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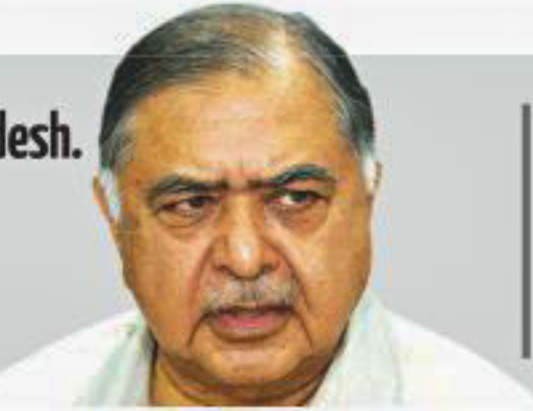
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**"The government is trying to say that this is Bangabandhu's Bangladesh. But people don't believe it. People are not accepting this lie at all."**

GONFORUM PRESIDENT DR KAMAL HOSSAIN AT A DISCUSSION IN THE CITY (PAGE 3)



**"There are many bilateral issues between India and Pakistan, and we don't want to trouble any third country."**

MODI TELLS TRUMP ON KASHMIR DISPUTE (PAGE 8)



**"It's been two years since Rohingyas entered Bangladesh, but the Hasina-government couldn't even send 10 Rohingyas back. The current regime couldn't do anything to resolve the Rohingya crisis."**

BNP SENIOR JOINT SECRETARY GENERAL RUJUL KABIR RIZVI (PAGE 3)



## CURBING ROHINGYA CRIMES

# New police unit on cards

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The government may soon form an 800-member police battalion to deal with the rise in crimes committed by refugees from Myanmar in the 30 Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. It would be the second such special battalion in the district. SM Akteruzzaman, assistant inspector general (AIG), organisation and management, at the Police Headquarters (PHQ), told The Daily Star yesterday that the proposal for another battalion was awaiting approval from the home ministry. "The file has started moving forward and we are hopeful that it will be approved soon." The proposed battalion is one of the suggestions submitted by the district police to the PHQ in May. The other suggestions include setting up a temporary court either in Ukhia or Teknaf. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

CASES AGAINST ROHINGYAS	
2019 (Jan to August 25)	
Cases	Accused
187	515
2018	
Cases	Accused
208	414
2017	
Cases	Accused
76	159



Part of Karnapara Khal in Savar on the outskirts of the capital has turned pitch black due to discharge of waste water from nearby factories and dumping of garbage by locals. The photo was taken on Sunday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 3 'criminals' shot dead in Khagrachhari gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were killed in a gunfight with an army patrol team in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari yesterday. In a press release, Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) said the gunfight broke out after the team reached Boradam on information that seven to eight armed criminals of the UPDF (Prasit Group) had gathered there. Sensing the presence of the army personnel, the criminals opened fire on them, prompting the patrol team to fire back. The gunfight continued for 10 to 15 minutes, the release said. At one point, the criminals were forced to step back, it said, adding that the gunfight left three criminals of the UPDF (Prasit Group) dead. Later, army members searched the area and recovered two pistols, an American M-4 Automated Carbine and 12 bullets. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SEE A SPECIAL DIGITAL PRESENTATION ON THE ROHINGYA ISSUE

## ATROCITIES ON ROHINGYAS

# Inaction of key world powers delays justice

Say experts

PORIMOL PALMA

Justice remains elusive for Rohingyas even after two years due to a lack of strong support from major world powers, like the US, China, and Russia, said legal and international experts. The International Criminal Court's (ICC) move to probe the alleged acts of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed by the Myanmar military on Rohingyas was promising but the court has no jurisdiction over Myanmar, they said. Myanmar is not a party to the Rome Statute, a treaty that established the ICC, they said. The experts on international relations and genocide said the best way to hold Myanmar accountable was by taking the matter before the UN Security Council. The council could refer the matter to the ICC since Myanmar is a UN member state. SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Tk 2cr now talk of JU

BCL leaders feuding allegedly over sharing the 'protection money' for Tk 1,445cr development project; demand gets louder for probe

STAR REPORT

Tk 2 crore is now the talk of Jahangirnagar University. Teachers and students have been demonstrating since Friday after it was circulated that some BCL leaders allegedly took the money promising not to stand in the way of a Tk 1,445-crore campus development project. None from the pro-ruling party's student organisation, the administration or project contractors is willing to speak on the record. But, on condition of anonymity, at least 10 leaders and activists of JU BCL told The Daily Star that they had got shares from Tk 1 crore handed over to three factions of the student body. Another Tk 1 crore was allegedly given to central BCL leaders, according to media reports. The protesters, also angered by felling of trees for the construction project, now demand a judicial probe into the allegations of corruption and irregularities centring the mega project. Sources say top JU BCL leaders reached an understanding over distribution of Tk 1 crore between them at a meeting allegedly held at the vice chancellor's residence.

