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Your Right to Know

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"This result's message is clear. People are saying goodbye to BJP. BJP should go back."
WEST BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE AFTER HER PARTY'S BY-POLLS VICTORY PAGE 8



"Unfortunately, labour is still often seen as a commodity. Workers should be equal partners and this can be done by giving them equitable share of the wealth they create."
PM'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ADVISOR GOWHER RIZVI AT A DIALOGUE B1



"We've to keep in mind that the price of a commodity depends on demand and supply. It cannot be controlled by the Rab, police and army."
AGRICULTURE MINISTER MOHAMMAD ABDUR RAZZAQUE ON HIKE IN ONION PRICES B1



INDIA'S TRANSIT THRU' BANGLADESH

Reaping benefit is a challenge

Routes finalised; meeting next month to fix charges for goods transportation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and PORIMOL PALMA

India has been working strategically to connect its north-eastern region with the rest of the country through Bangladesh since Dhaka agreed to give New Delhi the privilege nine years back.

Experts say that Bangladesh should try to reap as much benefit of the new regional connectivity as possible.

India is developing the infrastructure needed to carry freight through Bangladesh, avoid lengthy detours and save time and money. Officials of the two countries will meet next month to decide which routes will be used at the beginning and how much India should pay Bangladesh in transit fees.

During a recent visit to India, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina agreed to let New Delhi use Chattogram and Mongla ports. This enables India to carry freight using Bangladesh's river, rail lines and roads.

Economists say the improved

connectivity can also help Bangladesh, which is located between South and Southeast Asia, to become a regional hub and growth centre.

RIVER PROTOCOL

In November 2010, India and Bangladesh for the first time signed a transit agreement.

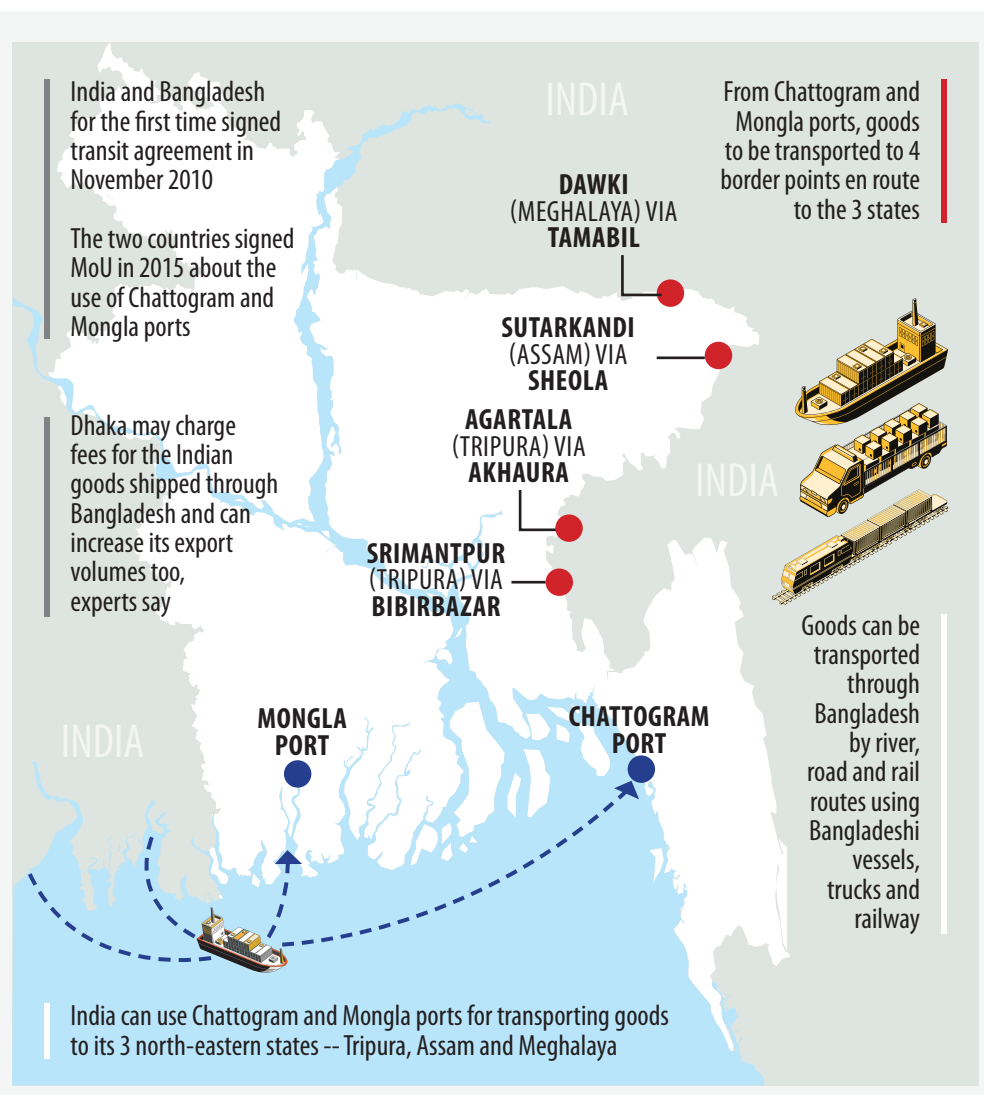
The two governments in 2015 inked a protocol allowing India to use four riverways through Bangladesh, which would link Kolkata and Murshidabad to Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya.

Since Kolkata-Ashuganj-Akhaura river route became operational in June 2016, only 13 cargo vessels used it, paying Bangladesh Tk 28 lakh in transit fees.

Shipping ministry officials said Indian businesses were not using the route regularly as the roads and ports needed to use the waterway were not ready yet.

During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Delhi from October 3-6, the two countries decided to utilise a river route

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Use of ports is linked to transit

Mashiur Rahman tells
The Daily Star



Dhaka and Delhi signed seven MoUs during the prime minister's visit to India early last month. Some of those raised questions in the public mind. Rejaul Karim Byron and Porimol Palma have recently sat with Dr Mashiur Rahman, prime minister's adviser on economic affairs, to learn the details.

The Daily Star: India is going to use Mongla and Chattogram ports. It has already begun using transit and transshipment facilities through Bangladesh which will help the development of India's north-eastern states. What are the benefits to Bangladesh?

Mashiur: India had requested Bangladesh to allow it to use Chattogram Port even before our prime minister's visit there in 2010. Our response was that India could use not only Chattogram, but also

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CIRCULATING NUSRAT CLIP

Ex-OC Moazzem sentenced to 8 years in jail



CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Moazzem Hossain, former officer-in-charge of Sonagazi police station, to eight years' rigorous imprisonment for filming Nusrat Jahan Rafi's statement and circulating the clip without her consent.

Judge Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of the Cyber Tribunal of Dhaka handed down the judgement in Moazzem's presence around 2:40pm.

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Political rivalry led to MP Liton murder

Gaibandha's former JP lawmaker Kader, 6 of his aides get death penalty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A Gaibandha court yesterday sentenced seven accused to death in the murder case of former local Awami League lawmaker Manjurul Islam Liton.

Among the convicts is former local Jatiya Party MP Col (ret'd) Abdul Kader Khan, prime accused in the case.

District and Sessions Judge Dilip Kumar Bhowmick pronounced the verdict in presence of six accused, including Kader.

According to the charge sheet of the case, Kader had planned the murder to eliminate his political rival.

Of the seven convicts, Chandan Kumar Roy fled to India soon after the murder nearly three years ago, said police.

The five other convicts are Anwarul Islam Rana, Shaheen Mia Santo, Rashedul Hasan Mehdi, Kader's personal secretary Shamsuzzoha Sarker and driver Abdul Hannan.

Besides, another charge-sheeted accused Subol Chandra Roy died in jail custody



Manjurul Islam Liton Abdul Kader Khan after suffering from diseases.

In the evening of December 31, 2016, two assailants entered Liton's house in Masterpara of Sundarganj upazila and shot him. They soon fled the scene.

Liton died of his bullet wounds at Rangpur Medical College Hospital that night.

The following day, his younger sister Fahmida Kakoli Bulbul filed the murder case with Sundarganj police station, accusing five people. Police on April 30, 2017, submitted the charge sheet to the court, accusing eight people.

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CAFÉ ATTACK VERDICT

Plan first made in Gaibandha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The plan to launch the terror attack in Holey Artisan Bakery was first chalked out at a rented house in Gaibandha's Saghata upazila in late February 2016.

The house belonged to Nazrul Islam alias Bike Hasan and Shakhawat Hossain Shafiq, according to the full verdict in the Holey Artisan attack case.

The duo got killed later, it said.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the full verdict. Hasan was a member of banned militant outfit of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh and a key accused in Hindu priest Jogeswar Dasadhikari murder case in Panchagarh.

Hasan was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Rajshahi on August 2, 2016. He was known in militant circles as Bike Hasan because he used to pick up and drop off militants on his motorcycle during their criminal operations, investigators said.

Shakhawat Hossain was also a JMB member in the northern region. The investigators, however, could not provide more information about him.

On Wednesday, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal delivered its verdict in the Holey Artisan café attack case, sentencing seven militants to death for their involvement in the grisly crime.

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STAR WEEKEND

FOR A NEW BEGINNING

For more than 28 years, The Daily Star has been in the pursuit of journalism without fear and favour. In those 28 years, change has been the only constant -- we, as journalists, have had to change and The Daily Star, as a source of credible news and views, have had to grow with the times.

Today, it is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to a beloved Friday staple, the **Star Weekend Magazine**. For over two decades, the magazine has engaged, entertained and provoked its readers. It pushed us week after

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Hafizuddin, Khokon bailed hrs after arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to BNP Vice-Chairman Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed and Joint Secretary General Khairul Kabir Khokon, hours after detectives had arrested them on charges of vandalism and police assault during Tuesday's clash near High Court.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sayeed passed the order after DB Inspector Delwar Hossain had produced them before the court with a 10-day remand plea.

Earlier in the day, a DB team arrested the two while they were on their way to the HC for seeking anticipatory bail.

Meanwhile, the HC yesterday granted anticipatory bail to four BNP leaders, including its Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, for eight weeks in the same case.

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A sculpture of Pritilata Waddedhar, a prominent revolutionary figure in the anti-colonial movement, in Chattogram's Pahartoli is covered in dust, due to negligence of the authorities concerned. A piece of cloth wrapped around the bust was hardly useful. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

MATSYAJIBI LEAGUE

What fishermen get from it?

The pro-AL organisation holds its 4th council today

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Bangladesh Awami Matsyajibi League is supposed to work for the welfare of fishermen. But the pro-Awami League organisation has hardly been seen doing so since its inception in 2004.

Also, most of the members of its 111-strong central committee don't even belong to the fishermen community. They have nothing to do with fisheries either.

Besides, Matsyajibi leaders claim the organisation has a staggering 3.5 crore members across Bangladesh, which is almost one fifth of the country's population.

Department of Fisheries data, however, shows that the total number of fishermen in the country is around 24.55 lakh. They include some 2.67 lakh shrimp and 22,244 commercial fish farmers.

The number of the registered fishermen is some 16.20 lakh, according to the data.

Still, if anyone goes by the claim of the Matsyajibi League leaders, there remains a big question: What services does the organisation, with so many members, provide to the fishermen community?

The leaders also claimed that they have committees even at village and bazar levels.

They said the central committee has 111 members while each district committee 67 members, upazila committee 45 members, union committee 31 members, ward committee 25 members, and village and bazar committee

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