



"It's ridiculous to raise questions about the 11th parliamentary election which received global recognition."

AL GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER (PAGE 3)

Cruising to Kolkata thru' river route

Bangladesh-India passenger, cruise vessel service may start in March

SOHEL PARVEZ

Good news for cross-border cruise lovers.

Your dream of travelling between Bangladesh and India, while also enjoying the beauty of the mystic Sundarbans and the lush green dots of riverine Bangladesh, is about to come true.

In October last year, the shipping ministries of the two countries finalised the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for movement of passenger and cruise vessels on the coastal and designated inland routes between the two neighbours.

Cruise service operators are already queuing up for permission, for what stakeholders say would be a boost for tourism business.

Two such operators -- RV Bengal Ganga and Assam Bengal Navigation -- applied to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to operate between Kolkata-Dhaka and Guwahati, said BIWTA Joint Director Saiful Islam.

"Recently, we received a letter from the Inland Waterways Authority of India that RV Bengal Ganga wants to start cruise service from Kolkata in March," he said, adding that the request was forwarded to the shipping ministry.

Relevant ministries will soon sit to discuss preparations of agencies such as customs and immigration, which manage cross-border movement of people and goods, the official said.

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SEVEN RINGS CEMENT

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Aliss wins it for Dhaka, Afridi for Comilla

SPORTS REPORTER

In front of the largest crowd of the sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League so far, Dhaka Dynamites' little-known off-spinner Aliss Al Islam took a hattrick on debut to halt Rangpur Riders' seemingly inexorable march in chase of a 184-run target at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The thrilling two-run win was sealed off the last ball of the match after Rangpur scored 181 for nine, maintaining Dhaka's all-win record in their first three matches.

The second game of the day between Comilla Victorians and Rajshahi Kings was not nearly as exciting as Comilla won by

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Farmers use a harvester to collect, thresh and put ripe paddy in sacks from a field in Barishal's Babuganj upazila. Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has recently introduced the machine to farmers in the area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

RMG worker 'raped' in Narayanganj

Police arrest Rangpur rape suspect and another accused of Noakhali gang-rape

STAR REPORT

A female ready-made garment worker was allegedly raped at Rupganj in Narayanganj early Friday.

The 22-year-old was raped in Khadun area of the upazila while returning home from work, said Muhammad Abdul Huq, officer-in-charge of Rupganj Police Station.

The victim lodged a case with Rupganj Police Station against three -- Sumon, 23, Nahid, 22, and Hasin, 22 -- on Friday, he added.

Quoting the case statement, the OC also said one of the three accused raped the victim. Two others assisted.

Hearing her scream, locals rescued the victim and sent her to home.

Police sent the woman to Narayanganj

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Left candidates' eyewitness accounts of polls

Allegations of all-round anomalies; local admin, law enforcers 'played role in favour of ruling alliance'

BISHAKHA DEVNATH and JAMIL MAHMUD

The administration together with the law enforcement agencies played a role to influence the December 30 polls outcome in favour of the ruling Awami League, the Left Democratic Alliance candidates have alleged.

At a public hearing at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, 82 LDA candidates from across the country gave eyewitness accounts of how the party in power had been at the centre of alleged election manipulation.

"We reject this farcical election and farcical results..." Ruhin Hossain Prince, a central leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), said at the start of the hearing.

All parties, except for the components of the AL-led grand alliance, had faced hindrance in every step before, during and after the election, speakers said.

The candidates said an adverse and fearful situation was created ahead of the polls. Activists of the AL and its associated bodies attacked rallies and processions of LDA candidates, removed their posters and assaulted and

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Don't send girls to school, it makes them disobedient!

Hefajat chief tells parents in sermon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Hefajat-e Islam chief Shah Ahmed Shafi yesterday made parents promise that they won't send their daughters to school.

Addressing a rally attended by thousands, the Islamist leader said girls should not receive schooling beyond grade IV or V because education would make them disobedient.

"Don't send your daughters to school, college. At most, you can allow them to study up to class IV or V, so that they can maintain their husbands' accounts and can write letters to them," he said, during his one-and-a-half-hour sermon.

He was the chief guest at the event, an annual gathering at Darul-Ulum Moinul Islam Madrasa in Hathazari upazila of Chattogram.

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A train moves on a railway track that runs through illegal shanties near the capital's Jurain Bazar. Such reckless encroachment can lead to irreversible losses. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

NO-MAN'S LAND

Myanmar building concrete structure

Officials say it's clear violation of international law

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

In a flagrant violation of international law, Myanmar has been building a concrete structure in the no-man's land on its border with Bangladesh in Bandarban's Ghumdhum area.

The structure would obstruct the flow of a canal in the area, causing flooding. This would result in displacement of around 6,000 Rohingyas who have been living there since August 2017 following the Myanmar army's crackdown on the minority community in Rakhine, said Bangladesh officials.

Rohingyas expressed fear that the Myanmar army might use the structure as a patrolling station.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Kamal Ahmed has sent a letter to the cabinet secretary on Tuesday, expressing concern over the construction work and its possible consequences.

"The Myanmar government cannot set up any structure on the no-man's land. If the structure is built, the Rohingyas in no-man's land will face sufferings as the whole area will go under water," the DC told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University's international relations department said it was a violation of international law by Myanmar.

"No country can carry out a construction work in no-man's land without a bilateral agreement with its neighbour," he said.

According to international law, no construction can be done within 150 yards on either side of the border between two countries if there is no bilateral deal to do so.

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