The meeting took place on August 9, when the university was closed, just before the Eid-ul-Azha, meeting sources confirmed. The VC trashed the allegation when journalists went to her office on Thursday for comment. Talking to The Daily Star over the phone on Saturday, the VC admitted that she held a meeting with the BCL leaders, but insisted that the allegation that there was a discussion on money sharing was simply absurd. "On request from the JU Chhatra League president... that they were having some internal problems... they came to meet me. But that does not mean there were some other stories," she said. "Like every other organisation, they come to me on different occasions. In the last five years, I tried to solve their problems so that no third party was created here." She insisted that none from her administration is involved in any money-related matter with BCL. But multiple sources recounted the meeting in detail. "The meeting continued for around four and a half hours. Four BCL leaders from its three factions, the VC and her two family members were present" SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## HEAVY METALS IN SOIL

# Food chain exposed to contamination

Say experts; no govt standard set

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Heavy metals like chromium, cadmium and lead are found beyond acceptable levels in soil from many parts of Bangladesh, posing a public health risk as the substances enter food chain by various means. Experts say cadmium comes from fertilisers while chromium and lead enter soil mostly from industrial, electronic and medical waste. "If there is contamination in soil, it will certainly get into the food chain through edible and non-edible plants," said Prof Imamul Huq, former teacher of the Department of Soil, Water and Environment at Dhaka University. "Soil in the industrial areas is highly polluted. Soil in the rural areas, on the other hand, is comparatively less contaminated with heavy metals," he told The Daily Star recently. Some heavy metals from deep in the soil come to the surface through groundwater irrigation. Besides, fertilisers, pesticides and industrial pollutants, polluted water contaminate soil, said Prof Mohammad Mofizur Rahman Jahangir of soil science department at SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Motorbiker stabbed to death in city

Mugger snatched his bike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mugger posing as a pillion passenger stabbed a motorcyclist to death and snatched his bike on the Malibagh flyover near the CID office early yesterday, police said. After the attack, the victim, Milon, managed to run to Shantinagar where two pedestrians rescued him and took him to patrol police. He was then rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he got seven stitches in the neck, but the bleeding did not stop. He was later shifted to the National Institute of SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## Acid thrown at husband of a rape victim

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

The husband of a rape victim came under acid attack in Noakhali's Subarnachar early yesterday, hours after he joined a human chain to protest the rape of his wife. Nasir Uddin, 45, of the upazila, was admitted to Noakhali General Hospital with nine percent burns to his chest, hands, and thighs, said hospital superintendent Khalil Ullah. Around 2:30am yesterday, some criminals threw acid at Nasir when he went out of his house to go to toilet, his mother said. Syed Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Charyapada Police Station, said he heard about the incident. But no complaint has been filed yet, the OC added. The human chain was held in front of Noakhali Press Club on Sunday. On May 2, Nasir filed a case with a court accusing one Joyal of blackmailing and raping his wife multiple times. Since then Nasir's family has been receiving threats from the accused, the victim's family alleged.



Felled trees on the proposed site of a student dormitory on the Jahangirnagar University campus. Inset, JU students bring out a procession protesting the felling of trees and "unplanned development" on the campus. The photos were taken on Friday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Worries grow for doctors, staffers

Breeding grounds of Aedes mosquito aplenty on premises of hospitals; 480 physicians, healthcare workers infected with dengue so far

HELEMUL ALAM, SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Doctors and hospital staffers are at a higher risk of being infected with dengue while treating patients and also due to Aedes mosquito breeding grounds in and around hospitals, healthcare professionals said. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said that 480 doctors and healthcare workers were infected with dengue this year till yesterday. Of them, at least five died from the disease. A DGHS analysis has so far confirmed 52 deaths from dengue, and these five were among them. "The risk of being infected with dengue remains high if there are Aedes mosquitoes in hospitals," said Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora, director at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research. "If 66,000 people have been infected with dengue then doctors or nurses can also be infected." If it is possible to keep dengue patients under mosquito nets, it will be safer for doctors, nurses and others at the hospital, she added. Possible mosquito breeding sources such as discarded coconut shells, water bottles, plastic coffee mugs and other plastic containers, are still found in and around major hospitals like Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, Mitford Hospital and Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), these correspondents found yesterday. Besides, many patients were not found under mosquito SEE PAGE 2 COL 2