



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



PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

Make sure the admin is neutral

Eminent citizens urge the EC over December 30 polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted citizens yesterday called upon the Election Commission to play a neutral and transparent role to make sure that the administration involved in the electoral process discharges its duties neutrally.

Casting doubt over the role of the EC and the government in holding credible polls, they said only spontaneous participation of people on the polls day can overcome uncertainty over the election.

The speakers were addressing a press conference arranged under the platform titled "Nagorikder Pokkhe Amra" at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

Reading out a written statement, Prof Gitara Nasreen said various incidents ahead of the December 30 polls had created suspicion among people that the EC was biased towards the government instead of doing its constitutional duty.

On a number of occasions, the election commissioners did not discharge their duties independently and acted as if they were subordinate to the rulers, said Prof Nasreen, a teacher of the department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Dhaka University.

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A trader arranges a pile of earthen utensils on the bank of Piyan river in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet. While the popularity of pottery has long been on the wane, a handful of traders still bring large quantities of the goods to Sylhet during winter.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

BORDER WALL ROW US govt in partial shutdown

AFP, Washington

An air of chaos enveloped Washington yesterday as the US government kicked off the holidays by partially shutting down, following the failure of leaders to pass a federal spending bill as negotiations stalled over Donald Trump's demand for money to build a US-Mexico border wall.

Operations for several key agencies ceased at 12:01am yesterday (0501 GMT), despite last-ditch talks that continued on Capitol Hill between White House officials and congressional leaders in both parties.

Most critical security functions remain operational but 800,000 federal workers are impacted, with many furloughed just days before Christmas while others deemed essential are working unpaid.

And as many other Americans and tourists began vacations head of

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21 sued over arson attack on Hindu family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least 21 people, including a former union parishad chairman, were sued over the arson attack on a Hindu family in Thakurgaon Sadar on Friday.

One of the victims, Krisna Ghosh, filed the case with Thakurgaon Police Station accusing nine named and 12 unnamed people.

According to the case statement, a group of criminals, including former Jagannath union parishad chairman Mostafizur Rahman Liton, was trying to create panic among the local Hindu community so that they do not vote on December 30.

The attack, carried out between 4:30am and 5:00am Friday in Singia Shahapara village, killed seven goats, destroyed sixty maunds of paddy and all furniture of eight houses. The attackers first set a house on

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Media failing to play its role

Speakers tell seminar on JS polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the role of mass media is very crucial in national elections, the mainstream media in Bangladesh are failing to play their part, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

Expressing concern over the prevailing situation ahead of the coming polls, they emphasised on creating a congenial environment so that people can vote freely on December 30.

They were speaking at the seminar titled 'Media Engagement for Fair Elections' organised by the Centre for Governance Studies at the capital's BISS auditorium.

In his keynote speech, Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age, said, "While the government's prime focus of control remains on the electronic media due to its greater reach and influence on a larger number of the country's population, the print media is also not spared..."

Kabir said it was clear that the media engagement was very much there in the coming election, "but it is predominantly a partisan engagement devoid of broader public interests".

He said independent media outlets and even individual journalists were trying to serve the people, "but that is quite inadequate in terms of the huge responsibilities that the democratic media are expected to discharge during

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Satkhira OC withdrawn for 'seeking vote for boat'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police OC in Satkhira has been withdrawn for allegedly seeking vote for Awami League.

The SP withdrew Maruf Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Kalaroa Police Station, yesterday following an order by the Election Commission. He was attached to the district police lines, said Merina Akhter, additional superintendent of police (sadar circle) in the district.

The development came two days after Maruf allegedly violated the electoral code of conduct by seeking vote for "boat" - the AL's electoral symbol. A video

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Ice-filler crater on Mars discovered



INDEPENDENT

A massive ice-filled hole on the surface of Mars has been revealed in images beamed back from a spacecraft orbiting the red planet.

The Korolev crater measures 51 miles across and is located in the northern lowlands of Mars, just south of the pole.

At a depth of 1.2 miles, scientists think the chasm traps a layer of cold air that ensures its icy core remains in place all year round.

As air moves over the surface of the crater it sinks and creates a low temperature zone that preserves the ice by shielding it from the surrounding atmosphere.

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ROOPPUR PLANT Worker killed as crane falls on him; 1 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A construction worker was killed and another severely injured after a crane fell on them in Rooppur nuclear power plant project area of Pabna's Ishwardi on Friday evening.

The dead is Sikhon Hossain, 27, and the injured Jewel Rana, 21.

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 23

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-25 12-45 3-45 5-24 7-00

JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-00 5-27 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Law enforcers walk before a BNP procession, below, led by Afroza Abbas in Khilgaon area of the capital yesterday. The campaign of BNP candidate for Dhaka-9 has been attacked on two occasions in the last two weeks. Police said they were deployed to avert any untoward incident.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ইলেক্ট্রনিক ভোটিং মেশিন (ইভিএম) এ ভোট দিন মাত্র দুই বোতাম চেপে



১ ভোট দিতে পছন্দের প্রতীকের পাশের সাদা বোতামটি চাপুন

২ ভোট নিশ্চিত করতে সবুজ বোতাম চাপুন

ব্যালট ইউনিট

ইভিএম এর মাধ্যমে ভোট প্রদানে

ভোটারের আঙ্গুলের ছাপের মাধ্যমে ভোটার শনাক্ত করা হয় এবং ভোটার তালিকা হতে প্রাপ্ত ভোটার নম্বর অথবা লেমিনেটেড জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র অথবা স্মার্ট জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র সহ নির্ধারিত কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হলে ভোট প্রদান সহজ হবে।



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