



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420 BSRM ULTIMA BARS



ACHIEVED

Superbrands

AWARD

Five suspected criminals killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Rab and police said five "criminals", including two "drug traders", were killed in "gunfights" with the law enforcers in Dhaka and two other districts early yesterday.

Rab said the two "drug traders", Abdus Samad and Abu Hanif, both aged around 30, were killed in a "gunfight" with one of its patrol teams in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar.

The incident happened around 2:30am when the Rab team signalled a truck to stop in Moricha Bazar area on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road, claimed Major Mehedi Hasan, a company commander of Rab-7 in the district.

At this, criminals from the vehicle opened fire on the law enforcers, prompting them to retaliate in self-defence. It left the two dead on the spot, he claimed.

Rab also claimed to have recovered 1.3 lakh yaba tablets, two firearms and eight bullets from the vehicle and the spot.

With the two, at least 230 suspected drug peddlers and traders have been killed since the nationwide anti-narcotics drive began on May 4. Most of them were killed in so-called shootouts involving Rab and police.

In the capital, two suspected robbers were killed in another "gunfight" with Rab, which came up with a similar account of the shootout.

Saiful Malik, operations officer of Rab-2, claimed that on a tip-off that a group of robbers had gathered in the city's Rayerbazar area, one of their patrol teams raided the place around 3:00am, resulting in the gunfight.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately. No one came to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College, where the bodies were kept, till last evening.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Clad in yellow shirts, two staff members of a garment factory stop traffic in front of the unit to help other staffers cross the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's Ulail area. Locals said such jaywalking causes traffic jams on the busy road during the opening and closing of the factory every day. Inset, vehicles are caught in a tailback in the area. The photos were taken around 5:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ESCALATING TRADE WAR US accuses China of election meddling

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday accused China of seeking to influence knife-edge midterm congressional elections, by taking aim at his political support base in the economic giants' rapidly escalating trade war.

The allegation added an explosive new element to the dispute after Trump pulled the trigger late Monday on 10 percent tariffs against another \$200 billion in Chinese goods from next week, with a threat of more tariffs on another \$267 billion.

Beijing yesterday responded by announcing new tariffs on \$60 billion of US imports.

In a combative series of tweets Trump, whose Republicans fear losing control of both houses of Congress in November, accused China of trying to broaden its retaliation into the electoral arena. It's an

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Free Shahidul immediately

Demand 52 noted citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-two eminent citizens, including educationists, human rights activists and artists, yesterday demanded immediate release of acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam.

They also demanded cancellation of all sections of laws, including section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act, which are in contradiction to civil rights.

Signed by rights activist Khushi Kabir on behalf of the eminent citizens, the statement said Shahidul has been behind bars for more than 40 days.

"With grave concern, we are observing that he [Shahidul] is being deprived of his legal rights," the statement said, adding that though government high-ups have assured of scrapping section 57 of the very ICT Act on several occasions, the photographer was sent to jail under the section.

"The use of such a section, which is still under evaluation, to harass citizens, including Shahidul Alam, is inconsistent with democratic values and the spirit of the Liberation War of Bangladesh," it said.

Shahidul is a citizen of Bangladesh and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Quota demo venue 'occupied by BCL'

Reformists forced to change venue to hold their scheduled rally

DU CORRESPONDENT

BCL activists yesterday allegedly tried to bar quota reformists from holding their scheduled programme on the Dhaka University campus in demand for immediate publication of a gazette notification on quota reform in public service.

The members of the pro-Awami League student body occupied the programme venue in front of the DU central library in advance and held a "counter programme" there, hailing a government body's recommendations on the quota system.

On Monday, a seven-member government committee recommended abolishing the quota system for class-I and class-II jobs in civil service.

The same day, Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, a platform of quota reformists, announced that it would hold a rally in front of the DU central library at 11:00am on Tuesday as part of its countrywide protest.

