



“MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME”

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

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

BSRM
building a safer nation

HIGHEST SELLING
CEMENT

for more than 12 years



SHAH CEMENT

One man holds 2 vital posts in 2 universities

KANGKAN KARMAKAR, Dinaipur

A university professor has managed to hold multiple important administrative posts simultaneously at universities situated in different districts for over one and a half years now.

Prof Dr Md Mostafizer Rahman has been appointed both as the chairman of Department of Microbiology at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinaipur and Dean of Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science at Gono Bishwabidyaly in Savar.

On top of that, he has also been serving as the director of Planning, Development and Works at HSTU.

All the information mentioned above were available on the universities' websites and confirmed by sources.

Asked whether a professor could occupy these many posts, Kamal Hossain, director (admin) of University Grants Commission (UGC), told The Daily Star that one could do so only if s/he was on lien or received permission from his primary employer.

Contacted, Prof Mostafizer claimed he no longer held the dean's post at Gono Bishwabidyaly.

"I was the Dean of Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science at Gono Bishwabidyaly between 2015 and 2018. I was on lien at that time," he said.

"The university authorities might have forgotten to remove my name from their website," he added.

The Daily Star, however, found documents that showed Prof Mostafizer attended a conference of National Veterinary Deans' Council (NVDC) in Dhaka on August 27 this year as the Dean of Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science at Gono Bishwabidyaly.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is all smiles as she receives a jersey with her name on it from Fifa President Gianni Infantino yesterday. Infantino called on Hasina at her office.

PHOTO: BSS

Two killed in 'gunfight'

OUR 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 their arrest.

The dead are Ziabul Haque alias Babul, 30, and Azim Ullah, 46, inhabitants of the Teknaf, said police.

According to the law enforcers, Babul was accused in several criminal cases.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said they arrested the duo in Hinla Bazar area on Wednesday afternoon.

A police team, along with the duo, conducted a raid in Hoaikong Satgharia Para area around 4:00am to recover firearms. As soon as they reached the area, a group of criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he claimed.

At one point of the "gunfight", the duo sustained bullet injuries. The injured were rushed to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

EMBEZZLING Tk 141CR Shipbreaking yard owner, ex-banker sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against an industrialist and a former manager of Mercantile Bank Ltd in Chattogram on charges of fraudulence, misuse of power and money laundering.

The two allegedly misappropriated a Tk 141.13 crore-loan which was sanctioned for ship breaking purposes.

Chattogram-1's ACC Integrated District Office Assistant Director Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury filed the case with the office against industrialist and owner of Mishmak Ship Breaking Industry Ltd Mohammed Mizanur Rahman Shahin, and former manager of Mercantile Bank in the port city's Agrabad branch Nanda Dulal Bhattacharya for embezzling the loan money, said ACC Deputy Director Lutfar Kabir Chandon.

He said the duo collaborated to embezzle the money taken as loan from the bank and the huge amount of money was sanctioned against the ship breaking company to import three scrap vessels from abroad.

"Accused Mizanur Rahman took a Tk

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

15,000 kids under 5 die each day

Says experts' report on child mortality in developing world

AFP, Paris

More than 15,000 children under five die each day in the developing world, with huge disparities in death rates between and within countries, according to a detailed assessment of childhood mortality released Wednesday.

From 2000 to the end of 2017, 123 million newborns, infants and toddlers perished in 99 low- and middle-income countries that account for more than 90 percent of under-five deaths, the study found.

Adding preliminary figures for 2018 -- along with nations not included in the tally such as China, Mexico, Brazil and Malaysia -- the early childhood death toll will exceed 130 million for the first two decades of the 21st century, researchers told AFP.

The main cause of death varied depending on age, a consortium of several hundred experts reported in the journal Nature.

Premature birth was the biggest killer of infants under one. Two-to-four year olds were more likely to succumb to malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, and lower respiratory infections such as pneumonia.

The chance of a newborn or toddler dying varied up to ten-fold between nations, and up to 40-fold between regions.

In 2017, for example, only four children in 1,000 in Santa Clara, Cuba failed to reach their fifth birthday. But in the district of Garki, Nigeria an estimated 195 of every 1,000 children born did not cross that threshold.

"It is as reprehensible as it is tragic that, on average, nearly 15,000 children under age five die every day," said senior author Simon Hay, director of the Local Burden of Disease group at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in the US state of Washington.

"We need to enable precise targeting of interventions, such as vaccines,"

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

ABRAR MURDER Suspects Amit, Tanvir on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two accused in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case on fresh remand.

Amit Saha, a batch-16 student of the university's civil engineering department, and Khandaker Tabakhkharul Islam Tanvir of batch-17 of mechanical engineering department, were placed on three-day remand each.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sayed passed the order after Inspector Md Wahiduzzaman of Detective Branch of police, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced the accused before the court on completion of their five-day remand.

The IO sought seven-day remand for the accused stating that police needed more information from them.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

The one with Rachel breaking Instagram



CNN ONLINE

Jennifer Aniston's debut on Instagram started with a bang -- by crashing the app.

There were so many people excited to finally follow her that it caused issues for the platform.

"We are aware that some people were having issues following Jen's profile," a spokesperson for Facebook, which owns Instagram, said in a statement to CNN.

"We are thrilled to have this 'Friend' as part of the Instagram community."

The actress joined the social media platform on Tuesday, posting a photo with her former 'Friends' co-stars Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, David Schwimmer, Matthew Perry and Matt LeBlanc.

That one photo temporarily caused her profile to crash and some fans were unable to follow her for a time. However, it didn't stop her follower count from skyrocketing. As of Wednesday,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Rab takes Samrat, aide in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab took casino business "kingpin" Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat and his aide into custody for interrogation yesterday, a day after the force was given the charge to investigate two cases involving them.

Samrat is accused in an arms case and a narcotics case, while his aide Enamul Haque Arman is his co-accused in the latter.

A Dhaka court remanded Samrat in custody for 10 days and Arman for five days on Tuesday. The two had been kept at the office

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 18

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-30 4-00 5-38 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-41 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION





THE RESTLESS ONE

A female Taiga Flycatcher catches her breath on a tree in a mango orchard in Chapainawabganj's Alinagar area. The winter visitor is known to always be on the move, hopping from one tree to another. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

Pence in Turkey for truce talks

Meets Erdogan; Kurds accuse Ankara of using banned incendiary weapons; 300,000 displaced as fighting rages on

AFP, Ankara

US Vice President Mike Pence met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday to push for a ceasefire in Syria after Ankara rebuffed international pressure to halt its deadly offensive against Kurdish forces.

The visit came a day after Erdogan vowed to press ahead with Turkey's operation, which has been facilitated by the withdrawal of US troops from northern Syria, claiming hundreds of lives and displacing hundreds of thousands.

Ahead of the key trip, an extraordinary letter from US President Donald Trump emerged in which he warned Erdogan: "Don't be a fool." Sent the day Turkey launched its incursion into northeastern Syria, Trump said history risked branding him a "devil".

The Erdogan-Pence meeting lasted about one hour and 20 minutes -- longer than expected according to a US official -- and they were later joined by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other officials.

Days after US troops abruptly began withdrawing, Turkish soldiers and their Syrian rebel proxies gained ground in Ras al-Ain, a border town where Kurdish fighters have put up stiff resistance, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Turkish forces and the mostly Arab and Turkmen former rebels they use as a ground force had "taken about half of the town" by yesterday morning, Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based war monitor, said.

The Observatory said more than 300,000 civilians had been displaced within Syria since the start of the assault,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2