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SHAH CEMENT

Deadline not to be set?

No progress on building temporary sheds for storing old town chemicals

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Building of two temporary sheds to store chemicals from Old Dhaka is facing delays as approval from the planning commission and opinions of experts are required, a top official of industries ministry has said.

“I hope we can start construction work at the end of this month as the industries ministry has been working to send two project proposals to the planning commission for its approval,” Md Abdul Halim, secretary to the industries ministry told The Daily Star over phone recently.

One of the sheds would be in Tongi and the other in Postagola area.

After the Chawkbazar fire tragedy, Halim at a press conference on February 27 at the industries ministry said the ministry could start construction work of two temporary sheds within 15 days.

After the 15 days had gone by, he said the ministry could not start the construction work and it has been in talks with experts for their opinions.

The secretary, however, said the ministry would not follow the conventional bidding process to purchase materials for construction as it was an emergency and they need the sheds built fast.

After the Chawkbazar tragedy, in which 70 people were killed, the industries ministry said it would facilitate businessmen to store chemicals and acid in two temporary sheds, one in Tongi and another in Kadamtoli.

The industries ministry would start relocating nearly

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Plastic materials are being carried in carts yesterday in front of the charred Haji Wahed Mansion in Chawkbazar where a devastating fire killed 70 people barely a month ago. Storing of different flammable goods in residential buildings in Old Dhaka has been going on despite the risks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NOAKHALI 'RAPE' That Ruhul Amin loses HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday withdrew its order for a one year bail to former Awami League leader Ruhul Amin who allegedly instructed the rape of a woman at Subarnachar upazila in Noakhali on December 30.

The bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman withdrew the order of the bail as Ruhul suppressed the fact that some other accused in the case had given confessional statements to the lower court against him.

In the confessional statements, the other accused said the incident of rape took place as per the instruction of Ruhul. But this information was not mentioned in the bail petition filed by Ruhul, former publicity affairs secretary of Subarnachar AL unit.

The judges yesterday sat in their private chamber and passed the withdrawal order after Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Biswojit Roy

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Bangabandhu warns against conspiracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman categorically said they didn't want any more discussion. They wanted a specific announcement.

From morning till night without any rest, Bangabandhu continued to address many processions that arrived at his doorstep.

If there is no solution by tomorrow, Bangladeshis themselves will find it, he said, adding that no conspiracy can hold them back and they are united. Any decision, if forced on them, will not be accepted in any way.

“Whatever conspiracy you indulge in you will not succeed in suppressing the demands of the people. We would not bow our heads to any force. We will free the people of Bangladesh,” threatened Bangabandhu. On the other hand,

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Mueller submits Russia probe report

Congress may get 'principal conclusions' of the report soon; Democrats warn against White House interference

REUTERS, Washington/jest Palm Beach

The top US law enforcement official could release as early as today the main findings in Special Counsel Robert Mueller's confidential report on his 22-month-long inquiry into Russia's role in the 2016 US election and any potential wrongdoing by President Donald Trump.

Attorney General William Barr, who received the report from the former FBI director on Friday, told US lawmakers he may be able to inform them of Mueller's "principal conclusions as soon as this weekend." Under Justice Department regulations, Barr is empowered to decide how much to disclose publicly.

The big question is whether the report contains allegations of wrongdoing by Trump or exonerates him. Mueller investigated whether Trump's campaign conspired with Moscow to try to influence the election and whether the Republican president later unlawfully tried to obstruct his investigation.

Trump, who is spending the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, has not commented to reporters or taken to Twitter, one of his favorite ways of communicating, on the completion of the investigation that has cast a shadow over his two years in the White House. Trump had no public events scheduled yesterday and he went to the golf course he owns in the morning.

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RMG WORKER RAPE Police arrest 2 suspects

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police arrested two suspected rapists, including a Jubo League leader, at Baraipara village in Hatibandha upazila of the district on Friday.

Another alleged rapist and Jubo League leader managed to flee the area, said Mansur Ali, officer-in-charge of Patgram Police Station. The OC, however, did not mention the suspect's name.

The arrestees are Nazrul Islam Nazu, 42, of Baraipara ward unit Jubo League Secretary Nurnabi Islam, 35, of Patgram upazila.

A 30-year-old garment worker was locked inside the room of a bus counter and gang-raped multiple times for four days in Patgram, police said.

She was rescued by police and sent to a hospital on Thursday afternoon. A case was filed against four suspects.

Soon afterwards, police arrested Rezaul Karim, 34, who is the general secretary of Burimari union Jubo League.

The OC said the suspects arrested on Friday were hiding in a village home when they got caught in a raid.

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Two contradictory versions of reality can coexist: study



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Two versions of reality can exist at the same time, at least in the quantum world, according to a new study.

Scientists have conducted tests to demonstrate a theoretical physics question first posed as a mere thought experiment decades ago.

Within the concept, two imaginary scientists are both deemed to be correct, despite arriving at totally different conclusions.

Demonstrating this in practice therefore calls into dispute fundamental questions about physics and suggests there is no such thing as objective reality.

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117 UZs go to polls today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 117 upazilas go to polls today in the third phase of the election, amid very little voter turnout.

Many of the candidates have been elected unopposed.

The local government body election, boycotted by the BNP and several other parties, began on March 10, almost two months after the December 30 national election.

Election to 480 upazila parishads will be held in five phases this year.

Over 1.18 crore people

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-45 6-16 7-45

JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 5-00 6-20 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Modi, Imran trade peace messages

DAWN ONLINE

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan ahead of Pakistan Day as both countries emphasised peace and prosperity for the region.

PM Khan on Friday tweeted the message he received from Modi.

The message read: “I extend my greetings and best wishes to the people of Pakistan on the National Day of Pakistan. It is time that ppl of Sub-continent work together for a democratic, peaceful, progressive & prosperous region, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence.”

Khan responded by welcoming Modi's message and underscoring that it was time to begin a comprehensive dialogue on all

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Two CNG-run three-wheelers cut in front of a bus as they try to change lanes at the last moment near Mahakhali bus terminal in the capital yesterday. Such blatant disregard for traffic rules is all too common in the streets.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY TODAY Not all upazilas have screening facilities

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Although tuberculosis (TB) infections have been a concern for Bangladesh for quite a long time, screening facilities are still not available in every upazila.

Against this backdrop, World Tuberculosis Day 2019 is being observed today in the country under the slogan “It's the right time to make a pledge to create TB-free Bangladesh”.

According to the Global Tuberculosis Report 2018 of World Health Organization, Bangladesh is among the top 30 high burden countries for TB and multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB).

In such a condition, Dr MA Hamid Salim, MDR-TB advisor, National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP), said the latest tool that can successfully detect TB on a molecular level and drug resistance -- Gene Xpert -- have not reached even half of the country's medical complexes.

He said, “Only about 209 Gene Xpert machines have so far been set up at different medical facilities but there are health complexes at 492 upazilas in Bangladesh.

On top of that, there are medical hospitals that need these tools too. If the number of tools is increased, combating TB would be a lot easier.”

By 2020, NTCP would set up a total of 270 Gene Xpert machines, he added.

“We initially had set a target to set up 650 machines by 2020; but we are falling short of the target for a fund crisis.” The cost of setting up a single testing machine is \$37,000

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