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Luxury at the expense of students' cause

JU VC gets ritzy office with funds for student welfare, research, depts



MUNTAKIM SAAD and MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The Jahangirnagar University authorities have spent more than Tk 84 lakh to decorate the new luxurious office of Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam, taking the money from funds meant for student welfare, research and development of the departments.

In January this year, the JU authorities published a tender notice in two national dailies for decorating the VC office, mentioning the University Grants Commission (UGC) as the funding agency.

But UGC officials told this newspaper that the commission did not allocate any such funds, and that publication of this kind of notice using its name is inappropriate.

Shah Alam, director of the UGC's Finance and Accounts Division, said, "I talked to the official concerned. No such fund was allocated for decoration at the JU."

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Palm trees planted only about a month ago to beautify the pavement at Karwan Bazar are dying due to neglect. The Dhaka North City Corporation evicted illegal structures from the area and cleared the pavement. But hawkers have left little room for pedestrians to walk by. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Two 'yaba traders' die in 'shootout'

They were held a day before

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two suspected yaba traders were killed in a "gunfight" with police in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday, a day after their arrest.

The dead are Nur Alam alias Nur Hafez, 35, and his cohort Sohel, 25. Of them, Nur was an enlisted yaba kingpin in the home ministry's list, said police.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said they conducted a raid, along with the duo, around 4:00am in Rangkhail hill area to recover firearms.

As soon as they reached the area, Nur's cohorts opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he claimed.

At one point, the duo sustained bullet injuries. Police then rushed them to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex. Observing their conditions, doctors of the health complex referred the duo to Cox's Bazar Sadar

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A divided Bar harms judiciary

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising divisions in the Supreme Court Bar Association, a former Appellate Division judge yesterday said the country would have a "spineless judiciary" due to divisions in the Bar and partisan role of lawyers.

Speaking at a discussion, Justice Md Abdul Matin said the judiciary wouldn't have been "weak" had the lawyers not been split into BNP and Awami League camps and they considered themselves as guardian of laws.

Humanity Foundation organised the programme titled "12 years of separation of judiciary from the executive" at the Jatiya Press Club.

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder, Bangladesh Bar Council Vice President Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association Mahbub Uddin Khokon, former district judge Masdar Hossain, Ain o Salish Kendra Executive Director Sheeba Hafiza, and Chief Executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association Syeda Rizwana Hasan, among others, also spoke at the discussion.

Mentioning the names of Khokon and Humayun, Justice Matin said they were responsible for the "calamity in the

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NEWS ANALYSIS

An expression of concern?

2 ministers cancelling India tours could be a reflection of Dhaka's worry over Citizenship Amendment Act, NRC

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The cancellations of Foreign Minister Abdul Momen and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan's visits to India amid protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act could be seen as the first sign of rough edges in the bilateral relations over the contentious law.

The cancellations came amidst widespread protests in Assam and Meghalaya against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

While Momen was to attend the sixth Indian Ocean Dialogue, a flagship multilateral event organised by the Indian external affairs ministry, Asaduzzaman was expected to attend an event in Shillong to pay tribute to the freedom fighters of Bangladesh who had been in the camps there in 1971.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma had invited Asaduzzaman to visit the places where the latter stayed during the Liberation War.

Besides participating in the Indian Ocean Dialogue, Momen was also expected to hold bilateral talks with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Officially, however, both sides sought to play down any suggestion of the cancellations being a setback for the robust ties, which have scaled new heights in the last decade encompassing a range of wide areas, or having any links to the citizenship law or protests against it in the north eastern

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RUMPA'S DEATH Evidence of rape not found

Says doctor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The autopsy on the body of Stamford University student Rubaiyat Sharmin Rumpa found no sign of rape, said a forensic doctor who conducted the autopsy.

Sohel Mahmud, chief of the forensic department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, made the disclosure after receiving a preliminary post-mortem report yesterday.

"We have received the microbiological report which did not find any signs of rape," said Mahmud.

The preliminary report will be handed over to investigators today, he added.

"Two other reports are pending. We will submit the full autopsy report after talking to the investigation officers, considering the

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Yacht that turns into a submarine



CNN ONLINE

It looks like something straight out of a James Bond movie, but this concept might just signal that the future of superyachts is sub-aquatic.

Dreamed up by Italian-based naval architect Elena Nappi, the hybrid vessel can travel on both the surface of the sea and underwater.

Known as the "Carapace," it submerges to a depth of 985 feet for up to 10 days at a time, offering amazing views of marine life.

Nappi, who came up with the innovative concept after years of nautical experimentation research, says it represents a "new class of mega yachts," bringing together the cosiness of luxury yachts and the "privacy" of immersion navigation.

"The world of luxury submarines is one of the last frontiers in the field of experimentation, and perhaps the hybrid will be the language of the future," Nappi says in a statement.

"Very often yacht owners are looking for

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KERANIGANJ FIRE Factory owner, other accused still at large

Another victim dies, death toll now 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days have passed since the deadly fire at a Keraniganj plastic factory, but police are yet to find out the factory owner and other accused in the murder case filed in this connection.

Shah Zaman, officer-in-charge of Dakkhin Keraniganj Police Station, said all the accused, including the factory owner, are on the run.

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 15

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:05	12:45	3:45	5:21	7:00
JAMAAT 5:50	1:15	4:00	5:24	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Father, son killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A man and his son were killed in a road accident in Jhenidah's Maheshpur upazila yesterday.

The dead are: Mohidul Islam, 48, and his son Hasibul Islam, 19, of Shibbanandapur in the upazila, said police.

Amanullah, inspector (investigation) of Maheshpur Police Station, said while returning home on a motorcycle from Nasthi Bazar area, a bus ran them over at speed around 5:00pm.

Hasibul, a class-XII student of Maheshpur Degree College, died on the spot, said police, adding that Mohidul was taken to the upazila health complex.

Doctors in the health complex referred him to Jashore General Hospital. He died around 8:30pm on his way to the hospital.

Police seized the bus. The driver however, managed to flee, said police.



Demonstrators react in front of military police as Greenpeace stages a climate protest at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UN CLIMATE SUMMIT IN MADRID Nations divided, talks near end

AFP, Madrid

A UN climate summit in Madrid risked collapsing yesterday after all-night negotiations between countries left them more divided than ever over on how to fight global warming and pay for its ravages.

Diplomats from rich nations, emerging giants and the world's poorest countries -- each for their own reasons -- found fault in a draft agreement put forward by host Chile in a botched attempt to strike common ground.

Faced with alarm warnings from science, deadly extreme weather made worse by climate change, and weekly strikes by millions of young people, negotiations in Madrid were under pressure to send a clear signal that governments are willing to double down in tackling the crisis.

But the 12-day talks, now deep into overtime, had retreated even further from this goal yesterday.

"It appears that we are going backwards on the issue of ambition when we should be calling for a quantum leap in the other direction," Marshall Islands climate envoy Tina Stege said.

"I need to go home and look my children in the eye and say we got an outcome that is going to ensure their future, and the future of all of our children," she added as her voiced cracked with emotion.

Veteran observers of UN climate talks were stunned by the state of play nearly 24 hours after the negotiations had been set to close.

"I have never seen such a disconnect between what the science requires and the people of the world demand, versus what the climate negotiations are delivering," Alden Meyer, strategy and policy director at the Union of Concerned Scientists, told AFP.

Under the Paris accord, countries agreed in 2015 to work

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