



“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



MATARBARI POWER PLANT
Cox's Bazar

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER

SHAH CEMENT

Foreign trips for knowledge? Doesn't seem so

SANJOY KUMAR BARIJA, Bandarban

Although the three hill district councils spend over Tk 1.5 crore each year for sending their and the CHT affairs ministry's staff members abroad for study tours, the application of knowledge from such trips remains vague.

According to Chief Executive Officer of Khagrachari Hill District Council Md Nuruzzaman, each council receives Tk 50-60 lakh per year from the ministry to send the members to different countries.

The funds are allocated under a project called "Strengthening Hill District Councils and Developing Skills of Their Officials".

However, when The Daily Star approached at least 10 persons who went on these tours at different times this year, none of them could say what exactly they learnt from the trips.

Between January and September, a total of 83 officials and other members of the three hill district councils and the ministry visited Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, and Japan in seven phases.

The Daily Star obtained copies of official letters of the ministry approving the tours.

Those who went on the tours include councillors, chairmen, accounts officers, audit officers and other staff members of the councils and the ministry. Some of them were accompanied by their family members, according to the letters.

The letters also stated that expenditure for the officials and the other employees would be made from government funds, but their family members would have to bear their

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Hundreds of trucks laden with goods in a queue stretching several kilometres on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Shibaboy, Manikganj yesterday as the authorities have been prioritising buses and smaller vehicles on Shimulia-Doulatdia ferry route.

PHOTO: STAR

FERRY DISRUPTION Four days on, longer queues on the Padma

STAR REPORT

Ferry operations at Shimulia-Kathalbari route have remained suspended for the fourth consecutive day because of navigability crisis.

Over 400 vehicles, mostly trucks laden with goods, were stranded at both sides of the Padma as the authorities halted all ferry operations.

But authorities have kept three small ferries standby at the terminal for carrying emergency vehicles like ambulance.

Shimulia point is located in Munshiganj district and Kathalbari is in Madaripur district.

Contacted, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Secretary Kazi Wakil Nawaz said, "We have been compelled to stop ferry operation due to strong current and siltation. We hope to resume the operation tomorrow [today] through alternative channel."

Abdul Alim, manager

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

WAR CRIMES IN 1971 Former NSI chief's trial next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed a charge against Wahidul Haque, former acting director general of National Security Intelligence (NSI), for allegedly committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam also set November 24 for starting his trial with the recording of testimony of prosecution witnesses.

Wahidul, who allegedly worked for the Pakistan army as its captain during the Liberation War and was involved in the killing of 500 to 600 people near Rangpur Cantonment on March 28, 1971, pleaded not guilty before the tribunal and sought justice.

On April 24 last year, police arrested Wahidul, also a former additional inspector general of police, at the capital's Gulshan hours after the ICT-1 issued an arrest warrant for him in the case. He is now in jail.

Investigation agency of the tribunal on October 30 last year completed its probe and said that it had found evidence of his

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX Country does better than India, Pakistan

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has ranked 88th out of 117 qualifying countries on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019 with a score of 25.8, which is higher than India and Pakistan.

Pakistan ranked 94th with a score of 28.5 while India ranked 102nd with a score of 30.3 in terms of severity of hunger, according to the GHI report 2019, available on its website.

The country with the severest problem of hunger at rank 117 of the index is the Central African Republic.

The GHI calculates the levels of hunger and undernutrition worldwide. The four indicators for the index are undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality.

Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe jointly publish the GHI report every year to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels and trigger action to reduce hunger around the world.

According to the report, India's GHI indicator values have an outsized impact on the indicator values for the South Asian region. India's child wasting rate is extremely high at 20.8 percent, the highest wasting rate of any country in this report for which data or estimates were available. Its child stunting rate, 37.9 percent, is also categorised as very high in terms of its public health significance.

Outside of India, two countries in South Asia have made significant advances in child nutrition, and their experiences are instructive. A 2015 study sought to identify the reasons behind the decline in stunting in Bangladesh at the national level from 58.5 percent in 1997 to 40.2 percent in 2011.

The study attributed the decrease primarily to rising household wealth associated with pro-poor economic growth and gains in parental

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Teenager dies a day after being stabbed

Ex-BCL man held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A 15-year-old boy, who was brutally knifed by masked criminals in Ishwarganj upazila on Tuesday, died yesterday.

A former Chattra League man was arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of the SSC examinee.

Md Jahidul Isla of the upazila's Dauttapara area died of his stab wounds at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was a student of Protisruti Model High School.

Around 9:45am on Tuesday, when Jahidul was on his way to Ideal College to sit for an exam, a group of masked criminals ambushed his rickshaw, said Ahmed Kabir Hossain,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Nasa unveils future moon spacesuits



AFP, Washington

Bye bye to bunny hops: when US astronauts next touch down on the moon, expect them to walk almost as they do on Earth, thanks to a new generation of spacesuits offering key advantages over those of the Apollo-era.

Prototypes of the Orion Crew Survival Suit that will be worn on the journey and the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU) for the lunar surface were unveiled at Nasa's Washington headquarters Tuesday ahead of the agency's planned return to the moon by 2024.

Standing in front of a giant US flag, spacesuit engineer Kristine Davis wore a pressurised red, blue and white xEMU suit, showing off a vastly improved range of motion thanks to bearings systems on the waist, arms, and legs.

They are also extendable and therefore one-

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

RIFAT MURDER Court rejects bail prayer of accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Barguna court yesterday rejected bail prayer of an accused in the Rifat Sharif murder case.

Al Kaiyum submitted the bail prayer with the District and Sessions Judge's Court. Judge Md Asaduzzaman denied his bail after hearing from the prosecution and defence.

Besides, two more accused -- Rakibul Hasan Rifat Farajee and Tiktok Redoy -- filed their bail prayers with the Senior

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 17
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-38 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-41 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BCMCL COAL SCAM Ex-MD, two more officials land in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Three officials of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited (BCMCL), including a former managing director, were sent to jail after a Dinajpur court rejected their bail prayers in a Tk 244 crore coal scam case yesterday.

They are former MD Habib Uddin Ahmed, General Manager (mine operations) Abu Taher Mohammad Nuruzzaman Chowdhury, and Deputy General Manager (store) AKM Khaledul Islam.

Md Anisur Rahman, a manager (admin) of BCMCL, filed a case in July 2018 with Parbatipur police station accusing 19 people, including Habib who was the then MD. Habib was later suspended by Petrobangla.

In the case, it was mentioned that around 1.45 lakh metric tonnes of coal were found to be missing from the coal yard in early July last year.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Smoke rising from the Syrian town of Ras al-Ain on the eighth day of Turkey's military operation against Kurdish forces yesterday. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would not meet US Vice President Mike Pence during his visit to Ankara to discuss the military operation.

Turkey snubs US push for Syria ceasefire

Kurds defend key border town; hundreds seek refuge in Iraq

AFP, Ceylanpinar

Turkey rebuffed international pressure to curb its military offensive against Kurdish militants in Syria yesterday as US President Donald Trump dispatched his deputy Mike Pence to Ankara to demand a ceasefire.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rejected any negotiations, telling parliament the only way to solve Syria's problems was for the Kurdish forces to "lay down their arms... destroy all their traps and get out of the safe zone that we have designated."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Avail Specialist Doctors Consultation Service in **EVENING OPD** Saturday-Thursday till 9pm

Appointment **10666**
9 8 5 2 4 6 6

United Hospital

PHOTO: AFP