



**"All of us want peace. If peace wins, the world wins; if peace wins, Bangladesh wins."**  
ALISON BLAKE, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BANGLADESH, AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL (PAGE 16)



**"These immigrants (Biharis and Afghans) have lived here (Karachi) for decades, their children were born here, but they don't have identity cards and passports."**  
PAKISTAN PM IMRAN KHAN SAID WHILE ANNOUNCING THAT ID CARDS, PASSPORTS WILL BE ISSUED TO THEM (PAGE 8)



**"The constitution cannot be a barrier to people's welfare as it is meant for people."**  
BNP STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER MOUDUD AHMED ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR POLLS-TIME GOVT FRAMEWORK (PAGE 3)

## Scrap quota in govt jobs

*Review panel suggests abolishing the system for 1st, 2nd class jobs, places report to PM for approval*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered government committee has recommended abolishing the quota system for class-I and class-II jobs in civil service.

The development comes in the wake of months-long quota reform demonstrations that saw arrests of the movement's leaders and attacks on students.

"Our findings are that there should be no quota for appointments to the posts in 9th to 13th grade, previously dubbed as first class and second class jobs," Cabinet Secretary M Shaful Alam, who heads the committee, told reporters at the secretariat after the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday.

The committee also opined that quota is no longer indispensable to small ethnic groups and physically challenged people, he added.

Earlier in the day, the seven-member body submitted its report to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, suggesting that officials of grade 9 to 13 should be recruited "completely on merit".

Under the 8th National Pay Scale, class-I officials -- cadre and non-cadre -- join 9th grade positions while class-II officials are appointed to posts from 10th to 13th grade.

Quota movement leaders welcomed the recommendation, but said they would continue demonstrations until their three-point demand is met.

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With a live wire over his shoulder, a boy aged around eight holds a bulb while a man repairs a motorcycle at a garage in the capital's College Gate area. Like him, thousands of children across the country have to do such hazardous work every day without any safety gears to earn a living. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## ASIA CUP Sri Lanka dumped out

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Afghanistan continued their rise in international cricket with an upset 91-run win over Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi yesterday, knocking the former champions out of the Asia Cup.

Sri Lanka needed to win the Group B match to stay in the tournament but were outwitted by smart batting from Afghanistan, who put up a fighting total of 249 all out at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

The fighters then laid into Sri Lankan batting with spinner Rashid Khan (2-26), Mohammad Nabi (2-30) and Mujeeb Ur Rahman (2-32) sharing wickets as the five-time former winners were bowled out for 158 in 41.2 overs.

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## BNP team likely to visit EU HQ in a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-member BNP delegation is likely to visit EU headquarters in Brussels within a month to talk about the country's upcoming general election, party insiders said.

The party is also likely to go to the USA next month to follow up its recent meeting held at the US State Department.

A BNP delegation, led by a standing committee member, may visit the European Union headquarters within a month, said a

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## AL working to expand alliance

*The broader combine may take shape after announcement of polls schedule*

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

With potential rivals in the upcoming elections trying to form bigger alliances and unity, the Awami League has started working on its backup plan of expanding the 14-party combine.

It has been contacting a number of religion-based political parties and left-leaning parties. The process, however, is expected to gain momentum after the election schedule is announced, party leaders said.

They said if the BNP ran, then the AL-led alliance would bring all its like-minded parties under a platform to contest the polls.

"We have talked with Nazmul Huda, Islamic Front and some other political parties. If BNP participates in the election, we will contest the election as a grand alliance and if the BNP does not participate in the election then the Awami League led-14 party will contest election alone," Mohammad Nasim, coordinator of the 14-party alliance, told The Daily Star.

The 14-party has announced that it would run in the polls under the alliance platform. Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad and his wife Rowshan Ershad also said they would stay with the AL.

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## DIGITAL SECURITY BILL JS body submits report, ignores concerns of journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday submitted its report on the much-debated Digital Security Bill, ignoring concerns of journalists and media owners over some of its sections.

In the report, the parliamentary standing committee on posts, telecommunications and information technology ministry, however, recommended some minor changes to the bill. One of them is to include the provisions of the Right

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## TRANSPORTING GOODS TO 7 SISTERS Dhaka to let Delhi use Ctg, Mongla ports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft agreement to allow India to use Chittagong and Mongla ports to transport cargo to its northeastern states.

The decision came at a cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, with PM Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Briefing reporters after the meeting at the secretariat, Cabinet Secretary Shafiqul Alam said the draft has been prepared for signing the deal with India, but Nepal and Bhutan can be added to it if they wish to use the two ports.

India would have to follow GATT (General Agreement on Tariff and Trade) and Bangladeshi regulations, pay the customs duties, and buy tax equivalent bonds to

transport freight, he added.

The two countries had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the use of the two ports during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka in June, 2015.

Under the proposed deal titled Agreement on the Use of Chattogram and Mongla ports for Movement of Goods to and from India, a new modern tracking system would be used to track cargos, Shafiqul told journalists.

He said India would also have to pay fees for using the infrastructure of Bangladesh land ports.

According to the secretary, goods will be transported as per the capacity of the two sea

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Violating traffic rules, a bus stops right in the middle of a road near Mohakhali rail crossing to pick and drop passengers, while vehicles waiting to get fuel from a nearby CNG filling station occupy part of the road. Inset, a long queue of cars near the filling station. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## IN MEMORIAM

With profound grief, we announce the untimely death of **Dr. Numair Atif Choudhury**, Assistant Professor at IUB and Director of Bangladesh International Tutorial. He died of accidental drowning while in Kyoto, Japan, for an academic conference. Numair Choudhury is the son of Ms. Lubna Choudhury and Late Captain Nizam Ahmed Choudhury.

A Janazah for Numair Choudhury will leave Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Maghreb prayers on Thursday, 20th September 2018. He will be buried in Banani graveyard with his grandparents and Mama. A Kulkhani will also be held at 4 pm on Saturday, 22nd September 2018, at House 29, Road 50, Gulshan. We warmly welcome all family and friends to join us in honouring Numair's life.

May Allah grant him eternal rest.

**Ms. Lubna Choudhury**  
Founder Principal, Bangladesh International Tutorial (B.I.T.)  
**Anika Rahman**, Sister  
**Talita Choudhury**, Sister

