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





MATARBARI POWER PLANT
Cox's Bazar

PROUD
CONSTRUCTION
PARTNER



DEATHS DURING TRANSPORT STRIKE

Still reeling from shock

MINTU DESHWARA and DWOHA CHOWDHURY

Shukria Begum, the 11-month-old daughter of Hamida Begum, was having breathing difficulties and was showing signs of diarrhoea in late October. Hamida took her to a nearby doctor at Shahbajpur Bazar of Moulvibazar's Baralekha upazila on 28 October as her condition deteriorated.

The doctor, around 2:00pm, diagnosed her with diarrhoea and pneumonia and asked Hamida to take the child to the upazila health complex immediately.

Despite the health complex being less than 15km away, this put Hamida in trouble. A 48-hour transport strike was underway and there were no forms of public transport on the roads.

"I managed an autorickshaw to take us to the hospital but the local transport workers did not let it move. Around 4:00pm, I hired a rickshaw but the workers let the air of its tyres out.

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Hamida Begum cries holding clothes of her 11-month-old daughter, who died on October 28. Demonstrating transport workers did not let Hamida take the infant suffering breathing difficulties to a hospital. The picture was taken on Friday at her home in Moulvibazar's Baralekha.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Malaysia won't allow graft in recruitment

Mahathir Mohamad on foreign workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has said his government will not allow any corruption in the process of hiring foreign workers into that country.

During the tenure of the previous government, there was a lot of corruption involving the employment of or the bringing in of foreign workers, reports Bernama, state news agency of Malaysia.

"Now we have a proper policy for foreign workers. We do not allow any corruption or buying or selling of workers or the smuggling of workers," said Mahathir, leader of the new government that came to power in May.

"We want only people that have jobs in Malaysia to come in," he said during a dialogue session at a Malaysia-Japan business conference in Tokyo on Tuesday, second day of his three-day visit to Japan.

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'Robber' killed in Shariatpur 'gunfight'

Body of 'drug peddler' found in Cox's Bazar

STAR REPORT

A suspected leader of a robbery gang was killed in an alleged "gunfight" in Shariatpur while the bullet hit body of a "drug peddler" was found in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The robber was identified as Salauddin, alias Sajal alias Kamal alias Aslam, 39, from Gosairhat upazila.

Abdul Momen, superintendent of police in Shariatpur, said a team from the Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Salauddin from Kajirhat in Jajira upazila on Tuesday, reports UNB.

After obtaining information from the primary interrogation, a police team from Palong Model Police Station raided an orchard

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Project approval spree continues

Govt okays 28 more development schemes ahead of election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday approved 28 projects involving Tk 30,234 crore.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved the projects at a meeting the day before the Election Commission announces the polls schedule today.

On Sunday, the government approved 39 other development projects involving Tk 86,687 crore, the second biggest allocation for development projects in a single Ecne meeting under the present government.

In December 2016, Ecne approved the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the country's biggest ever project in terms of costs, requiring an estimated Tk 1,13,092.91 crore.

Between July and September, 75 projects, involving Tk 56,819 crore, have been Okayed.

At least 82 projects, involving Tk 88,782 crore, have been approved in October.

Two Ecne meetings in the last seven days had approved 67 projects involving Tk 1,16,921 crore.

Planning minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said, "Many of you may ask whether the projects are politically motivated. But you know we work for the people...."

These projects will contribute to reducing poverty and cutting unemployment, he said.

One of the 28 projects approved yesterday is of purchasing vehicles for Rab and constructing flats government officials in Chattogram.

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Superbugs to 'kill millions' by 2050

Warn experts, blame misuse of drugs

AFP, Paris

Millions of people in Europe, North America and Australia will die from superbug infections unless countries prioritise fighting the growing threat posed by bacteria immune to most known drugs, experts predicted yesterday.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) warned of "disastrous consequences" for public healthcare and spending unless basic hospital hygiene is boosted and unnecessary antibiotic use slashed.

Drug-resistant bacteria killed more than 33,000 people in Europe in 2015, according to new research published separately this week.

In a landmark report, the OECD said 2.4 million people could die from superbugs by 2050 and said the cost of treating such infections would balloon to an average of \$3.5 billion (three billion

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Runaway train travels 90km



AFP, Sydney

A huge runaway train laden with iron ore had to be derailed remotely after speeding through the Australian outback for almost an hour.

The 268-wagon train started on its solo journey when the driver got down from his cab to carry out an inspection, and was soon hurtling along at up to 110 kilometres (68 miles) per hour.

Mining giant BHP, which owns the four-locomotive train, decided to derail before it reached the town of Port Hedland near its Western Australia Pilbara site, and flicked the points.

The train crashed off the rails, damaging around 1,500 metres (1,600 yards) of tracks, but hurting no one.

Aerial images published by The West Australian

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NIKO GRAFT CASE

Khaleda trial to be held in old Dhaka jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and others accused in the Niko corruption case will be held at a makeshift court in Old Dhaka central jail.

The law ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification transferring the court citing security reasons.

According to the gazette, room no 7 of the old central jail's administration building will be the venue for the makeshift court.

Bikash Kumar Saha, joint secretary of the law ministry, who signed the gazette notification, told The Daily Star last night that the court was scheduled to hold a hearing today.

On December 9, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the Niko graft case with Tejgaon Police Station accusing

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BORDER FIRING

Myanmar ambassador summoned

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday summoned Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh Lwin Oo and strongly protested Myanmar's Border Guard Police firing multiple rounds towards Bangladesh territory.

Lwin Oo was summoned at the offices of the ministry's Director General of South East Asia Wing Delwar Hossain at 3:30pm where Dhaka handed over a strongly worded protest note demanding actions against the Myanmar force

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Young men arrested across the capital being taken to a Dhaka court in handcuffs yesterday. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ROHINGYA REFUGEES

UN expert warns of rushed plans for Rohingyas

REUTERS, Geneva

The United Nations' human rights investigator on Myanmar urged Bangladesh on Tuesday to drop plans to start repatriating hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees to Rakhine state this month, warning they would face a "high risk of persecution".

More than 700,000 Rohingya refugees crossed into Bangladesh from western Myanmar, UN agencies say, after Rohingya insurgent attacks on Myanmar security forces in August 2017 triggered a sweeping military crackdown.

The two countries agreed on October 30 to begin the returns to Myanmar in mid-November. The UN refugee agency has already said that conditions in Rakhine state were "not yet conducive for returns".

Yanghee Lee, UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, said in a statement that she had received credible information from the refugees in Cox's Bazar that "they are in deep fear of their names being on the list to be repatriated, causing distress and anguish".

She had not seen any evidence of the government of Myanmar creating an environment where the Rohingyas can return to their place of origin and live in safety with their rights guaranteed.

It has "failed to provide guarantees they would not suffer the same persecution and horrific violence all over again," Lee said.

"I urge the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar to halt these rushed plans for repatriation," she said.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 8
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-25 7-00
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION