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REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXIX No. 115 | BAISHAKH 28, 1426 BS | **Your Right to Know** | RAMADAN 5, 1440 HJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS SHOWBIZ PRICE : Tk12.00

"Rapists are being sheltered by the ruling party, administration and law enforcement agencies. The killing of Feni madrasa student Nusrat is the best example of it."
COMMUNIST PARTY OF BANGLADESH PRESIDENT MUJAHIDUL ISLAM SELIM PAGE 3

"Due to the rise of fundamentalism, the young generation is gradually becoming apathetic about politics."
SARWAR ALI, TRUSTEE OF LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM PAGE 5

"Our restraint to this point should not be mistaken by Iran for a lack of resolve."
SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO AS US SENDS B-52 BOMBERS TO SAUDI ARABIA PAGE 8

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY GRADUATES Lagging behind in job market

Skills mismatch a key reason, WB study finds; experts for revamping curricula, training teachers

WASIM BIN HABIB

Nayan Ahmed started searching for a job since his graduation in 2016. Every day, he browses through newspapers and online job portals for employment opportunities in public service and spends hours to ready himself.

A student of political science at Govt BL College in Khulna, Nayan did sit several recruitment tests for government jobs. But his cherished job remains elusive.

"I have given up hope of getting a government job. Now I have to get any job to support my family," said a frustrated Nayan, who came to Dhaka three months ago from his Bagerhat home in search of a job.

His father retired from government service five years ago. Elder of two brothers, Nayan must now provide for his family.

Like him, thousands of students of government and non-government colleges affiliated with the National University (NU) lose the first few years after completing their graduation in search of jobs, often dubbed a "golden deer" in Bangladesh.

A World Bank study has found as high as 46 percent National University students remain unemployed for at least three years on completion of their graduation.

"This share is very high in any standard. Unemployment thus is a grave issue for graduates from NU-affiliated colleges and requires special attention," said the study report released on March 31.

The study -- Graduate Employability of Affiliated Colleges: New Evidence from Bangladesh -- began in October 2016.

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KEY FINDINGS

- ➔ 46% NU graduates need at least 3yrs to land a job
- ➔ Their unemployment rate higher in rural areas
- ➔ Science graduates fare better than arts and business graduates
- ➔ Overall male-female ratio of unemployment 66: 77

The weekly jamdani haat at BISCIC Jamdani Palli of Narayanganj is bustling with buyers as the Eid-ul-Fitr is only weeks away. Each sari carried a price tag of between Tk 3,000 and Tk 100,000 yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TANIA 'RAPE-MURDER' Protests on, bus seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police seized the bus, whose driver and helper allegedly raped and killed nurse Shahinoor Akter Tania, from Gazipur's Kapsia upazila on Thursday evening.

Khalilur Rahman Patwari, officer-in-charge of Bajitpur Police Station, said they found the vehicle in an abandoned state in Tok area and took it to the police station.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will check fitness and registration of the bus, the OC said, adding that forensic tests of the vehicle would be conducted if needed.

Meanwhile, different organisations held protests in various places of Kishoreganj yesterday, demanding justice for Tania, who was a nurse at Ibne Sina Hospital's Kalyanpur branch in the capital.

On her way to ancestral home in Katiadi upazila, the 24-year-old nurse was murdered after rape allegedly in the bus in Gojaria Jaamtoli area on Bhairab-Kishoreganj road on Monday night.

Tania, daughter of 65-year-old farmer Gias Uddin in Baherchar village, was the

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Aircraft shortage hits Biman flight schedule

After Yangon crash, Biman forced to cancel 10 domestic flights; 10 passengers, crew members of Dash-8 flown home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines' flight schedule on domestic routes is in disarray following the crash-landing of its Dash-8 aircraft in Myanmar's Yangon on Wednesday.

It has already cancelled 10 flights on four domestic routes till Monday.

Wednesday's accident made matters worse for the national flag carrier, which has been facing a shortage of aircraft. It had grounded a Boeing-737 for repairs two weeks ago.

According to Biman officials, three flights on Dhaka-Saidpur, Dhaka-Rajshahi and Dhaka-Jashore routes were cancelled on Thursday. Besides, one flight on Dhaka-Saidpur route and two flights on Dhaka-Sylhet route were cancelled yesterday.

Biman also cancelled a flight on Dhaka-Jashore route scheduled for today and three more on

Dhaka-Saidpur and Dhaka-Rajshahi routes for tomorrow, the officials added.

