

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

BSRM Ultima

HIGHEST SELLING **12** CEMENT for more than years



Male migrants' remittance drops 11pc

- 32% migrants face exploitation
- Migration cost Tk 3.4 lakh each
- Male migrants take 3 years to recoup the cost

SOURCE: RMMRU STUDY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Annual per capita remittance from the male migrants has fallen by 11 percent in 2017 compared to that in 2014, says a new study.

"In terms of taka, remittance from the male migrants has declined by 11 percent. However, if it is adjusted to inflation, the drop would be 26 percent," says the study "Impact of Migration on Poverty and Growth in Bangladesh" presented at the capital's Brac Centre Inn yesterday.

The annual remittance from male migrants, which was Tk 218,812 each in 2014, came down to Tk 193,885, show data derived from surveys covering 6,143 households in 20 districts in 2014 and in 2017.

However, remittance from the female migrants rose by 1.5 percent from Tk 109,652 each in 2014 to Tk 111,271 last year. But if it is adjusted to inflation, the remittance would fall by 15 percent, the study says.

"This is mostly because of abusive labour practices and economic slowdown in the Middle East and Southeast

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Students of Vigarunnisa Noon School & College (Dhanmondi branch) demonstrate in front of the Central Hospital on Green Road yesterday, demanding justice for a fellow student's death allegedly due to wrong treatment at the hospital. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

LION AIR CRASH Indonesia hunts for answers

Orders inspection of all Boeing 737-MAX airliners

AFP, Jakarta

Search teams scoured the sea off Indonesia yesterday for any signs of life and evidence to determine what brought down a brand new Lion Air flight with 189 people on board.

Indonesia also ordered the inspection of all Boeing 737-MAX airliners yesterday as rescue teams recovered more victims from the jet.

On a Jakarta dockside, officials took up the grim task of separating human remains from plane debris and recovered personal effects, sending the body parts -- including from an infant -- to hospital for DNA testing.

Indonesia's search and rescue agency said it was prioritising finding the main wreckage using sonar metal detectors, and all but ruled out finding any survivors from the high-impact crash in water some 30-40 metres deep.

Stretched out along the dock was a growing collection of items plucked from the sea -- single shoes, torn pieces of clothing, wallets and bags scattered among aircraft seats stripped of their blue covers by the sheer impact of the crash.

The Boeing-737 MAX, which went into service just a few months ago, crashed into the Java Sea off Indonesia's northern coast moments after it had asked to return to Jakarta on Monday.

Flight JT610 sped up as it suddenly lost altitude and then vanished from radar 12

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Huge police presence after polls schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A large number of policemen will be deployed across the country from the day the election schedule is announced.

Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwari gave the instruction at a top-level meeting with commissioners and deputy inspector generals of all metropolitan cities and different ranges respectively, according to meeting sources.

The Election Commission is likely to announce the polls schedule on November 4.

During the meeting held at the Police Headquarters (PHQ), preparation ahead of the election and the do's and don'ts for the force members were discussed, said an official who attended the meeting.

The meeting also discussed what logistics police had and what else was required. The effective deployment of police force was also discussed, the official added.

The police chief further instructed to take lawful action against the rules' violators.

Earlier, several officials at the PHQs said they would mark the "risky" and "vulnerable" polling centres and update the list of

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Project-approval fest at Ecneec

24 dev projects okayed at one go, more such nods likely before polls schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the election a couple of months away, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved 24 development projects worth Tk 24,740 crore, an apparent move to appease voters.

And there could be more such approvals next week, before the Election Commission announces the polls schedule.

Yesterday, the planning ministry tabled 25 projects involving Tk 32,508 crore for Ecneec's approval. During its six-hour meeting, Ecneec only returned a Tk 7,767 crore project for the Mymensingh divisional headquarters.

After the meeting, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters that the Ecneec would sit again on Sunday where 30 to 40 more projects could be placed for approval.

Usually, once the schedule is announced, no projects are approved. So, the ministries and divisions are rushing to the planning ministry to get the green light for their projects.

At least 82 projects involving Tk 88,782 crore have been approved this month alone. In the first half of the month, two Ecneec meetings were held in one week, a rare example.

Many of the approved projects are for enhancing rural and district roads, improving electricity distribution system, and city corporation development. They are likely to boost the ruling party nominees' chances in the polls, observers said.

A high official of the planning ministry, however, said the huge number of projects was being approved anticipating EC's restrictions on project approval after the schedule is announced.

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Meet demands or face tough movement

Left parties give the govt 48 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