Under the platform's banner, several hundred students brought out a procession from Doyel Chattar around 11:00am, and marched towards the DU central library.

But when they reached there, they found the venue had already been occupied by a group of BCL activists.

They then started chanting slogans in support of their three-point demand, including immediate publication of a gazette notification on quota reform.

The other two demands include withdrawal of all cases against quota reformists and punishment of those who attacked students during the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

India plans digital fence on border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India will launch a digital smart fencing project along Assam state's border with Bangladesh in November, Home Minister Rajnath Singh has said.

He made the remark to the media in Jammu city on Monday after inaugurating two pilot projects of digital smart fencing, based on Israeli technology, set up along the international border with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir state.

Smart fencing is expected to bring down the casualties of BSF personnel and will create an invisible electronic barrier on land, water, air and underground and considerably reduce the dependence on ground patrolling by troops, Rajnath said.

At the biannual BGB-BSF DG-level conference in New Delhi earlier this

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

A joy to behold

Siblings buy back car dad sold to pay for mom's cancer treatment 17 years ago



INQUIRER, Philippines

Two siblings decided to give their father the surprise of his lifetime when they bought back the beloved Ford Mustang he sold over 17 years ago to pay for his wife's mounting cancer bills.

For Jake and Jeni Ryan of San Antonio, Texas of the Unites States, all that is left of their father's Mustang are childhood memories of them zipping around town as they looked out of the car's window, until recently.

Jake took to social media last September 1 to share their story, writing that the car was very special to their dad, Wesley.

"Did something last night to surprise the old man. If you knew my dad back in the day in his

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Habibun Nabi Sohel arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested BNP Joint Secretary General Habibun Nabi Khan Sohel from the capital's Gulshan area yesterday evening.

Masudur Rahman, the deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that Sohel was held on "specific allegations".

Sohel, also president of Dhaka north unit BNP, was picked up from near Gulshan-2 intersection

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 19
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-09 7-45
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-12 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

5 South Asia countries to form regional network

KATHMANDU POST ONLINE

Senior government officials of five South Asian countries in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region have agreed to form a regional network to boost their mountain economies and slow down glacier and snowmelt caused by climate change and pollution.

Officials from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan on Monday agreed on a set of principles to better maintain the snow covers and glaciers that span their mountain ranges and serve as a valuable source of energy, water, and food for millions of people living in downstream areas.

Speaking at the launch of 'Hindu Kush Himalaya Glaciers and Mountain Economy Network' during a climate change conference in the Capital on Monday, Nepal's Minister for Forests and Environment Shakti

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wave during a car parade in Pyongyang, North Korea, yesterday.

Trump summit stabilised region

Says Kim as S Korean leader arrives in Pyongyang for third summit; leaders to discuss denuclearisation, end of war

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday said his "historic" summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore stabilised regional security, and that he expected further progress at an inter-Korean summit aimed at reviving stalled nuclear diplomacy.

Kim thanked South Korea's President Moon Jae-in for bringing about the Singapore meeting in June as the two leaders began their third round of talks in Pyongyang.

"Thanks to that, the political situation in the region has stabilised and I expect more advanced results," Kim told Moon, referring to the Singapore gathering, at the start of their talks.

The Kim-Moon summit will be a litmus test for another meeting Kim has recently proposed to Trump, with the South Korean president seeking to engineer a proposal that combines a framework for the North's denuclearisation and a joint declaration ending the 1950-53 Korean War.

Moon expressed gratitude for Kim's "bold decision to open a new era".

The first session of the talks, which lasted for two hours, were held at the headquarters of the North's ruling Workers' Party Central Committee, with party vice chairman Kim Yong Chol and Kim Jong Un's sister Kim Yo Jong, as well as South Korea's national security adviser Chung Eui-yong and spy chief Suh Hoon in attendance.

Earlier, the leaders paraded down the streets of Pyongyang in Kim's black Mercedes limousine to loud

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5