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Trump backs off shutdown

Agrees to end it for now without border wall money; House, Senate pass three-week stopgap measure

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump agreed under mounting pressure on Friday to end a 35-day-old partial US government shutdown without getting the \$5.7 billion he had demanded from Congress for a border wall, handing a political victory to Democrats.

The three-week spending deal reached with congressional leaders, quickly passed by the Republican-led Senate and the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives without opposition and signed by Trump, paves the way for tough talks with lawmakers about how to address security along the US-Mexican border.

The Republican president's agreement to end the shuttering of about a quarter of the federal government without securing wall money - an astonishing retreat - came three days after he had insisted, "We will not Cave!"

But Trump vowed that the shutdown would resume on Feb 15 if he is dissatisfied with the results of a bipartisan House-Senate conference committee's border security negotiations, or he would declare a national emergency in order to get the wall money without congressional approval.

The lapse in funding shuttered about a quarter of federal agencies, with about 800,000 workers either furloughed or



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The low-lying land in Kalatiya area beside Dhaka-Keraniganj road is a source of the vegetables that partly feeds Dhaka residents. Like many other arable land near the city, this area is set to be developed for housing projects. The picture was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

In S'pore, Ershad recovering slowly

JP leaders say

RASHIDUL HASAN

Leader of the Opposition and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad is slowly recovering at a hospital in Singapore.



"I talked to him over the phone and enquired about his health. He told me that he is getting well and his physical condition is improving," SM Faysal Chisti, a presidium member of the Jatiya Party, told this correspondent yesterday.

Ershad is taking meals regularly since Friday and gaining strength after being unable to eat enough for a while due to liver complications, said Faysal.

Ershad was special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the last government. He was admitted to

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A fake doctor practising for seven years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Stealing the identity of a doctor, a man had been treating patients at a private clinic in Pabna's Bhangura upazila for the last seven years.

The incident came to light through a Facebook post which sparked widespread criticism.

The man allegedly stole the identity of Dr Masud Karim and his Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) registration number. He then joined Bhangura Health Care Limited, in Sharatnagar Bazar in the upazila, in 2012 as a residential medical officer.

The real Dr Masud Karim, from Feni, works at a private chamber in Dhaka's Khilgaon and was a student of the 1990-91 session in Mymensingh Medical College. He learned that another man was using his name and BMDC number in Pabna from the Facebook post of a fellow doctor last week.

In the post uploaded by Syeed Mehboob Ul Kadir, a doctor and also a friend of Masud, a photograph of the man using

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SHAH AMS KIBRIA KILLING

14 years gone by, justice still eludes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Today is the death anniversary of former finance minister and Awami League leader Shah AMS Kibria, who was killed in a grisly attack 14 years ago.

Kibria and four others were killed and many injured in a grenade attack on an AL rally in Baiderbazar area of Habiganj on January 27, 2005.

Two cases -- one for murder and another under the Explosive Substances Act -- were filed on the night of the incident.

The trial of the murder case began in September 2015, ten years after the attack, by recording testimonies of the witnesses.

Since then, the trial has been taking place at a Speedy Trial Tribunal in Sylhet.

So far, testimonies of 43 witnesses have been recorded among the 171. Abdul Majid Khan, plaintiff of the case and present parliamentarian of Habiganj 2, said, "The case is being deferred due to the legal procedure and we are eagerly waiting for justice that should be ensured as soon as possible".

A total of 32 people were accused in the case. Among them, three, including militant leader Mufti Hannan, have been executed in other cases, 10 are in jail, 12 are in bail and seven, including BNP Chairperson's former special assistant Abul Harris Chowdhury, are on the run.

Kishor Kumar Kar, additional public prosecutor of the court, said the last date for recording testimonies was deferred from January 7 to February 7 as

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Another rape accused found shot dead with a note

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Police yesterday recovered the bullet-hit body of a rape accused from an orchard in Baltala village of Jhalakathi's Kathalia upazila.

The dead was identified as Sajal Jomadder, 28, a resident of Nadmula village in Pirojpur's Bhandaria upazila.

Md Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Kathalia Police Station, said the body was found with bullet injury marks on the head.

A note that read "I am involved in the rape of the madrasa girl...and this is the consequence" was found hanging around the victim's neck, the OC added.

On January 14, an eighth grade madrasa

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A nightmare app for bad borrowers



ODDITY CENTRAL ONLINE

Authorities in the Chinese province of Hebei have created a smartphone app that allows users to see if they are within 500 meters of a person in debt so they can report or publicly shame them.

Failing to pay off your debts is generally frowned upon all over the world, but one country has been cracking down on the practice harder than any other. In the last couple of years, Chinese authorities have used a variety of techniques to coerce debtors to pay up, with public shaming being the most popular one.

Last year, the local government in Hejiang county, Sichuan, started showing their faces and

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Jubo League man hacked to death

3 others hurt in attack by intraparty rivals

STAR REPORT

A Jubo League man was killed by a group of unidentified criminals in Kishoreganj on Friday night.

The dead is AKM Yusuf Mony, 48, from the district's Madhaba Plaza area.

A group of masked criminals hacked Yusuf and his younger brother Yakub Sumon, 35, around 8:30pm near Madhaba Plaza on Isha

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 27

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-35 12-45 4-15 5-46 7-15
JAMAAT 6-10 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BGB 'rescues' Myanmar Army man in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The Border Guard Bangladesh has "rescued" a member of the Myanmar Army along the border in Bandarban.

BGB sources said Aung Bo Thin was a member of LIB-287 Battalion of Myanmar Army.

