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# Beekeeper dealt bitter blow

*Honey yield from mustard fields in Tangail drops due to cold, dense fog*

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Honey yields from mustard in Tangail were dealt a blow this year due to unfavourable weather conditions, say cultivators.

Although half of the season has already passed, beekeepers have not been able to collect honey as per their expectations due to the bitter cold and dense fog since the time mustard flowers began blooming.

On the other hand, local beekeepers are deprived of fair prices -- with many selling the honey they produced last year at throwaway prices.

A large amount of honey, around 100 tonnes, collected from mustard and other flowers last year remain unsold, leaving honey cultivators in a tight spot.

Cultivators said where they sold per maund of honey for Tk 6,000 in 2018, they were unable to sell it for even Tk 4,000 last year.

During the season, cultivators get honey five times a year: from mustard flowers from the second week of November till

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Two farmers working at a bee farm in Gala area of Tangail Sadar upazila. From top right, hive frames at the farm; bees collecting honey from mustard flowers at a nearby field; a hive frame filled with bees. Beekeepers in the district said honey production fell this year amid cold and dense fog. The photos were taken recently.



PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

# JNU RAMPAGE Protests rage across India

AFP, New Delhi

Protests were held across India yesterday after masked assailants wielding batons and iron rods went on a rampage at a top Delhi university, leaving more than two dozen injured.

Controversy over Sunday's violence at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) comes as a new challenge to the government as it confronts major nationwide protests against a new citizenship bill that critics say is anti-Muslim.

Some students blamed the university attack on right-wing activists, but they also accused police of doing nothing to stop the violence.

At least 28 students and teachers were injured, while doctors and nurses from a nearby hospital who went to treat them were also attacked, their union said.

Scores of riot police yesterday patrolled the university -- the alma mater of several key ministers in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet -- picking their way past shattered glass and broken doors and furniture.

They made no immediate arrests, but blamed the violence on "rival student groups".

As condemnation of the attacks spread, more than 1,000 people held a vigil in

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# Police want postings on deputation

*On second day of Police Week, they also demand rise in number of SP-rank officials, interest-free car loan, among others*

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police have demanded postings on deputation in the Anti-Corruption Commission, Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), BRTA, and BIWTA to look after the enforcement and investigation activities of those organisations.

During a conference with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital yesterday, top police officials also asked for increasing the number of posts at the ranks of superintendent of police and above, providing interest-free loan for personal vehicles, residential facilities for the chiefs of different police units and posting officials in Bangladesh missions abroad.

The meeting was organised on the second day of the ongoing Police Week 2020.

On the demand for postings on deputation, Hasina said policemen were already being posted to the ACC. She said she thought the police should have representatives in the DNC, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

She said the government would take steps in this regard. Her speech was broadcast live on Bangladesh Television.

Harun Or Rashid, deputy inspector general of Mymensingh Range, placed the demands at the meeting.

Asked why police wanted postings in those organisations, a number of officials said enforcing law and carrying out investigations are the inherent duties of the policemen who are trained on these subjects.

"So, if police are given the duties in those organisations, those will be carried out more effectively," a DIG-ranked official told The Daily Star on

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# Gain trust of people

PM tells police

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the police personnel to gain people's trust and confidence by developing themselves as the "force of people".

"You will have to be the police of the people so that people can have confidence and trust in the force," she said.

The PM was speaking at a meeting with the senior police officials at her office in the capital, marking the Police Week 2020.

Hasina said with the introduction of 999 emergency helpline, people now have got strong

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# Scientists plan to plant a billion new trees using drones



MAIL ONLINE

A group of scientists in Canada have announced a new initiative to use drones to plant new trees cheaply and quickly in part of an effort to fight against the negative effects of climate change and deforestation.

Called Flash Forest, the team began testing its drone delivery systems in August, with a test flight that saw them successfully plant 100 trees with a drone.

Those results were so encouraging they've expanded their goals to use their specially designed drone systems to plant a billion new trees by 2028.

"Every year the planet loses 13 billion trees and regains less than half of that," the team's Bryce Jones

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# Court orders freezing GK Shamim's 194 bank accounts

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted a Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) petition to freeze 194 bank accounts of former Jubo League leader GK Shamim.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order.

CID officials said Shamim and his accomplices used their licenced firearms to misappropriate a huge amount of money through

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# PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 7

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:00  
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# USE OF EVMS CEC says it's to ensure no irregularities take place

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday turned down BNP's demand for not using electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the Dhaka city elections slated for January 30.

After a meeting with the CEC, the BNP alleged that the EVMs would be used in the Dhaka north and south city corporation polls for "silent vote rigging", while the CEC said they wanted to ensure no irregularities take place in the elections.

"As EVM is an offline system, there is no scope for hacking. There is no scope for silent vote rigging. We had used the EVM in the parliamentary, local government, and city corporation elections. Voters or candidates did not raise such allegations," the CEC said.

Defending the EC's decision to use the voting

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Tents put up on the Biswa Ijtema ground on the bank of the Turag river in Gazipur's Tongi. Preparations were going on in full-swing for the first phase of the congregation from January 10 to 12. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# SLAIN IRANIAN GENERAL'S FUNERAL New commander promises revenge

*Trump steps up rhetoric against Iran, threatens Iraq sanctions*

AGENCIES

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians thronged Tehran's streets yesterday for the funeral of military commander Qassem Soleimani, killed by a US drone strike, and his successor promised to drive US forces out of the region in revenge.

The coffins of Soleimani and Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who also died in Friday's attack in Baghdad, were passed over the heads of mourners chanting "Death to America".

The killing of Soleimani, the architect of Iran's drive to extend its influence across the Middle East, on the orders of US President Donald Trump has stoked concern across the globe that a broader Middle East conflict could erupt.

Trump has listed 52 Iranian targets, including cultural sites, that would be hit if Iran retaliates with attacks on Americans or US assets.

"I promise to continue martyr Soleimani's cause as firmly as before with the help of God, and in return for his martyrdom we aim to get rid of America from the region," said General Esmail Ghaani, the new commander of the Quds Force, the elite unit of Iran's Revolutionary Guards charged with overseas operations.

"God the Almighty has promised to take martyr Soleimani's revenge. Certainly actions will be taken," he told state television.

Other political and military leaders have made similar threats without offering specifics. Iran, which lies at the mouth of a Gulf oil shipping route, has a range of allied

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