peacekeeping mission in South Sudan in 2005.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been working in the country since then. When they were asked to construct roads, they soon found roadside mines. "But there were no signs or marks," the peacekeeper remembered.

Even today, only a few kilometres of the roads in the capital city is functional.

"Bangladesh sent the first contingent in 2005. Since then we started working together and we are still working together," Juma Jada, state minister for health in South Sudan, told The Daily Star. "It has been a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3 PHOTO ON PAGE 2



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina shakes hands with a girl during an iftar hosted for orphans, war-wounded freedom fighters, physically-challenged children and alem-ulema at the Gono Bhaban yesterday. PHOTO: PID

MINISTERS, SECYS Mobile phone allowance for them raised five times

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft of the Government Telephone, Cellular and Internet Policy-2018 raising the mobile phone allowance for ministers and secretaries to Tk 75,000 from Tk 15,000.

The draft brought a number of changes to the existing policy framed in 2004. Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam briefed reporters at the secretariat after a cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's Office with Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

According to the draft policy, those who are entitled to get mobile phones, including ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers, SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## HILL CUTTING IN BANDARBAN 3 labourers killed in landslide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Three labourers, including a woman, were killed in a landslide while cutting a hill to dig a drain in Ghumdhum area of Naikhongchhari upazila yesterday.

They are Mohammad Abu, Jasim Uddin and Sona Meher.

Two other labourers -- Nurul Alam and Nurul Hakim -- were rescued from the spot.

Locals rescued Alam immediately after the landslide, while firefighters were able to rescue Hakim six hours after the incident.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Take concrete steps to ensure Rohingya rights

USAID chief urges Myanmar after visting Rakhine State

REUTERS, The Kae Pyin Camp

The US government's aid chief urged Myanmar on Sunday to take "concrete steps" to guarantee the rights of Rohingya Muslims and to show sincerity in that endeavour in order to encourage hundreds of thousands who have fled the country to return.

Mark Green, administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), ended his three-day visit to Myanmar touring Rohingya and Rakhine communities in western

Rakhine State, including a camp for displaced Rohingya people.

Green said the refugees, whom he met during the previous leg of the trip in camps in Bangladesh, are fearful and while they want to return, they are asking for their rights and security to be guaranteed before making the decision to come back.

"That reinforces the importance here of clear signs of sincerity of the government's stated position of welcoming back Rohingya in a safe, secure

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## 3 KCC VOTING CENTRES EC starts probing irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-member committee formed by the Election Commission begins its investigation today to identify offenders and officials responsible for voting irregularities that led to suspension of voting at three polling stations in Khulna City Corporation (KCC) polls.

Led by Khandaker Mizanur Rahman, joint secretary of the EC secretariat, the body will talk to presiding officers, assistant presiding officers, polling officers, law enforcement officials, executive magistrates and polling agents to

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## Sale of Eid train ticket starts June 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Railway would begin advance tickets sale from June 2 to ensure hassle-free journey for the Eid-ul-Fitr holidaymakers.

A "preliminary" decision in this regard was taken at a meeting at Rail Bhaban in Dhaka, Amzad Hossain, director general of Bangladesh Railway, told SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Malaysia burdened with \$251b debt

Says Mahathir, blames previous govt

AGENCIES

Malaysia is saddled with over 1 trillion ringgit (\$251.70 billion) in debt, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday, blaming the previous government led by former protegee Najib Razak who now faces domestic graft investigations.

Mahathir, 92, led an opposition coalition to a spectacular win over Najib's previously undefeated ruling alliance in a general election on May 9, having campaigned aggressively over people's rising living costs and a multi-billion dollar scandal at state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

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| SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING |     |       |       |
|---------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| Ramadan             | May | Sehri | Iftar |
| 5                   | 22  |       | 6:41  |
| 6                   | 23  | 3:43  | 6:42  |
| 7                   | 24  | 3:42  | 6:42  |



## Italian artist sculpts Fiat out of marble

AFP, Turin

A young Turin-based artist has spent months sculpting a life-size Fiat 500 car out of a 15-tonne block of white Carrara marble in a work he sees as a critique of today's consumerist, throw-away society.

Armed with his circular saw and a face mask to keep away the dust, Nazareno Biondo began work on the piece last year, slowly and meticulously hewing out of stone a copy of the iconic "Topolino", the original small two-door rear-engined city car that still symbolises, 60 years after its launch, Italy's post-war economic boom.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

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**জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সাপ্তাহিক কর্মদিবসে অন্যান্য কাজে ব্যস্ত থাকায় অনেক করদাতার পক্ষে সর্গশ্রিষ্ট দপ্তরে গিয়ে হোল্ডিং কর, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ফি, ডিএসসিসি'র মালিকানাধীন মার্কেটের ভাড়া ও সালামী পরিশোধ করা সম্ভব হয় না। এ বিষয়টি বিবেচনা করে করদাতাগণের কর পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে সাপ্তাহিক কর্মদিবসের পাশাপাশি ১৯ মে ২০১৮ তারিখ থেকে ৩০ জুন ২০১৮ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিন প্রতি শনিবার (১৬ জুন শনিবার ঈদ-উল-ফিতর এর ছুটি থাকায় উক্ত শনিবার ব্যতীত) সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত রাজস্ব বিভাগের ০৫ (পাঁচ)টি আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় ও নগর ভবনস্থ বাজার শাখার অফিসসমূহ খোলা থাকবে।

০২। এমতাবস্থায় ১৯ মে ২০১৮ তারিখ থেকে ৩০ জুন ২০১৮ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতি শনিবার সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সম্মানিত করদাতাগণ হোল্ডিং কর, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ফি, ডিএসসিসি'র মালিকানাধীন মার্কেটের ভাড়া ও সালামী পরিশোধ করতে পারবেন।

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JAMAAT 3-58 1-15 5-15 6-51 8-30

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