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REGD. No. DA 781 | VOL. XXIX No. 312 | AGRAHAYAN 17, 1426 BS | RABIU'S SANI 4, 1441 HIJRI | 20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 12.00



"Justice delayed is justice denied. At the same time, justice hurried is justice buried. Both are true. The judiciary has to function in line with these two notions."
LAW MINISTER ANISUL HUQ AT A CITY PROGRAMME



"The backs of hill people are up against the wall They will now try to fight back. And for that they will do everything necessary."
PCJSS PRESIDENT SHANTU LARMA AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CITY (PAGE 16)



"We must stop our war against nature, and science tells us we can do it."
UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES AHEAD OF UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN MADRID (PAGE 8)

KILLING OF DIA, RAJIB BY BUS

Call for caution was ignored

Court says, hands down life term to two drivers, helper; one owner acquitted, no decision on the other whose trial HC stayed

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER, TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI



The drivers of two Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan buses involved in the killing of two college students in 2018 were well aware of the high risk of driving down the ramp of a flyover.

Yet, they were racing on the Zillur Rahman flyover in the capital's Shewra area and did not slow down on the ramp before the accident.

Passengers and helper of one of the buses even requested the driver, Masum Billah, to drive carefully but he paid no heed to anyone. He drove on recklessly just to have more passengers to make more money.

This is how a Dhaka court described the fateful event before handing down life sentence to Masum.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court also awarded life imprisonment to the other driver, Zobair Hossain Sumon, and his helper Kazi Asad, for instigating the crime.

The court, however, acquitted Masum's helper Enayet Hossain and owner of the bus Jahangir Alam as it did not find their "direct involvement" in the accident, which sparked a huge student agitation in the capital for road safety.

It did not give any decision about Shahadat Hossain, owner of Zobair's bus, as the High Court stayed the trial proceedings against him. He is currently on bail.

Of the accused, Asad is on the run while the other four are behind bars.

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PepsiCo India President Ahmed El Sheikh, left, Bishwo Shahitto Kendro Chairman Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Faraaz's mother Simeen Hossain, extreme right, hand Faraaz Hossain Courage Award-2019 to Farida Yesmin, former UNO of Netrakona's Barhatta upazila, at a function in the capital's Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel yesterday. Farida won the award for her courageous role in preventing child marriage.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 2, 1971 Muktibahini attack a Pakistan army camp at Ghorashal in Narshingdi and kill 27 militia men. They seize a good amount of arms and ammunition.

Muktibahini occupy Azampur Railway Station in Akhaura upazila of Brahmanbaria. The Pakistan army, however, gathers strength and recaptures the station. Later, the liberation force organise themselves again and drives away the Pakistanis with a three-way attack strategy.

Muktibahini
SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

No syndicate in onion market

Says Tofail Ahmed after JS body meet

Tofail Ahmed, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on commerce, yesterday said there was no syndicate in the onion market and that the prices of the bulb could not be brought down by force.

"We will have to bring down the prices of onions through a concerted effort," the senior AL lawmaker said while briefing the reporters after a meeting of the committee at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Terming businessmen the friends of the government, the senior AL lawmaker thanked different business conglomerates, including Meghna Group, City Group and S Alam Group, for supporting the government by importing onions and sell those without any profit.

The former commerce minister also said journalists can play a pivotal role in reducing the prices of onions by not publishing stories on the skyrocketed prices of the cooking ingredient.

"In many countries, media do not cover the price hike of essentials," he added.

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Central bank may cap interest rates

Finance minister sets Jan 1 deadline for bringing them down to single digit

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank may cap the interest rates on industrial and working capital loans on January 1 as the government moved to bring down the lending rates to single digits to give a much-needed boost to job creation and private investment.

Following an instruction from the finance ministry, the central bank yesterday formed a seven-member committee headed by SM Moniruzzaman, a deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank, to bring down the interest rate to single digits.

The committee comprised representatives from private and state-owned banks representatives and will submit its recommendations within a

week.

The BB committee would recommend ways to bring down the lending rates, the deposit rates and the defaulted loans.

"Following the recommendations, we will implement the decisions," Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters yesterday.

Other members of the committee are Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, chairman of Standard Bank, Zaid Bakht, chairman of Agrani Bank, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, Md Obayed Ullah Al Masud, MD of Rupali Bank, Shah A Sarwar, MD of IFIC Bank, and Mehmood Husain, MD of NRB Bank.

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Relentless against child marriage

Former UNO honoured with Faraaz Hossain Courage Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a rainy day in July 2018. As the evening fell, someone called Farida Yesmin, upazila nirbahi officer of Netrakona's Barhatta, over her phone and informed her that a child marriage was about to take place in Kawrashi, a remote village in the upazila near the Bangladesh-India border.

Farida immediately called the police and left for the village in the dark of the night amid rain and thunderstorms.

The road was so bad that at one point, the UNO and her team had to leave their vehicles. They walked about two kilometres to find the girl's home.

"As we reached the spot, a local leader tried to stop us. But despite all these hurdles, we were able to prevent the marriage," Farida said while recalling how she and her team stopped a staggering 59 child marriages after she joined as the Barhatta UNO on May 9, 2017.

She also provided financial help to a number of poor girls so that they could continue their studies.

Besides, Farida set up a fund and bought cycles for some

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SEVEN RINGS CEMENT
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Colourful opening raises 13th SA Games curtains

ATIQUA ANAM from Kathmandu

A colourful opening ceremony launched the 13th South Asian Games, the biggest multi-sport extravaganza of the region, at the Dasarath Rangasala in Kathmandu yesterday, with words of peace and unity in diversity of the South Asian region writ large on the displays and performances.

Glitz and glamour set aside for a refreshing change, the more-than-three-hour-long ceremony had a feel of authenticity about it, projecting in abundance the rich cultural heritage of the Himalayan Kingdom and the South Asian region as a whole.

Gautam Buddha and Lord Shiva were featured prominently in the opening ceremony of the Games, which is based on the principles of 'Peace, prosperity, unity and development'.

Starting with the marchpast of athletes and officials and ending with a prolonged lighting of firecrackers, the programme

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A filling station in Bagerhat town looks deserted yesterday amid an indefinite strike called by Bangladesh Petrol Pump O Tank Lorry Malik Shramik Oikya Parishad. Inset, parked tank lorries in the town. The platform started enforcing the strike in three divisions yesterday morning to press home its 15-point demand, including commission on fuel sale and introduction of accident insurance for tank lorry workers. More on page 5.

PHOTO: STAR

919 diagnosed with HIV this year

Health ministry survey finds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 919 HIV-infected people have been detected in the country this year, the highest in the last 20 years, said a government survey.

Conducted by the National AIDS/STD Programme of the health ministry, the survey said 170 of the affected people had

already succumbed to the virus.

The findings were revealed at a seminar organised by the health ministry at the capital's Krishibid Institution auditorium to mark the World AIDS Day yesterday.

Md Shamiul Islam, director of the Mycobacterial Disease Control Directorate and line director of TBL and ASP, presented

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Annual General Meeting & Vestiture

Enamul Haque Khan
President

Dilip Kumar Agarwala
General Secretary

Annual General Meeting & Vestiture of newly Executive Committee of Bangladesh Jewellers Samity (BAJUS) will be held on 02 November/2019 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka at 05 PM. All the members of BAJUS are requested to attend the ceremony.

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