

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



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AWARD

Widespread graft at ports

Finds TIB survey on trade via Mongla, Burimari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syndicates of corrupt government employees and transport union leaders have been badly hampering the export and import business activities at the Mongla seaport and Burimari land port.

Businessmen are forced to pay bribes for the timely release of their goods from the ports, despite having valid documents.

The corruption takes place mainly in the offices of the customs and the port authorities, according to a new report based on surveys conducted at both the ports by Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB).

TIB shared the findings at a press conference held at its Dhaka office yesterday.

The surveys were conducted between July 2017 and September 2018.

The findings show that in the fiscal 2016-17, the customs office at Mongla port took bribes of around Tk 15.69 crore for releasing goods while the Mongla Port Authority took Tk 4.61 crore as bribe.

During the same period, a total of Tk 17.10 lakh was illegally paid to the Burimari land port and customs station for releasing the goods. Some 8,550 goods-laden trucks had to pay extra Tk 200 each to amass the amount, the TIB said.

The revelations show that the corruption practice in Mongla port is so prevalent that the exporters and importers are compelled to pay the bribes to have their goods released, despite having the valid documents, Iftekharuzzaman, TIB's executive director, said.

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Children in uniform are seen peeking out through the rear door locked from the outside. A dangerously-designed van, resembling a prison bus, is used to transport children from school to their homes. The photo was taken from Kantajew Temple Road on Dinajpur-Panchagarh highway recently.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

Father, son, 2 others killed on roads

STAR REPORT

Four motorcyclists, including a father and his son and a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader, were killed in separate road accidents in Kishoreganj and Chattogram yesterday.

The victims of Kishoreganj were identified as Rafiqul Islam, 30, Rubel Mia, 32, and his five-year-old son Shahrier Hossain. They all hailed from Kendua upazila in Netrakona district.

The accident took place when a Mymensingh-bound bus from Kishoreganj ran over their motorcycle on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj Highway in Dawkia area of Kishoreganj Sadar upazila, reports our correspondent in Mymensingh.

The victims were going to Kendua when the accident occurred around 4:00pm, said Md Arifur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Kishoreganj Model Police Station.

Rafiqul died on the spot, while Rubel and Shahrier succumbed to their injuries at Kishoreganj General Hospital, he added.

The police sent the bodies to the hospital morgue for autopsy. They also seized the bus but could not arrest the driver.

In Chattogram, BCL leader Alamgir Hossain, 25, son of Rafiqul Islam, a dweller of Akbarshah Colony of the port city, was killed in a road accident at CRB Intersection, writes our CU correspondent.

A city bus of route-7 rammed a motorcycle from behind in front of CRB area under Kotwali Police Station around 5:30pm, leaving Alamgir dead on the spot.

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Poles shifting in Ctg city AL

M NURUL HAYAT CHOWDHURY, Ctg

New polarisations have emerged within Chattogram city Awami League following the death of its former president ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury last year.

Insiders say these rifts may affect the city AL's role in the upcoming general election.

Khorshed Alam Sujan, vice president of the unit, who was a close aide of Mohiuddin, joined the group of Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, who was a rival of Mohiuddin. Party sources said Sujan did this in the hope of securing the AL ticket in the coming election.

Sujan, however, rejected the notion. "Nasir has nothing to do with nomination. The party president will nominate candidates depending on different reports."

He told The Daily Star that he joined Nasir's group to unite the rivaling factions.

"She [Sheikh Hasina] first nominated me for the Port-Patenga constituency in 2008. However, it was given to MA Latif later for several reasons. Since I am dedicated to the party, I accepted it without saying anything. I hope she will consider me this time."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

A MAN'S MISSION AT CMCH Tending the unattended

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Ctg

Though medicinal and surgical support are supposed to be provided in government hospitals to every patient, "unidentified" patients will have to face some hurdles to avail these facilities.

Yet, when Saiful Islam Nasar, known as "Friend of the Unidentified" in Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), began working to help these patients in 2013, he might not have guessed the beautiful form his personal endeavour would take.

And so, from today onwards, no "unidentified" patient in CMCH will be left behind when it comes to receiving proper medical support.

After continuous efforts to upgrade the treatment environment and relaxing the formalities for unidentified patients in the hospital, a "service desk" is to be opened today at 1:40pm at the doctors' room of ward-No 28 (neurosurgery department).

The director of the hospital will inaugurate the desk this morning. It will provide all kinds of medicinal and surgical support to the distressed who are without an attendant to prove their identity.

It all began when Nasar went to visit Feni Sadar Hospital as a member of a blood donation campaign in 2007. He was a student of Feni Polytechnic Institute then.

"I noticed that some patients were lying in the corridor of the hospital without anybody to care for. When I asked a policeman in the hospital, he said the patient had no attendant, so they are called 'unidentified patients'," he said.

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'ILLEGAL WEALTH' Ex-minister Mosharraf indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former health minister and BNP leader Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain in a case filed for illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 9.1 crore and hiding wealth information from the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Mosharraf, now out on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Shamim Ahmed of Special Judge Court-8 read out the charges to him.

