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17 COAL-FIRED POWER PROJECTS

Pollution to take heavy toll on Cox's Bazar

Says fact-finding mission of environmentalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cox's Bazar will be one of the most polluted places in the country when the 17 planned coal-fired power plants start operation in the district, predicts a report by two environmentalist organisations.

The power plants would pose a great threat to people's health and livelihood, and biodiversity, it adds.

The government acquired 11,642 acres of land in Cox's Bazar for 17 coal-fired power plants to be built by 2031, according to the report released yesterday by a fact-finding mission from Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and Waterkeepers Bangladesh.

The possible environmental or social impact of the plants to the beach town have not been assessed properly, the researchers told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Bapa President Sultana Kamal said, "Development should be well planned and for the greater interest of people without harming the environment.

"We are not against development. But the government keeps choosing environmentally sensitive areas like forests, hills and sea beaches [to build power plants]. We don't want to be the most polluted country in the world. We want to save Cox's Bazar and Maheshkhali."

Bapa Executive President Abdul Matin said his organisation had

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A child walks along Hatirheel near Tongi Diversion Road in the capital. Once a clear water body, the lake is now in an appalling state due to poor maintenance. Its water is so stinky that visitors find it difficult to go for a walk around the lake. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Conference of academics of 70 Asian univs begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day conference of academicians and presidents of 70 Asian universities begins in Dhaka today with a focus on showcasing the universities' best practices and entrepreneurial education.

At least 200 participants, including presidents, rectors, and vice-chancellors of 17 Asian countries' universities, would join the 18th Asian University Presidents Forum (AUPF) 2019.

Daffodil International University (DIU), in collaboration with Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB), will organise the event, for the first time in Bangladesh.

Education Minister Dipu Moni will attend as the chief guest at the opening ceremony in Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, while APUB Chairperson Sheikh Kabir Hossain will be present as the special guest.

AUPF standing committee member Sabur Khan said the theme of this year's event would be

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It's far worse than Nixon's

Says House impeachment chair on Trump's conduct with Ukraine

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump's conduct with Ukraine was far worse than the behaviour that led to Richard Nixon's downfall, the head of the congressional impeachment probe said Thursday as he summed up the case for the US president's removal.

Lawmakers investigating whether Trump abused his office by bullying Ukraine into assisting his re-election efforts have spent three days hearing the most explosive witness testimony since the scandal broke.

Democrats accuse Trump of demanding Ukraine's assistance in a July 25 phone call and via a circle of accomplices, mainly senior figures in his administration.

He stalled almost \$400 million in military aid and a White House visit for new Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, allegedly to coerce Kiev -- which is at war with Russia -- into helping.

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Bangla Bond has huge demand

IFC Country Manager Wendy Werner tells Star

ZINA TASREEN

Gamechanger -- is what best describes the debut of Bangla Bond, a taka-denominated debt instrument, on the London Stock Exchange on November 11 for Bangladesh.

A brainchild of the International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, the Bangla Bond not only brought onboard a new set of foreign investors but was also an acid test for the Bangladesh growth story on the global stage.

Answers to questions on the soundness of Bangladesh's economic fundamentals and longevity of the current stellar growth momentum would be found somewhat

based on the response of global investors, who are heavy on due diligence.

"We have seen quite strong interest from investors," Wendy Werner, IFC's country manager for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, told The Daily Star in an interview on Wednesday upon her return from London.

IFC eventually plans to float \$1 billion in Bangla Bonds, but for now it tested the waters by issuing just \$9.5 million.

And that first tranche was 30 percent oversubscribed, meaning the demand was more than supply -- a bellwether of what lies ahead for Bangladesh and Bangla Bond.

All bond payments (including the initial

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Kids receive chicks for net addiction




CNN ONLINE

A city in Indonesia hopes nature can save kids from internet addiction. But can chicks and trees really replace iPhones and smart TVs?

The city of Bandung in West Java has launched a pilot programme to get students away from screens by giving them baby chickens and chili seeds in the hopes that the children will spend less time on electronic devices and more time caring for their pets or plants.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 23

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:05	12:45	3:45	5:21	7:00
JAMAAT 5:40	1:15	4:00	5:24	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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