

New cabinet secretary meets president

UNB, Dhaka

Newly appointed Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam paid a courtesy call on President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. Congratulating Anwarul Islam on being appointed to the highest post of the civil service, the president said the role of civil service is very important in socio-economic development. He expressed the hope that civil servants will work for the welfare of the people with a service-oriented mentality under the leadership of the new cabinet secretary. Abdul Hamid also hoped that they will be more active in implementing the development projects of the government. The new cabinet secretary sought cooperation and direction



Two bamboos placed perpendicularly to prevent pedestrians from jaywalking through this gap in a road divider barricade cannot deter a youth from stooping and squeezing through. There are three foot-overbridges in the vicinity, one of which can be seen in the photo. The photo was taken from Chattogram city's EPZ intersection yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

'Govt least concerned about public suffering'

Amir Khasru says on onion price hike

UNB, Dhaka

Voicing deep concern over the "skyrocketing" onion price, BNP senior leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday alleged that the government has done nothing to control the market. "Onion price used to come down after Eid-ul-Azha in the past, but we're now seeing a reverse trend. The price has been gradually increasing since Eid. It's being sold at Tk 140 per kg... onion is now more expensive than apple. It's a mockery," he said. He came up with the remarks while speaking at a discussion arranged by Jatiyatabadi Projonmo 71 at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka. Khosru, a BNP standing committee member, said the prime minister and her ministers are also treating onion price hike as a "trifling matter", asking people not to consume it as a solution. "If prices of eggs, oil and rice go up then the government may suggest not consuming those as the easiest solution," he added. He said the government is not at all serious about checking the onion price hike, as it is least concerned about public suffering -- considering it does not require their votes. Khasru, a former commerce minister, said the government has no accountability to people as it has become the "owner of the country" by snatching away people's rights.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Fifty Australian scholarships awarded

DIPLomatic CORRESPONDENT

Fifty Australia Awards master's level scholarships to Bangladeshi students were announced yesterday. Of them, 25 scholarships were awarded to women, said Julia Niblett, Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, at a ceremony in a city hotel on Wednesday, said a press statement. Fields of study include architecture, climate change, cyber-security, digital communication, education, engineering, environmental law, international and development economics, public policy, public health and technology in Australia's world-class universities. Australia Awards, the international scholarship funded by the Australian government, supports the development of human resources to help build a highly skilled workforce. Australia has awarded more than 3,000 scholarships to Bangladeshis since 1972. Australia also maintains a long-term connection with Australia Awards alumni so that the benefits of their experience in the country can continue after returning to Bangladesh. "The knowledge and skills developed during their studies will equip them to contribute to their workplaces and to the development of Bangladesh", said Niblett. Speaking at the event, Speaker of the parliament Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury thanked the Australian Government for the human capacity development opportunities.

BCL leader held with arms, yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested a Chhatra League (BCL) leader with arms and yaba pills in Savar's Dakkhinpara area. The arrestee is Plabon Khan Majlish, organising secretary of Savar Government University College unit of BCL, according to party sources. On information, a team of Rab-4 from Dhaka's Mirpur office conducted a raid in Plabon's house around 11pm on Wednesday and arrested him with a pistol and 500 pieces of yaba, said Mozammel Haque, additional deputy inspector general of Rab-4. The raid continued till 2am, he said. "We have information that he is an accused in a drug-related case and involved in drug trade," said the Rab official. Contacted, Saidul Islam, president of Dhaka district (north) unit of BCL, said, "Plabon has been suspended from the party. We have also requested the central committee president and general secretary to expel him."

Rajshahi mango orchard turns into stork sanctuary

Rab to ensure the birds are protected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

While a High Court directive in this regard was yet to reach Rajshahi yesterday, local administration has virtually turned a mango orchard into a bird sanctuary. Tree owners and traders were about to destroy nests of openbill storks to protect the mangoes. The authorities directed all concerned in Khordo Bausa village under Bagha upazila to protect the birds that are distinguished for their open bills and large stretched wings. They also directed officials of Agriculture Extension Department and Department of Forest to take necessary steps to protect the birds and assess whether they are causing any loss to humans. "Henceforth, the birds will be

protected. None will be allowed to disturb them and destroy their nests in any way," Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner Md Hamidul Haque told The Daily Star yesterday. "If the birds cause any loss to anyone, the administration will take care of the affected persons," the DC said. Rapid Action Battalion held a meeting with the mango orchard owners and mango traders, asking them to refrain from damaging the birds' nests. "Rab will monitor the situation," Mahfuzur Rahman, director of Rab-5 in Rajshahi, said. He said he met the bird lovers and mango traders at Rab-5 headquarters yesterday to make them aware of the laws regarding causing harm to birds.

