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Momen likely to visit US next week

FM says US keen to clear up confusions

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen is likely to go to the US next week to attend several events there.

The foreign minister is likely to be in Los Angeles on February 19, Scheli Sabrin, spokesperson for the foreign ministry told a weekly press briefing yesterday.

He is expected to inaugurate a newly constructed Shaheed Minar, an initiative of expatriate Bangladeshis, in the City of Paris, Los Angeles.

Momen will also inaugurate a Bangladesh Corner at a public library there. He will also deliver a

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Students placing a banner, which reads: "Rabindranath has disappeared!", near Raju Bhaskorjo on Dhaka University campus yesterday. They did it in response to the DU authorities removing a sculpture of Rabindranath Tagore with tape over his mouth. Students placed it there on Tuesday to protest the "stifling of free speech". Story on Page 3.

PHOTO: COLLECTED/PRABIR DAS

VGf PROGRAMME IN RAMADAN

1cr families to get 10kg rice each for free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to distribute 10 kilogrammes of rice for free to each of more than one crore ultra-poor and destitute families under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGf) programme in the upcoming Ramadan as part of the measures to cushion them from the cost of living crisis.

The rice would be distributed by the ministry of disaster management and relief, Food Minister Sadhan Chandar Majumder told journalists yesterday at the secretariat.

The government has imported good quality Atap rice from Myanmar for the VGf programme, Majumder said.

The distribution will be carried

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Hit by bike, 7-month-old dies in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family had just attended a pre-wedding ceremony in the capital's Uttara early yesterday.

Mazeda Begum was walking home holding her seven-month-old granddaughter Rafia Akter when a motorcycle hit them near Metro Rail Station No-2 12:45am.

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Dummy candidates on AL's mind

Hasina asks party MPs to prepare hard for polls, as 'BNP, allies might in the end join the election'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League plans to field dummy candidates alongside its nominees in all constituencies to make the next election look participatory in the absence of the opposition parties.

At the AL Parliamentary Party meeting on February 7, Sheikh

Hasina asked the lawmakers to prepare a list of probable pretend candidates for their constituencies, sources said.

However, the AL president said the BNP and like-minded parties may eventually take part in the election this time and they are preparing in covert to that end.

Saying the next election would be

tough for the AL, Hasina instructed the lawmakers to work hard for the polls slated for early January 2024.

In the 2014 general election, 154 AL nominees won unopposed after the BNP withdrew from the polls.

The AL supremo had issued similar directives ahead of the last national polls in 2018, but the BNP

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You will be Remembered...

we are deeply shocked & mourn



Mr. Ekram Uddin Mollah

(Born : 30th January 1991 - Died : 17th February 2019)

We remember him in honor of the 4th death anniversary of **Mr. Ekram Uddin Mollah**, the honorable director of the **Osman Group of Industries**. We pray for the forgiveness of the departed soul in the court of Almighty Allah and pray by the grace of Allah will dwell in Paradise.

**Osman Group of Industries**

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LUNA SHAMSUDDOHA

1954-2021

Luna, it has been two years since your untimely passing and every moment we have continued to feel your extraordinary presence.

Your unconditional love, strength and encouragement for your family, friends and professional network is larger than life, as your legacy lives on in your absence. **Luna**, we remember your profound influence and service for the betterment of women, our nation and beyond.

May Allah keep you in the highest of Heaven

THE FAMILY OF LUNA SHAMSUDDOHA

17 FEBRUARY 2023