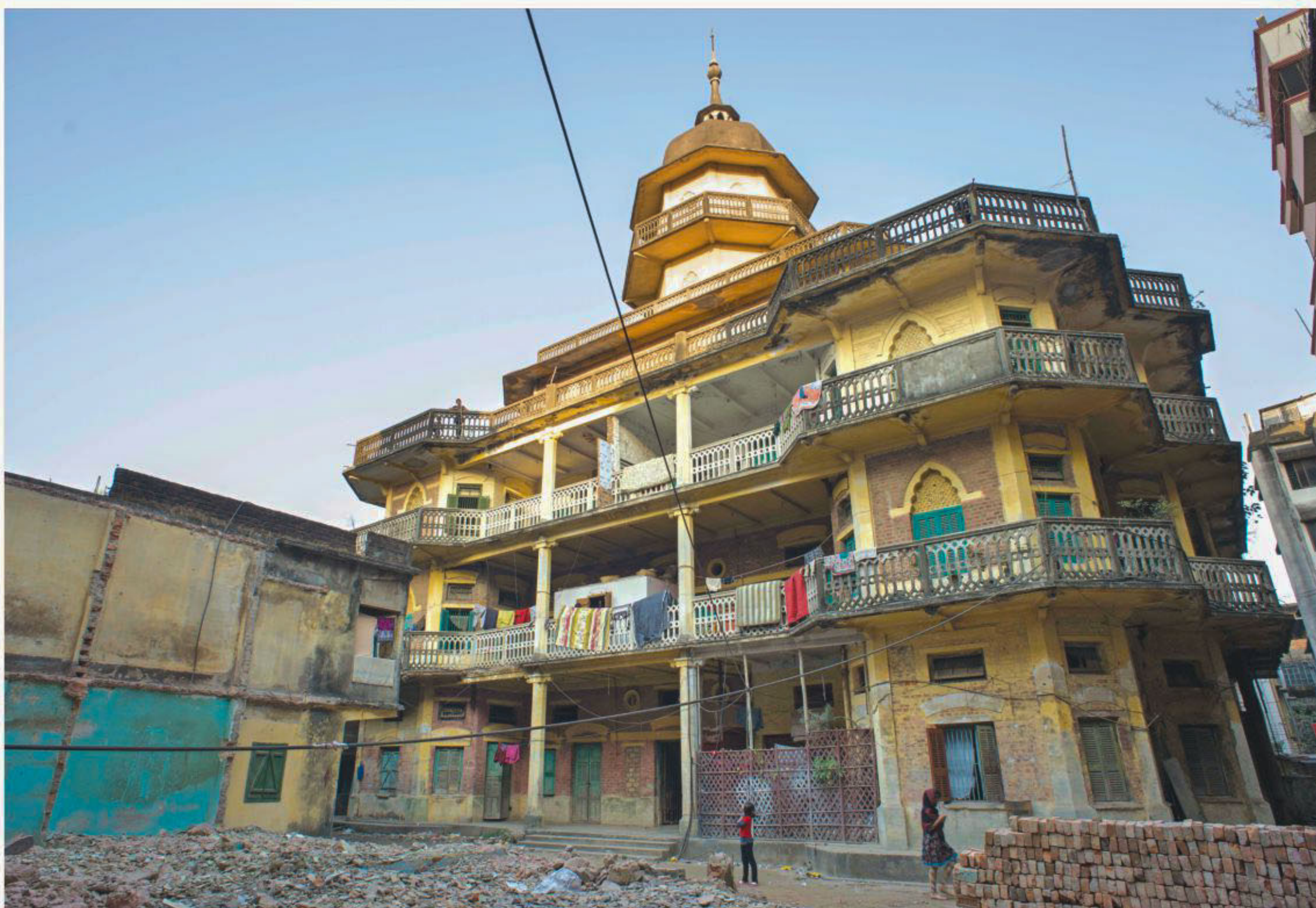
He was rescued from near border pillar No 50 in Naikhyangchhari upazila around 8:30am on Wednesday, said Brig Gen Ainul Morshed Khan Pathan, regional commander of Cox's Bazar BGB.

"We rescued him following a request from the commander level of Myanmar Border Guard Police on Tuesday night. He was sick and drunk," he said.

"Later, he was given medical treatment."

The BGB official added, "In primary interrogation, the rescued person said he

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The front side of the magnificent PK Sen Bhaban in Chattogram. The fate of the building is hanging in the balance as its owners want to demolish it to make way for a new building. The authorities cannot preserve it due to controversies over its age. The picture was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

'First' high-rise in Ctg left to rot

Owners want new building there, locals want it preserved; authorities have their hands off over age debate

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Chattogram

The future of the magnificent but decaying PK Sen Bhaban in Chattogram is in limbo as a debate rages over its age, preventing the authorities concerned from preserving it.

The owners want to give it to a real estate company which would raze the building and make a block of flats there as it is on the verge of collapse, while locals want it preserved by the Department of Archeology.

The department claims that the building is only 99 years old and thus refuses to tag it as a heritage building. It says a building must be 100 years old or above to qualify for preservation.

However, locals and owners say that the building was built 129 years ago.

The seven-storey building on Sadarghat's Kazi Nazrul Islam Road is arguably the first high-rise building in the port city.

Prafulya Kumar Sen, a zaminder from Raozan upazila, constructed the building on 16 decimals of land during the British era. Sen had also established several schools in the area during that time.

The building was later sold to three brothers -- Sadananda Ghosh, Shushil Ghosh, and Chintaharan Ghosh. Sadananda and Shushil moved to India during the Liberation War. Chintaharan stayed but was killed by razakars in the very building, their relatives and locals said.

His descendants still live in the building that has 40 large rooms, wide windows, ventilators of different designs, and a large dome at the top.

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