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6 MONTHS OF DUCSU

Nothing's changed

Gono Rooms still there; BCL controls seat distribution

SAYED MOHMUD ULLAH and ASHIK ABDULLAH API

In the run-up to the Ducsu polls, the candidates made many lofty promises about solving the accommodation crisis and protecting students' rights.

Six months into the long-awaited polls of Dhaka University Central Students Union, dormitories at the university are still plagued by severe accommodation shortage with many students still living in congested gono [public] rooms, where over 30 students live in a room meant for four beds. Some even sleep in the corridors and rooftops of the dorm buildings.

Many students allege that Chhatra League leaders are still in control of who gets to live in which room.

"First year students are compelled to stay in the gono rooms and take part in the political programmes while the authorities have virtually no control over seat distribution," said a 1st year student, who lives in one such room at Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall.

"The BCL leaders use these rooms as a tool. It is easier for the them get a large number of students behind them by letting the students live in such rooms," said the student of political science, wishing not to be named because of his fear of losing his accommodation at the university.

Moshiur Rahman, a 3rd year student of sociology, said most panels running for the Ducsu, vowed to abolish the gono rooms. But the pledges were forgotten once the election was over.

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Rickshaw vans laden with iron rods lumber on the wrong side of the Dhaka-Chattogram highway near the capital's Jatrabari on Sunday. A traffic policeman (not in the photo) was standing nearby, but he did nothing to stop the three-wheeler vans, which are banned on highways.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Put more pressure on Myanmar

PM tells outgoing Japan envoy about Rohingya return

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Japan to mount pressure on Myanmar to take 1.1 million Rohingyas back from Bangladesh, UNB reports.

"They have to take the Rohingyas back. These Rohingya people are a big burden for Bangladesh. How long will we host them?" she asked when outgoing Japanese Ambassador Hiroyasu Izumi met her at her Sangsad Bhavan office.

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3 'robbers' killed in 'gunfight' with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Three suspected robbers were killed in what police said was a gunfight with a team of detectives in Cumilla's Burichang upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Oli Mia, 42, from Burichang, Babul, 38, from Cumilla's Debidwar, and Ershad, 26, from Cumilla's Brahmanpara, said Akul Chandra Bishwas, officer-in-charge of Burichang Police Station.

All of them were accused in several cases, including murder, robbery and drug cases, filed with different police stations in Cumilla, the OC said.

Tipped off that a gang was preparing for a robbery in Komolla area of Pirjatrappur union, a team of Detective Branch (DB) of Police raided the area around 2:30am, said OC Akul.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the alleged robbers opened fire on them, forcing the DB officials to retaliate that eventually triggered a "gunfight", he said.

Later, the DB men rescued the three suspected robbers with bullet injuries and took them to Cumilla Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced them dead.

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CHECKING CRIMES IN SUNDARBANS

Govt plans to fly drones

UNB, Khulna

The Forest Department has planned to monitor the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a Unesco world heritage site, with drones to check crimes like poaching of tiger and deer.

It is also considering erecting net-fence around the forest to prevent intrusion of tigers into the localities.

The move comes after the Indian forest department has succeeded in checking such crimes and tiger attacks following the implementation of two initiatives on its part of the forest.

Habibun Nahar, deputy minister for environment, forest and climate change, has recently said all kinds of measures will be taken to beef up security in the coastal region, including the Sundarbans, by using modern technology.

Local forest office sources said various crimes, including felling of trees, catching fish defying ban, and the poaching of tiger and deer are going on in the Sundarbans.

Besides, there is a huge presence of robbers in and around the forest.

To check such crimes, the Forest Department is planning to deploy drones, said Amir Hossain Chowdhury, deputy chief conservator of forests. "Drones will play an effective role in checking illegal intrusion into the Sundarbans, poaching and robberies, and identifying those who fish illegally in the forest."

According to the Forest Department data, 14 tigers were beaten to death by locals after those entered their localities in the last two decades.

Under the circumstances, the move to erect the net-fence around the Sundarbans was taken to prevent the movement of tiger into localities, sources said.

Modinul Ahsan, Khulna divisional forest officer at Wildlife

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Raushan now the leader of opposition

GM Quader made deputy leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a weeklong series of drama and tension within the Jatiya Party, it's senior Co-chairman Raushan Ershad has been made the Leader of the Opposition, while JP Chairman GM Quader was made the Deputy Leader.

The parliament secretariat yesterday published a gazette recognising Raushan and Quader as leader and deputy leader of the opposition, following Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury's consent.

As per the understanding between followers of Raushan and followers of Quader on Saturday night, the JP chairman on Sunday sent a letter to the Speaker requesting her to declare him as deputy opposition leader and Raushan the opposition leader.

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Humans altered dogs' brains: study



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Dogs are a weird bunch. They range in size from bearish behemoths to pipsqueaks like Milly, a Chihuahua holds the Guinness record for World's Shortest Dog at less than four inches.

Some breeds are fast runners. Others are jumpers, swimmers or diggers. Bloodhounds specialise in sniffing, while greyhounds hunt primarily by sight. Border collies excel at herding, Jack Russell terriers at flushing foxes from dens.

Over at least 15,000 years, and especially since a Victorian-era dog-creation craze, selective breeding by humans has resulted in a single species with more physical variation than almost any other in the animal kingdom.

And now, scientists have provided the first evidence that all of this selective tweaking has

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Another dies of dengue in Rajshahi

Unofficial death toll hits 138

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more person died from dengue yesterday at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Shapla Khatun, 23, from the district's Puthia upazila, died around 12:00pm, moments after doctors referred her to the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital, RMCH deputy director Saiful Ferdous said.

He said that Shapla

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-17 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

GRAFT CASE

Former civil surgeon lands in jail

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A Satkhira court yesterday sent former civil surgeon of the district Towhidur Rahman to jail in a case filed over misappropriating Tk 16.61 crore when he was in office.

The court of District and Sessions Judge Sheikh Mofizur Rahman came up with the order when Towhidur appeared before it to file a bail petition.

Sources at Satkhira Civil Surgeon Office said the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare allocated Tk 16.61 crores in the fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 for procuring different medical equipment.

But the then civil surgeon Towhidur, who retired in February this year, Accountant Anwar Hossain and Store Keeper AKM Fazlul Haque embezzled the money by issuing fake documents of procurement, the sources added.

The incident came to

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Though a rope is hung across a zebra crossing to control traffic, rickshaws and vehicles stand on the markings on a road in the capital's Malibagh Chowdhury Para area, making it difficult for pedestrians to cross the road. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Queen approves Brexit delay law

UK parliament suspension set to begin after MPs vote on snap election

AFP, London

Queen Elizabeth II has given her formal approval to a law that would force the British government to delay Brexit if it is not able to strike a divorce deal with Brussels, the House of Lords said yesterday.

"EUWithdrawal6Bill receives Royal Assent," the upper chamber said on Twitter, referring to the newly-passed law.

Britain's parliament will be suspended for five weeks following another expected defeat by MPs for Prime Minister Boris Johnson as he battles to salvage his hardline Brexit strategy amid fierce opposition in Westminster.

The controversial suspension will begin shortly after MPs were expected to vote again yesterday against Johnson's bid to hold a snap election next month -- two weeks before the country is due to leave the European Union.

"Parliament will be prorogued at close of business today," Johnson's spokesman said at a daily briefing, using the parliamentary term for the suspension.

He added it would happen regardless of the outcome of the vote on the October 15 poll.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of House of Commons John Bercow said yesterday he would step down within weeks, amid criticism by Brexit hardliners who say he has twisted parliamentary rules to undermine them.

Bercow said he would not stand for re-election if MPs vote in favour of an early election and would in any case resign on October 31 even if they did not.

Johnson held talks with his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar in Dublin before returning to the parliamentary turmoil later yesterday.

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