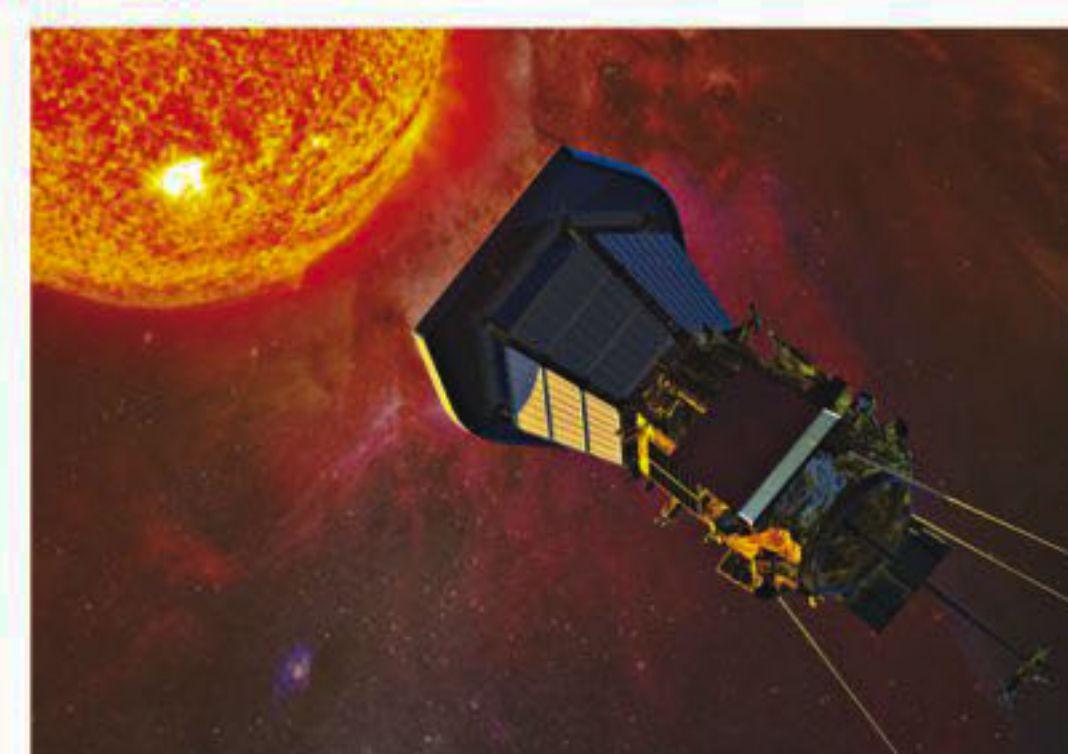
The Left Democratic Alliance (LDA), a coalition of eight left-leaning political parties, yesterday threatened tough demonstrations across the country in November if the government fails to meet their four-point demand within the next 48 hours.

The demands are: formation of a neutral caretaker government for the 11th national polls; dissolution of the current parliament before election schedule is announced; reconstruction of the Election Commission (EC); and reformation of the existing election system by banning the use of muscle power and money.

The LDA leaders made the announcement at a rally in front of Jatiya Press

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Nasa probe gets closest to sun



AFP, Tampa

Nasa's Parker Solar Probe, which launched earlier this year, has set a new record for becoming the closest human-made object to the sun, the US space agency announced Monday.

"The spacecraft passed the current record of 26.55 million miles (42.73 million kilometres) from the sun's surface on October 29, 2018, at about 1:04 pm EDT (1704 GMT)," said a Nasa statement.

"The previous record for closest solar approach was set by the German-American Helios 2 spacecraft in April 1976."

The \$1.5 billion unmanned spacecraft launched in August, on a strategic mission to protect the

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Man held on charge of 'raping' 2 girls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Villagers beat up a man and handed him over to the police yesterday after he allegedly raped two fifth graders on Friday in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur.

Abdul Halim, 55, of Nawpara, Rajarampur village runs a nursery at the village, said Anisur Rahman officer-in-charge of Badarganj Police Station.

He said the two 11-year-olds often collected flower saplings from Alim's nursery. On Friday, the girls went to the nursery to buy saplings. Alim then lured them into a nearby bamboo cluster, saying he would give them free saplings. There, he allegedly raped the girls.

The girls told their parents yesterday what had happened.

Locals then caught Abdul Halim and gave him a beating before informing the police.

The parents of the girls filed a case in this regard.



People enjoy "Lathi Khela", a traditional martial art of rural Bengal involving sticks, arranged on the Nasirnagar Upazila Parishad premises in Brahmanbaria on the occasion of Folk Fair yesterday. Eight teams from neighbouring Sarail upazila participated in the event. PHOTO: MASUK HRIDY

Wildlife declined 60pc in 44 years

Warns WWF, says 'global deal' urgently needed to save nature

AFP, Paris

Unbridled consumption has decimated global wildlife, triggered a mass extinction and exhausted Earth's capacity to accommodate humanity's expanding appetites, the conservation group WWF warned yesterday.

From 1970 to 2014, 60 percent of all animals with a backbone -- fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals -- were wiped out by human activity, according to WWF's "Living Planet" report, based on an ongoing survey of more than 4,000 species spread over 16,700 populations scattered across the globe.

"The situation is really bad, and it keeps getting worse," WWF International director general Marco Lambertini told AFP.

"The only good news is that we know exactly what is happening."

For freshwater fauna, the decline in population over the 44 years monitored was a staggering 80 percent. Regionally, Latin America was hit hardest, seeing a nearly 90 percent loss of wildlife over the same period.

Another dataset confirmed the depth of an unfolding mass extinction event, only the sixth in the last half-billion years.

Depending on which of Earth's life forms are included, the current rate of species loss is 100 to 1,000 times higher than only a few hundred years ago, when people began to alter Earth's chemistry and crowd other creatures out of existence.

Measured by weight, or biomass, wild animals today only account for four percent of mammals on Earth, with humans (36 percent) and livestock (60 percent) making up the rest.

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