

PROUD



City

ELECTRIC VEHICLES Guideline talks start after 2-year pause

TUHIN SHUBHA ADHIKARY

While countries across the world promote production and sales of electric vehicles, Bangladesh does not even have a guideline to regulate them.

A draft guideline was submitted to the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry in November 2018.

The ministry then sent a four-member delegation to India to gain experience.

But the initiative did not see the light of day. The ministry amended several sections of existing rules to register electric cars, but didn't finalise the draft. But issues remained unresolved.

Over two years later, the ministry asked the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to revive the plan for creating a guideline. The latter has called a meeting over the issue today.

BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder will preside over the meeting.

Representatives from finance, environment, forest, and commerce ministries, the power division, National Board of Revenue (NBR), Accident Research Institute and Mechanical Department of Buet, major auto importers, and other agencies concerned were asked to join the meeting.

"We have updated the draft guidelines and called the meeting with stakeholders to change or incorporate issues," the BRTA chairman told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The ministry asked us to prepare the draft by holding several meetings. This would be the first one," he said SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

BEGUM ROKEYA UNIVERSITY A vice-chancellor largely missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Teachers and officials of Rangpur's Begum Rokeya University have been resentful as its vice-chancellor (VC) left the campus, for the second time since March, without meetin with them, even after

they waited for hours in front of his official on-campus residence on Friday.

VC Professor Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalim Ullah visited the campus on Friday for a couple of hours, said campus sources, adding that a section of teachers and officials of BRU has been demonstrating for long against the VC's prolonged absence



Hundreds of people gathered at Goyagari Beel at Daulatpur union in Sylhet's Biswanath upazila to attend a 200-year-old fishing festival. People from all walks of life participated in the festival and caught fish using fish traps. Mostly they caught local fish like Rui, Cuttle, and other seasonal fish.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Posing as gangsters, they extort

DB arrests six suspects STAFF CORRESPONDENT

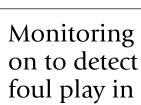
The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested six persons for allegedly extorting money from people, posing as members of a top terror gang.

Walid Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the accused, who identified themselves as members of "Seven-Star Group", were arrested from Jatrabari, Motijheel, Paltan and Turag areas on Thursday.

The arrestees are Billal Khan, Rakib Khan Titul, Abdul Hannan, Delwar Hossain, Mohammad Sohag and Rashed Alam.

Seven-Star Grout once enjoyed widespread notoriety, boasting top criminals like Subrata Bain, Mollah Masud and Murgi Milon.

Law enforcers carried out raids based on complaints of a Cox's Bazar based businessman whom the gang called over phone SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



stock market

SEC chairman warns STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stock market regulator chairman has given warnings of foul play saying they are using modern surveillance software to detect gambling in stock market.

He said they are using the latest surveillance software from Sweden in our country now to catch frauds, said Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, chairman of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC). "None will be spared after gambling.' His comments came yesterday in an event SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Trump to leave DC on Inauguration Day

National Mall closed amid security fears; Pelosi calls for prosecution of any Congress members who might have helped Capitol siege

By the time Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th US president Wednesday, his scandal-tainted predecessor Donald Trump will already be far away, having helicoptered out of the White House a last time earlier that morning, an official has said

and a half to snub the inauguration of his An official who asked not to be identified said

21 more die, 578 get Covid-19

Infection rate drops below 4 percent UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh's Covid-19 fatalities is now 7,883 as the health authorities confirmed 21 more deaths in 24 hours ending 8:00am yesterday.

As per the latest data, the daily infection rate dropped to 4.73 percent.

The country recorded a daily infection rate of 4.90 percent on January 14,

The fatality rate stands at

1.49 percent, according to

January 1.

'Super Earth' surprises scientists



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A 'super Earth' has been discovered near one of the

Agencies

successor



Trump will be the first president in a century

Trump would go to his Mar-a-Lago golf club in Florida, which is his legal residence and will become home after the White House. He is expected to be out of town well before Biden is sworn in on the steps of the Capitol building at exactly noon.

He prefers staying in Dhaka, said the teachers.

Campus sources further said the VC came to the campus at around 9:00am and went straight to his official residence.

