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"North Korea is willing to denuclearise and therefore willing to discard existing nuclear weapons."

SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT MOON JAE ON PROSPECTS OF DENUCLEARISED KOREAN PENINSULA (PAGE 8)



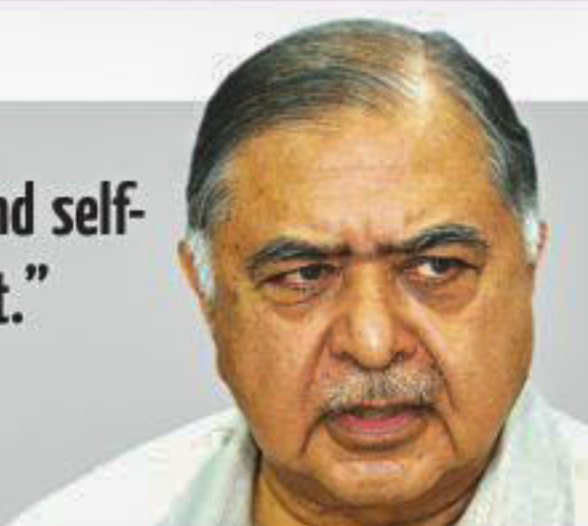
"Human rights defenders are in the most precarious condition in the country now."

RIGHTS ACTIVIST SULTANA KAMAL AT A CONFERENCE (PAGE 20)



"Setting up a court inside a jail is absurd and self-contradictory as jail is jail and court is court."

EMINENT JURIST DR KAMAL HOSSAIN ON HOLDING TRIAL OF KHALEDA IN JAIL (PAGE 3)



Tk 8,000 a month

Govt fixes new minimum wage of RMG workers, raises it by 51 percent from Tk 5,300; some trade union leaders reject

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has raised the minimum monthly wage for 4.4 million garment workers by around 51 percent to Tk 8,000 from the existing Tk 5,300 with effect from December.

Md Mujibul Haque Chunnun, state minister for labour and employment, announced this at a press briefing at his secretariat office yesterday after the fifth and final meeting of the wage board formed in January.

However, some trade union leaders rejected the proposed hike and urged the prime minister to review it as soon as possible. They demand that the minimum monthly wage be fixed at Tk 16,000.

Speaking at the briefing, the state minister said that of the Tk 8,000, Tk 4,100 is basic wage, Tk 2,050 house rent, Tk 600 medical allowance, Tk 350 conveyance allowance and Tk 900 food expenditure.

Chunnun also said the owners' representative at a recent meeting of the board proposed fixing the minimum monthly wage at Tk 7,000.

But at a meeting with the board members on Wednesday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the owners' representative to add Tk 1,000 to the proposed wage of Tk 7,000.

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People gather near a battered car, on the central reservation of the Dhaka-Aricha highway. The vehicle was side-swiped by an Itihas Paribahan bus, while the bus was overtaking it at around 10:00am yesterday. The accident comes amid growing demands for ensuring road safety.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BNP wants UN's effective role in polls

Party delegation meets UN high-up in NY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday told the UN that it wants the global body to play an effective role to help hold the upcoming parliamentary elections in Bangladesh in a free and fair manner.

A three-member delegation of the party, led by its Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, held a meeting with UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Rosemary A DiCarlo at the UN headquarters, said party sources.

In the one-hour meeting, the delegation briefed the UN high-up about the party chairperson's imprisonment, and overall political and human rights situation in Bangladesh.

The BNP leaders also wanted the UN to play a role in "overcoming the ongoing political crisis in Bangladesh," said the sources.

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Mozammel released

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Road safety campaigner Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury was freed from jail last night, hours after a Dhaka court rejected a police petition seeking to show him arrested in a case filed under Explosive Substances Act.

He was released from Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj at 8:36pm, said Shamsuddin Chowdhury, member of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity's executive committee.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mozammel, secretary general of the platform working for passengers' rights, said he was thankful to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the judges for his release.

"I am a victim of vengeance of a vested quarter in the transport sector," he said.

Earlier yesterday, Metropolitan Magistrate

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Paralysed, yet implicated

Police sue 85-year-old for 'secret meetings' to plan subversive acts; another man who was abroad also made accused

"I had gone to Saudi Arabia with my wife to perform hajj. I don't know anything about the incident in Shahjahanpur. Police filed the case to harass me."

