



A team of Roads and Highways Department yesterday conducted a drive to knock down illegal structures on both sides of Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar. PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Transcom workers' union holds family event



Transcom Beverages Ltd Srarnik Karmachari Union recently organised "Family Day 2019" at the company's Mouchak, Gazipur plant. Non-management staff and their family members arranged several festive activities throughout the day, said a press release. Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Transcom Beverages Ltd, was the chief guest. Mir Ainul Haque and Ali Hasan, the union's president and general secretary, general managers of different sections of the company and plant managers were also present at the event.

Army chief honours

FROM PAGE 3 He said the nation will never forget their sacrifices. Senior army officers were present on the occasion. After the programme, General Ahmed told reporters that the work of erecting barbed-wire fence at Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar has started. In the first phase, the fence would be erected around Kutupalong and Nayapara Rohingya camps. He also mentioned that the government has approved construction of 287km road along Bangladesh-Myanmar frontiers.

Constant delay

FROM PAGE 3 that's CAUSING the delay, not because of loco masters resting more or the railroad's condition." He said, "Rail lines are constantly being repaired as they must be maintained at all times." Earlier on November 12, a collision between Turna Nishita Express and Udayan Express killed 18 passengers, making everyone question railway safety measures.

ACC sues former Ctg

FROM PAGE 5 market average, the seven had purchased machinery for the 250-bed general hospital. They pocketed over Tk 9.15 crore during the procurement." The irregularities happened for three consecutive years until 2016. ACC started their investigation after receiving information about the corruption, said the DD, adding that after investigation, ACC found truth of the allegations.

Need to prepare graduates

FROM PAGE 3 Experiential Learning: Determinants of Developing Successful Entrepreneurial Eco-System in Asian Economies". The academican said in the face of tremendous change, students will need to develop different skills. Hence, education will no longer just be about knowing, but will require focus on the development of skills and creative thinking. "For example, an organisation like Google doesn't require job applicants to have college degrees, they only recruit candidates whose experiences and skills are best suited for the job," he said. Citing the country's challenges, he said that universities in Bangladesh can form partnerships for access to developed facilities of many universities abroad. He further said his university had launched some books in 2014 and around 60 universities in Asia, including Bangladesh, have been taking the opportunity of browsing those books in the digital platform. "I think, it is a great means of sharing knowledge," he said. Dr Chang spoke of his university and

how they are looking forward to facing future challenges. He said Dongseo University is well known for filmmaking and holds the Busan International Film Festival every year, generally in October. "Actors, directors, producers and film crew who are directly involved in the industry share their experiences with students during the festival, and thus, our graduates can use this experience to be inspired and to enrich their projects," he said. Dr Chang added, "Every semester, we invite about 50 directors, producers or other film personalities who interact with our students, and every week, new faces come here and share their experiences." He said university students are fortunate to have state of the art equipment and latest knowledge provided by the authorities. Dr Chang said the university has a division of digital contents (covering game technology and animation) where people from all over the world share their views and work together. "After graduation, many of our students join studios in different parts of the world, including California," he said.

Fix daily wage

FROM PAGE 3 workers' children and transportation system inside the garden," he demanded. Welcoming the wage board formation to review the minimum wage, he urged the government to eliminate all other disparities so that the workers can lead a decent life with their families. "Without improving workers' living standard, the goal to become middle income country cannot be achieved," he said. In his speech, Jubilee Valley tea workers' union president Kamal Banerjee alleged that they have to use CNG-run auto-rickshaw to take ill persons, and even pregnant women, to the hospital. "This is a pathetic situation. It's the state's duty to implement constitutional rights of people from all walks of life," he said. He alleged that tea garden owners "do whatever they want" and no one protests due to fear of losing their job. Bangladesh Cha Srarnik Union general secretary Ramvajan Koiri demanded permanent residential facilities for tea workers. "The workers' children have been

deprived of primary education due to lack of schools near their residence," he claimed. "Due to unhealthy and insufficient amount of food, 47 percent children of tea garden workers are underweight," he said. Society for Health Extension and Development (SHED) Director Philip Gain said tea workers are still victims of discrimination, just as they had been during British rule. BILS vice chairperson Anwar Hossain presided over the discussion. Meanwhile, Md Shah Alam, president of Bangladesh Tea Association, told The Daily Star that they give the workers many facilities, which people don't talk about. "Despite many crises and difficulties in the tea industry, we give them rice for only Tk 2 per kg, free medical treatment, residential facilities, allowance after retirement and even give jobs to their children," he claimed. He said that tea garden owners and trade union leaders jointly fix the wages every two years following a consultation between both groups.

Cry for justice

FROM PAGE 3 According to the report, at least 1,253 women were raped in first 10 months of this year across the country. Besides, 62 others were murdered after rape during the time period. The report stated that 10 more victims committed suicide after rape within the span and some 767 children were also raped.

Picking up the pieces

FROM PAGE 3 During a lunch-time visit on a Saturday, the café seemed full with patrons queuing up for ordering take-away from the counter. "The new venue is smaller but sales are better than before," Delwar said, adding that working at the previous Holey was a memorable experience. Ali Arsalan hoped that whatever the verdict, may it offer some solace to the victims' families. "Hopefully no more young men will be misguided like the attackers were. Thankfully, Bangladesh feels much safer today than the days and weeks after the incident, and credit goes to everyone involved for their tremendous efforts," he said.

Must challenge toxic

FROM PAGE 3 Praising the government's national plans of action, she stressed for strengthening implementation of existing legal protection for women and girls. "Raise awareness among judiciary and police to ensure a gender-sensitive response," she said. "Provide accessible, confidential, safe and affordable services to survivors and ensure that perpetrators are systematically investigated, brought to justice and convicted in fair trials," she added. Seppo said women and girls are experts on their lived realities and have the right to participate in developing the solutions. The role of an empowered civil society and an inclusive and diverse movement for gender equality is to act as a watchdog and to hold duty-bearers to account, she said. At the same time, women's rights and gender equality NGOs are key experts in developing localised prevention and response solutions, she added. Praising the women's rights movement in Bangladesh and the government's efforts for gender equality, she said, "Together, we can eliminate rape, sexual and gender-based violence and make Bangladesh safe for women and girls." State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatunnesa Indira and Secretary Kamrun Nahar, among others, spoke at the programme.



Garbage is regularly dumped on this side of Sylhet-Dhaka highway, leading to Sylhet city. Locals allege city corporation workers are responsible for the mindless act. This photo was taken recently. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

BNP leaders being denied justice: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged their party leaders and activists are being denied justice as the government has established its "control" over the judiciary. "The wholesale arrest of BNP leaders and activists is now the only way for the government to cling to power. The government is filling up the jails by intensifying its move to arrest BNP leaders and followers," he said in a statement. The BNP leader said his party colleagues are not getting any remedy to injustice in the court. The statement was issued voicing concern over sending BNP executive committee member Azizul Bari Helal to jail, denying his bail petition by a Dhaka court. Fakhru said Helal landed in jail as the court is functioning at the "government's dictate". He also drew a parallel between the current government and the fictional monarch in Satyajit Ray's satirical film "Hirak Rajar Deshe" who governed his kingdom as per his whims. Fakhru alleged that the government has continued its misrule by repressing opposition activists and spreading fear among people. "The country has now become the biggest jail." The BNP leader said the government is trying to destroy BNP and suppress people's voices by oppressing opposition leaders and activists and implicating them in "false" cases. Fakhru demanded that the government immediately release Helal by withdrawing the "false and fabricated" case filed against him.

Star journo among 15

FROM PAGE 3 Reporters Unity (DRU). The event was held at the DGFP office in Karwan Bazar. Moudud Ahmed Sujan of The Daily Star, Mansura Hossain of Prothom Alo, Naznin Munni of Ekattor TV, Alamin Khan of Rtv, blogger Enayet Shaon, and Unmad Magazine cartoonist Arif Iqbal are among the awardees. A total of 39 candidates applied for the programme. Of them, 15 were nominated for the three-month fellowship. Health Minister Zahid Malik handed over the awards to the winners. Shaikh Yusuf Harun, secretary of health education and family welfare division of the ministry; Kabir Ahmed Khan, general secretary of DRU; Kazi AKM Mohiul Islam, director general of DGFP, and other ministry officials were also present at the event.

3 'JMB militants'

FROM PAGE 3 The CITC boss said JMB is trying to regroup in the country under the leadership of its "global chief" Salauddin Ahmed alias Salehin, a death row convict who escaped a prison van ambush in Mymensingh in March 2015. Salehin is believed to be in India now. At the briefing, Monirul said Abu Raihan is Salehin's brother-in-law. They used to maintain direct communication. Abu Raihan took over as the ameer of JMB (Bangladesh chapter) after his predecessor Khorshed Alam Zia was killed during a police raid in Bogura in 2017. They were trying to reestablish JMB and for that they had built a madrasa in the hill tracts, and used to train their operatives there, Monirul said. The faction of JMB used to collect funds through robberies. Besides, one Maulana Abdur Rakib, who stays in a middle eastern country, collected funds from abroad and sent them to the country, CITC officials said. Chan Miah was arrested in March last year during a robbery at a house in the

city's Dakkhinkhan area. But, he walked out on bail and got involved in militant activities again, Monirul said. Another arrestee, Rajib -- hailing from border area in Sherpur district -- would arrange all meetings and programmes at his house in the area. Although this group has become quite weak, they are still capable of making explosives. But police are keeping an eye on them, CITC officials added. HOPE FOR HIGHEST PUNISHMENT FOR HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACKERS Monirul hoped that the eight accused in the Holey Artisan attack case will get highest punishment as per the gravity of their crimes in the verdict slated to be delivered on Wednesday. "We mentioned in the charge sheet their specific roles in planning and executing the attack. We tried to prove their crimes with evidence," he said while replying to a query. "We tried to submit a flawless charge sheet... We are hopeful that we will get expected verdict," he added.

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Happy 93rd Birthday to Mohammad Abdus Sattar
Happiest of birthdays to my Nana - who by sheer determination, hard work, and integrity changed his fortunes and the lives of everyone who came after him. Without the love, sacrifices and difficult decisions that you have had to make since you were young, none of your siblings, children or grandchildren would be who they are today. With all our love and gratitude on your 93rd birthday.
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