

"No nation can stand with self-respect in front of the world with questionable democracy."

"Why would our roads get damaged so quickly? The road construction process is definitely faulty then."

"There's no way the US can crush us."

CHANGES IN HINDU KUSH HIMALAYAN SYSTEM Extreme events to get more extreme

Experts say Bangladesh's climate woes will worsen by end of century as major report depicts grim picture



- MAJOR IMPACTS**
- ▶ A third of the HKH glaciers will melt by 2100 even if global temperature increase is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius
 - ▶ Two-thirds will melt if governments fail to rein in greenhouse gases
 - ▶ Hydrological cycle of Bangladesh to face more uncertainty, affecting agricultural productivity, poverty alleviation efforts

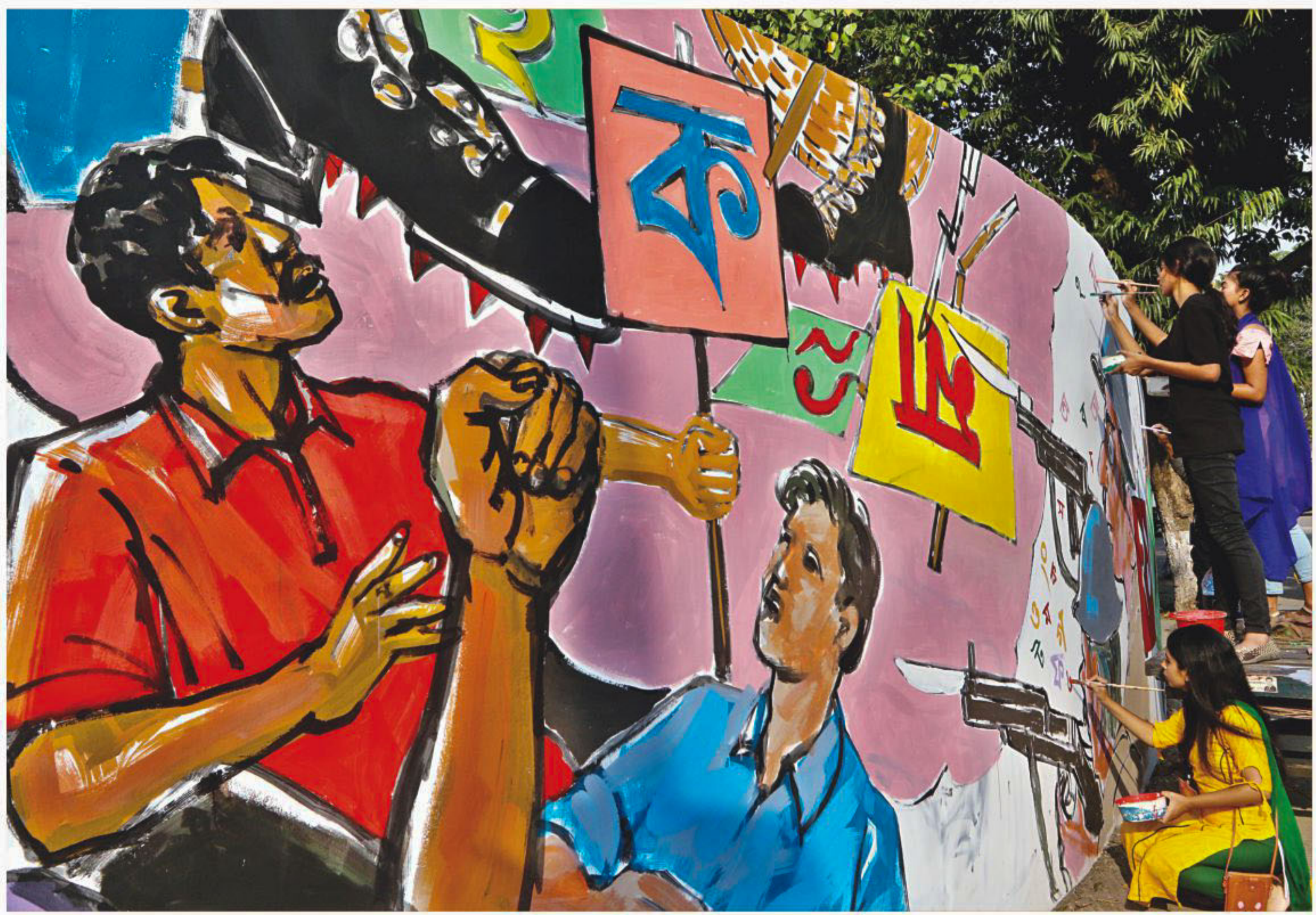
MOHAMMAD ZIAUL HOQUE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh faces more frequent extreme climate events in coming decades due to irreversible changes in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) mountain system and region, the largest source of fresh water after the two poles, suggested a major study.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment projected an alarmingly high temperature for the HKH region, which will cause major disruptions in the glacial, hydrological, and ecological systems in the area and

beyond. For Bangladesh, the consequences would be severe and wide ranging. Agricultural productivity and biodiversity would be harmed, some regions would have more rainfall while others would have less, sea level rise would increase damaging more arable land, and the poor would become even poorer, experts said.

