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Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress using Shah Cement



LIMITED COURT FUNCTIONS Lawyers, litigants left distressed

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court buildings, most of which were constructed in the beginning of the 20th century, stand still with an eerie calm hanging all over the premises.

The flurry of activity that used to reverberate through the Renaissance architectural style buildings is absent now: no crowd of lawyers, litigants, clerks, and staff at the court compound.

This has been the scene at the country's highest judicial institution since the Covid-19 outbreak in March last year brought the regular functions of all the courts across the country to a halt, badly hampering the justice delivery system.

Court activities, however, have gone virtual, albeit at a limited scale.

As a result, the rates of case filing and disposal fell drastically, leading to increased backlog of pending cases and sufferings of the justice seekers. Neither the government nor the SC administration have devised any major plan of action to recover the damage caused by the pandemic.

According to the latest decisions of the chief justice, all the benches of the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court will run judicial functions virtually from tomorrow, read two notices of SC administrations.

Since Covid-19 struck the country, all benches have remained operational together only for half this period --

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Children dive into the water of a haor from an unoccupied vessel moored to the shore in Brahmanbaria village of Brahmanbaria's Sarail upazila yesterday, to get some relief from the hot and humid weather.

PHOTO: MASHUK HRIDOY

Gas field found in Zakiganj

Bapex says it'll last 12 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh announced the discovery of its 28th gas field in Sylhet's Zakiganj yesterday on the occasion of the National Energy Security Day.

The state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company (Bapex) made the discovery in June, but did not declare it formally as they were assessing the prospects of recovering gas from the drilled well in Ananadapur village of Zakiganj.

In a webinar, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said they estimated that the field has 68 billion cubic feet of gas reserves.

"If we use 10 million cubic feet per day gas from this field, it will be extractable in next 12-13 years," he added.

"The value of the entire reserve at the new gas field

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Missing college principal's body found

Three arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Rab recovered the dismembered body of a college principal yesterday, 27 days after he went missing from Savar's Ashulia.

The victim, Mintu Chandra Barmon, 36, of Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila, was the principal of Savar Residential School and College in Jamgora area.

Rab arrested three people -- Robiul, his nephew Badsha, and Motaleb -- in connection with the incident and said Robiul and Motaleb along

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Belgian collects 60,000 vintage tin boxes



REUTERS, Grand Hallet

The colourful tins piled high around Belgian collector Yvette Dardenne used to contain goods ranging from chocolates, toffees, coffee and rice to tobacco, talc and shoe polish, and come from as far away as India.

Yvette Dardenne, 83, has accumulated almost 60,000 vintage tin boxes from all over the world since starting her collection some 30 years ago.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Holy Ashura on Aug 20

STAR REPORT

The holy Ashura will be observed across the country on August 20, as the moon for the month of Muharram was not sighted anywhere in Bangladesh yesterday.

The announcement came after a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at the Islamic Foundation conference room of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

Religious Affairs Ministry Secretary Nurul Islam presided over the meeting, Islamic Foundation said in a press release.

Ashura is observed on the 10th of Muharram to commemorate the Karbala tragedy in which Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA), grandson of Prophet

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Thant sounds warning about Bangabandhu trial



US Senator Edward Kennedy visiting refugee camps at Salt Lake, Kolkata on August 10, 1971.

AUGUST 10, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

THANT'S WARNING

UN Secretary General U Thant warned today that the trial of Bangladeshi leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would "inevitably have repercussions outside the borders of Pakistan".

He added that he had been receiving expressions of concern about Bangabandhu from many governments every day.

U Thant further said there was a general feeling that the hope of restoring peace and normality in the region was "remote unless some kind of accommodation is reached".

Meanwhile, 11 American senators urged today that the United States government convey to Pakistan their "profound hope" that

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

KOTALIPARA BOMB PLOT Attempt on PM's life disgraceful chapter for nation

Says HC in full text of verdict

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The attempt of perpetrators to kill Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by detonating bombs in Gopalganj in 2000 is an ignominious chapter for the nation, the HC said in the full text of the verdict on the Kotalipara bomb plot case.

On February 17 this year, the HC delivered the short verdict on the death reference and appeals in connection with the case filed over the attempt to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In the full text of the 86-page verdict released yesterday, the bench observed that the conspiring accused had in fact planned to kill the person who was in office as the head of the legitimate government.

The court said it has been found after reviewing confessional statements of the accused that their mindsets had been created from an unreal and illusive concept.

"It has also been found that some of the conspirators had joined different militant organisations in Pakistan and Afghanistan and received training on militant activities," the HC judges said in the full text.

The HC also said the convicted accused's beliefs that "a female leader in the country is not allowed in Islam and [so] they would resist the system" are not supported by Islam in any manner because it is a religion of peace.

The convicted accused are reluctant to abide by the existing laws of the country

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

The Satchhari Tripura village in Habiganj's Chunarughat is on the verge of giving into the river as every time there is heavy rain, the rush of water erodes parts of the village. For years, the 24 families of the village have been living under this threat but nothing has been done to protect them. The photo was taken recently.

9th grader held in DSA case in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Rangpur court yesterday sent a 9th grader to jail after police arrested him in a case filed under the Digital Security Act over a Facebook post.

Police said the 17-year-old boy was arrested in Pirganj on Sunday after he posted a distorted photo of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Facebook.

Sub-inspector Monirul Rahman of Pirganj Police Station filed the case against the boy, student of a local madrasa.

Sorosh Chandra, officer-in-charge of Pirganj Police Station, said the accused was sent to Rangpur jail.

Since the post was defamatory and could deteriorate law and order,

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SURGE IN COVID CASES Sri Lanka holds mass cremations

China reports more cases

AGENCIES

Sri Lanka has begun mass cremations to clear a backlog of dead bodies from Covid-19 as cases surge across the island, officials said yesterday.

Daily virus infections in the country have doubled in a month to more than 2,500 with nearly 100 deaths, putting huge strain on hospitals.

On Sunday evening Colombo Municipality began mass cremations, disposing of 15 corpses at the Colombo General Cemetery after the island's main hospital said it had no more freezer space.

It was the first mass cremation since December when the government overruled religious objections and cremated 15 members of the Muslim minority, including

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 10

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION