





Another MRT line in the offing

\$33m loan deal signed with ADB

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government yesterday signed a loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank to get the long-cherished MRT Line-5 (southern route) project going. The Manila-based multilateral lender will provide \$33.26 million of the \$44.58 million needed to conduct detailed feasibility studies, engineering designs, and procurement documentation for the 17.4km line; all of which is expected to be done by 2023. Bangladesh will foot the remaining \$11.32 million needed for the purpose. Interest rate for the loan will be 2 percent and the amount will be repaid in 25 years after a five-year grace period.

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A kitchen market established illegally under Babubazar bridge. Locals said a group of influential people built the market in exchange for money.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

UK votes to break Brexit impasse

AFP, Guiseley

Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday vowed to “fight for every vote” after polls predicted a close finish to Britain’s general election aimed at settling the Brexit crisis.

Britons head to the polls for the third time in four years today, against a backdrop of political

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 12

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Chinese man murdered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a Chinese man was found buried behind an 11-storey building in the capital’s Banani yesterday. Jianhui Gao, 47, was a stone supplier for the Padma bridge project, said Sudip Chakrabarty, deputy commissioner (Gulshan) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. He lived in a rented flat on the sixth floor of the 11-storey building on road 23. A caretaker of the building called the police yesterday morning after noticing Gao’s hair and a part of his feet on the ground. The Chinese Embassy and the Criminal

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Commissioners hit out at EC secretariat

Meet CEC, accuse secretariat of falsehood over recruitment

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The rift between the Election Commission Secretariat and the four election commissioners has widened further centring alleged irregularities in appointment of employees and the commissioners’ jurisdiction over the EC secretariat’s operations. At a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday, the commissioners alleged that the secretariat officials are trying to stir up arguments with them over the secretariat’s operations and “irregularities” in the recent appointment of 340 EC staffers. The commissioners -- Mahbub Talukder, Rafiqul Islam, Kabita Khanam, and Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury -- read out written statements at the meeting. An unscheduled discussion took place on the EC secretariat’s answer to the commissioners’ unofficial note seeking information on its functions and their jurisdiction

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Two sisters gang-raped in Tongi

STAR REPORT

Two sisters were allegedly gang-raped in Tongi on Tuesday night, while a man was arrested on charges of raping a minor girl in Narayanganj. Quoting the victims, police said the two sisters, aged between 17 and 18, went to Tongi from the capital’s Badda area around 8:00pm to visit their relatives. After reaching Tongi, they tried to contact their relatives over mobile phone. But they found their phones switched off. They were waiting on the bank of Turag. At that time, an unknown woman approached them and

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