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"Don't let technology take advantage of you."
PROF MUHAMMED ZAFAR IQBAL
URGES STUDENTS (PAGE 3)



"We don't want any leader who will be involved in extortion. We want dedicated leaders with clean image."
ROAD TRANSPORT MINISTER OBAIDUL QUADER ON MATSYAJIBI LEAGUE



"What we don't do traditionally as loving allies and friends is get involved in each other's election campaigns."
BORIS JOHNSON CALLS ON DONALD TRUMP TO KEEP OUT OF UK ELECTION (PAGE 8)

EXPORT THRU SHAHJALAL AIRPORT

Too costly for businesses

Many exporters opting for Kolkata, Colombo airports to save time, money

REFAJET ULLAH MIRDHA and RASHIDUL HASAN

Last month, Monir Hossain, a garment factory owner, missed a deadline for exporting T-shirts to his UK buyer through the seaways.

So the only option he was left with was to send the shipment by air.

Initially, Monir, whose main export destination is the United Kingdom, wanted to send the consignment -- weighing around 5,000kgs -- through the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka, but then he opted for the less costly route via Kolkata.

"It saved me at least 30 cents [Tk 25.50] per kg and a precious day," he told The Daily Star recently.

Monir is not alone. Many other garment exporters have started sending their cargo through the Kolkata and Colombo airports to save money and time, amid high handling charges and a lack of adequate space facilities at the Dhaka airport.

Insiders say the exporters, on average, can save up to five hours if they use the

Indian airport.

The new Indian route was opened last year for shipment of only garment items due to space constraints in HSIA's RA3 area, a secured place at the cargo village from where the goods are loaded onto the planes.

Usually, the cost of sending a kg of apparel from the Dhaka airport through direct flight to the destination in Europe is \$2.0 to \$2.20 per kg, said Syed Md Bakhtiar, director (in-charge, Port and Customs, Dhaka) of Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association (BAFFA).

On top of that, forwarders have to pay 8 cents per kg to Biman Bangladesh Airlines as terminal handling charge and 6 cents per kg to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) as different security scanning charges.

Besides, Caab charges 2 cents per kg as semi-automation charge from export cargos, according to the BAFFA.

"These rates are too high and Dhaka is more expensive than Singapore," Bakhtiar

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Brick kilns have been set up along the Dhaleshwari river in Kuichamara area of Dhaka's Keraniganj upazila. Besides, extraction of sand from the river by traders goes on unabated. Such activities are seriously harming the environment. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Over 1 lakh hospitalised since January

Says DGHS report on dengue outbreak

UNB, Dhaka

Over one lakh dengue patients have received treatment at different hospitals across the country since January, says a Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) report.

Of them, 73 patients, including 37 in Dhaka, were detected with dengue in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Among the hospitalised, 99,306 recovered completely and returned home, the report said, adding that 451 patients are currently undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease

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Curious foreign trip

BWDB team goes to US, UK to learn canal digging; officials preparing for retirement also included

TAWFIQUE ALI

A team of soon-to-retire engineers and an administration official are leaving for the US and the UK on a two-week trip ostensibly to learn about digging canals, protecting river banks, restoring embankments, and dredging rivers, which they had been doing for over three decades.

Of the four officials approved for the trip by the water resources ministry, one is a senior engineer who would retire in December. Another engineer has about five months before he too would retire, official documents reveal.

The officials going on the trip are: Additional Director General AKM Shamsul Karim, Additional Chief Engineer Mir Mosharraf Hossain and Superintendent Engineer Md Ruhul Amin of Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB). They will be accompanied by Mahmudul Islam, additional secretary of the water resources ministry.

The trip is part of a Tk195-crore project

being implemented by Dockyard and Engineering Works Limited, an enterprise of Bangladesh Navy. The government officials have no direct role, except coordinating, in the project implementation, said water development board officials, requesting anonymity.

Only three days before their scheduled trip, the officials couldn't even tell this correspondent what advanced knowledge they were hoping to gain and from which institutions in the US and the UK.

