

7 cops sued

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into cognisance, the court asked the additional commissioner (administration and finance) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police to investigate and submit a report," said Yasin's lawyer Shahidul Islam Suman.

Citing the case statement, the lawyer said police extorted the money from Yasin in two phases.

"On September 9, last year, a team of police picked up Yasin from his office in Bayezid Bostami area and confined him to the police station. They demanded Tk 20 lakh ransom and threatened to kill him in a shootout by showing him as an arms trader," added the lawyer.

"Yasin managed Tk 11 lakh that night by calling his relatives. He was released from the police station after they brought the money," Sumon said.

He also said Yasin was again picked up by plainclothes policemen in an SUV from Sher Shah area on February 4 this year.

They took him to a deserted place in Ananya Residential area. This time, they demanded Tk 50 lakh from him and made a similar threat. Yasin somehow managed Tk 12 lakh by calling 27 of his relatives and acquaintances and gave it to them, according to the case statement.

The lawyer said Yasin also submitted written complaints to the inspector general of police and the CMP commissioner in this regard.

Contacted, OC Aatur Rahman said, "I don't even know him [Yasin]. Who is he?"

Despite repeated attempts, OC Priton Sarkar could not be reached for comments as he did not pick up his phone.

Every child

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failing to protect their health, failing to protect their rights, and failing to protect their planet," said WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

11-FOLD OBESITY SURGE
Around 250 million under-fives in low- and middle-income countries risk being stunted due to malnutrition and other impacts of poverty, the authors said.

At the same time, the number of obese children worldwide has surged 11-fold since 1975 to stand at 124 million.

Children in some countries see as many as 30,000 adverts on television in a single year. And despite industry self-regulation, one study showed that children in Australia were exposed 51 million times to alcohol adverts in just one year of televised sport.

"Industry regulation has failed," said Costello.

"And the reality could be much worse still: we have few figures about the huge expansion of social media advertising and algorithms aimed at our children."

The authors called on governments to radically reduce carbon emissions in line with the Paris climate goals and to tighten regulation of harmful marketing.

Current emissions pledges put Earth on course to warm more than 3C by 2100, which "would lead to devastating health consequences for children", from rising sea levels and heatwaves to disease and malnutrition.

Woman dies

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There were injury marks on her legs, arms and some other parts of the body, Jisan said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Manjur Rahman of DB in Gazipur told The Daily Star yesterday that Yasmin was arrested with 120 yaba pills and taken to the DB office in the city. She later fell sick and was taken to hospital.

Her family members were arrested with drugs several times before, he added.

Jisan said his father was a drug addict and only came home once or twice a week, but he was not accused in any case. He and his mother ran the family by working in a poultry farm in the area.

He added that the officers did not find yaba pills in his mother's possession.

The hospital's Residential Medical Officer Rafiqul Islam said Yasmin was brought to the hospital around 10:00pm with chest pain and breathing difficulties. She was referred to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, but she died about an hour later.

It was primarily suspected that she died due to cardiac arrest, but there were no injury marks on the body, he said.

The cause of death will be known after the autopsy report is prepared, he added.

The body was handed over to the family around 2:00pm yesterday after an autopsy at the hospital.

Jisan said he will file a case.

A three-member committee led by Md Azad Mia, additional commissioner of police in Gazipur, was formed yesterday to investigate the incident, said Gazipur Metropolitan Police Commissioner Anwar Hossain.

The committee was asked to submit the probe report in seven working days.



An Iraqi woman using a national flag as a mask lifts a placard during an anti-government protest in the central city of Najaf, yesterday. Hundreds of Iraqi women staged a march in the Shia holy city of Najaf insisting on their right to play a central role in the protest movement sweeping the country.

PHOTO: AFP

Global watchdog

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a strategic implementation plan to improve its ability to counter-money laundering.

He declined to elaborate but Myanmar recently introduced new requirements for companies to disclose beneficial ownership, and for banks to undertake better customer due diligence. It has also passed laws legalising its casinos after concerns unregulated gaming establishments were being exploited by transnational crime groups.

Two sources with knowledge of the FATF's proceedings and its investigation into Myanmar said the watchdog found that implementation of the nation's anti-money laundering

action plan was far from complete and it was on track to be put on the grey list at the meetings this week.

Myanmar lies at the heart of the "Golden Triangle" region, the epicentre of illicit drug production and trafficking in the Asia-Pacific. It also has "significant" problems with illegal jade mining, arms trafficking and logging, among other offences, an FATF report in 2018 found.

"Myanmar faces extremely high levels of proceeds-generating crimes" and was "exposed to a large number of very significant money laundering threats", the report said.

