




Nothing seems to deter it

CDA continues razing hills even after DoE fined it Tk 10cr

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Cg

The Chattogram Development Authority has continued cutting hills in Sitakunda's Jongol Salimpur area despite being fined Tk 10 crore for unregulated hill cutting just over a month ago by the Department of Environment, which also barred the CDA from harming the environment further.

Evidence of fresh hill cutting by CDA, a government body under the housing and public works ministry, was found just behind the base camp station at Salimpur.

DoE Chattogram Director (region) Mohammad Moazzom Hossain told The Daily Star that the CDA was yet to pay the fine as they had appealed to the appeal board. The disposal of the appeal may take two months.

DoE had levied the fine on CDA on January 30 for violating their own hill cutting management plan for the construction of a link road that would connect the port city's Baizid area to the Dhaka-Chattogram highway at Salimpur.

According to the management plan, CDA needed to remove 2,50,000 cubic feet of mud from 18 hills along the link road project. But CDA had cut 10,00,000 cubic feet of mud. Also according to the plan, they were supposed to cut hills at a 26-degree angle, but the CDA cut hills at a 90-degree angle, a DoE team found in January.

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Md Shahabuddin, along with Director General of DoE Rafique Ahmed, visited the project area in January and instructed the DoE to take stern action against hill cutting.

CDA had cut at least 18 hills at a 90-degree angle during

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Part of a hill being flattened in Jongol Salimpur area of Chattogram's Sitakunda. The Chattogram Development Authority has continued cutting the hill although the Department of Environment imposed a fine of Tk 10 crore on it in January. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



This is our version of coronavirus

Says Arundhati Roy on Delhi violence

STAR REPORT

Author and activist Arundhati Roy has said the Modi government is acting as though the constitution does not exist and they are doing everything to completely dismantle democracy.

The author in a scathing opinion piece published in Scroll.in was quoted as saying, "A democracy that is not governed by a Constitution and one whose institutions have all been hollowed out can only ever become a majoritarian state... This is our version of the coronavirus. We are sick."

Arundhati's address at a rally in Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Sunday was covered by Anandabazar as well but has been largely absent from other mainstream Indian news media.

"It [Delhi violence] is a manifestation of the ongoing battle between fascists and anti-fascists -- in which Muslims are the first among the Fascists' 'enemies'. To call it a riot or a "danga", or "Left" versus "Right" or even "Right" versus "Wrong" as many are doing, is dangerous and obfuscatory," Roy added in the opinion piece on Scroll.in.

Roy has been an open critic of the Citizenship Amendment Act and has said "the CAA, which offers a fast-track route to citizenship for non-Muslim minorities, is blatantly

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

MUJIB BORSHO CELEBRATIONS

Build homes for the homeless

PM asks cabinet colleagues not to build indiscriminate murals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her cabinet colleagues to build houses for homeless people instead of setting up Bangabandhu's mural indiscriminately to mark the "Mujib Borsho".

She expressed displeasure over the recent reception of Education Minister Dipu Moni in Bogura where students were seen holding cutouts of Bangabandhu's face, said sources.

The PM also asked the cabinet division not to allocate extra funds as demanded by different ministries if it was not necessary.

Hasina gave the directives at an informal meeting on the additional demand for funds from different ministries. The meeting was held at her office in the capital following a regular cabinet meeting.

The country will celebrate "Mujib Borsho" from March 17, 2020 to March 26, 2021, marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Thirteen ministries, divisions and

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

'Aid must be without strings'



Bangabandhu and the Soviet premier Alexei Kosygin after signing the joint declaration at Kremlin on March 3, 1972.

MARCH 3, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MUJIB-PODGORNY TALKS

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman meets the Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny at Kremlin today. The two leaders discuss strengthening and developing friendship and cooperation between their two countries as well as certain international problems.

An economic assistance agreement involving a multi-million-ruble grant of essential commodities and equipment to Bangladesh by the Soviet Union is signed by the two governments.

Bangabandhu, in a television interview with Moscow Television, says that Bangladesh needs help from friendly countries like the

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'New Neo JMB cell behind remote bomb'

Say CTTC officials about blast in Ctg police box

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

The Improvised Explosives Device that went off at a traffic police box in Chattogram's Sholoshahar on Friday was detonated by remote control.

A separate cell of the IS-inspired militant outfit Neo JMB carried out the attack. The IED was powerful enough to kill people, officers said.

"The IED made by the outfit was equipped with a remote control circuit and battery, and they used tiny metal balls as splinters," said a high official of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

But the device didn't cause massive damage because of a flaw in its design, the official said,

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Country where public transport is free for everyone



CNN ONLINE

With a population of 602,000, Luxembourg is one of Europe's smallest countries -- yet it suffers from major traffic jams.

But that could be about to change. As of March 1, 2020 all public transport -- trains, trams and buses -- in the country is now free.

The government hopes the move will alleviate heavy congestion and bring environmental benefits, according to Dany Frank, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Mobility and Public Works.

Landlocked Luxembourg is one of the richest countries in Europe, with the highest per capita GDP in the European Union.

Taking up 2,586 square kilometers, Luxembourg is roughly the size of Rhode Island. From the capital of Luxembourg City, Belgium, France and Germany can all be reached by car in half an hour.

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2 BCL men killed in Khulna, Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Chhatra League leader, who was injured in a clash in Koyra upazila on Sunday, died yesterday morning while another BCL leader injured in an attacked allegedly carried out by Shibir men died of his injuries yesterday afternoon.

Hadiuzzaman Russell, 28, general secretary of Koyra BCL, was wounded when BCL men and villagers of Balarania clashed over construction of a bridge. Eight others were also hurt.

Quoting locals, Rabiul Islam, officer-in-charge of Koyra Police Station, told The Daily Star that the bridge was being constructed over the Batikata canal in Balarania village.

Two locals Tuhin Hossain and his brother Milon Hossain, whose house is nearby, asked the construction workers to stop the work on Sunday

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Illegal battery-run rickshaws flood the Ashkona road near the airport in the capital, with no steps from the authorities to remove them. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RACE FOR DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

Buttigieg quits

AFF, Washington

Pete Buttigieg, the openly gay US presidential candidate, on Sunday ended his campaign to be the Democratic nominee -- giving a major boost to fellow centrist Joe Biden.

The 38-year-old Buttigieg's surprise decision was set to shake up the race this week when 14 states vote on "Super Tuesday."

It is expected to further boost the fortunes of Biden after the former vice president scored a resounding victory in South Carolina's primary on Saturday in the contest to see who faces President Donald Trump in November.

Biden has emerged as the chief moderate challenger to frontrunner Bernie Sanders, the firebrand leftist who has taken the race by storm and is looking to score big wins on Tuesday in states such as crown jewel California.

Buttigieg, a military veteran and former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, addressed supporters in his home town.

"The truth is that the path has narrowed to a close -- for our candidacy, if not for our cause," he said.

Buttigieg did not mention Sanders by name in his speech, but he has publicly stated he believes the 78-year-old senator's "inflexible" political approach would fail in a match-up against Trump.

"We need a broad-based agenda that can truly deliver for the American people, not one that gets lost in ideology," he said.

Buttigieg however stopped short of endorsing Biden or any other candidate.

Buttigieg emerged as a major player by narrowly winning the Iowa caucuses, earning widespread attention for his unflustered and professional approach in an often bitter Democratic nomination battle.

But his third place finish in Nevada and a worse showing in South Carolina confirmed he had struggled to build a

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