



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

PLUS 2 PAGES JACKET ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING & ROLE OF STAKE HOLDERS

SAFAR 13, 1441 HURI

18 PAGES PRICE : Tk 12.00



REGD. No. DA 781

Vol. XXIX No. 263

ASHWIN 28, 1426 BS

"We talk about the spirit of the Liberation War, but it did not reach the children, generation after generation."
FORMER DU VC PROF AAMS AREFIN SIDDIQUE AT A PROGRAMME IN THE LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM (PAGE 3)



"University students can express their political opinion as a constitutional right. Therefore, you cannot ban student politics by law."
AGRICULTURE MINISTER ABDUR RAZZAQUE AT A PROGRAMME IN GAZIPUR (PAGE 3)



"Now there are threats from left and right telling us to stop this. We will not step back."
PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN AMID SANCTION THREATS OVER TURKEY'S OFFENSIVE IN SYRIA (PAGE 11)



CURBING LOAN DEFAULT

'Match-fixing' in govt measures

Say experts at a discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government seems to lack the will to arrest bad loans and restore corporate governance in the banking sector with the habitual defaulters working the system, analysts said.

A good number of delinquent borrowers, many of whom became lawmakers last year, avoided the defaulter label by taking advantage of relaxed rescheduling facilities and filing writ petitions with the High Court, they said at a roundtable discussion to find ways to fix the banking sector.

Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujon), a civil society platform, organised the discussion at the Jatiya Press Club Auditorium yesterday.

Moinul Islam, former professor of economics at Chittagong University, presented the keynote paper on how to fix the banking sector.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the amount of defaulted loans, as of June, is Tk 240,167 crore, The Daily Star reported recently, he said.

If the written-off loans were added, the amount might be closer to Tk 300,000 crore, he said.

"But the government is trying to conceal the real picture ..."

The central bank has recently eased policies for loan classification and rescheduling to artificially bring down the defaulted loan figures, he said.

"The government apparently says it has taken different measures to arrest default loans, but there has been match-fixing. More than 60 percent of the lawmakers are from the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



"Could you give my son back to me?" reads the graffiti being drawn by an artist depicting Abrar's father Barkat Ullah on Buet campus yesterday. Students won't demonstrate today and tomorrow due to the admission tests at the university.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

1.38cr people underemployed

Finds government study

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

For nearly two years, Raushan Mahmud has been working as a cashier at a firm that produces garment accessories in Gazipur.

But this is not the job the 28-year-old man from Sirajganj longed for. He wished to work at a government organisation or a bank.

"I got this job a year after receiving a master's degree in accounting from Dhaka College in 2016. I'm not enjoying it. The salary is low and there is no job security," said Raushan, who is now looking for a better job.

He is one of the thousands of graduates who are holding jobs far below their expectations. In other words, they are underemployed.

Now the country has 1.38 crore underemployed people. Of them, 45.3 percent are in the service sector, 30.6 percent in the agriculture sector and 24.1 percent in the industry sector, says a government study.

The General Economics Division (GED) under the planning ministry conducted the study, the first of its kind in the country, between May and June this year to get an insight into the nexus of economic growth, employment generation, productivity and investment.

Underemployment is related to a situation where a person's employment is inadequate in terms of working

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Demands met, why continuing protests: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday questioned the justification for continuing the agitation on the Buet campus over the killing of Abrar Fahad after the students' demands were met by the university authorities.

"The Buet vice-chancellor has accepted the 10-point demand of the students. But after that, the students have said they will continue their protest... I don't know what is the logic behind it," she said.

Addressing the second conference of the Mohila Sramik League at the capital's

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Beat him until he was motionless

Anik, key accused in Abrar killing, tells magistrate; Buet protests relaxed for 2 days for admission tests; three dorm rooms of BCL men sealed off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buet unit Chhatra League leader Anik Sarkar yesterday confessed that he and some other accused kept hitting Abrar Fahad with cricket stumps until he became motionless.