More than a third of the ice in the HKH mountain range, also known as the third pole, will melt by 2100, even if governments take necessary measures to limit global warming under the 2015 Paris climate



Volunteers paint a mural on a wall near the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday as part of preparations for observing the Language Martyrs' Day tomorrow.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Push for the third submarine cable

Govt in talks with a foreign consortium for connection by 2022; once installed, it will help meet growing internet bandwidth demand

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

With existing internet bandwidth likely to be exhausted next year, the government is in talks with a consortium for a third undersea cable connection.

The demand for internet bandwidth almost doubled in the last one year, to 1,000 gigabits per second (Gbps) from 550 Gbps of late 2017. And experts fear the country could run out of bandwidth even sooner.

They say Bangladesh needs to act fast or else it would have to depend heavily on import from India.

But the third connection is going to cost the country a pretty penny and will not happen until 2022.

Bangladesh paid Tk 500 crore for its first undersea connection (SEA-ME-WE 4) in 2006. Myanmar shared the cost of a branch

line for Bangladesh's second undersea cable connection (SEA-ME-WE 5) in 2017 but it still cost the country Tk 650 crore.

The third cable Bangladesh wants to connect to is going to be further out into the Bay of Bengal than the first two, which will jack up the branch line cost. Furthermore, Myanmar this time is showing little interest in getting connected with the cable (SEA-ME-WE 6).

Bangladesh is trying to get the cable closer to its shores so that the cost of the branch line is less, said an official of state-run Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd (BSCCL) which meets lion's share of the country's internet demand.

The top brass of BSCCL said on January 18 the consortium members of SEA-ME-WE 6 met in Singapore, where representatives of

2 UAE businesses keen to invest in health, tourism

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Two UAE business giants -- Lulu Group International and NMC -- yesterday expressed their keen interest in investing in Bangladesh's different sectors, including healthcare, hotel and tourism.



Chairman and Managing Director of Lulu Group Yusuff Ali and Founder and Chairman of NMC BR Shetty expressed their eagerness during separate meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite in Abu Dhabi.

Briefing reporters after the meetings, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said the Lulu Group chairman mentioned that Bangladesh has emerged as a very potential area for investment in the tourism and hyper-shopping mall sectors.

Yusuff sought land in Dhaka and adjacent areas for the construction of the infrastructures.

Ihsanul said the Lulu Group has planned to construct a shopping mall which will create employment for about 5,000 people. It will have a convention centre and parking facility for 3,000 vehicles.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Pak will retaliate if India attacks

Warns Imran Khan, promises co-op in Kashmir attack probe; Islamabad calls for UN intervention; China urges restraint

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday said Pakistan would retaliate if attacked by India in response to a bombing in the disputed Kashmir region, which India blamed on Pakistan, while adding he wanted to cooperate in investigating the blast.

New Delhi sternly rebuffed Khan's investigation offer and accused Islamabad of misleading the international community.

Tension between the nuclear-armed neighbours has risen sharply over the killing in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir on Thursday of 40 Indian paramilitary police in a suicide bomb attack claimed by the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant group.

Pakistan has denied any involvement and called for UN intervention.

But Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, facing a general election by May, has come under pressure to exact revenge, and has said he has given his security forces a free hand to administer a "strong response".

In a televised address to the nation, Khan noted the calls in India for revenge and said he hoped "better sense will prevail".

"If you think that you will launch any kind of attack on Pakistan, Pakistan will not just think about retaliation, Pakistan will retaliate," Khan said.

"And after that where will it head?"

The South Asian neighbours have fought three wars since 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

While they have not fought a full-scale war since they both tested nuclear



SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

No bail for Bodi brothers

Court rejects plea of 8

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Cox's Bazar court yesterday rejected the bail petitions of eight family members of former lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi and two other yaba godfathers and dealers who surrendered on February 16.


The eight of them are Bodi's brothers Abdus Sukur, Aminur Rahman Prakash alias Abdul Amin, Shofiqul Islam Prokash alias Shafiq, Foysal Rahman, his cousins Kamrul Hasan Russel, Md Alam, Mong Aung Shein and nephew Shahed Rahman Nipu.

The two others are Maruf Bin Khalil, one of Abdus Sukur's assistants, and Mojammel Haque.

Inspector of Cox's Bazar Court Police Kazi Didarul Alam said Judge Zerin Sultana of Ukha Senior Judicial Magistrate court rejected their bail petitions in absence of the accused.

Earlier on February 16 morning, 102 yaba

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



We are Deeply Mournful Shocked

We are deeply shocked at the premature death of **Mr. Ekram Uddin Mollah**, Honorable Director of Osman Group of Industries.

Mr. Ekram Uddin Mollah died on February 17, 2019 at 3.33 pm while undergoing treatment at Dhaka's Lab Aid Hospital (Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Reziun). At the time of his death, he was 28 years old.

We wish for the forgiveness of his departed soul.

we pray for the forgiveness of the departed soul in the court of Almighty Allah and pray that by the grace of Allah will dwell in Paradise.

Condolence
Osman Group of Industries Family

7 injured as gas cylinder explodes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

At least seven people were injured as a gas cylinder of a warehouse exploded in Khagrachhari district town early yesterday, police said.

In the blast, the warehouse walls and nearby shops were damaged in Khabongpuria area.

Of the injured, five are warehouse workers and two others are a shop-keeper and his wife.

The injured were first admitted to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital. Later, four of them were referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Urmi Chakma, owner of a shop beside the warehouse, said she went to the shop from her house after hearing a loud bang.

Her shop was

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

EICHER GO PRO

TRUCKS

Building Nation with Great Passion



RUNNER
Hotline 017 3040 6484