



MARKS
DIABETIC MILK




Vanilla Flavour

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE


LIFE STYLE

"Though the number of dengue patients is higher this year than that in the last two to three years, the situation is not alarming."



"I am forgiving you, just like my girlfriends when I was still a bachelor. I am forgiving you. I have forgiven them all. That's my only message."



"The prime minister is trying to establish a one-party rule. We don't think she intends to accept people's verdict."

Govt eases trade union rules

Cabinet okays labour law amendments in line with suggestions from ILO, EU, US

STAR REPORT

The government yesterday approved a draft of the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2018 to make it workers-friendly in line with the suggestion of the international communities.

Under the proposed law, workers' participation required to form trade unions at factories will be reduced to 20 percent from the existing 30 percent.

The draft also proposed finishing the registration process of a trade union by 55 days instead of 60.

Besides, it provides for mandatory maternity leave and ban on child labour in factories. It curtails discrepancy power of the director general of the labour department in cancelling registration of a trade union.

"The cabinet approved the draft law in its weekly cabinet meeting at Bangladesh

DRAFT BANGLADESH LABOUR (AMENDMENT) ACT 2018

Maternity leave for workers mandatory

Punitive action against workers for unlawful shutdown

51pc workers required to enforce work abstention

Tripartite committee for resolving disputes

Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair," Cabinet Secretary Md Shafiqul Alam told a news briefing after the meeting.

"The amendments to the draft labour law have been proposed to make it suitable to the proposals of the International Labour

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A man tries to board a moving bus right in the middle of busy Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital's Farmgate area yesterday. Though he managed to get on the bus, such risky activity could turn fatal.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Concern over EVM natural

Says CEC on use of voting machines in nat'l polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday said it is quite natural that there would be some concern among the political parties about the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs).

"Concern remains among the people about any new technology and its uses. As the EVM is a new technology and the political parties don't know about it, it is quite natural that there would be some concern among them about the use of the machine," he said.

The CEC was addressing a workshop on EVM at the Election Training Institute in the capital's Agargaon.

Huda said the use of EVM in the upcoming national election would depend on

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Rama Chowdhury (1936-2018)

Ekattorer Janani passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She walked barefoot most of her life as she would not step with footwear on the soil where her two sons and hundreds of thousands of Liberation War martyrs were laid to rest.

Till last year, she walked on the streets of Chittagong selling her own books to make ends meet. Probably this hard life finally took its toll.

Freedom fighter and writer Rama Chowdhury, an epitome of sacrifice and struggle, passed away early yesterday.

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TRIBUTE TO RAMA CHOWDHURY -- PAGE 2

Debt trap?

INAM AHMED

Devoid of the whims, high-handedness and the Cold War propositions of the bilateral and multilateral donors, smaller countries had found a new source of financing in China. Its funds could be easily tapped without being imposed with the harsh conditions like those of the World Bank and the IMF

China after all was the wonder country that had posted a double-digit growth spur for quite a long time before being inevitably slowed down. It along with the US and the EU shared almost half of the world's trade; with 17% of the global exports being churned out from this oriental land, China became the leader closely followed by the EU and distantly limped by the US. It accumulated a huge \$3 trillion reserves and became a major buyer of US treasury bonds to the tune of \$1.2 trillion and is about to become the world's biggest economy measured on PPP (purchasing power parity).

So when such a big economic powerhouse had extra money to offer without much of the unpleasant strings of putting in order public finances or taking care of human rights situation, countries jumped on it. From the Pacific to Africa, from Asia to South America, Chinese money poured in in the form of loans with interests hovering around 3 percent.

The takers were plenty because all these countries badly needed to upgrade their poor infrastructure although in the process low priority projects were often taken up at high costs through later-on negotiations.

Bangladesh is no exception here. It has embraced the Chinese loans with an open arm and Chinese companies have snapped up project after project. In the last one year since the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2016, \$4.29 billion Chinese loans have flowed into Bangladesh for five mega projects from Padma rail links to river tunnel in Karnaphuli to oil pipeline. Another 3.5 billion loans are expected to flow in this year.

