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Asian nations must join hands for better future

Says PM at Nikkei conference

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Asian countries must combine their forces to help address their common challenges for the betterment of future generations.

"The Asian countries have common development challenges and should face them collectively," she said in a video statement to the 27th International Nikkei Conference on Future of Asia in Tokyo.

Hasina said Bangladesh would always work with its friends and partners to ensure a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Asia.

She put forward five proposals, where the Asian countries can best cooperate for the benefit of the future generations.

These include cooperation on best use of ICT, safeguard fairness and justice, sustainable and balanced development and establishing win-win international relations.

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A part of a crowd at a BNP rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club on Topkhana Road in the capital yesterday morning. Central leaders of the party spoke at the rally, which was organised to protest Chhatra League activists' recent attacks on Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal members.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PAK PARLIAMENT Bill passed to stop use of EVM in polls

DAWN/ ANN

The National Assembly of Pakistan (NA) has passed the Elections (Amendment) Bill 2022, which seeks to remove the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in general elections as well as disallows overseas Pakistanis from voting.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Thursday presented the bill that was passed with a majority vote, with only members of the Grand Democratic Alliance opposing it.

Yesterday, the Senate passed the bill, along with the National Accountability (Second Amendment) Bill 2021.

The bills sought to reverse changes made in the election laws by the previous PTI government regarding the use of electronic voting machines

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

Woman burned to death 'by husband'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A woman was burned to death allegedly by her husband at Pangashia union in Patuakhali's Dumki upazila yesterday.

Eti Begum, 26, a worker at a ready-made garment factory in Dhaka, died on the way to a hospital, said her brother Faruk Khan.

She married Abdul Jalil, 32, of Kushtia, around seven years ago, he said, adding that she told her family members that Jalil often beat her up and asked for dowry in the last two years.

Around a week ago, Eti left her husband and came to her parents' house in Dumki with her four-year-old son and filed for divorce, he said.

On Thursday night, she slept on the veranda while her son slept inside the hut

SEE PAGE 7 COL 8

Govt should take up nationwide programme

Unicef regional director for South Asia tells Star

PORIMOL PALMA

Unicef has recommended that the government prioritise a countrywide remedial programme for recovering the learning loss caused by 18 months of school closure amid the Covid pandemic.

"If we don't, I am afraid we are going to see more kids drop out as they struggle with their studies," said George Laryea-Adjei, Unicef regional director for South Asia, based in Nepal.

When children drop out, they are at greater risk of being engaged in child labour and trapped in low-paying and hazardous jobs, he said in a recent interview with The Daily Star.

"There will be economic growth, but intergenerational cycles cannot be broken... It has social implications and I am really concerned about it."

In late April, Laryea-Adjei visited Unicef programmes being implemented with the government and NGOs in Dhaka, Khulna, Cox's Bazar and Noakhali.



George Laryea-Adjei

Amid the pandemic, schools remained closed for one and a half years, one of the longest globally, affecting children's education and mental health. There were more dropouts and child marriages, and those who did not drop out faced immense learning losses.

Students passed to the next grade without attending the classrooms, he said. "So you are going to struggle. Those who had access to extra help may catch up, but others will

continue to face challenges." "We also have to find alternative learning to attract children who have dropped out so that they are encouraged to come back to school," Laryea-Adjei said.

Asked how learning loss could be addressed, he said expanding the accelerated learning programmes was one of the ways. The curriculum can get condensed in a way that allows children to have intensive learning and the necessary support.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

Border roads being built to check crimes

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said the government is constructing roads in border areas to stop criminal activities there.

"Once the roads are opened, crimes in those areas will be curbed," he said at a programme in Ramu of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The event was organised by Border Guard Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar region) marking the destruction of narcotics worth about Tk 400 crore, which was seized by BGB, reports our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

Asaduzzaman said there are large swathes of Bangladesh's territory bordering with India and Myanmar and the border guards cannot easily travel to many of those areas, which are quite remote.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Chile could be home to world's oldest tree

REUTERS, Santiago

A lush green forest in southern Chile might be home to the world's oldest tree after a new study found that an ancient alerce tree known as "great grandfather" could be more than 5,000 years old.

Scientists were not able to determine an exact age based on tree rings because of the tree's massive trunk.

Normally, a 1 metre (1.09 yards) cylinder of wood is extracted to count tree rings, but the great grandfather's trunk has a diameter of 4 metres.

Jonathan Barichivich, the scientist who led the study, said the sample they extracted and other dating methods suggest the tree is up to 5,484 years old.

"This method tells us that 80% of all possible growth trajectories give us an age of this living tree greater than 5,000 years," Barichivich said.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

বিভ্রান্তি নয় সচেতনতাই প্রতিকার

১৯৯৯ সালে US-FDA (United States-Food & Drug Administration) Rabepazole Sodium ২০ মিগ্রা ট্যাবলেট ও ১০ মিগ্রা ক্যাপসুলের অনুমোদন প্রদান করে।

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INT'L BOOKER PRIZE

Geetanjali Shree first Indian author to win it

CNN ONLINE

Indian author Geetanjali Shree has won the International Booker Prize -- making her the first writer from the South Asian nation to claim the prestigious literary award.

Shree's winning novel, "Tomb of Sand," follows an 80-year-old woman as she gains a new lease on life following the death of her husband. Set in the shadow of the 1947 partition of India, Shree explores themes of trauma, motherhood and feminism.

Translated from Hindi to English by Daisy Rockwell, the book is the first in an Indian language to win the award, which recognizes fiction translated into English

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

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