Hearing about his arrival at the campus, teachers and officials of the university gathered in front of his official residence at around 11:00am, said the VC's personal secretary, Md Aminul Islam, after he joined the agitating teachers.

Professor Dr Motiur Rahman, convener SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

After spending more than two months trying to overturn the results of the November election, pushing false conspiracy theories about fraud, the period. Trump's presence had not been expected at the inauguration.

The final straw came on January 6 when Trump gathered a huge crowd of supporters on the National Mall and once more claimed that they had to fight to stop a fraudulent election. A mob then stormed Congress, halting proceedings underway to certify Biden's win.

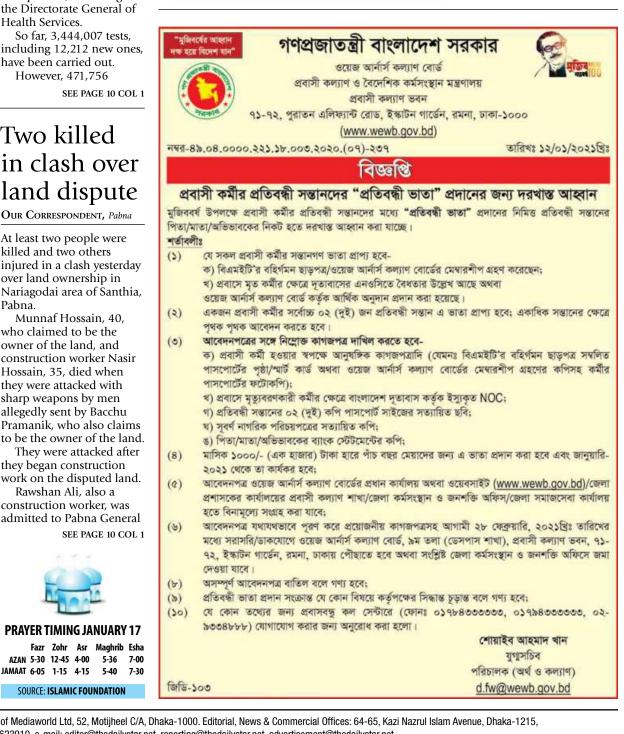
For longer than anyone can remember, outgoing presidents have stood by their replacement on the Capitol steps, watching them take the oath -and in so doing showing visible support for the peaceful transfer of power. Trump, who was impeached for a record second time in the wake of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

8.29 percent on January oldest stars in the galaxy. 10, 7.52 percent on January 4, and 8.18 percent on

The planet, called TOI-561b, is approximately 50 per cent larger than Earth, and it orbits around its star astonishingly quickly: in just one of our Country's Covid-19 days, it has seen two years. caseload stands at 527,063 with 578 new cases during

Despite the planet having a mass nearly three times as much as the Earth, its density is SEE PAGE 10 COL 2





BRIDGES CLAIMING LIVES

This bridge over the Sreemanta river near Mahishkata Bazar area of Patuakhali's Mirzaganj upazila collapsed Friday night with 10-15 people and a three-wheeler. Locals were able to fish out all but one of the people who fell into the river alive. The body of the superintendent of Kalagachhia Asmatia Entezia Dakhil Madrasa was found floating around two hours after the accident. On January 12, a bridge on the Boro Mohapurom river in Khagrachhari collapsed, unable to take the load of a truck. At least three people were killed there.

> EDITOR & PUBLISHER : MAHFUZ ANAM. Printed by him from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 09610222222, 9144330 & 9117796, Fax: 58156306, GPO Box No: 3257, for Advertisement: 01711623910, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net, reporting@thedailystar.net, advertisement@thedailystar.net

Two killed in clash over land dispute **OUR CORRESPONDENT**, Pabna

At least two people were killed and two others injured in a clash yesterday over land ownership in Nariagodai area of Santhia, Pabna.

Munnaf Hossain, 40, who claimed to be the owner of the land, and construction worker Nasir Hossain, 35, died when they were attacked with sharp weapons by men allegedly sent by Bacchu Pramanik, who also claims to be the owner of the land.

They were attacked after they began construction work on the disputed land. Rawshan Ali, also a construction worker, was admitted to Pabna General



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 17 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-00 JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-40 7-30 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION