



"MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME"

Whether for your home or the Pillars of Padma Bridge
We forge steels with the same expertise

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT for more than **12 years**

SHAH CEMENT

RMG workers block busy Tejgaon road

Stage demo for over 2hrs over sacking of workers, cause long tailbacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred workers of a readymade garment factory yesterday blocked the capital's Satrasta intersection for over two hours, protesting the dismissal of some 66 of their colleagues.

The blockade that lasted from 10:00am to 12:30pm disrupted vehicular movement on the busy thoroughfare, causing immense suffering to the commuters.

A clash ensued between police and the protesters when police charged batons to disperse the demonstrators, leaving 15 people, including five policemen, injured.

Quoting eyewitnesses, Ali Hosen Khan, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Police Station, said workers of Nassa Mainland Garment gathered in front of the factory in Begunbari area around 9:00am, protesting the authorities' decision to sack 66 employees on September 10 without any prior notice.

Within an hour, they took to the streets and halted the vehicular movement, the OC said, adding that the protesters chanted slogans demanding reappointment of the workers during the protest.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Clockwise... vehicles remain stuck in traffic as workers of Nassa Mainland Garment block a road in the capital's Saat Rasta area yesterday morning, protesting the termination of 66 co-workers; the demonstrators stop a car; a policeman baton-charges some protesters; a female police member and a female demonstrator scuffle during the demo.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Govt lawyer withdrawn for helping accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

An additional public prosecutor of Bogura's Additional Sessions Judge Court-2 has been withdrawn on charges of making recommendations to the court in favour of an absconding murder accused in exchange for financial benefits.

Abdul Matin, public prosecutor of Bogura District Judge Court, served a withdrawal notice on Additional Public Prosecutor Shahadat Hossain on Tuesday.

The notice said Shahadat on April 18 wrote to the judge to recall 12 prosecution witnesses of the murder case, although their statements and cross-examinations have already been recorded by the court.

Shahadat told the court that accused Sanaul Islam, who has been

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

1,484 fell victim in last 8 months

Says Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum; another 785 drowned, killed in road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 1,484 children suffered various forms of violence in the last eight months across the country, said Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), a platform campaigning for child rights.

Besides, 785 others drowned and died on the roads during the same period.

Citing the report of BSAF, speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded formation of "Department of Children" immediately under the ministry of women and children affairs to look after children affairs.

They were speaking at a views-exchange meeting on "The current child rights situation and the way forward" at a conference hall in the parliament.

Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights and Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh, a platform of NGOs, jointly organised the discussion.

The report of BSAF presented at the meeting said 697 children were raped, 104 were victims of attempted rape, 161 were sexually harassed, 92 physically assaulted,

145 kidnapped, and 285 murdered from January to August this year.

Apart from this, 390 children were killed in road accidents and 395 others drowned. Some 133 died by suicide and 104 others went missing, said the report.

Addressing the event as the chief guest, Deputy Speaker of parliament Fazle Rabbi Miah said the process for forming a separate department for children has already started.

"Unfortunately, we failed to properly use the budgetary allocation given to different ministries to look after the children affairs. So, a strict monitoring is needed to deal with the issue and that is why a separate department is necessary," he said.

Calling Father of the Nation Bangabandhu a children-friendly leader, he said a vested quarter had killed him to halt the country's development.

"A renaissance is required to stop violence against children and I think Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina can lead such a movement in Bangladesh," he said, urging all to make her hands stronger.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

3 more die of dengue

Unofficial death toll now 147

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more people, including two schoolchildren, died of dengue fever in Chattogram and Barishal in the last two days.

With them, the unofficial death toll from the disease this year now stands at 147 against the official figure of 60.

In Chattogram, Dawmya Ching Marma, 35, died at a private hospital in the city around 4:00am yesterday, reports our staff correspondent, quoting doctors.

She was the wife of U Hla Ching Marma, chairman of Ruma upazila in Bandarban.

Dawmya was admitted to Centre for Specialised Care and Research (CSCR) with fever on Tuesday, said Dr Nahid Hassan, resident medical officer at the hospital.

She was diagnosed with

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

HABITABLE EXOPLANET

Water found for first time in atmosphere



AFP, Paris

Water has been discovered for the first time in the atmosphere of an exoplanet with Earth-like temperatures that could support life as we know it, scientists revealed Wednesday.

Eight times the mass of Earth and twice as big, K2-18b orbits in its star's "habitable zone" at a distance -- neither too far nor too close -- where water can exist in liquid form, they reported in the journal Nature Astronomy.

"This planet is the best candidate we have outside our solar system" in the search for signs of life, co-author Giovanna Tinetti, an astronomer at University College London, told AFP.

"We cannot assume that it has oceans on the surface but it is a real possibility."

Of the more than 4,000 exoplanets detected to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Court halts JCD council

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an ad-interim injunction on holding the council of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the pro-BNP student body, scheduled for tomorrow.

Judge Nusrat Sahara Bithi of the fourth assistant judge's court of Dhaka passed the order after Md Aman Ullah Aman, a former assistant religious affairs secretary of JCD, filed a case seeking a permanent injunction on the holding of the council.