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Much of the Chinese infrastructure loan glut is now being packaged as part of China's ambitious trillion-dollar "Road and Belt" initiative that seeks to connect countries from Asia to Europe on trade with China at its centre.

SAFF C'SHIP Hosts eye resurgence

SPORTS REPORTER

When the SAFF Championship kicks off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) today, the onus will be on the home footballers to draw the fans to the country's premier venue, once regarded as the theatre of dreams for Bangladesh football.

A poor run of form over a decade that saw Bangladesh football lurch from bad to worse has had a deep-reaching impact, which not only pushed it to a distant second to the now very popular cricket, but also marked the gradual shift of fans from the BNS to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, the home of Bangladesh cricket.

Although no one is expecting a full house at the BNS during the course of the seven-nation tournament, the Bangladesh booters can be the force behind that wind of change, provided that they

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Behold ! Hard Work, Dedication and Sincerity have been Rewarded !

CONGRATULATIONS !!

Mr. Dilip Kumar Agarwala, Director-FBCCI, Managing Director-Diamond World Ltd & General Secretary-Bangladesh Jewellers Samity, is rewarded with prestigious CIP (Trade) Award. We hope he will sustain his triumph of Glory and Victory. May he live long with sound mind and body to lead us and keep magnificent milestone in national economy!

Best Regards



DIAMOND WORLD LTD.
(LC Sister Concern of Union Group)

This is the Pride of Ceramic Industry in Bangladesh
Managing Director of Monno Ceramic Industries Ltd. is receiving the CIP (Export) status 2015



Afroza Khan Rita, Managing Director of Monno Group of Industries receiving her **CIP (Export) 2015** status from Honorable Minister of Commerce **Mr. Tofail Ahmed, MP** for her outstanding contributions to ceramic export sector.

Congratulations

on behalf of all the workers, staff and Board of Directors.



Monno Ceramic Industries Ltd.
(A Concern of Monno Group of Industries)

BALLON D'OR WITHOUT MESSI
Ronaldo, Salah and Modric shortlisted for this year

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FAKE ROHINGYA PHOTOS

Myanmar's army offers rare apology

REUTERS, Yangon

The Myanmar military issued a rare apology yesterday, acknowledging that two photographs it published in a book on the crisis over the Rohingya Muslim minority were "published incorrectly".

Reuters published an exclusive report on Friday revealing that two of the pictures in the book that aimed at illustrating the army's account of last year's events in the western Myanmar state of Rakhine, were in fact archive pictures of different conflicts, and one was posted with an incorrect caption.

The erroneous publication of the photographs comes amid a series of government steps against what it has seen as media

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Heartiest Felicitations



Mr. Amal Podder, Managing Director of Metro Knitting & Dyeing Mills Ltd. receives CIP Card from Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed (Left), Mr. Balam Roy Chowdhury, General Manager (Marketing & Merchandising) receives CIP Card on behalf of Preeti Podder, Chairman, Bea-Con knitwear Ltd. from Commerce Minister

We express our heartiest felicitations to the honourable Managing Director of Metro Knitting & Dyeing Mills Ltd. **Mr. Amal Podder** and to the honourable Chairman of Bea-Con Knit Wear Ltd. **Mrs. Preeti Podder** for achieving CIP (export) 2015 from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for their significant role in the export of readymade garments and a huge contribution to the foreign exchange earning of the country.

Good wishes from all employees and workers of the company



METRO
Knitting & Dyeing Mills Ltd.
100% Export Oriented Knit Composite Unit

- Metro Knitting & Dyeing Mills Ltd (Factory-2)
- Bea-Con Knit Wear Ltd.
- Bea-Con Knit Wear Ltd. (Factory-2)
- Mercer Design Tex Limited
- Scandex Textile Industries Ltd.

- M/S K.B. Traders
- Aertex Fashion Ltd.
- AAA Textile Mills Ltd.
- Panam Agrovet Ltd.

- Panam Knitex Ltd.
- Jubilant Fashion Ltd.
- Sabrang Bay Resort Ltd.
- Sandy Shore Ltd.
- Harbard Biotech BD Ltd