



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



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Death in 'shootouts' shoots up in 2018

Int'l Human Rights Day today

RAFIUL ISLAM

Ziaur Rahman left his Cox's Bazar home in September and went on a religious tour fearing he would be arrested or killed during the anti-narcotics drive of law enforcers.

He was lodging at a mosque in Gopalganj district during his tour on November 21 when plainclothes men picked him up, according to his family. Zia's body was found in his district's Teknaf upazila four days later.

Police claimed that Ziaur was a notorious drug dealer and was killed in a shootout with police.

Like Zia, a record 406 people were killed in so-called shootouts between January and November 30 this year, according to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra.

It said at least 261 of the deceased were allegedly drug dealers and they had been killed in so-called shootouts with law enforcers since the crackdown on drugs on May 4.

The number of deaths in shootouts is over three times that of last year's 126.

The second highest number (354) was recorded in 2005 and the number had stayed below 200 every year since 2007, according to ASK.

ASK Executive Director Sheepa Hafiza told The Daily Star that the increased num-

YEAR (Till Nov)	"SHOOTOUT" DEATHS		
	BEFORE ARREST	AFTER ARREST	TOTAL
2018	321	85	406
2017	97	29	126
2016	123	36	159
2015	95	51	146
2014	79	49	128
2013	40	02	42
2012	57	01	58
2011	60	02	62

SOURCE: AIN O SALISH KENDRA

ber of deaths without trials was shameful for a state.

"The killings should be properly investigated and tried as the state has no right to kill people indiscriminately in the name of drive against drugs," she said.

It is a gross violation of human rights and these extra-judicial killings have tainted all the good deeds done by the government, she added.

Rights activists said the overall human rights situation in the country deteriorated this year with incidents of shootouts, enforced disappearances, and violence

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Supporters of Mohammad Abdullah sit in protest in front of Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office yesterday after his nomination for Munshiganj-1 was rejected by the party. Inset, some of his supporters try to climb into the office premises.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Banking sector needs reform

There are weaknesses in govt supervision, admits planning minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday admitted that the problems in financial sector were created due to weakness in government supervision.

The admission came a day after the country's top economists and bankers at a discussion of the Centre for Policy Dialogue observed that the banking sector was passing through "the worst time ever".

The banking sector would need major reform. It is not possible to run the sector by repairing it, the minister told reporters in the capital's NEC auditorium yesterday.

If the ruling party comes to power again, it will initiate massive reforms in the banking and revenue sectors, he said.

The minister, however, said there was no policy weakness in managing the sectors.

Except for politics, the most debated topic right now is probably the banks laden with around Tk 100,000 crore in nonperforming loans. Moreover, at least Tk 22,000 crore was taken out in scams in recent years. These have been a roll back on the improvement achieved in the 1990s reform programmes.

RELATED STORY IN STAR BUSINESS

COP24 offers help to climate refugees

Groups from Bangladesh, US and the Pacific call for recognition of rights, needs of 'climate-displaced peoples'

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, Katowice

When indigenous groups from around the world met in Alaska in October, they sounded the alarm on how their homelands, cultures and livelihoods were threatened by rising temperatures, loss of permafrost, higher sea levels and weather disasters.

One of the biggest risks facing them is being displaced from their land by climate change, they said.

"We maintain the unbreakable human and sacred spiritual connection with our land, air, water, forests, sea ice, plants, animals, and our communities handed down to us from our ancestors," they noted in a joint declaration.

The groups from Alaska, Louisiana, Washington, Bangladesh and the Pacific urged UN climate negotiations to recognise the rights and needs of "climate-displaced peoples".

This week, the talks took a decisive step towards doing that, experts said.

Delegates at the conference in Poland approved a report by a taskforce set up to tackle the problem under a five-year-old UN mechanism aimed at addressing worsening losses and damage as a result of climate change.

The decision needs to be formally adopted when the meeting ends on December 14.

The report encourages countries to formulate laws and policies to prevent people having to leave their homes because of climate change impacts - and to help them move, resettle and minimise negative consequences if

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BTRC orders blocking of 58 news sites

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The telecom regulator yesterday directed all internet service providers and International Internet Gateway (IIG) operators to block 58 news sites in the country.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission sent a letter to the IIG operators, which control the internet bandwidth in the country, and internet service providers in this regard.

"We received the instruction today [yesterday] afternoon and already took steps to implement it," said Md Emdadul Hoque, secretary general of Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh.

The news sites include priyo.com, risingbd.com, poriborton.com, reportbd24.com, sheershane24.com,

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German town puts Elvis on traffic lights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



AFP, Friedberg

Cross the road, it's now or never. Or that's what residents in the German town of Friedberg may start humming when their traffic light jumps to green to reveal a hip-swivelling Elvis Presley.

The jailhouse rocker performed his military service there between 1958 and 1960 and the town remains all shook up about its celebrated visitor.

To commemorate the "Love me Tender" singer's link to Friedberg, located north of Frankfurt, local authorities have transformed three traffic lights into Elvis lights.

On red, they show the music icon standing at his microphone.

On green, Elvis is seen mid-hip shake, performing his trademark move on tip toes.

The town, which calls itself "the army home of" SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

4 technocrat ministers relieved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The resignation of four technocrat ministers takes effect today, over a month after they had resigned from the cabinet.

The Cabinet Division yesterday issued a gazette notification in this regard.

Religious Affairs Minister Matiur Rahman, Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam, Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman, and Information Technology Minister Mustafa Jabbar had

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

CJ for tough stance to fight graft

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday said a tougher stance against corruption by the young generation could prevent the menace.

Pointing that the dreams and spirit of the freedom fighters are being disrespected due to the spread of corruption in every sphere of the society, the chief justice said, "Ideal and morality have been fading away from the society. The young generation is the best power to change the situation and it is the high time for them to take part in the anti-corruption campaign with immense commitment and creativity for building a beautiful Bangladesh."

He made the statements at a discussion arranged by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) marking the International Day against Corruption at Shilpakala Academy in the capital, reports BSS.

The CJ also said the SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



An electronic voting machine expert demonstrating how the machine can be used to a prospective voter at Khulna Zilla School in Khulna. The Election Commission selected Khulna-2 and Sathkira -2 constituencies of Khulna division for the use of the machines. PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

ROW OVER ARREST OF HUAWEI CFO China summons US ambassador

A day after warning Canada, Beijing demands Washington to drop its extradition request

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday summoned the US ambassador to protest the "extremely bad" arrest of telecom giant Huawei's chief financial officer in Canada and demand that the United States drop its extradition request.

The arrest of Meng Wanzhou, who faces US fraud charges related to sanctions-breaking dealings with Iran, has infuriated Beijing, stoking tensions amid a trade war truce between China and the United States.

Meng -- the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, a former engineer in China's People's Liberation Army -- is in custody as she awaits a Canadian court's decision on bail on Monday.

Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng summoned US ambassador Terry Branstad one day after he called in Canadian envoy John McCallum to voice China's displeasure.

"Le Yucheng pointed out that the US side has seriously violated the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens, and the nature of the violation is extremely bad," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"The Chinese side firmly opposes this and strongly urges the United States to attach great importance to China's SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Meng Wanzhou