



Buddhist monks place wreaths at the portrait of their religious leader Sadhana Nanda Mohasthabir during a programme in Sadar upazila of Khagrachhari yesterday. The daylong religious event was held marking the seventh death anniversary of the spiritual leader and decoration of seven monks as "mohasthabir".

PHOTO: SAIKAT DEWAN

Factory worker shot in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Unidentified gunmen reportedly shot a worker of a sweater factory in Jamgora area of Ashulia on Thursday, police said.

The victim, Md Zahid, 36, sustained bullet injuries in his leg and is currently under treatment at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, said Rezaul Haque, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station.

Quoting the victim, his wife Mukta Akter yesterday said around 11:30pm on Thursday four to five persons riding on motorbikes intercepted Zahid when he was returning home after work.

"The forcibly took him to an abandoned place in Jamgora area and beat him. Then one of them shot him in the leg and left the spot," Mukta added.

Hearing screams, locals rescued Zahid in a critical state and took him to a nearby hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was sent to Enam Medical College Hospital, she also said.

No case has been filed in this regard till Friday night.

Biggest event for

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remain open from 8am to 8:30pm.

The Ekushey book fair is getting bigger every year in terms of participating publication houses, number of new books unveiled at the fair as well as sales.

The number of publication houses and other organisations joining the fair this year is 550, according to Bangla Academy, organiser of the book fair.

Bodhon Abriti Parishad's freshers' reception held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bodhon Abriti Parishad, a Chattogram-based recitation organisation, held freshers' reception for its 51st batch yesterday in Chattogram Press Club auditorium.

Hasan Arif, general secretary of Sammilito Sanskritik Jote, and Ahkam Ullah, general secretary of Bangladesh Abriti Samannay Parishad, were present as guests.

Stating that the spirit of liberation should be the inspiration of cultural activists, Hasan Arif said culture is fruitless without fraternity, democracy and humanity.

Ahkam Ullah said, "The nation revolted against Pakistani regime, who tried to rob us of our cultural identity. All must come together to promote our culture."

Rashed Hasan, joint secretary of Bangladesh Abriti Samannay Parishad, and Prof Suborna Chowdhury, organising secretary of Bodhon were present among others.

President, PM

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the government is working to implement various programmes to ensure special security in producing, marketing and supplying food," she said.

"We have formulated The National Food Security Act 2013 and established Bangladesh Food Safety Authority in 2015," the prime minister added.

"Issues like food safety, health and nutrition have been given special priority in Sustainable Development Goals declared by the United Nations. In line with this, the government has kept the matter in its 7th Five Year Plan and set a target of ensuring safe food for its people. The present government is working relentlessly to achieve this target," the prime minister added.

"We have to move for achieving these goals and need a healthy future generation. So, there is no alternative to food safety," the premier said.

Month-long

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be held every day.

A total of 80 stalls were installed at the fair.

Besides, six stalls for food items, one for writers and one for journalists were set up.

The fair will remain open from 3pm to 9pm and on holidays from 11am to 9pm.

Sheikh Harunur Rashid, chairman of Khulna Zila Parishad; Md Shaib Ali, secretary of Khulna Press Club; and Md Ahsanullah, assistant director of the public library, were present among others at the inauguration.

Manpower crisis hits railway services, expansion plans

UNB, Dhaka

The long-drawn manpower crisis in Bangladesh Railway, the largest public transport sector, is not only hampering its services but also the government plan to split it into four zones as part of the move to include the country under a single railway network.

Bangladesh Railway is facing many difficulties in providing expected services to its passengers with its existing manpower of 40,275 people.

As a result, a number of railway stations across the country are being shut down, said Bangladesh Railway officials.

They said even the government plans to split Bangladesh Railway into four zones saw little progress for this reason.

According to Bangladesh Railway, there are 2,877 kilometers of railway network across the country and it will be expanded to 4,700 kilometers under a master plan of the government.

"But, it's impossible for the Bangladesh Railway to deal with the increased routes with its existing manpower," said an official seeking anonymity.

In October 2014, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the railways ministry to reform the railway.

Following the directive, the ministry

constituted a committee with its then additional secretary Kamal Krinsha as the convener.

The committee recommended forming East Zone with Chattogram and Sylhet divisions while West Zone with Pakshi and Lalmonirhat, North with Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions and the South Zone with Rajbari district and Khulna division.

Each zone will be divided into two divisions under the plan.

But the move remained stuck for past four years as no decision has been taken yet over the additional manpower to run the new zones and divisions.

Currently, Bangladesh Railway has been operating under two zones: East

(Chattogram, Dhaka, Pakshi, Lalmonirhat) and West (Sylhet, Mymensing, Rajbari and Khulna).

In December last year, a consultation firm submitted a report to Bangladesh Railway stating at least 57,000 persons are needed for the proposed new zones against the actual demand of 68,000 people.

The final proposal over splitting Bangladesh Railway into four zones could not yet be sent to the public administration ministry due to the faulty proposal over the manpower structure.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

DNCC to revamp

FROM PAGE 3

held under a co-management process ensuring participation of the public," he said.

"We are hoping that a central control unit will be prepared after completing the modernisation work," he said.

This unit will ensure monthly and yearly allocations, specialised facilities, security, and central monitoring by setting up CCTVs, Iqbal added.

