



“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



PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

Thousands stranded on the Padma

Only 3 of 16 ferries running between Paturia and Daulatdia amid strong currents

STAR REPORT

With her two children, Momtaz Begum were headed for Magura from Dhaka on Friday. By nightfall she reached Paturia Ghat, but she had to spend the night inside the bus because ferry services were heavily disrupted on Paturia-Daulatdia route thanks to strong currents in the Padma River.

Almost 24 hours later, she luckily managed to get on one of the three ferries that were able to continue operation in the choppy water.

“How could I describe the sufferings I endured along with my children? Waiting on the street is really hard for anyone, especially for women and children,” Momtaz told The Daily Star before boarding the ferry around 3:00pm yesterday.

Like her, hundreds of people travelling in more than 50 buses and 300 trucks were caught in the gridlock on the two sides of the river -- at Paturia and Daulatdia -- as the authorities were forced to reduce the number of ferries in operation.

The situation particularly affected the Hindu people heading home for Durga Puja.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



People with their bags walk past stationary buses to the ferry terminal at Paturia of Manikganj yesterday. Strong currents in the Padma has been disrupting ferry services there causing long queues of vehicles on both sides of the river.

PHOTO: JAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS

Her torment never ended

Uncle rapes 15-yr-old rape victim and then a local journo follows suit

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

A 15-year-old girl, seeking legal help after she was raped, got raped again by her uncle. Promising to help her get justice, a third man raped her in Dhaka's Dhamrai recently.

The eighth grader was raped by a teen on July 27. She then told her uncle about the incident and asked him for advice, according to police.

Her uncle Alamgir, 45, then promised to help her get legal aid and on August 20, he took the girl to his home and raped her, according to a case filed by her mother.

Her mother, who is a garment worker, filed the case with Dhamrai Police Station on September 25, accusing the teen and Alamgir.

The teen was arrested and sent to jail. After the case was filed, Shamim Khan, 45, the local correspondent of a daily newspaper approached them and said he would help them in the legal battle.

On October 1, Shamim called the girl's mother and told her that the girl would have to go to a Dhaka court the next day, according to another case filed later.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Trump IMPEACHMENT Bid

White House docs subpoenaed

Pompeo blasts 'harassment'; NYT reports second whistleblower

AFP, Washington

The Trump administration yesterday complained of harassment by Democratic lawmakers who issued subpoenas for White House documents regarding President Donald Trump's alleged pressuring of Ukraine for political favors.

And in a key development, a potential second whistleblower was reportedly weighing whether to come forward.

The latest explosive turns in the impeachment investigation against Trump came as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Democratic-led congressional committees leading the inquiry of having “harassed and abused” State Department employees by contacting them directly for documents rather than going through department lawyers.

“That’s harassment,” Pompeo said during a visit to Athens, “and I’m never going to let that happen to my team.”

The House committees leading the probe issued their subpoenas as evidence mounted that Trump abused his powers by attempting to use US military aid to pressure Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to seek damaging information on 2020 Democratic rival Joe Biden.

The investigations were touched off by reports that an original whistleblower -- reportedly a CIA analyst -- had filed a formal complaint to the intelligence community inspector general about Trump's alleged pressuring of Zelensky.

Trump and his supporters have aggressively attacked that still-anonymous whistleblower -- Trump denounced the person as “close to a spy” and a Democrat operating with second-hand information.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

FAULTY JUSTICE SYSTEM

Thai judge shoots self in courtroom in protest

AFP, Bangkok

A Thai judge shot himself in the chest in front of a packed court after acquitting several murder suspects and decrying the kingdom's judicial system in an impassioned speech broadcast on Facebook Live.

Critics say Thailand's courts often work in favour of the rich and powerful, while delivering swift and harsh sentences on ordinary people for minor offences.

But it is virtually unheard of for judges to criticise the system.