"Ten flights on Sylhet, Rajshahi, Jashore and Saidpur routes will remain suspended till Monday due to a shortage of aircraft," Shakil Meraj, general manager (public relations) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, told The Daily Star yesterday.

But Biman's flight schedule on international routes has not been hampered.

Biman has decided to lease two Boeing-737s from Qatar-based ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company for six years to overcome the crisis of aircraft, Shakil said.

The national flag carrier operates 107 flights a week on seven domestic routes across the country.

Its Dash-8s are run on the seven domestic routes and also fly to regional destinations, including Kolkata and Yangon.

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BIMAN FLEET	
Boeing 787	2
Boeing 777	4
Boeing 737	4
Dash-8	3

ONE GROUNDED FOR REPAIR, ONE CRASHED IN YANGON

US-China trade war escalates

Trump raises tariffs on \$200b of Chinese goods amid talks to rescue deal; Beijing vows to strike back

REUTERS, Washington

The United States escalated a tariff war with China yesterday by hiking levies on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods amid last-ditch talks to rescue a trade deal, as US President Donald Trump signalled that talks could drag on beyond this week.

In a series of early morning tweets, Trump defended his decision to raise tariffs, saying there was no need to rush into a deal and adding that the American economy would be boosted more by the levies than by an eventual deal.

But even as Beijing threatened retaliation, negotiators agreed to stay at the table in Washington for a second day, keeping alive hopes of an agreement that would remove a major threat to the global economy.

Trump, who has adopted protectionist policies as part of his "America First" agenda, issued orders for the tariff increase, saying China "broke the deal" by reneging on earlier commitments made during months of negotiations.

China's Commerce Ministry said it would take countermeasures, without elaborating.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and US Treasury

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NUSRAT MURDER Sonagazi OC suspended for negligence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former officer-in-charge of Sonagazi Police Station Moazzem Hossain has been suspended over the murder of madrasa student Nusrat Jahan in Feni.

Moazzem was attached to the office of deputy inspector general (Rangpur Range) on Wednesday, said Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general (media and PR) at the police headquarters.

"Departmental steps against him are underway," Sohel told The Daily Star.

The PHQ has made the decision under section 12 of the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 2018.

Moazzem faces charges of violating departmental discipline, tarnishing

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PCJSS man shot dead in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Another supporter of Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS-MN Larma) was shot dead by a group of armed men in Bandarban's Sadar upazila on Thursday night, only two days after the killing of a member of the same party in the upazila.

Joymoni Tongchangya, 47, was a fuel wood trader and a resident of Bakichhara rubber garden area.

Quoting witnesses, police said Joymoni was having tea at a local tea stall around 7:30pm when some seven to eight armed men entered the stall and shot in his head and chest, killing him on the spot.

The miscreants were speaking in Arakan and Marma languages, police said, adding that Joymoni was a supporter of PCJSS.

The group also kidnapped a PCJSS member, Puladon Tongchangya, 40, from the upazila's Rajbilla area

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Land grabbers fill up water bodies in this flood flow zone in Mirerbagh of the capital's Demra to build commercial and residential plots, destroying the water retention area. The photo was taken yesterday.

JUTE MILL WORKERS Agitation on in Khulna, Jashore

Demo in Dhaka resumes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers of state-run jute mills will block roads in the capital today to press home their demands for arrears and fair wages.

The demonstrators will block roads in Demra from 6:00am-4:00pm, said Asraf Uddin, a permanent worker of Karim Jute Mills in the area.

"We are starving with our children," he told The Daily Star, adding that the workers had not taken to the streets on Friday.

Meanwhile, workers of nine state-run jute mills in Khulna and Jashore blocked Dhaka-Khulna highway and rail lines for three hours yesterday afternoon and announced that they would continue their programmes today.

Over 35,000 workers of nine state-owned jute mills demonstrated near Notun Rasta intersection, Kobir Bottola, Daulatpur, and Atr Industrial area in Khulna.

Around 4:00pm they set tyres on fire and left them on roads in Notun Rasta, Kobir Bottola areas, reports our Khulna correspondent.

In Jashore, workers from Jashore Jute Industry and Carpeting Jute Mills Ltd completely blocked highways in Rajhat area.

People had to walk along the Khulna-Jashore highway under the scorching sun.

Sahajahan Khandoker, a private service holder, told The Daily Star that he had to walk over two kilometres along the Dhaka-Khulna highway near Daulatpur area in the afternoon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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