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# Nothing there, yet it's a dept

No teachers, classrooms, course outline for botany students

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Almost every graduate has some sweet memories of being a freshman at university. But if anyone asks the students of botany at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, they will probably share something that reflects how irresponsible the university authority was.

No teachers, proper classrooms or course outline -- yet the university this year launched the department with 70 students.

"January 1 was our orientation day, January 2 was our first class. A teacher from biotechnology and genetic engineering taught us botany at her department," said a botany student.

On January 3, Mostafa Kamal Pasa, a retired botany professor of Chittagong University, joined the university on a six-month contract and started giving lessons at the department.

"I then prepared the course curriculum for the botany department," he told this correspondent, adding that five courses that were outlined for the first semester, including microbiology and virology; mycology and lichenology; phycology; bryology; and pteridology, and a non-major



A trader shows a hilsa, weighing about 2.5 kg, at the wholesale fish market in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday. He was asking Tk 3,500 for the fish. Prices of hilsa have dropped in the city in recent weeks amid good supply. Officials say production of the national fish has increased significantly in recent years due to some government measures, including ban on fishing hilsa during spawning season and hilsa fry for eight months a year.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Khaleda to go abroad if granted bail

Says BNP Jt Secy Gen Harunur Rashid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who has been in prison since February 8 last year on graft charges, will go abroad for treatment if she gets bail.

The party's Joint Secretary General Harunur Rashid, also a lawmaker, came up with the remark yesterday after meeting Khaleda at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in Dhaka.

Spending around an hour with Khaleda, Harun said, "Our party chief is now suffering from several complexities and she needs immediate treatment at a specialised hospital.

"I would urge the government not to deprive




## Huge exo-planet that should not exist

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The vast world -- a Jupiter-like exoplanet that is 30 light-years away -- could force us to re-write our understanding of how planets form, scientists say.

It orbits around a star, known as GJ 3512, which is a red dwarf only a tenth as big our own Sun. Astronomers did not expect that such a small star would be able to serve as home to such a vast planet.

"Around such stars there should

## TRUMP IMPEACHMENT BID

# Giuliani subpoenaed

Report says Pompeo took part in Trump-Zelenskyy call

REUTERS, Washington

The US House of Representatives' impeachment probe into President Donald Trump intensified on Monday, as Trump raged about the inquiry and news reports suggested he had used additional diplomatic channels to go after his adversaries.

Three House committees said a subpoena for documents had been sent to Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani. The former New York mayor had said on television he asked the government of Ukraine to "target" former Vice President Joe Biden, who is seeking the Democratic nomination to run against Trump in the 2020 election.

Giuliani said in a tweet the subpoena raised legal issues including attorney-client privilege. "It will be given appropriate consideration," he added.

The Democratic-led House initiated an impeachment inquiry against Trump last week after a whistleblower report raised concerns that Trump tried to leverage nearly \$400 million in US aid in exchange for investigating Biden from Ukraine's leader in July.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo took part in the July 25 phone call

## Two 'drug dealers' killed in 'gunfight'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two suspected drug peddlers were killed in a "gunfight" with police at Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar early yesterday, hours after they were arrested.

The dead are Mohammad Amin, 37, and Helaluddin Sumon, 21, of Shilkhali area.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said they conducted a drive along with the duo at Baharchora Shilkhali Hill area to recover yaba pills and firearms.

## Onion prices fall at wholesale

STAR REPORT

Amid increased import of onions from Myanmar, prices of the essential cooking ingredient came down a little in the capital's wholesale markets yesterday, a day after the price skyrocketed following an export ban by India. Prices of locally grown onion fell to Tk 75-Tk 80 per kg yesterday from Tk 88-Tk 90 a day before at Shyambazar market, one of the biggest wholesale spice markets in Dhaka.

Mohammad Abdul Mazed, general secretary of Shyambazar Onion Wholesalers' Association, confirmed the price drop.

Prices at the retail market, however, remained unchanged.

Narayan Saha, a wholesale trader of different spices at the Shyambazar market, said the increase in onion imports had brought a change in the buying behaviour of retailers.

"They are purchasing less than the usual, assuming the price may fall further," he added.

The government has imported around 4,142 tonnes of onions from Myanmar since early September, and some 569 tonnes were imported yesterday alone.

## RAPE OF 6TH GRADER

# Teacher sent to prison

STAR REPORT

A Brahmanbaria court sent a madrasa teacher to jail on charges of raping a sixth grader, while two youths were sued for allegedly raping a teenage girl in Narayanjanj yesterday.



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 2

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:45	12:45	4:15	5:53	7:30
JAMAAT	5:20	1:15	4:30	5:56
			8:00	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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