

PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT



CITY

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

World's Largest VRM



1 Year of Dec 3O Polls

31 injured as police, left activists clash

STAR REPORT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday obstructed left parties' programmes organised to protest the last general elections that they claimed were marred by irregularities.

Meanwhile, the BNP alleged that the law enforcers obstructed its scheduled rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office.

Yesterday was the first anniversary of the election.

At least 31 people were injured when police and activists of Democratic Left Alliance (DLA), a combine of eight left parties, clashed in front of Matsya Bhaban. The BNP observed the day as "democracy killing day",

and the DLA observed it as "black day for democracy". In a statement later, the DLA claimed that police injured its 50 activists. Protesting the incident, it will hold rallies across the country today. In Dhaka, the left parties will demonstrate in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The left parties held a brief protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Police barricaded the left activists in front of Kodom fountain near the Supreme Court when they were marching towards the Prime Minister's Office around 12:30pm, demanding re-election under a caretaker government, and stepping down of the government, said witnesses.

The protesters moved forward breaking the barricade. But they were again obstructed by police near the Matsya Bhaban, they said.

As they tried to go forward, a clash broke out between them there.

Police charged truncheons on the demonstrators who threw brick chunks and placards at the law enforcers. A chase and counter-chase continued for around half an hour, the witnesses added.

The clash left 31 people wounded, including Chief SEE PAGE 2 COL 3 An excavator knocks down shanties built on grabbed railway land in Akbar Shah area of Chattogram city. During a daylong drive, the estate department demolished several hundred such

> рното: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

DUTA POLLS Landslide win for pro-AL teachers





Pro-Awami League faculty members yesterday secured a landslide victory in Dhaka University Teachers'

Nizamul

Their panel named Blue bagged 14 of the 15 posts in executive committee. The White panel of BNP and Jamaat supporting teachers won only the post of vice

Prof ASM Maksud Kamal was elected president for the fourth consecutive time with 933 votes. His White panel opponent Prof Laila

Bhuiyan, provost of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall, was elected general secretary with 729 votes, defeating White panel contestant Prof Hasanuzzaman who got 643 votes.

White panel was elected winning vice-president, with a narrow margin of three votes. He defeated Prof Sadeka Halim who got

S Muazzem Ali passes away

STAR REPORT

Veteran diplomat Syed Muazzem Ali passed away yesterday in Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the capital. He was 75. Muazzem Ali was admitted to the hospital

after he had fallen ill on December 24. There, he was diagnosed with pneumonia and had almost recovered. He suddenly had a

cardiac arrest yesterday around 9:00am and died around 11:55am, his elder sister Prof Fawzia Ali said. The former foreign

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2 PHOTO ON PAGE 2

Power plant flouts DoE limits

Generates almost four times more power than allowed, pollutes air

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Violating the limit and conditions set by the Department of Environment (DoE), a private power plant in Chattogram has been producing 75 megawatts of unauthorised electricity polluting the air.

An inspection by the DoE Chattogram (region) in October found that the plant owned by Abul Khair Group was producing 95 megawatts with an out-of-order air treatment plant (ATP). Abul Khair Steel and Power Ltd at Madambibir Hat in Sitakunda had

obtained clearance from the DoE in 2010 for generating 25MW to be used for the group's steel factory. As per the Environment Conservation Rules 1997, power plants fall

under the red category, which means power production can seriously harm the surrounding environment if mitigation measures are not taken. Thus, the DoE clearance was issued with 21 conditions which required the plant not to pollute the air, soil and water, and keep its ATP functional

and to take permission before increasing production. Analysis of the air around the plant at the DoE Chattogram lab revealed that in some places the pollutant Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) was 460 microgram per cubic metre, much higher than the national standard of 200, said Muktadir Hasan, assistant director of the DoE Chattogram

(region). Suspended Particulate Matter includes pollen, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets hazardous to humans.

Based on the findings, the DoE slapped the plant with Tk 5 lakh fine on December 18, Muktadir added.

Sensing imminent punitive action, the plant authorities on November 20 sought clearance for additional power production from the DoE, a little SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

US AIR STRIKES IN IRAQ

25 fighters of pro-Iran group killed

AFP, Baghdad

US air strikes against a pro-Iran group in Iraq killed at least 25 fighters, a paramilitary umbrella said yesterday, triggering anger in a country caught up in mounting tensions between Tehran and Washington.

The attacks on Sunday night saw US planes hit several bases belonging to the Hezbollah brigades, one of the most radical factions of Hashed al-Shaabi, a

including commanders and fighters, and the toll could yet rise," according to the

It said it was still pulling victims from the rubble of bases near Al-Qaim, an Iraqi district bordering Syria, yesterday.

Abbas Mousavi said the US had "shown its firm support for terrorism and its neglect for the independence and sovereignty of countries" by carrying out the attacks.

Washington -- itself a key ally of of its "illegal act", Mousavi added.

US Defence Secretary Mark Esper

Tehran-backed Iraqi paramilitary coalition. The strikes "killed 25 and wounded 51,

Hashed, which holds major sway in Iraq.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman

Baghdad -- must accept the consequences

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Guam Rail back after 40 yrs of extinction

illegal structures in the area yesterday. Inset, a local moving a

TV set elsewhere.



CNN ONLINE

Almost four decades after completely disappearing from the wild, a bird that had survived only in captivity now roams freely on two tropical islands.

The Guam Rail's native home is a remote, 212-square-mile island in the Pacific Ocean, half way between Australia and Japan.

Known locally as the ko'ko', the Rail, which had been classified as "extinct in the wild," was promoted to "critically endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 2019 red list of threatened species.

Only one bird -- the California condor -- has previously taken that crucial step back from the brink.

During World War II, the island of Guam was occupied by the Japanese military. Soon after the SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

DU CORRESPONDENT Association election.

president.

Noor Islam got 438 votes. Prof Nizamul Hoque

Prof Lutfor Rahaman of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

2,260 collect

nomination

DCC polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

forms for

As many as 2,260 mayoral and councillor aspirants have so far collected nomination forms to take part in the January 30 polls to two Dhaka city corporations.

Today is the last day for filing nominations with the returning officers. The ROs have warned that stern actions will be taken if anyone violates the electoral code of conduct during submission of nomination forms.

Abul Kashem, returning SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-27 7-00 JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-30 7-30

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