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Punish the syndicates behind hike



UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked the government to take stern action against dishonest business syndicates who are responsible for the sufferings of common people.

“The government should be strict about bringing those who make syndicates for raising prices to book,” he said while addressing the “National Export Trophy-2017-18” virtually joining the event from the Bangabhaban.

“At the same time, you [businesspeople] have to remain vigilant

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A Lesser Adjutant, currently on the verge of extinction in Bangladesh, perching itself on a bare tree trunk. From the stork family, this gentle bird's name in Bangladesh -- Madantaak -- comes from its lack of cleverness and a bald spot on its head. It is known to live mostly around wetlands and wooded areas as it feeds mostly on fish, frogs, other reptiles and small mammals.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Start central placement system for freshmen

UGC asks public univs

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The University Grants Commission has urged the public universities that are holding uniform admission tests to introduce a central placement system for students to universities and subjects of their choice.

At a meeting with vice chancellors yesterday, the UGC also urged them to “fix the admission form fees rationally” to reduce the financial burden on admission seekers and their guardians.

“We have urged the authorities of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram and Jahangirnagar universities to form a cluster and hold uniform admission tests to make the process easier for admission seekers,” said Prof Dil Afroza Begum, acting UGC chairman.

She said they have urged the universities to set up the admission test centres at the divisional level.

It was also decided that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University, Kishoreganj, and Chandpur Science and Technology University, will both join the cluster of science and technology and general public universities, which hold uniform admission tests, said Prof

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Tigers’ chance to bounce back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will look to bounce back and make a statement when they face South Africa in the series-deciding second Test at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth today.

The match is scheduled to start at 2:00pm [BST].

The Tigers suffered a 220-run thumping in the first Test in Durban, courtesy of a second-innings batting collapse that saw them get bundled out for their second-lowest total in Tests.

Following historic wins this year -- the Test win over New Zealand in their backyard in January and the first ODI series triumph away in South Africa in this tour -- Bangladesh would definitely be desperate to prove that they are better

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LASER STRIKES ON AIRCRAFT

Caab efforts inadequate

Say pilots, warn that it can lead to disaster

RASHIDUL HASAN

Pilots of different airlines have warned that major accidents can happen because of people shining laser beams at aircraft during take-off and landing after dark.

They said the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh's measures are mostly confined to awareness campaigns that are not adequate to stop the laser strikes, which distract and dazzle their eyes.

In recent months pilots of local and foreign airlines have complained about recurring incidents of laser strikes on aircraft at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport almost every day, said Group Captain AHM Touhid-ul Ahsan, the immediate past executive director of HSIA.

He said although they do not have



specific data, multiple incidents of laser strikes at aircraft at HSIA are happening every night.

“When a laser beam hits an aircraft windshield, tiny scratches and dirt on the windshield create a glare effect which spreads the light across the pilot's field of vision.

“This is a serious safety concern to us especially when the aircraft is in the sensitive takeoff or landing position,” Touhid told The Daily Star recently.

Nazmul Hasan, the general secretary of Bangladesh Airlines Pilot Association (BAPA), said laser illumination in the cockpit may cause distraction, disruption, disorientation or, in worst-case scenarios, temporary operational incapacitation due to flash blindness.

Besides at HSIA, pilots said they often

face laser beam strikes while landing in Chattogram -- the other airport of the country which operates night flights.

Caab's steps include raising awareness through sending text messages, placing advertisements in local cable TV networks and informing law enforcement agencies to identify the persons.

The pilots, however, stressed that the authorities need to take comprehensive and strict actions like finding the persons who shine the laser at the aircraft and bringing them to book.

“The laser strikes have reached such a level that a major accident could happen at any time,” said Syed Nazmul Hasan, a senior pilot of national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

“We need to pay special attention during landing of aircraft during night time due to visual limitations,” said a pilot of US Bangla Airlines, a private air operator.

Laser strikes at aircrafts are also common in different parts of the world.

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‘HURTING RELIGIOUS FEELING’ Plaintiff had little say in case

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The office assistant, who filed the case against maths teacher Hriday Chandra Mondal, said he had no say over the matter as the complaint was not written in his presence.

“The head teacher told me to be the plaintiff [complainant] and I agreed. Neither the head teacher nor the police consulted me about the matter,” said Asad Miah, office assistant at Binodpur Ram Kumar High School in Munshiganj, yesterday.

He added that he was called to Munshiganj Sadar Police Station by the head teacher. The complaint had already been written by the time he reached there on March 23 night.

Hriday was arrested in the case that day on charges of “hurting religious sentiments”.

About filing of the case, Asad added, “Police read out the statement to me. Then, I signed it.... Police wrote the complaint and told the headteacher that someone has to be the plaintiff.”

He told The Daily Star that he knew nothing more about it.

Contacted, head teacher Alauddin Ahmed said, “I did not ask him [Asad] to be the plaintiff. I don't

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People try to rescue a bus driver after he lost control over the vehicle, ran over five people and then ploughed into a roadside shop at Kautalo in Brahmanbaria on the Cumilla-Sylhet highway yesterday. A pedestrian was killed in the accident. Police seized the bus but reported that the driver and his assistant were on the run.

PHOTO: STAR

HEARTIEST FELICITATION

In recognition of special contributions to the Export Sector of Bangladesh ‘Nice Cotton Limited’ has recently been awarded with ‘NATIONAL EXPORT TROPHY 2017-2018’. On the evening of last Thursday **Mrs. Salma Begum, beloved Mother of Mr. Salahuddin Alamgir CIP**, Chairman of Labib Group & Vice-President of FBCCI received the Trophy from Mr. Tipu Munshi MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Commerce. On this occasion, a formal Trophy Giving Ceremony was held at the Grand Ballroom of Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden Hotel where Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh delivered his virtual Speech and among all other distinguished guests, **Mrs. Sultana Jahan CIP**, Vice-Chairman of Labib Group was also present and graced the ceremony. Here it is mentioned that Nice Cotton Limited is a Sister Concern of Labib Group and we are proud of this prestigious achievement of Nice Cotton Limited.