KHAIRUL BASHIR, EX-PRESIDENT OF MAJHIRA UNION BNP IN BOGRA.

MOSTAFA SHABUIJ and SHARIFUL ISLAM

One is an 85-year-old paralysed man who cannot move out of his bed by himself. Another left the country for Malaysia in February and is still there. Two others are hajj pilgrims -- one of them returned home just yesterday while the other is still to come back.

Yet they all have been implicated in three cases over alleged crimes that took place between September 2 and September 9.

Bogra police filed these cases with various police stations under the Explosive Substances Act on charges of planning to carry out subversive activities.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Road transport bill placed in parliament

Punishment for reckless driving still 'lenient'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-talked about proposed Road Transport Act-2018 was placed in parliament last night, amid criticism over the "lenient" nature of the punishment over deaths caused by reckless driving.

The draft law retains the punishment of five years' imprisonment for causing death to a person by reckless driving, a sentence which road safety campaigners believe is insufficient.

The development comes over a month after the cabinet gave the final approval to the draft law.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader placed the proposed law before the House, which then sent it to the parliamentary standing committee of the ministry for scrutiny. The committee has been asked to submit its report within a week.

Once passed, the act would replace the existing Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1983. Against the backdrop of numerous

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Pvt medical colleges need monitoring

PM lays foundation of 1,000-bed specialised hospital of BSMMU

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for improving the quality of education and healthcare services at private medical colleges.

"Many medical colleges are being set up by the private sector. But we've to see whether proper education is being provided by them or skilled doctors are being produced there," she said.

The PM was addressing a programme marking the laying of foundation stone of Super Specialised Hospital of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and inauguration of the Convention Centre,



Diagnostic and Oncology Building and Doctors Dormitory on the BSMMU campus.

Hasina said medical universities could properly monitor the activities of private medical colleges. "They could keep surveillance on whether the students receive quality education at private medical colleges."

There are 105 medical colleges in the country now, she said.

About the super specialised hospital, the premier said an 11-storey hospital would be built under a project at a cost of around Tk 1,366 crore and 1,000 beds would be accommodated there.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Congratulations



Mr. Mohammad Mamun Bhuiyan, Chairman, Fariha Knit Tex Limited, has been recognised as "Commercially Important Person (CIP)" for the year- 2016 for his significant role in RMG export of Bangladesh. He is receiving the CIP Card from **Mr. Amir Hossain Amu MP**, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Industry, The People's Republic of Bangladesh on September 13, 2018.

On behalf of Asrotex family, we express heartiest felicitations to our Honourable Chairman for outstanding achievement.



Asrotex Group

Could've been handled better

Suu Kyi on Myanmar's response to Rohingya crisis; EU blasts her for defending jailing of Reuters journos

AGENCIES

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has said that, with hindsight, her government could have better handled the situation in Rakhine state that led to the forced displacement of more than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Vietnam yesterday, Suu Kyi said her government had attempted to ensure "development and rule of law" in the far western state.

"There are of course ways in which we, with hindsight, might think that the situation could have been handled better," she said to Borge Brende, WEF President.

"But we believe that for the sake of long-term stability and security we have to be fair to all sides. The rule of law must apply to everybody. We cannot choose and pick whom should be protected by rule of law," she said.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya were forced to flee Rakhine into neighbouring Bangladesh following a violent government crackdown in August last year, precipitating one of Asia's worst refugee crisis.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Congratulations!

Engineer Abdus Sobhan, Managing Director of **AUKO-TEX GROUP** has been awarded with the honor of **CIP (Commercially Important Person-Industry)** for the year **2016** by the **Ministry of Industries** in recognition of his Extra Ordinary performance, Ethical Business Practices and massive contributions towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on Environmental & Social issues. **Mr. Amir Hossain Amu**, Member of Parliament and Honorable Minister of Industries, Bangladesh has handed over the prestigious award.

On this auspicious occasion, we acknowledge and appreciate Honesty, Integrity, Strong Leadership, Intellectual Rigor, Determination and Dedication of our Managing Director, which helped him in paving ways to achieve this significant milestone.

On behalf of all members of **AUKO-TEX GROUP**, we express our cordial wishes and heart-felt greetings for this achievement. We also pray for him along with our beloved company to achieve more glory and laurels in future.



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