Kanakorn Pianchana, a judge at Yala court in the heart of the insurgency-battered Thai south, was delivering the verdict for five Muslim suspects in a gun murder case on Friday afternoon.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Lost 2,200-year-old temple found in Egypt



CNN ONLINE

Archaeologists in Egypt have discovered a long-lost 2,200-year-old temple thought to belong to Pharaoh Ptolemy IV.

The ancient tomb structure was accidentally found by construction workers during drilling on a sewage drain in the village of Kom Shakau in the Tama township in northern Sohag, according to a Facebook post made on September 29 by Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities.

Drilling work was suspended following the discovery. Archaeologists quickly found stone inscriptions with fragments of text featuring the name of Ptolemy IV, the fourth pharaoh of Egypt's Ptolemaic dynasty.

The team has so far uncovered a north-south wall, an east-west wall and the southwestern corner of the limestone structure, which is engraved with

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

RANGPUR BY-POLLS

Saad Ershad wins his father's seat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

HM Ershad's son Rahgir Al Mahi Saad Ershad won the by-polls in Rangpur-3 constituency yesterday, according to unofficial results.



He bagged 58,878 votes while his nearest rival BNP's Rita Rahman secured 16,947 votes, the results showed last night.

Independent candidate Shahriar Asif, Ershad's nephew who was expelled from the JP for breaching party discipline, bagged 14,984 votes while Kazi Mohammad Shahidullah of Gono Front got 1,662.

As many as 924 people voted for Touhidur Rahman Mondal of Khelafat Majlish and 611 for Shafiqul Alam of National People's Party, the results showed.

Earlier in the day, the voting started at 9:00am and continued till 4:00pm.

A total of 94,006 out of 4,41,224 voters cast their ballots at 175 centres.

Returning Officer GM Sahatab Uddin said the turnout was 21.30 percent.

Voting was peaceful as there was no reports of any violence.

The Daily Star correspondent visited 15 centres and came to learn from presiding officers that the turnout was around 12 percent till 2:00pm.

No long queue of voters was seen at any of the centres.

The centres included ones at Begum Rokaya College, Radhaballab Government Primary School, Collectorate School and College, Tozammel Hossain Memorial Shishumongal Government Primary School, Dedaba Jamalia Government Primary School, Borobari

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Tulip among top London politicians

Evening Standard lists her

UNB, Dhaka

Labour MP Tulip Siddiq has earned a spot among the most influential politicians of London on The Progress 1000 list of the Evening Standard.

The Progress 1000 is created to spotlight and celebrate London's most influential individuals annually across a range of areas including business, technology, science, politics, design, architecture, culture, and the arts.

Tulip, granddaughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and niece of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been listed in the Westminster category.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove, Health Secretary Matt Hancock, and Education

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



A girl sings playfully in front of the idols at the Ramna Kali Mandir in the capital yesterday. Durga Puja is being celebrated across the country and yesterday was the Saptami.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Violence halts Hong Kong

Hundreds return to streets defying mask ban after a night of clashes; metro, shops remain shut

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's metro system stayed shut yesterday, paralysing transport in the Asian financial hub, and malls and shops closed early after a night of chaos in which police shot a teenage boy and protesters torched businesses and metro stations.

Friday's protests across the Chinese-ruled city erupted hours after its embattled leader, Carrie Lam, invoked colonial-era emergency powers for the first time in more than 50 years to ban the face masks demonstrators use to hide their identities.

The night's "extreme violence" justified the use of the emergency law, Beijing-backed Lam said in a television address yesterday.

"The radical behavior of rioters took Hong Kong through a very dark night, leaving society today half-paralyzed," she said in pre-recorded remarks.

"The extreme violence clearly illustrated that Hong Kong's public safety is widely endangered. That's the concrete reason that we had to invoke emergency law yesterday to introduce the anti-mask law."

But undeterred by the ban and transport shutdown, several hundred pro-democracy protesters, many wearing masks, took to the streets yesterday, marching through the normally bustling central district of Causeway Bay.

Other groups gathered in Sheung Shui and Tsim Sha Tsui districts as the sun began to set.

"We're not sure what is going to happen later, but we felt we had to get out and show our basic right to wear a

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5