

LDC5 SUMMIT PM to fly to Qatar tomorrow

To seek global support for smooth LDC graduation



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is set to leave for Qatar tomorrow to attend the 5th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5).

The event will be held on March 5-9, where the PM is supposed to seek global support for Bangladesh's smooth graduation from LDC.

This will be the last LDC summit for Bangladesh as the country will be graduating from LDC status by 2026.

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Defying a ban, a goods-laden three-wheeler runs on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar Radio Colony area yesterday. Plying of such vehicles on national highways increases the risk of accidents. A motorcycle is also seen going against traffic.

1 dead, 50 hurt as villagers clash over TikTok video Cops fire rubber bullets, lob teargas shells to disperse mobs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man was killed and around 50 others were injured in a clash between two groups over making a TikTok video in Sunamganj's Chhatak upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam, 35, a resident of Muktirgaon village.

According to police and locals, the clash took place in Surma Bridge's Goal Chattar area and went on from 8:00pm to 12:00am.

They said when two teenage girls of Muktirgaon went to the area to film a TikTok video around 7:30pm, some people from the neighbouring Bashkholo village came to the spot and barred them from making the video.

As the girls got into an argument with them, another group went to the spot to defend the two.

The scuffle soon turned into a clash, in which one Mamun was allegedly stabbed.

As the news spread, residents of both villages went to the area and fought violently for hours, leaving over 50 people hurt.

Md Mainul Zakir, officer-in-charge of Chhatak Police Station, said police rushed to the spot, fired blank shots and rubber bullets, and lobbed teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

With a stab wound and a severe head injury, Saiful Islam was taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College

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Police want 550 SP posts before polls

Devise plan to appease officials stuck in same post for years

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The Police Headquarters is planning to propose promotion of 550 police officials to superintendents of police keeping them in the offices they are serving now.

The move will be made to address the frustration of a group of police cadre officials who cannot get promoted due to a lack of vacant posts, said sources at the PHQ.

Sources claimed that many police officials are dejected for not getting promotions and feel unenthusiastic about the additional workload an election year brings in.

This sort of promotion, known as in-situ, is unusual in the bureaucracy.

A police cadre officer, who joins the service as an assistant superintendent of police (ASP), is supposed to be promoted to SP after 10 years in service. The SP post is the fifth in the hierarchy of BCS cadre service.

There are 550 officers who cannot be promoted due to unavailability of posts,

according to the PHQ.

These officials are from the 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st BCS batches. The 28th batch officers were appointed to the police force in 2010 while those from the next three batches joined the service in the subsequent years. A lack of promotion opportunities is frustrating officials, said PHQ officials.

A good number of cadre officials will retire as additional SP if initiatives are not taken to create posts immediately, they said.

For this reason, the proposal for in-situ promotions has already been finalised, a high official at the PHQ told The Daily Star recently.

"It will be submitted to the [home] ministry soon through the Police Management-I wing of the Police Headquarters," he said requesting anonymity.

Md Monzur Rahman, assistant inspector general (media) at the PHQ, said they are working to create additional posts to ensure smooth

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HINDENBURG-ADANI ROW India's SC orders probe, forms panel

AGENCIES

The Indian Supreme Court yesterday ordered a probe into the Adani-Hindenburg episode and set up a six-member expert committee to be headed by its retired Judge AM Sapre.

It also sought a status report from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on its ongoing investigation into the matter within two months.

Other members of the panel include OP Bhat, JP Devdhar, KV Kamath, Nandan Nilakeni and advocate Somasekhar Sundaresan.

The SC panel will examine causal factors leading to the episode, suggest measures to strengthen investors' awareness and investigate whether there was a regulatory failure.

The panel will also

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US sanctions on Rab may be relaxed

Says DG of the force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is a possibility of the US relaxing sanctions on the Rapid Action Battalion, said Rab Director General M Khurshid Hossain yesterday.

"They [the US] were provided with fake information.

Basically, they were misguided. As we have provided them with evidence and documents, they are now satisfied," said the Rab boss while talking to reporters after placing a floral wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi 32.

Khurshid, who got promoted to a grade-1 officer on Tuesday, also said US Assistant Secretary Donald Lu during his visit in January this year praised the force.

"We do not only deal with law and order but also work on different issues," he said, adding that many of the force members sacrificed their lives while serving the country.

On December 10, 2021, the US imposed human rights-related sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former officials.



New moai statue found in Easter Island lagoon

AFP, Santiago



A new moai, one of Easter Island's iconic statues, was found in the bed of a dry lagoon in a volcano crater, the Indigenous community that administers the site on the Chilean island has said.

"This moai has great potential for scientific and natural studies, it's a really unique discovery as it's the first time that that a moai has been discovered inside

a lagoon in a Rano Raraku crater," said the Ma'u Henua Indigenous community in a statement on Tuesday.

The statue was found on February 21 by a team of scientific volunteers from three Chilean universities collaborating on a project to restore the marshland in the crater of the Rano Raraku volcano.

Several moai in that area suffered charring in an October forest fire on the island, which is also known as Rapa Nui and lies some 3,500 kilometres (2,175 miles) off the west coast of Chile.

"This moai is in the center of a lagoon that began drying up in 2018," Ninoska Avareipua

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BUSY WITH THE BEES ... A blue-bearded bee-eater gently perched on a flowering tree branch in Sylhet's Satchhari forest. These fascinating birds are found in much of the Indian subcontinent and parts of Southeast Asia, and prefer living in densely forested areas. Their appearance and food habits are quite apparent in the name - with elongated blue feathers running down the throat and an appetite for mostly bees, along with other flying insects. How they get their food is even more interesting, as they usually target hives and provoke the bees to come out and attack them. Once the bees are out, they used their curved beaks to grab hold of them and hit and rub the insect on a hard surface to stun them and remove toxins.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

Onus squarely on Tigers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dawid Malan's ton in the first ODI on Wednesday swept away Bangladesh's hopes of using the Mirpur wicket to down England, but the Tigers will have another shot and an attempt to level the series in the second ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium today.

Malan cracked the Mirpur code during an unbeaten 114 which was enough to take England to a nervy three-wicket win.

The Tigers may take some inspiration from having history on their side as they managed to bounce back in the second match after losing the first when they last faced England at home in an ODI series in 2016, although they then went on to lose the third.

Bangladesh will also be keen to keep alive a win streak at home, which has seen them win seven bilateral ODI series on the trot since England beat them 2-1 in 2016.

The Tamim Iqbal-led side will also once again have the advantage of

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Naima Islam
(1972-2023)

Naima Islam, third beloved daughter (Fourth Child) of the Pioneer in industrialization in Bangladesh Late Jahurul Islam, has died in 'Moberly Regional Medical Centre' due to a cardiac attack on January 23, 2023 in USA (Inna Lillahi wa inna Ilahi raji'un). A doa mahfil will be held at her house at **House-8, Road-72, Gulshan-2, Dhaka** after Asr prayers, on Saturday, March 04, 2023.

Her family cordially requests relatives, friends and all well-wishers to attend the doa mahfil and pray for her departed soul.