Rab wanted to take all responsibilities to protect the birds as part of the force's social activities, but they turned to local administration, following the High Court order. In a rule, an HC bench on Wednesday asked the administration to explain why the mango orchard should not be declared a bird sanctuary and directed them to assess the loss faced by orchard owners and traders in 40 days. Hundreds of openbill storks had been nesting on trees around a pond at the village for four years, till 2018. During the fruiting season of mangoes, in February-March this year, the birds moved to the orchard that has some 50 mango trees. Five locals -- who own the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

District-wise budget allocation for children from next fiscal

Says PMO principal coordinator on SDG affairs

BSS, Dhaka

The government will provide separate budgetary allocation for children of every district in the next fiscal year, said Md Abul Kalam Azad, principal coordinator (SDG affairs) at the Prime Minister's Office, yesterday. In the past, there was no such allocation for children, he said. The principal coordinator said though there is no separate goal for children in SDGs, the issue of child development, their rights and safety have been incorporated. He said this while addressing a workshop on "Safety for Children to Attain Sustainable Development Goals: Role of Mass Media" at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital. Children Affairs Journalists Network (CAJN) and World Vision Bangladesh organised the workshop. Azad said the government has

taken initiatives to create scopes for students to receive higher education at home and abroad. The topic of SDGs has been included in the textbooks from classes VIII to X, he added. He said the government is implementing a project to enhance skills in public administration and to impart training on SDGs to government employees and private service holders. Mentioning the motto of SDGs -- "Leaving no one behind" -- he underscored the need for participation of all to implement them. Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Abul Kalam Azad said families should play a key role for the development of children. He said media can play an important role in ensuring a safe environment for children. He called upon the media to maintain journalistic ethics and

standards. Also, media should refrain from publishing any report that could create panic among children, he added. Kendriyo Khelaghar Ashor presidium member Dr Lelin Chowdhury; Channel i senior news editor Mir Masrur Jaman Rony; World Vision deputy director Sabira Sultana Nupur and media relations specialist Debashish Ranjan Sarker joined the panel discussion in the workshop. CAJN President and BSS special correspondent Mahfuza Jasmine presided over the event, moderated by CAJN Vice President and Channel i special correspondent Mostafa Kamal Mallik. World Vision Director Chandan Z Gomez and CAJN General Secretary Shipan Habib delivered the welcome addresses. Journalists from different media houses working on children affairs took part in the workshop.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Four held with 69 gold bars, \$12,000 in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh yesterday arrested four alleged gold smugglers in possession of 69 gold bars worth about Tk 2.50 crore, and seized \$12,000 in separate drives in Benapole's Sadipur and Amrakhali areas. The arrestees are Momin Chowdhury, 55; Nurul Islam, 45; Rafiqul Islam, 33; and Razzak, 40. Lt Col Salim Reza, commanding officer of BGB 49 Battalion, said a team of border guards, acting on a tip-off, arrested Momin with 49 gold bars around 9:30am when he was going to India through Sadipur border. Another BGB team picked up Nurul with 20 gold bars from Amrakhali area around 11am. The paramilitary force arrested Rafiqul and Razzak and seized \$12,000 from them in Putkhali village around 8:30am. BGB filed three cases and handed over the arrestees to police.

Reared lovingly by local man, trees felled for beautification

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet City Corporation is beautifying the city's road medians by planting flower trees, but they had to cut down 48 trees in Pathantula area in the process. An elderly man by the name of Abdul Baten had planted trees on a road median in Pathantula. Of the 48 trees, 22 were Palmyra palm, while the rest were fruit and medicinal plants. Abdul Baten passed away in 2016, but the trees remained and

continued to serve the locality. His family has been caring for the trees for the past three years. However, SCC felled all the trees on Monday. Officials said these trees were planted without proper planning, and now they want to plant peacock flower (radhachura) and royal poinciana (krishnachura). Baten's grandson Abul Hasan Newaj said, "After the road median was constructed in 2012, my grandfather planted those trees and he used to take care of them. But the corporation felled the trees amid protests from locals. It is painful to see the trees which were so dear to my grandfather, being cut down." Ali Hossain, a local trader of the area, said, "Abdul Baten worked hard to grow these trees. People used to take neem and akanda leaves for medicinal use. The corporation should have kept these trees or at least shifted them, considering the memory of an elderly man." Mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury said, "We are beautifying road medians with flower trees. Not all trees are suitable to be planted in road medians. We had to fell those trees for the ongoing development work and we hope the citizens will understand our concern." Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bapa in Sylhet, said, "There should be no reason to cut down trees, but it's also logical that not all trees are suitable for planting in road dividers. However, the city corporation felled the trees without consideration and consultation with locals." "Many trees, specially the Palmyra palm trees could be transferred to a different place," he said. Bhoomishontan Bangladesh, an environmental organisation, yesterday decided to recover some of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Inspector General
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka

Invitation for e-Tender

Memo No-44.01.0000.037.07.023.19.07 Date: 30-10-2019
For the financial year 2019-2020, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Sl	Description	Tender ID No.	Online tender notice publication date & time	Online tender closing date & time
1.	POS Machine	374256	31-Oct-2019 11:00:00	02-Dec-2019 15:00:00
2.	Color Printer	368927	31-Oct-2019 11:00:00	02-Dec-2019 15:00:00
3.	Scanner	374312	31-Oct-2019 11:00:00	02-Dec-2019 15:00:00
4.	Legal Size Scanner	368943	31-Oct-2019 11:00:00	02-Dec-2019 15:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md Munibur Rahman
Addl. DIG (ICT)
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
Tel: 9585302, FAX: 9585302
E-mail: adddigict@police.gov.bd

GD-1795