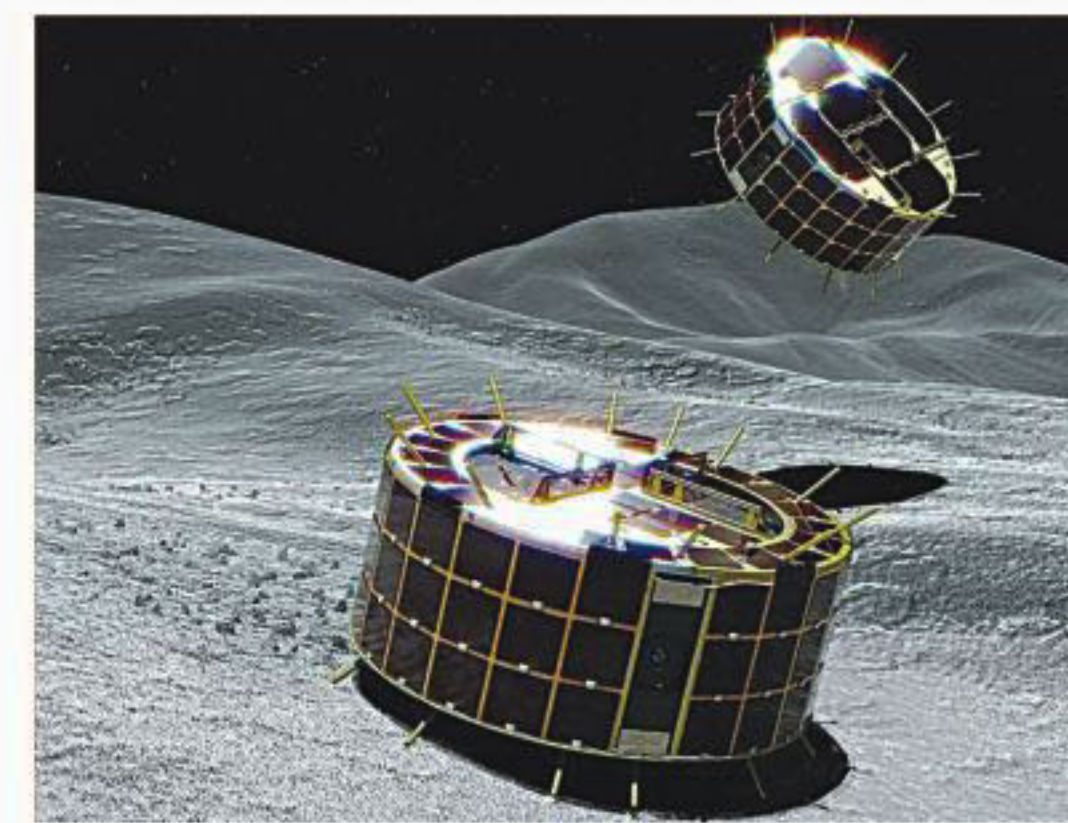
The judge fixed October 25 to begin the trial of the case.

On January 10 2008, Assistant Director of ACC Shafiu Alam filed the case against Mosharraf and his wife Bilkis Akhter Hossain with Ramna Police Station.

On September 17 of the same year, Deputy Assistant

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Japan lands two rovers on asteroid



CNN ONLINE

The Japanese space agency JAXA said it made history Saturday by successfully landing two unmanned rovers on an asteroid.

"The two rovers are in good condition and are transmitting images and data," a JAXA statement said after the rovers separated from the Hayabusa2 spacecraft and landed on the asteroid Ryugu.

The rovers are collectively known as MINERVA-II1. The space agency reported that MINERVA-II1 is the world's first mobile exploration robot to land on the surface of an asteroid.

"I felt awed by what we had achieved in Japan. This is just a real charm of deep space exploration,"

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'Drug dealer' killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

A suspected drug peddler was killed in what police claimed was a gunfight between two groups of drug peddlers in Kotchandpur upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Selim Hossain, 35, son of Nur Islam of Kashimpur village of the same upazila.

With this, at least 233 suspected drug peddlers or traders have so far been killed since the nationwide anti-narcotics drive began on May 4. Most of them were killed in so-called shootouts involving police and Rapid Action Battalion.

On information that two groups of "drug peddlers" were engaged in a "gunfight" in Dakatia area on Sabdurpur Road, a team of police rushed there around 2:00am, said Biplob Kumar Nath, officer-in-charge of kotchandpur police.

"When we reached the spot, the gunfight was already over," the OC

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A man perches himself on a transformer while he works on the power lines. Inset, his safety gear lies on the road below. The photo was taken from Orphanage Road in Lalbagh yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MALDIVES VOTES Yameen seeks second term

Claims of rigging, crackdown on opposition mar process

AFP, Colombo

Polling booths in the Maldives closed yesterday after voting hours were extended in a controversial election marred by police raids on the opposition and allegations of rigging in favour of strongman president Abdulla Yameen.

Yameen, who is expected to retain power, has imprisoned or forced into exile almost all of his main rivals. Critics say he is returning the honeymoon island nation to authoritarian rule.

The process is being closely watched by regional rivals India and China, who are jostling to influence Indian Ocean nations. The European Union and United States,

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