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CITIZENSHIP ACT

No stay order by Indian SC

Indian top court to examine its validity, hearing on Jan 22; demos in Delhi, West Bengal

STAR REPORT

India's Supreme Court yesterday declined to stay the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) but agreed to examine its constitutional validity.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant fixed the next hearing on January 22.

It issued a notice to the Indian government seeking a reply to all the 59 petitions challenging the amended law that makes it easier for Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who entered India before 2015 to acquire citizenship.

The Citizenship Amendment Bill was passed by parliament and assented to by President Ram Nath Kovind last week turning it into an Act.

The apex court took note of the submission by a local Bharatiya Janata Party leader Ashwini Upadhyay that there is confusion among citizens about the Citizenship Amendment Act and asked the Attorney General, representing the Indian government, to consider using audio-visual medium to make citizens aware about amended law.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Homeless people trying to keep warm by setting rubbish on fire by the rail lines at the capital's Karwanbazar yesterday evening. The sudden drop in temperature caught many people by surprise.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Mercury falls across the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Winter is here. The whole country began to feel the chill as temperatures began falling since yesterday.

Dhaka recorded a temperature of 16.2 degrees Celsius at its lowest, while the lowest of 10.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Rajarhat in Rangpur division, according to the Met office.

A mild to moderate cold wave is likely to sweep over the northwestern part of the country in the next few days, said meteorologist of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) Mohammad Aftab Uddin.

"The temperature may fall [by] 1 to 2 degree Celsius more across the country in the next 24 hours," he said yesterday evening.

He added that the fall in temperature would continue till December 21, after which it would begin to rise.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

On this day in 1971
DECEMBER 19
Radio Pakistan broadcasts the resignation announcement of Pakistan President Yahya Khan. He will resign handing over the power. Pakistan People's Party leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is

ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS 62pc wage hike proposed

Board submits draft report; implementation will be difficult, say experts

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Minimum Wage Board has submitted a draft report to the government, proposing a 62 percent hike in the minimum wages of staffers and workers of the private road transport sector.

It also recommended a five percent annual increase in the minimum wage for the workers. The draft would be finalised within two weeks of the gazette publication on December 12, if no objections are raised.

The new wage structure comes against a backdrop where the recommendations

of the previous board, declared in 2010, remain unimplemented, and almost all drivers, conductors and helpers do not get their monthly wages. Their earnings depend on the number of the trips they make in a day.

The trip-based payment system is one of the reasons behind road crashes as drivers often resort to rash driving to make as many trips as possible to earn more money.

Besides, most road transport workers have not gotten any appointment letters over the years and remained out of legal coverage in case of job-related issues. The

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Return to Rakhine

Myanmar-Asean team urges refugees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A joint delegation of Myanmar and the Asean yesterday met a group of some 40 Rohingya representatives to convince them to return to Rakhine, from where they fled a brutal military crackdown in 2017.

The 15-member delegation includes nine officials from Myanmar and six officials from the Emergency Response and Assessment team of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

This was the first visit by a Myanmar delegation after

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Ancient 'chewing gum' yields human DNA

CNN ONLINE

Lola, a young girl who lived in Denmark 5,700 years ago, had blue eyes, dark skin and dark hair. Her last meal included hazelnuts and mallard duck but no milk -- she couldn't stomach dairy.

And the reason we know any of this is because she chewed on birch pitch, a material that functioned a bit like an ancient chewing gum.

A study of that birch pitch has uncovered the girl's entire genome and oral microbiome, marking

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Rejoinder

In a rejoinder to a report published on Wednesday in The Daily Star headlined "2 jailed over rape attempt on Aussie tourist", Mermaid Beach Resort yesterday said it was wrongly mentioned as the scene of the crime.

The Mermaid resort was not involved in the incident in any way, the rejoinder added.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 19

Fajr 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

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