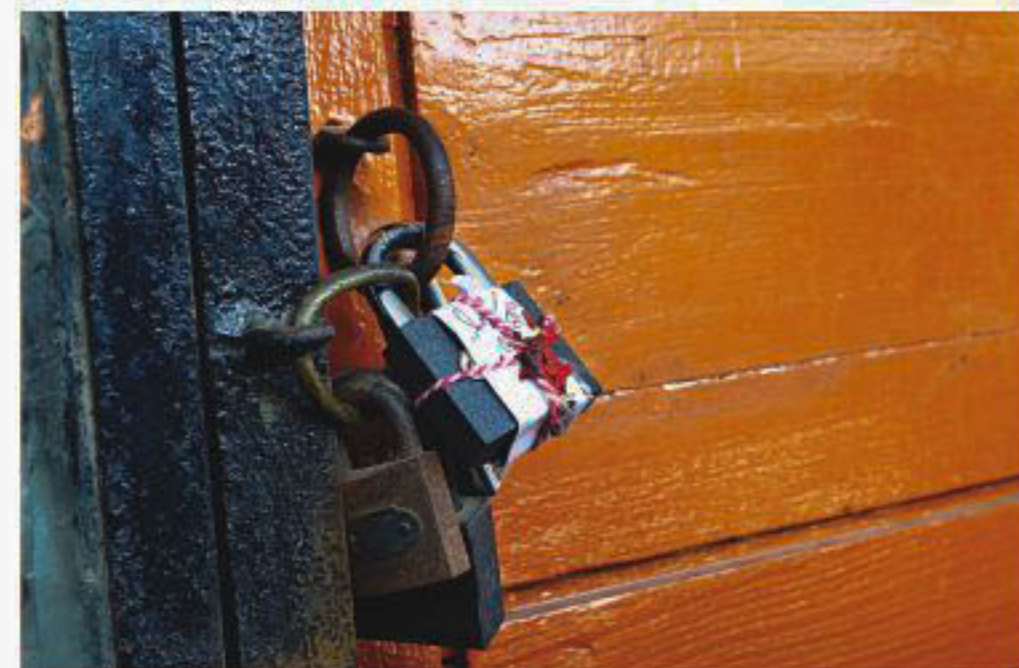
In his confessional statement, the information and research secretary of the unit also said he beat up Abrar indiscriminately in two phases and stopped only after the victim vomited multiple times, said court and police sources.

Anik, a batch-15 student of the university's mechanical engineering department, was sent to jail after Metropolitan Magistrate Atiqul Islam recorded the statement.

With Anik, three leaders of Buet Chhatra League have given confessional statement in Abrar Fahad killing case.

The other two are Deputy Social Welfare Secretary Ifti Mosharruf Shakal and Sports Secretary Mefatahul Islam Zion.

In his statement recorded on Thursday, Shakal, a batch-16 student of the university's



Locked door of BCL leader Rasel's dorm room.

biomedical engineering department, said it was Anik who hit Abrar the most. He said Anik struck Abrar over 100 times with a stump in his knees, legs, soles of feet and arms.

On Friday, Zion, a batch-15 student of the naval architecture and marine engineering department, told a magistrate that he also beat up Abrar with a stump.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Does media have full freedom?

Asks HC judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court judge yesterday questioned whether the media in the country enjoys full freedom and whether fear is at play among journalists.

Justice Sheikh Hasan Arif pointed out that Bangladesh's position deteriorated in this year's freedom of the press ranking though people seem to be getting sensitive and fresh news from the media every day.

"But note that you journalists report and can report only when there is an outburst ... when it unfolds in front of our eyes nakedly," he said, addressing a workshop at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium.

"But you knew about those incidents beforehand but could not report, and there are various limitations behind all this.

"This is exactly where lies a problem regarding the press freedom."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Zeesan gets 'out on bail in Dubai'

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Top-listed Bangladeshi fugitive Zeesan Ahmed, who was arrested in the UAE recently, had reportedly been freed on bail by a Dubai court on Thursday.

Bangladesh Police, however, is not aware of this, said a spokesperson.

"We don't have any such information. We have submitted documents seeking his extradition to the authorities concerned [Bangladesh foreign ministry]," Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general (media) at the police headquarters, told The Daily Star.

A source familiar with the proceedings said an influential person of the UAE signed his bail bond. But Zeesan is not allowed to leave Dubai.

Bangladesh could not

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Traffic at Shapla Chattar, Motijheel, the heart of the capital, are inches away from the large hole dug on the road for installing sewer lines. Inset, precast sewer pipes occupying one side of Toyenbee Circular Road in front of Notre Dame College. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



中远海运集装箱运输有限公司
COSCO SHIPPING LINES CO., LTD.

Announcement

We, COSCO SHIPPING Lines Co. Ltd. (formerly COSCO Container Lines Co. Ltd.) of 378 Daming Rd. (E), Shanghai, China and our 100% subsidiary NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE. LTD (formerly COSCO CONTAINER LINES SOUTH EAST ASIA PTE. LTD) have appointed M/S Continental Traders of Iqbal Bhaban, 73, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chattogram ("Continental Traders") on 07.08.2016 to act as our exclusive local agent in Bangladesh on the basis of Agency Appointment letter dated 25.07.2016. Continental Traders have conducted its affairs on our behalf in Bangladesh in accordance with its Appointment. We have renewed our exclusive Agency Agreement with Continental Traders on 08.07.2019 which is still in operation. We decided to discontinue all our agency related activities with COSCO Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd. prior to appointing Continental Traders and therefore the Agency Agreements with COSCO Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd. were terminated on 06.06.2016 which remains terminated till to date. Presently we have no other authorized agent in Bangladesh which is authorized by us to handle our vessels, containers and cargoes in Bangladesh except for Continental Traders. As the sole legal agent, Continental Traders will continue to provide quality services to our valued customers and clients. If any company continues to confuse the market and cause any damage or loss to our company, we reserve the right to protect our legitimate rights and interests in due course.