



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

BSRM Ultima



Govt curbing people's rights

Police being used to that end, allege rights activists; slam 'restriction' on free speech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is using law enforcement agencies to frighten people and curb their rights, said rights activists at a dialogue in the capital yesterday. They expressed concern over disappearances of people in which law enforcers were allegedly involved, and came down heavily on the government for “restricting” people's freedom of thought and expression. Accusing law enforcement agencies of carrying out extrajudicial killings, they said the situation has become so horrendous that finding a loved one alive in police custody brings relief to the family concerned. Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development, presented a paper at the dialogue titled “State-Citizen Relationship: Liability and Responsibility” organised by Civil Society of Bangladesh at the Cirdap auditorium. He said, “Freedom of thought and freedom of expression are now being badly restricted in the country. Criticism of any special step taken arbitrarily by the government is labelled as anti-state. “Whenever people become vocal against repression and discrimination by the government, they are labelled as conspirator,” he said, adding that a democratic country cannot formulate laws to repress people. Citing the case of 12 students produced before courts six days after they had allegedly been picked up by law enforcers, rights activist Sultana Kamal said, “We can understand the state of a country when people being alive in custody causes relief.” “Such a situation prevailed during the Liberation War in 1971 when we became happy to know that our near and dearer ones were alive. Now, if the pro-liberation force drags us there, then I condemn them,” she said. “They cannot do this to us cashing in on a sacred thing like the Liberation War,” she said.

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A trader spending idle time reading newspaper in front of his shop at the wholesale vegetable market in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday afternoon. He said the number of customers fell because of hot weather over the last couple of days. The highest temperate in Dhaka was 34.3 degrees Celsius yesterday, according to the Met office.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SECTION 57 CU teacher lands in jail for defaming PM on FB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sent a teacher of Chittagong University (CU) to jail in a case filed against him under section 57 of the ICT Act. The case was filed against Maidul Islam, assistant professor of the university's sociology department, with Hathazari Police Station on July 24 over allegedly defaming Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on social media. Md Iftekhar Uddin Ayaz, a former executive member of CU unit of BCL, filed the case. The court of District and Session Judge Ismail Hossain sent Maidul Islam to jail after he surrendered before it on completion of his eight weeks bail secured

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'ATTEMPTED MURDER' Tangail MP Amanur charged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Detectives have pressed charges against lawmaker Amanur Rahman Khan Rana and 20 others in a case filed for attempting to murder a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader in Ghatail in 2016. Investigation officer of the case, Shamsul Alam, a sub-inspector of Tangail DB police, on Thursday submitted a charge sheet

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-15 6-00 7-30
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-30 6-05 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Scoring big with Avocados

Bogura farmer makes around Tk 1 lakh per year from only 10 trees

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

Ansar Ali became one of the first to commercially produce avocados in the country in 2006, opening up a brand new avenue of income for farmers around the country. The exotic fruit, botanically a berry, had become a favourite among the health-conscious in the capital and was previously only available through imports. Avocados pack a punch as they are highly nutritious and have heart-healthy compounds. The green-skinned, egg-shaped fruit grows on large trees and are encased in a large berry. The single seed, known as a pit or stone, in each of these berries ripen after harvesting. Ansar, 50, a farmer, has made a name for himself at the Buzruk Shorka village under Bogura's Shibganj upazila for his efforts in growing foreign varieties of rather expensive vegetables. He cultivates other crops like asparagus, sweet corn, broccoli, baby corn, lettuce,



broccoli, cherry tomatoes, beetroot, red lettuce, Thai basil, six varieties of capsicums, Thai ginger, Thai onions, and Chinese cabbage on 25-30 bighas of land. “We earn Tk 10 to 12 lakh in profits a year,” said his daughter-in-law Mili Begum. The thirty-seven year old helps him out on the field and knows the ins and outs of his trade. Ali undertakes a six hour journey to the

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Alarm raised over Digital Security Act

STAR REPORT

The Right to Information Forum (RTI Forum) has expressed deep concerns over the passage of the Digital Security Act 2018 by the Parliament as some of its provisions have been given undue precedence over those of the Right to Information Act 2009. The forum believes that The Digital Security Act, in its present form, will grossly restrict the scope of people's access to information under the RTI Act which has been widely held as one of the best opportunities created by the government in empowering people to promote transparency and accountability. In a statement yesterday, the RTI Forum observed that some provisions of the Official Secrets Act 1921

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Robot-created painting on sale



REUTERS, Paris

Robots can do many of the jobs previously performed by humans, but could they ever replace artists? A team of French entrepreneurs who believe so have written a computer algorithm that can create original paintings with some resemblance to works by Old Masters such as Rembrandt. The pictures of an imagined “Baron of Belamy” and his aristocratic relations have a smudgy, blurred finish that would not have impressed Rembrandt's clients, but are good enough for the auction house Christie's to put one of them on sale in New York in October with a price estimate of \$7,000 to \$10,000. “We are artists with a different type of paintbrush. Our paintbrush is an algorithm developed

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'Drug dealer, robber' killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Two alleged criminals -- a drug dealer and a robber -- were killed in “gunfights” with law enforcers in the capital and Madaripur early yesterday. Rab said Md Asadul, 30, who stood accused in at least eight narcotics cases, was killed in the city's Mirpur Beribandh area. The “shootout” took place around 3:00am when a Rab team raided the area on information that some “drug peddlers” were holding a meeting there, Saiful Malik, operations officer of Rab-2, told The Daily Star. Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the criminals opened fire. The Rab members then returned fire, triggering the “gunfight”. Asadul was hit by bullets, he said. The injured was rushed to

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Boats compete during a race in the Buriganga river yesterday. A huge crowd gathered on the banks to cheer on the teams. Locals in the capital's Basila area organise the race every year.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

KASHMIR FIGHTING Five 'militants', soldier killed

AFP, Srinagar

An Indian soldier and five suspected militants have died in fighting in Kashmir, the army said yesterday, just days after high-level talks with Pakistan were cancelled over tensions in the disputed territory. Colonel Rajesh Kalia said two suspected rebels died Sunday when the army detected a group trying to cross the de facto border dividing Kashmir into Indian and Pakistani sectors. Three more suspected militants, and an Indian soldier, were killed yesterday. The incidents in northern Tangdhar area, near the heavily militarised Himalayan frontier dividing the nuclear-armed neighbours, could not be independently verified. Last week India abruptly cancelled a meeting with Pakistan, just 24 hours after agreeing to the rare encounter on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. High-level talks between India and Pakistan are rare and the meeting, between their foreign ministers, would have been the first for nearly three years. New Delhi said it cancelled the talks after the “brutal killings of our security personnel by Pakistan-based entities”. Last week three policeman were abducted and killed by militants in Kashmir, and a border guard was also murdered in the divided region. India also objected to the release of Pakistani postage stamps in July “glorifying a terrorist and terrorism”, saying it revealed their “evil agenda”. Among the commemorative stamps was one of Burhan Wani, a charismatic Kashmiri militant commander killed by Indian troops in July 2016.

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