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UN projections show high hope

Bangladesh's scores in all three criteria well above the required: Unctad

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

Bangladesh is on track to graduate to a developing country from a least developed one as a UN body estimates that the country's scores in all three criteria would be much higher from the graduation threshold next year.

In its assessment, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) painted an encouraging picture on the progress, saying the country would stand at 142 percent of one of the thresholds in 2021, when a UN panel would review Bangladesh's progress for a second time.

UNCTAD made a presentation of its projections to the government during a virtual meeting on Thursday where government high officials and representatives of trade bodies like BGMEA and FBCCI were present.

The UNCTAD projections on the three eligibility criteria are almost similar to the latest status report that the government last month sent to the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP).

The criteria are: Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, Human Assets Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI). According to the status report, Bangladesh is well ahead of the required thresholds in the three criteria.

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Some leaders of Awami League and its affiliate bodies take a huge national flag to the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Rayer Bazar and shower flower petals to pay their respect and mark the Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday. A number of children joined them.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Nation vows to safeguard secularism

Pays solemn tribute to martyred intellectuals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday paid a solemn tribute to martyred intellectuals of 1971 at a time when religious fundamentalist forces were gaining their strength.

On this day, the best sons of the soil made supreme sacrifice just two days before the country got liberated.

Paying rich tributes to the martyred intellectuals, people who flocked at Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the city's Rayerbazar said secularism is now at stake due to the way extremist forces are rising in recent times.

"Martyred intellectuals' dream for establishing a secular society is a far cry. Instead, extremist and fundamentalist forces keep dominating in many cases in the society," Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury told The Daily Star over the telephone.

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Hasina-Modi Summit Post-Covid-19 cooperation to be on agenda

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi will hold "comprehensive discussions" on the entire spectrum of the bilateral relationship during their virtual summit on Thursday.

They will discuss ways to further strengthen cooperation in the post-Covid-19 era, Indian

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Violence Against Women It's even worse during pandemic

Show data released by Brac

ZYMA ISLAM

As the year of the pandemic winds down, it becomes even more clear that Covid-19 led to an increase in gender-based violence.

Brac has released data on complaints about such violence its legal aid services and village violence prevention committees received throughout the year. The data shows an upwards trend during recent months.

The number of complaints received at the 408 legal aid clinics between June and October increased, on an average, by 16 percent, compared to last year.

September was the only exception with a decrease in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

4 men storm house, rape housewife

Tie up family, loot valuables; 1 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Laxmipur

A man and his three cohorts stormed into a house and raped a housewife and beat her up in Laxmipur's Ramgati early yesterday, police said.

During the incident, they tied up and confined the other family members to another room and looted valuables from the house, they said.

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New rail line to link northern tip

48km line up to Banglabandha landport to boost regional connectivity

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Bangladesh Railway (BR) is working to bring Banglabandha Land Port, under the railway network, aiming to boost regional connectivity.

The Banglabandha is a major inland port in Panchagarh -- the northernmost district in the country.

The alignment of the 48-kilometre broad gauge rail line was finalised yesterday, BR officials said. As per primary design, the rail line will have five stations.

The approval came at a meeting at the Rail Bhaban with Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujon in the chair.

"We will build the rail line till the Banglabandha Land Port for now. We will talk with our Indian counterpart before taking the final decision

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Reports of malpractices Recruitment at RU halted

VC's daughter, son-in-law may lose their jobs

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ARAFAH RAHAMAN

The government has asked Rajshahi University VC Prof M Abdus Sobhan to explain in seven working days why the appointments of his daughter and son-in-law to the university as teachers will not be cancelled.

The education ministry in a separate order has asked the vice-chancellor to take necessary steps to remove Prof Abdul Bari from the post of university registrar for not properly assisting a University Grants

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