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Cox's Bazar

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER

IMMIGRATION THRU' BENAPOLE

Pay cops, get everything done quickly!

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, back from Benapole

It was around 8:30am on May 14. Lopa Halder and her relative Sapna Hera reached Benapole international passenger terminal to enter India early.

At the entrance, a police constable stopped them and wanted to see their passports. They handed those over to the uniformed official without any hesitation.

The constable now asked for Tk 300 from them, saying, "If you want to go early, give me the money and all the immigration procedures will be completed in no time."

Without any questions, they gave him Tk 300. It all happened right before the eyes of this correspondent, who was standing close by and also could hear the conversations.

As the constable went inside the immigration terminal with the passports, this correspondent approached Lopa and asked about paying the policeman.

She said they need to get to the Indian side without any delay.

"If we do not pay them, the police officials will stop us at different points of the terminal in the name of checking," said the woman, now in her 30s, who had earlier travelled to India through this border.

After about five minutes, the constable came back and asked the duo to cross the immigration terminal, saying they won't be stopped at any point, not even for taking their photos.

Asked about what just happened, the constable claimed to have taken the passports just for checking and denied

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People try to push a microbus stuck in mud on the Dhaka-Mawa highway at Jurain near the Postagola Bridge yesterday. Road expansion work is going on there and the recent rains hid the poorly covered potholes on the road. The rain also flooded parts of the highway, inset, putting vehicles and pedestrians in trouble.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Five children buried alive in Cox's Bazar landslides

Downpour disrupts life in capital

STAR REPORT

Five children, including four siblings, were killed in landslides triggered by torrential rain in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

A huge chunk of mud from a nearby hill fell on the house of Jamal Uddin, who works in Malaysia, and buried his four children alive when they were asleep at Bachamiar Ghona in Cox's Bazar town around 6:00am.

The four are Marjia Begum, 15, Papiya Begum, 10, Abdul Hye, 8, and Khairunnessa, 6, said Farid Uddin Khandaker, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Model Police Station.

In another landslide, Morshed Alam, 6, son of Zakir Hossain of Panerchhara in Ramu upazila, was killed when a chunk of earth collapsed on their house around 3:30am.

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Be careful of what you do

Quader asks DCs not to do anything that could embarrass govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday asked the deputy commissioners (DCs) not to do anything that could embarrass the government.

"As the Awami League general secretary, I have told them that 'you don't do anything which will put the government in an embarrassing situation'," he told journalists emerging from the DC conference session on his ministry at the Secretariat.

At the inaugural session of the conference, Obaidul told the field-level administrators to follow whatever directives the prime minister issues regarding terrorism, drug peddling, and tender manipulation.

"Don't allow political interference while dealing with the problems. Rather, do whatever is legal and right in the eyes of the law," he said, asking the DCs not to bow to any pressure.

He asked them to help keep all the roads usable especially during the

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BNP worried about its polling agents

Fears they'll be ousted from voting centres; CEC seeks Speaker's intervention to bar MPs from joining election campaign

ANWAR ALI, DWOHA CHOWDHURY, SUSANTA GHOSH and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

The BNP mayoral nominees are concerned that their agents may be driven out of the polling booths during the three city polls on Monday.

Many BNP polling agents were forced out of polling centres of Gazipur and Khulna city corporation elections while others were arrested even before the voting day.

The party has started training additional polling agents to have backups during the polls in Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet. BNP mayoral nominees have also advised the potential polling agents to stay out of their houses.

In Sylhet, the BNP is struggling to find agents as its activists fear being harassed by police or driven out of polling centres on the election day.

The Awami League camp, however, has to pick from too many activists willing to be agents for its nominee Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran.

Jamaat mayoral nominee Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair is also not concerned over agents as the party believes that its agents would not be harassed.

Asad Uddin Ahmed, member secretary of the AL campaign and general secretary of Sylhet city AL, said the process of selecting polling agents was going on.

Ali Ahmed, a member of BNP nominee Ariful Haque Chowdhury's election management committee and general secretary of Sylhet district

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More than half involved in business

Says Shujan citing affidavits of city polls candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About two-thirds of the mayor and councillor candidates in Sylhet, Rajshahi and Barisal cities did not have taxable income in fiscal 2017-18, according to their tax return certificates submitted to the Election Commission.

Of the 548 mayor and councillor aspirants, 287 are involved in business. A total of 245 candidates could not pass SCC exams while 133 completed graduation, says their affidavits filed with the EC.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a civil society platform, disclosed the information at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday after analysing the candidates' tax

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Liquid water lake revealed on Mars



AFP, Tampa

A massive underground lake has been detected for the first time on Mars, raising the possibility that more water -- and maybe even life -- exists there, international astronomers said yesterday.

Located under a layer of Martian ice, the lake is about 12 miles (20 kilometers) wide, said the report led by Italian researchers in the US journal Science.

It is the largest body of liquid water ever found on the Red Planet.

"Water is there. We have no more doubt," co-author Enrico Flamini, the Italian space agency's Mars Express mission manager, told a press conference.

Mars is now cold, barren and dry but used to be warm and wet. It was home to plenty of liquid water and lakes at least 3.6 billion years ago.

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4 killed in 'shootouts'

2 of them alleged drug peddlers

STAR REPORT

Two alleged drug peddlers and two suspected robbers were killed in separate incidents of "shootouts" in three districts early yesterday.

The "drug peddlers" were killed in Khulna and Rajshahi in so-called gun-fights with Rab, while Jessore police claimed that the suspected robbers were killed in "shootouts" between two robbery gangs

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15

JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

COMILLA CASE

Khaleda's bail plea rejected by dist court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Comilla court yesterday rejected a bail petition of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a case filed under the Special Powers Act over an arson attack in the district's Chauddagam upazila over three years ago.

District Judge KM Shamsul Alam passed the order after hearing arguments from the defence and prosecution lawyers.

On July 23, the HC had directed the Comilla court to dispose of Khaleda's bail petition by July 26.

Eight people were killed and many others injured after a bus was torched in Chauddagam on February 2, 2015, during an anti-government agitation.

The following day, police lodged two cases -- one for murder and another for arson with Chauddagam Police Station.

The Comilla court on July 1 had issued an arrest warrant for Khaleda in the

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Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) celebrates with Mehidy Hasan Miraz after dismissing Evin Lewis of West Indies during the second ODI at the Providence Stadium in Guyana yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BCL yet again attacks quota reformists

Five students injured at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur

STAR REPORT

Defying Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's warning, Chhatra League men have yet again attacked activists of the quota reform movement.

At least five students of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur sustained injuries as a group of BCL men swooped on them with iron rods and bamboo sticks on the campus yesterday.

With this, BCL men have attacked quota reform protesters at least 18 times since the demonstration, seeking reform in public service's quota system, began in April. The attacks took place at various universities and other educational institutions.

Yesterday's incident happened days after Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader told reporters at his office, "After a rally at the Suhrawardy Udyan, the prime minister, in my presence, warned Chhatra League leaders and activists that she doesn't want to hear any more complaints against the organisation of doing excesses."

Witnesses said around 50 students of Begum Rokeya University brought out a procession from the premises of academic building around 11:00am to press home their demands, including quota reform.

As soon as the procession reached near the administrative building, a group of BCL men, led by the university unit General Secretary Nobel Sheikh, attacked the protesters and

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