



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





ACHIEVED

Superbrands

AWARD



CHECKING FAKE MEDICINE

Mini-labs in six districts

Drug administration sets up 6 global standard laboratories

MD FOISAL AHMED

The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) has launched six international standard mini-labs in as many districts to enhance its capacity to check sale of fake medicines.

The mini-labs have been set up under the global programme titled Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM), with technical support from United States Pharmacopeia (USP). They will also help ensure quality of medicines, said drug admin officials.

The new portable mini-labs started operating in Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barishal and Rangpur in October last year, said Md Saiful Islam Khan, technical manager of PQM-Bangladesh.

The USAID has funded the initiative, including maintenance for five years.

The DGDA had only two labs under its National Control Laboratory (NCL) to monitor 40,285 products of 858 local pharmaceuticals companies. Besides, there were a lot of imported medicines in the market, said officials.

This presented great problems to the drug admin in monitoring the quality of medicines. With the introduction of the mini-labs, things have become easier for the DGDA.

It takes around three hours to conduct a test at a mini-lab, compared to several weeks taken by NCL labs, said officials.

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They will be adversaries today when Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's, left, Rangpur Riders and Mushfiqur Rahim's Chittagong Vikings kick off the sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League at 12:30pm in Mirpur today. But the Bangladesh teammates were all smiles when they met during practice yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Condolences pour in for Syed Ashraf

His body to be flown in today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tributes and condolences have been pouring in from all quarters for Awami League leader Syed Ashraf Islam.

His death creates a void in the country's politics, said statements from different organisations.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock immediately after learning about his death on Thursday night.

The former public administration minister breathed his last at Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok at the age of 68.

Son of Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of Mujibnagar Government, Ashraf had been suffering from lung cancer for long. He was flown to Thailand for treatment in July this year.

His death came just four days after he was elected MP in Kishoreganj-1. He had been a parliamentarian in the constituency since 1996.

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No genuine Indians will be left out

Assures Modi over Assam NRC drive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said no genuine Indian would be left out of the National Register of Citizens in Assam and promised that his government would do everything possible to push through a bill that seeks to give Indian citizenship to religious minorities from

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Democrats take charge of House, flex muscle

Pass bills to end US govt shutdown defying Trump; Nancy Pelosi picked as Speaker

REUTERS, Washington

Democrats wasted no time flexing their new power in the US House of Representatives on Thursday by approving legislation backed by new Speaker Nancy Pelosi that would end a 13-day partial government shutdown, ignoring President Donald Trump's demand for \$5 billion for a border wall.

The White House on Thursday issued a veto threat against both parts of the Democratic legislation. But that did not deter House Democrats.

Thursday marked the first day of divided government in Washington since Trump took office in January 2017, as Democrats took control in the House from his fellow Republicans, who remain in charge of the Senate.

The 2019-2020 Congress convened with



roughly a quarter of the federal government closed, affecting 800,000 employees, in a shutdown triggered by Trump's demand last month for the money for a US-Mexican border wall - opposed by Democrats - as part of any legislation funding government agencies.

The House earlier on Thursday had formally picked Pelosi, a veteran Democratic lawmaker and liberal from San Francisco, as its speaker, beginning her second stint in one of Washington's most powerful jobs. She is the only woman ever to serve as speaker and will preside over the most diverse US House in history, including a record number of women and Latinos.

The two-part Democratic package includes a bill to fund the Department of

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PCJSS man shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A group of unidentified criminals killed a member of Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samity (PCJSS-MN Larma) in Baghaichhari upazila yesterday.

The victim, Bashu Chakma, 40, was shot dead around 7:00pm at a house near Babupara Community Centre in the area when he was chatting with four of his friends, said police quoting witnesses.

All of a sudden, a group of attackers opened fire at the house, leaving Bashu dead on the spot, witnesses said.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to a hospital for autopsy, said Muhammad MA Monjur, officer-in-charge of Baghaichhari

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'Selfie addicts' needed for British military!



CNN ONLINE

If you're a millennial who's addicted to taking selfies, video gaming or consider yourself a class clown, you could be exactly what the British Army is looking for.

For its 2019 recruitment campaign, "Your Army Needs You," the army is seeking recruits from the "snowflake generation."

The army drew inspiration from the World War I-era "Your Country Needs You" poster featuring Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, and recreated a series of videos and posters to attract people

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'Genetic hack' may boost crop yield by 40pc

AFP, Washington

For years, researchers at the University of Illinois have been trying to find out whether it is possible to genetically modify a crop to boost its growth.

In results published in Science on Thursday, they confirmed they had been successful making tobacco plants 40 percent bigger thanks to a "genetic hack" or "shortcut."

The wider goal isn't to produce more tobacco but to apply the technique to wheat or soy beans, in order to meet mankind's growing appetite.

Their work is part of an international project that is being financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation and the British government, among others.

Farmers have long used fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural methods to achieve higher productivity, but these techniques appear to have run their course and it is thought unlikely they can extract more significant gains.

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A mobile grinding mill for extracting oil from mustard seeds on the capital's Bailey Road. The vendor from Jamalpur has been running this small business in the city over the last two years. He sells 80 to 100 litres of oil every day at Tk 200 a litre.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Three women murdered

Two of them killed over 'family feud', the other by robbers

STAR REPORT

Two women were murdered in separate incidents in Cumilla and Dinajpur yesterday.

Besides, another woman was killed in Munshiganj on Thursday night.

The victim in Cumilla is 70-year-old Morsheda Begum, in Dinajpur 40-year-old Joynab Begum, and in Munshiganj 60-year-old Aleya Begum.

A robbery gang entered Morsheda's house by breaking the window grill and strangled her to death, said Sirajul Islam Sarker, chairman of Elahabad union parishad in Munshiganj's Debidwar upazila.

Morsheda's hand and legs were tied with towel and scotch tapes when her body was found, the chairman said.

The body was recovered around 10:00am and sent to Comilla Medical College morgue for autopsy, said Sarker Abdullah Al Mamun, inspector (investigation) of Debidwar Police Station.

A case was filed with Debidwar Police Station over the incident.

Meanwhile, police recovered the slit-throat body of Joynab around 11:30am from Jalalpur village of Dinajpur Sadar.

The body was sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College morgue for autopsy, said Bazlur Rashid, inspector of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station.

A bloodstained knife was also recovered from the spot, he added.

The inspector said they were suspecting Joynab was killed by her husband over family dispute. Police are conducting drives to arrest her husband, he added.

In Munshiganj, Aleya was hacked to death by some

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