But its direction will be done by DNCC's zones or officials concerned, involving local people and organisations, he said.

"These parks will be a place for children, teenagers and young adults as a constructive sports centre, and will help the young people refrain from destructive habits," he said.

"We have tried to ensure bringing all service structures like Wasa's pumps and Secondary Transfer Stations in a systematic way, and that they don't take up more than five percent area of a park," Iqbal added.

There are many open spaces, parks and playgrounds under different government organisations, and if the government does not take immediate steps to protect those, they may also be destroyed, he said.

Reading aloud enhances

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"Reading aloud is a part of our culture... Students should read aloud at least for a while every day to learn proper pronunciation."

Not pronouncing our mother language Bangla correctly is a form of disrespect to the Language Movement of 1952, he added.

"The importance of reading aloud has increased in this era of technology", said Pankaj Debnath MP.

Prof Naba Krishna Ghosh, child disease specialist of MR Khan Hospital, elaborated on how reading aloud is necessary for the development of a child's brain. "It [reading

aloud] also develops hearing skill of children," he added.

"There is correlation between articulation and reading aloud," said Prof AJM Shafiqul Alam Bhuiyan of the department of television, film and photography of DU.

Rupok Singha, organiser of the event, told The Daily Star, "Although reading aloud has a range of benefits, children are not encouraged sufficiently to do it. Rup Bangla has arranged this event to generate awareness in this regard."

Child specialists believe reading aloud can boost children's memory, concentration and socialising skills, he said.

Over 21 lakh students

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alleged involvement in leaking question papers of different public exams.

The detainees are Md Rafiqul Islam, 25, a fourth-year honours student of Bhawal Badre Alam Government College and also director of a coaching centre, and Md Akram Hossain, 21, Rab-1 said in a press release.

According to the release, the duo sold both genuine and fake question papers through Facebook and WhatsApp during the public exams of 2017 and 2018 and amassed money through mobile banking service.

Law enforcers are trying to arrest others who were connected with Rafiqul and Akram.



Garment workers in a procession demand release of their arrested fellows, withdrawal of "false" cases against them and reinstatement of terminated RMG workers. Under the banner of Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation, the protesters brought out the procession on the capital's Tophkhana Road yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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তারিখ ২৭/০১/২০১৯।
মোঃ সাইফুল ইসলাম

Foreign minister
FROM PAGE 3
Foreign ministry officials said Momen will lead a big delegation and almost all senior officials and director generals will accompany him to take part in the comprehensive discussions.

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Invitation for e-GP Tender (Corrigendum Notice)
Invitation Reference No. : e-GP/16/EE/KRD/2018-2019

ID. No.	273998
Corrigendum/Amendment No. 1	The minimum specific experience. i) The sole tenderer/lead partner must successfully complete at least one contract of value no less than Tk. 76.00 (seventy-six) crore within last 5 (five) years which shall include the following criteria: a) At least a PC Girder Bridge over a river or defined water body. (পরিবর্তে) The minimum specific experience i) The sole tenderer/lead partner must successfully complete at least one contract of value no less than Tk. 76.00 (seventy-six) crore within last 7 (seven) years which shall include the following criteria: a) At least a PC Girder Bridge over a river or defined water body.
Corrigendum/Amendment No. 2	Salvage Materials Deduction Item Code 02/02/05 Unit Rate Tk. 3897425.00 Per Cum (পরিবর্তে) Item Code 02/02/05 Unit Rate Tk. 175.00 Per Cum

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Kurigram

The last JCC meet was held in Dhaka on October 22-23, 2017 when Swaraj led the Indian delegation.
This year's JCC -- scheduled to be held on February 8 -- will discuss a host of issues like trade and investment, security, connectivity, border management, defence cooperation, energy, shipping, and people-to-people exchanges.
A diplomatic source in Dhaka yesterday told The Daily Star that major issues like Teesta river water-sharing deal and killings of Bangladeshi nationals at the border by Indian security force will also come up for discussion.
Foreign ministry officials said though the two countries at the last JCC meeting agreed that BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement would be implemented between Bangladesh, India and Nepal [BIN] through exchange of letters, keeping the provision for Bhutan to join in later, the MVA is yet to be operated due to complexities. On the other hand, the Bhutanese parliament did not approve the agreement that apparently stalled the initiative.
At the JCC meeting, both sides are expected to discuss common challenges that the two countries face, like terrorism and radicalisation. Both sides will reiterate strong commitment to not allow the use of their land against each other's interest and zero tolerance against terrorism.
The two countries will also put emphasis on bringing down the number of deaths at the borders to zero.

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২.	নগর ভবনের ৮ম তলা	ব্যাংক, বীমা, এনজিও ও বিভিন্ন প্রাইভেট অফিস	আশোচনা সাপেক্ষে
৩.	নগর ভবনের ৯ম তলা	ব্যাংক, বীমা, এনজিও ও বিভিন্ন প্রাইভেট অফিস	আশোচনা সাপেক্ষে
৪.	নগর ভবনের ১০ম তলা	ব্যাংক, বীমা, এনজিও ও বিভিন্ন প্রাইভেট অফিস	আশোচনা সাপেক্ষে
৫.	নগর ভবনের রফটপ স্পেস	রেস্টুরেন্ট/অন্য কোন কাজে	আশোচনা সাপেক্ষে

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