

BSRM Building a better nation

BUILD YOUR HOME FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH THE TOUGHEST STEEL

treme B500 DWR the tough steel

HIGHEST SELLING 15 CEMENT for more than years

HIGH-SPEED DHAKA-CTG TRAIN

2 Chinese firms show interest

Willing to manage funds for the \$11.4b project

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Two Chinese companies have expressed interest in constructing, operating and managing funds for a proposed high-speed railway on the Dhaka-Chattogram route.

They would be engaged in the multi-billion-dollar public private partnership (PPP) project under a government-to-government initiative, according to their proposal.

The companies -- China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) and China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) -- sent the proposal to railways ministry through the Chinese embassy in Dhaka and the PPP Authority, railways sources said.

Bangladesh Railway yesterday held a meeting over the proposal with its Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder in the chair. It was decided in the meeting to seek the Economic Relations Division's (ERD's) opinion about the proposal, meeting sources said.

The feasibility study of the first high-speed rail, commissioned by Bangladesh Railway, has already been completed. The route has also been selected and a draft report on the detailed design of the "passenger-dedicated" railway project has already been submitted.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



A herd of spotted deer stares at the photographer at Kotka point, one of the beautiful tourist spots in the Sundarbans, in the early morning of Tuesday. They came out of the deep forest in search of food.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Mashrafe on young global leaders' list

STAR REPORT

Former Bangladesh ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is among 10 leaders from South Asia named in Weforum's Young Global Leaders list.

The cricketer, who became an elected member of parliament (MP) from his home district of Narail during the last national elections, has been recognised for his work in helping people move out of the poverty trap in his hometown in the southwestern district.

"He launched the Narail Express Foundation, which looks to achieve six goals: offer modern facilities for citizens and a specialized

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Rescued baby elephant sent to safari park

It was found wandering after getting isolated from herd in Teknaf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Forest Department in Cox's Bazar rescued an elephant calf that is believed to have excluded from elephant herd in Shaplapur area of Teknaf.

The three-month-old female calf, weighing 121 kg, was handed over to safari park authorities on Wednesday. It was found abandoned beside Monkhal canal under Shaplapur beat office of Huiyakkong range of Cox's Bazar South Forest Division.

Humayun Kabir, divisional forest officer (DFO) of Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, told The Daily Star that the calf was standing for long near Monkhal canal against which there is a steep hill.

"We think the calf has fallen from the hill and could not make it due to steepness of the hill," he said, adding that they rescued the baby elephant around 2:00pm on Wednesday and were feeding it milk and bananas.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Will Bangabandhu call on Yahya?

MARCH 12, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA'S DHAKA VISIT ANNOUNCED

BBC today reported that Pakistan President Yahya Khan would visit Dhaka soon with a "package deal" to resolve the ongoing crisis in East Pakistan. The report also indicated a handover of power to elected representatives before the commencement of the National Assembly session.

Kamal Hossain in his memoir shares that around March 12, 1971, a senior military officer arrived from Rawalpindi and wanted to see Tajuddin Ahmed. Kamal Hossain reported it to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who asked him to see the officer. The officer asked whether Bangabandhu would see Yahya if the president were to come to Dhaka and whether the meeting could be held at the president's house. The reason behind the second question was that earlier Bangabandhu had



refused to meet Tikka Khan at both Government House and the cantonment. Bangabandhu had said that if Tikka Khan wanted to see him he should call on him at his residence. Kamal Hossain immediately reported to Bangabandhu, who directed that the officer should be informed that if Yahya came to Dhaka, Bangabandhu would see him and that the venue of the meeting could be the president's house, although Yahya was quite welcome to visit him at his residence. [Kamal Hossain, Bangladesh: Quest for Freedom and Justice, UPL, 2013, pg.91] THE MILITARY BUILD-UP CONTINUES The fly-in of troops from West Pakistan into Dhaka continued

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

MADRASA TEACHER Inform what actions taken against him for torturing boy

HC orders authorities

STAR REPORT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know what legal action was taken against a madrasa teacher for beating up an eight-year-old student mercilessly in Chattogram's Hathazari upazila recently.

The court asked the government authorities concerned to submit a report to it by Sunday, detailing the action taken against Maulana Yahya.

It also ordered the authorities to provide treatment to the child victim and security to his family.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Shahed Nuruddin came up with the suo moto (voluntary) order after Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar placed some

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Women may have ruled bronze-age Spain



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An "exceptionally rich" burial site in southeastern Spain has raised questions about whether women may have ruled a class-based society located on the Iberian peninsula until 1550 BC.

Archaeologists have been studying the early bronze age El Argar site, at La Almoloya in the Spanish region of Murcia, since 2013.

The site contains some "extraordinary" ancient objects, including important emblematic items that were exclusively present in female graves. This suggests women had potentially prominent

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

2 held over rape of 7th-grader

STAR REPORT

Habiganj police yesterday arrested two men for their alleged involvement in the rape of a seventh-grader in the district's Baniachang upazila.

The arrestees are Sohail Mia, 30, a private tutor by profession, and Ayub Ali, 30, of Srimangalkandi village in the upazila.

Sohail, who used to tutor the girl asked her to go out of her home on Wednesday night, said police quoting the victim's family

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 12

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-30 4-30 6-12 7-30
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

AL lawmaker Samad Chy dies from Covid-19

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet-3 lawmaker Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury died yesterday of coronavirus infection.

He was 67. The parliamentarian breathed his last around 2:00pm while undergoing treatment in critical condition at the intensive care unit (ICU) of United Hospital in Dhaka, said Julhas Ahmed, personal secretary to the MP.

He left behind his wife, son and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

The MP received his first dose of coronavirus vaccine on February 10 at the Parliament Complex and no adverse effect was reported that time.

Julhas Ahmed earlier told The Daily Star that the parliamentarian recently went to his constituency on a regular visit and was

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Ignoring risks, a motorcyclist carrying a woman who has two kids in her lap, one of them is sleeping. This kind of disregard for safety is often seen on streets. The photo was taken in Elephant Road area in the capital recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

COUP IN MYANMAR 9 protesters shot dead

Junta accuses Suu Kyi of taking bribes; rights group blames army for using 'battlefield weapons'

AFP, Yangon

Nine protesters were shot dead in Myanmar yesterday as the junta reacted to international condemnation of its crackdown by claiming ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi had accepted hefty illegal payments.

Diplomatic pressure has been building since the generals seized power on February 1, triggering daily protests around the country that they have struggled to quell.

The United Nations on Wednesday condemned the junta's increasingly violent crackdown, which has seen more than 60 killed and 2,000 arrested, with even China -- a traditional Myanmar ally -- calling for "de-escalation" and dialogue.

Yesterday saw more hardline action against demonstrators, with six killed in central Myanmar's Myaung township.

"Six men were shot dead while eight people were wounded -- with one man in a critical condition," a rescue worker told AFP.

A witness said five of them were shot in the head. In Bago, a city north east of Yangon, Zaw Zaw Aung, 33, who is deaf, was shot in the head, his father Myint Lwin told AFP.

A rescue worker told AFP a 30-year-old man was killed in Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city and another

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1