



"The BRTC is not an organisation with good reputation. Here irregularities and corruption have been reigning supreme for long."

ROAD TRANSPORT AND BRIDGES MINISTER OBайдUL QUADER (PAGE 3)

HARD TO BELIEVE

Man with a deformed arm accused of attacking cops just before Dec 30 polls

RAFIUL ISLAM

Tara Mia finds it difficult to even move his right arm deformed since birth. A bit tall and scrawny, the man from Sunamganj's Jamalganj upazila uses his left hand to have meals.

Yet, he is one of the 52 people, who allegedly attacked police with machetes, hockey sticks and iron rods in Mallikpur Bazar area around 4:40pm on December 28, two days before the 11th parliamentary polls.

He was named as an accused in a case filed by police with Jamalganj Police Station two days later.

"How can I attack policemen when my right hand is almost unusable and even my left hand does not function properly," Tara Mia told this correspondent on the High Court premises yesterday.

"I don't do politics. I live on alms ... I'm worried about my family's survival," said the 45-year-old man who went to the HC to seek anticipatory bail in the case.

Tarikul Islam, assistant sub-inspector at Jamalganj Police Station, filed the case accusing 52 named and 70 to 80 unnamed people.

According to the case statement, the accused gathered

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Physically challenged Tara Mia, accused in a case for allegedly attacking police in Sunamganj on December 28, waits outside the High Court building in the capital yesterday for bail hearing.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



India shouldn't worry about China-led One Belt One Road
Says Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that India should not worry about the China-led One Belt One Road (OBOR); rather it can join the initiative for the economic benefit of all countries.

"Being such a big country and big economy, India should not worry about it [OBOR]. Rather, they can also join so that all the countries can benefit economically," she said in an interview with CNN-News18 on Sunday.

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Crowd turns up in force on exciting day

SPORTS REPORTER

The environment yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium was in contrast to the opening day of the second Dhaka leg of the sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) when the tournament was welcomed back by a sparse crowd.

However, a higher number of people turned up today to witness Khulna Titans take on Rangpur in the day's first game and Comilla Victorians face off with Dhaka Dynamites later on under lights in Mirpur.

Although the first few

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UNRELEASED IMPORTED GOODS AT CTG PORT No trace of 295 consignments!

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

At least 295 consignments of goods have gone missing from a restricted area of the Chattogram port, say customs officials.

They were among the 5,584 unreleased shipments which arrived at the port between July 2016 and November 2017. The goods were supposed to be put up for auction as the importers did not receive them within the deadline.

The missing goods include chemicals, plastic products, vehicles, auto parts, electronic equipment, food items, leather goods, construction materials, ceramics and machinery. They came in 425 containers from several countries, including China, India and the UK, they said.

The officials did not say what the estimated value of the products was.

Yesterday, The Daily Star got a list of the over 100 importers, who brought in the 295 consignments. This newspaper is not publishing the names as it could not contact them for comments.

Customs Commissioner AKM Nuruzzaman confirmed that a recent investigation found the consignments went missing from the port.

"At the primary stage of the probe, more than 1,000



[out of the 5,584] consignments could not be traced at the port yards. But the committee is not sure if all the 1,000 consignments have gone missing," he said.

In January last year, the Chattogram Customs House (CCH) formed a five-member probe committee after the National Board of Revenue had sought an update on the 5,584 unreleased consignments.

But the operation of the committee came to a standstill several months later after the transfer of its chief, Additional Commissioner Mohammad Shafi Uddin.

Joint Commissioner HM Shariful Hasan then replaced Shafi. After learning about the missing consignments, the probe body wrote to the terminal

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Police draw up long list of demands

To place them before PM in Police Week next month

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Police officials are likely to come up with a list of demands in the upcoming Police Week to be held from February 4-8.

The demands include recruiting an additional 75,000 members, upgrading the rank badge of inspector general of police to four-stars, forming a separate division for police in the home ministry and establishing a separate medical college for them.

The police high-ups may place the demands before Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is scheduled to start the Police Week, according to several top officials of the Police Headquarters (PHQ).

Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal will also attend different programmes during the Police Week.

Though the police week is usually held in January, it has been delayed this year due to the national election held on December 30.

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A warrior on many fronts



AHMED IMTIAZ BULBUL
(1956-2019)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"So that you don't forget me ... I am reminding you of my face by posting a photo."

Legendary musician and freedom fighter Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul wrote this on his Facebook profile on January 2. In the image, he sat holding a green passport.

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ACC suspends director for 'info leak'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday suspended one of its directors on allegations of leaking information and holding a secret meeting with an accused.

Director AKM Fazlul Haque took 13 months to look into the allegations of accumulating illegal wealth by an official of the forest department, the ACC said in a press release.

"Fazlul illegally handed over important documents related to the enquiry through an ACC staffer to the accused on January 14," it read.

ACC Director General (Administration) Mohammad Munir Chowdhury caught the staffer red-handed when the classified document was being handed over in a restaurant yesterday.

He said every official and staff member would have to bear the liability of their work, adding that,



Workers cleaning up a room of Ducus Bhaban, left largely unused for nearly three decades, at Dhaka University yesterday. The university authorities have been preparing to hold the Ducus election in March for the first time since 1990. Inset, a frontal view of the Ducus Bhaban.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DNCC mayor polls Feb 28

UZ polls to begin March 8 or 9

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

By-polls to Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayoral post will be held on February 28, the Election Commission said yesterday.

Announcing the DNCC by-polls schedule at the Nirbachon Bhaban, EC Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed said the upazila parishad election would begin on March 8 or 9. The polls will be held in five phases.

For the first time in the country's history, political parties will nominate their candidates in the upazila polls.

The election schedule of reserved seats for women in parliament will be declared on February 3, Helal told a press conference after an EC meeting.

The ruling Awami League will start selling nomination forms for the DNCC by-polls today.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader has already instructed top district and upazila leaders to select one candidate or a panel of three prospective candidates for three posts -- chairman, vice-chairman and female vice-chairman -- of each upazila parishad.

Their names will have to be sent to the party's Local Government Nomination Board.

Meanwhile, the BNP is yet to decide on participating in both DNCC and upazila elections. The party has discussed the issue several times and most of the senior leaders opined not to take part in the polls.

DNCC BY-POLLS

Election to councillor posts in the 36 new wards -- 18 under the DNCC and 18 under the Dhaka South City Corporation

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