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Govt wants law too but it won't hurry

Law minister tells Shujon representatives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is sincere about formulating a law for the formation of the Election Commission, but it does not want to do it in a hurry, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday.

"The next session of parliament will start at the end of January next year. As far as I know, the tenure of the current Election Commission will expire on February 14 or 15 next year.

"Practically speaking and with due respect, I'm saying that it is not possible to make a law for formation of the Election Commission in this short period," he said.

The minister was speaking to reporters after a meeting with a delegation of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujon) led by its Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar at the former's Gulshan office last night.

During the meeting, representatives of the civil society platform handed over the final draft of the proposed law on "Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner's Appointment Act 2021" to the minister.

"I have said earlier that the government is planning to formulate a law for the formation of the Election Commission. I have received the copy of the draft of the proposed law. ... This proposal will help the government proceed for formulation of the law," Anisul said.

He said, "The law will not be made applicable for only today or tomorrow. This law will be enacted in such a manner so that it remains in Bangladesh permanently. We will discuss with all stakeholders before formulating the law."

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A motorcyclist going through filthy water on Shyampur-Kadamtoli street in the capital's Kadamtoli area yesterday. Due to poor drainage system, toxic water from different factories has been stagnant on the street for a long time.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HSC EXAMS 30,000 more examinees this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of examinees of this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent exams has gone up by 33,901 from last year.

The government is all set to hold the exams from December 2, over eight months after the usual scheduled time due to the pandemic. This year, the exams will take place with fewer subjects and under shortened syllabuses.

The examinees will have to take tests only in three optional subjects. They will not have to sit tests in compulsory subjects like Bangla and English. The exams will carry fewer marks.

The HSC exams did not take place last year due to the pandemic. Candidates were assessed based on their results in two previous public exams -- Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinations.

Speaking at a press conference at the Secretariat yesterday, Education Minister Dipu Moni said Covid-19 health guidelines would be strictly followed during the exams.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya offers friendship

NOVEMBER 19, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

US MISSION PROPOSAL REJECTED

Indian external affairs minister Swaran Singh categorically rejected in Rajya Sabha today the reported American proposal to send a mission to India to study the Bangladesh problem.

"We don't recognise," Swaran Singh said, "the authority of any government to constitute a commission to make inquiries here."

He, however, clarified that the US government had never approached India that they were contemplating sending a mission.

YAHYA'S FRIENDSHIP OFFER TO INDIA

Pakistan president Yahya Khan today offered friendship to India and urged New Delhi "to open a new era of good neighbourly relations".

Gen Yahya in a speech to mark the Eid-ul-Fitr also appealed to the UN to use its good offices "to help the return" of Bangladeshi refugees and expressed the "earnest hope" that the government of India would cooperate.

In his plea for "good neighbourly" relations with India, the Pakistan president said, "India and Pakistan have frittered away their energies and resources arming against each other. The resources should have been used to reap the real fruit of independence for our two peoples."

PAK HC IN INDIA TRANSFERRED

Pakistan high commissioner to India Sajjad Hyder was transferred to Turkey.

The head of the Bangladesh mission in New Delhi, HR

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



65,127 illegal grabbers in the country

State minister for shipping tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, the state minister for shipping, yesterday said in parliament that around 21,443 illegal structures have so far been removed from the banks of different rivers of the country and some 723.62 acres of shore land have been recovered.

He placed the statistics in response to a question from Awami League MP Benzir Ahmed from Dhaka-20.

In the scripted answer, the junior minister said that the eviction programme has been going on since 2010 to free the country's rivers from encroachment.

He also said that among 21,443 evicted illegal structures, 16,424 illegal establishments were from

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Experts craft 'clone' of destroyed Afghan mural



AFP, Tokyo

Japanese researchers have crafted a "super clone" of an Afghan mural destroyed by the Taliban, using a mix of traditional and digital techniques that they hope will salvage the work's "spirit" for future generations.

Not a single fragment remains of the seventh-century cave painting demolished in 2001 along with two massive Buddha statues and other artefacts in Afghanistan's Bamiyan valley, sparking global condemnation.

But a precise replica, the result of three years of state-of-the-art reproduction efforts, went on

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Govt to enact law over pvt practice of doctors

Health minister says in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will enact a law to regulate the private practice of doctors across the country, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said in the parliament yesterday.

Responding to a tabled question from Nurunnabi Chowdhury, MP, from the Bhola-3 constituency, the minister said, "The government has taken an initiative to enact a private practice act for the physicians."

Nurunnabi asked whether the government has any plans to formulate a law to limit the fees that doctors charge from patients while attending them privately.

Many doctors collect an unethically large amount of money as per their whim

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Health worker runs with Tk 2.58cr Covid test fees

ACC files case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A medical technologist of Khulna General Hospital misappropriated around Tk 2.58 crore, collected for testing Covid-19, finds a probe committee, led by the civil surgeon of Khulna.

On September 27, the committee asked the Anti-Corruption Commission to take steps against the technologist.

And it took 51 days for the ACC to file a case against the technologist, Prakash Kumar Das, and meantime, he fled.

According to findings of the five-member probe

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A pair of Indian silverbill munias resting on a tree branch in the capital's Azimpur. This small bird is available across the Indian subcontinent. The photo was captured recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF REHANA BEGUM



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 19

	Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-05	12-30	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT	5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Star HEALTHLINE

Arthritis: AGING, INJURIES INCREASE RISK

STAR HEALTH DESK

Arthritis is a common condition that causes pain and inflammation in joints. The main symptoms of arthritis are joint pain and stiffness, which typically worsen with age.

Uric acid crystals, which form when there's too much uric acid in blood, can cause gout. Infections or underlying disease, such as psoriasis or lupus, can cause other types of arthritis.

The most common signs and symptoms of arthritis involve the

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