The BWDB has a training institute in Munshiganj for its engineers. It also jointly runs Kaptai Training Institute with the Power Development Board.

Officials of the board said the expensive foreign trip was a farce and complete waste of public money.

Asked what they are going to learn in the USA and the UK, Superintendent Engineer Ruhul Amin said, "We will learn about Chicago harbour management, and see management of beaches, rivers, and coasts in the US and the UK."

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Cops try to frame man with yaba pills

ASI, 2 constables, an informant arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three policemen and a police source were arrested at Sakhipur upazila following allegations that they attempted to frame a man with yaba tablets on Thursday night.

The arrestees are: Assistant Sub-Inspector of Bashtoil police outpost under Mirzapur Police Station Riazul Islam, constables Gopal Saha and Mohammad Rasel, and police source Mohammad Hasan.

Witnesses said five policemen in plainclothes and their two sources went to Hotea area in Sakhipur upazila on Thursday evening. They tried to put yaba tablets in the shirt pocket of labourer Bazlur Rahman, 25, and forcibly get him into a three-wheeler.

Hearing his screams, locals stopped the vehicle.

As per Bazlu's statement, they then searched the policemen and found several yaba pills in their possession, witnesses said.

The angry locals then beat up three policemen and a source and confined them to a shop. Two constables Abdul Halim and Mozammel Hossain and other source Al Amin, however, managed to flee the scene.

On information, a team of Mirzapur Police Station took the three policemen and the source to the police outpost, where senior police officials interrogated them.

At night, Ainul Haque, a sub-inspector of Sakhipur Police Station, filed a case

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Govt to help farmers buy agri tools

Tk 415cr project on the cards



REJAUL KARIM BYRON and SOHEL PARVEZ

Amid the soaring cost of agricultural labour, the government is going to launch a project worth Tk 415 crore to give subsidy to the farmers for buying agricultural machinery so that they can harvest crops at a reduced cost.

Under the scheme, the government will offer 3,000 combine harvesters, 2,000 reapers and 300 transplanters to farmers and farm equipment renters at a subsidised rate during the ongoing Aman season and the upcoming Boro season, according to a letter sent by Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to the Ministry of Finance last month.

The state will bear 60 percent cost of these machinery and farmers will have to bear the rest, according to the MoA letter seeking release of the fund.

The agriculture ministry takes the new scheme after implementing a similar project worth Tk 339 crore.

Under the previous project, the government provided subsidy up to 70 percent to farmers for buying agricultural machinery. The project ended in June this year.

The latest move comes in the face of soaring wages due to a shortage of farm labourers during the peak season of harvesting and transplanting rice, causing a loss in the yield of rice that is cultivated on 71 percent of the total 1.54 crore of croplands, according to official data.

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Putting their lives at risk, people travel in a pick-up truck on Dhaka-Mawa highway in Shologhar area of Munshiganj's Sreenagar upazila yesterday. Such illegally modified vehicles carry about 10 passengers each. Only eight days ago, nine people were killed in a road crash in the area.

PHOTO: STAR

LANDMINE BLAST

Rohingya man killed, 2 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A Rohingya refugee was killed and two others were injured in a suspected landmine explosion on the Myanmar side of the border along Bandarban on Thursday night, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has said.

A group of refugees spotted the body and the two injured men lying near pillar number 39 along the Ghumdhum area under Bandarban's Naikhongchhari upazila, said BGB Battalion-34 Commander Lt Col Ali Haider Azad Ahmed.

"The group was on its way back to Kutupalong camp from Myanmar," he said.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Hamid, 32, while the injured are Mahmudul Haque, 26, and Habibur Rahman, 25, the BGB commander said, adding that all of them are from Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar.

According to residents of

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We last saw our father, Annisul Huq on the 30th of November, 2017.

While we miss his physical presence, we feel the strength of his spirit in our lives. We invite you, on behalf of our mother, to remember and pray for him today Saturday, the 30th of November after Asr prayers at Gulshan Central Mosque (Azad Mosque).

Kindest Regards,

Navid
Wamiq
&
Tanisha