In his complaint, Aman said he had earlier purchased

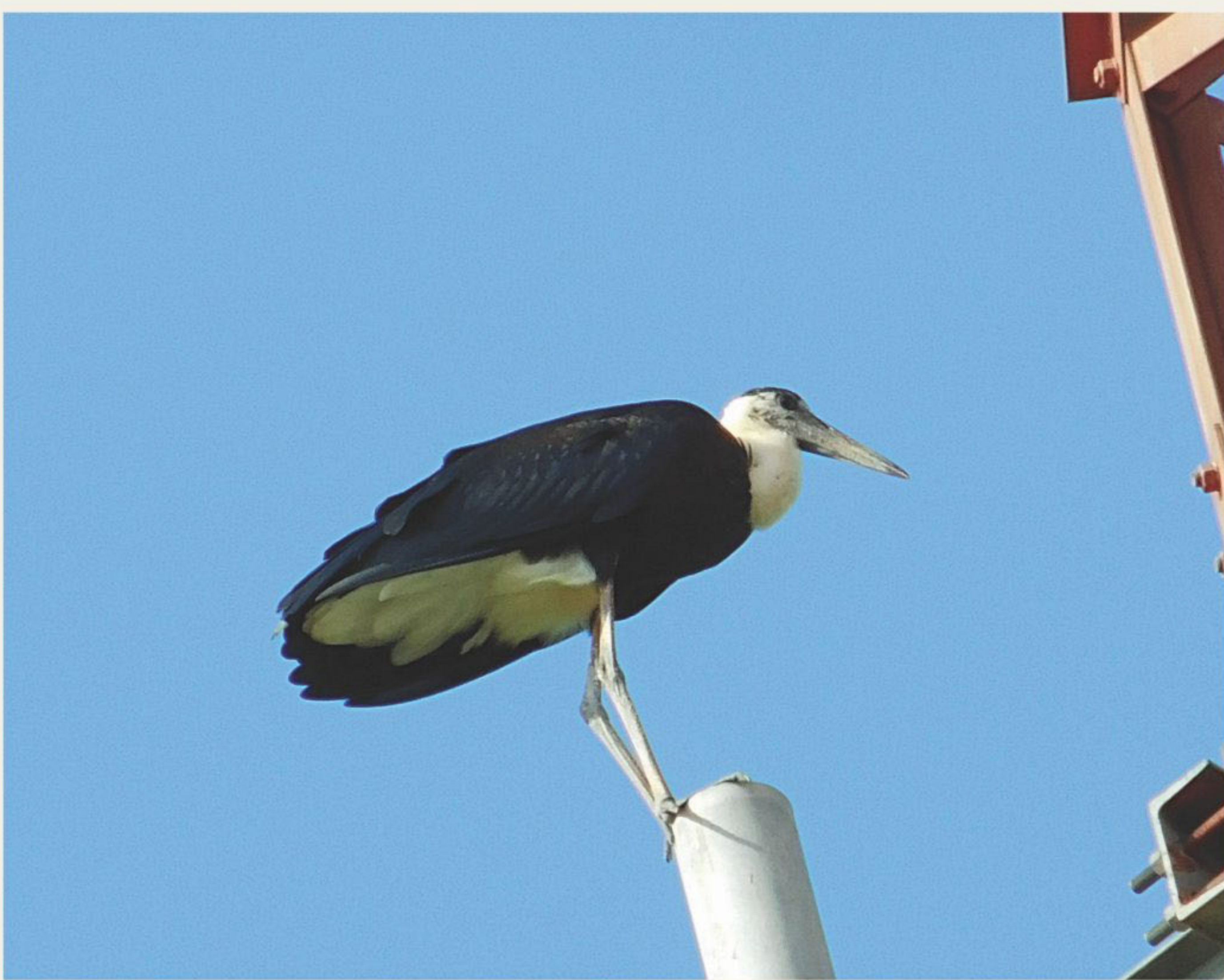
SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 13

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



RARE BIRD IN RAJSHAHI

An Asian woolly-necked stork resting on a mobile phone tower in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila. Experts say this stork, which is quite rare in Bangladesh, has started breeding in some areas of Rajshahi in recent years. The birds use both forest trees and solitary trees in agricultural areas to build nests. This photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

ROW OVER SUSPENSION OF PARLIAMENT

UK PM denies lying to Queen

N Ireland court dismisses lawsuits against prorogation; Johnson under fire over no-deal Brexit assessment

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday denied that he had lied to Queen Elizabeth II when requesting she suspend parliament this month in the run-up to Brexit.

Johnson asked the British head of state to shutter parliament for five weeks from last Tuesday, claiming it was necessary ahead of rolling out a new domestic agenda.

The unusually long suspension -- known as prorogation -- was widely seen as a bid to thwart opposition to a no-deal Brexit on October 31 and provoked uproar across the political spectrum as well as legal challenges.

The government was forced Wednesday to release its no-deal Brexit contingency plans after a parliamentary vote, but the opposition has accused it of withholding information.

A Scottish court this week sided with critics of the prorogation, ruling it was "unlawful" and intended to "stymie parliament".

Asked if he had misled Queen Elizabeth over his motives for the suspension, which will see the House of Commons closed until October 14, Johnson said: "Absolutely not".

"We need to get on and do all sorts of things at a national level," he added.

Johnson's government has appealed against Wednesday's decision by Scotland's highest civil court and the case is set to be heard in Britain's Supreme Court next Tuesday.

In the meantime, parliament remains suspended.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2