The report also noted that the "activities of large-scale transnational crime groups" were "closely related"

to ethnic armed groups which control swathes of Myanmar's territory.

Myanmar's government is in peace talks with most of those groups and some have been incorporated into Border Guard Forces allied to the country's military.

Meanwhile, corruption remains a "very significant challenge" in Myanmar while its state-owned financial institutions and enterprises were "poorly governed and weakly regulated", the report added.

Twelve countries are on the FATF's grey list. Myanmar's expected inclusion on the list follows its first evaluation by the FATF since the watchdog changed its assessment methodology in 2012.

SpaceX to send four tourists

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The new tourists would be carried on SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule, which was developed to transport NASA astronauts and is due to make its first crewed flight in the coming months.

"Our goal is to try to get to about two to three times the height of the space station," Space Adventure's president Tom Shelley told AFP.

The ISS orbits at 400 kilometers (250 miles) above Earth's surface, but the exact altitude of the Space Adventures mission would be determined by SpaceX, added Shelley.

At its earliest, it could take place by late 2021, though "probably more likely is sometime in 2022," he said.

The capsule was designed to take astronauts from the surface to the ISS. Just nine square meters in volume, there are no private areas to sleep wash or use the bathroom.

Mission duration will depend on what the customers want, said Shelley.

Asked about the cost, Shelley replied: "It's not cheap."

The cost of launching a Falcon 9 rocket is \$62 million, according to publicly available figures, then there will be the cost of building a fresh Dragon capsule. Could it exceed \$100 million?

"Your assessment is correct, I can't comment specifically on the numbers, but yeah those are the cost components," he said.

"We have a pretty good network of high net worth individuals around the world, many of whom we know are interested in spaceflight," he added.

Unlike space tourism to the ISS, which required six months of training in Moscow, the next mission will need four weeks of participation in the US.

After a gap of 12 years, Space Adventures also wants to send two more tourists to the ISS on board a Russian rocket in 2021.

Back in 2005, the company announced, amid great fanfare, that it planned to send two tourists around the Moon -- but that mission has now

been abandoned, confirmed Shelley.

Other companies involved in space tourism are Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin.

The two are developing vessels to send tourists just beyond the border of space (80 kilometers or 100 kilometers, depending on the definitions chosen by both). Tickets for Virgin started at \$250,000 when they first went on sale in the mid 2000s.

SpaceX's offering is far more ambitious and powered by the same reusable Falcon 9 rocket that puts satellites into space and send astronauts to the ISS.

At the same time, Boeing is also developing a crew capsule called Starliner, also with the intention of transporting US astronauts to the ISS.

Like SpaceX, Boeing also envisages sending tourists into space, but the program's development is hampered by major glitches that resulted in the early termination of an uncrewed test flight in December.

Blaze over, not danger

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said Abdul Barik, a resident of Chawkbazar.

"It's true that you will not find any chemical store on the roadside in Churihatta as many traders shifted those to other places after the fire. But some of them are still stockpiling chemicals in secret places in the neighbourhood.

"We live in panic, as the existing chemical warehouses may cause accidents like Chawkbazar again."

The actual number of chemical warehouse and stores in old town is hard to come by. But the leaders of Bangladesh Chemical and Perfumery Merchant Association claim they have over 1,500 members.

But at least 7,000 to 8,000 shops and stores housed in residential buildings in Old Dhaka are not affiliated with the association, said the leaders.

These warehouses store various chemicals including glycerine, sodium anhydrous, sodium thiosulfate, hydrogen peroxide, methyl ethyl ketone, thinner and isopropyl. If these chemicals come in contact with fire, there is a high risk of explosions.

Besides, a large number of rubber, plastic and sandal-making factories have been operating in some areas.

According to Bangladesh Environment Conservation Rules 1997, no industry using hazardous chemicals or goods can operate in and around a residential area; and the factory owners must have environmental clearance certificates before they can use the materials.

Ignoring the government ban, various unscrupulous traders store inflammable chemicals.

During a recent visit to Chawkbazar area, The Daily Star found no change in the plastic recycling factories in the neighbourhood.

Mehedi Hasan, assistant office secretary of Bangladesh Plastic Babosayee Samity, said, "We have only shops and warehouses of plastic granular. The plastic raw materials are non-combustible."

But experts say during a fire, such material can help spread the flames.

However, Mehedi said, "We are doing this here for generations. Why should we go?"

These correspondents also saw chemical stores in Mitford, Armanitola, Islambagh, Bongshal, Siddique Bazar and Babu Bazar areas of Old Dhaka.

There is a chemical warehouse around 500 metres from the Wahed Mansion. Some five to six rooms store raw materials for painting.

The caretaker said the owner does not live in the area, and declined to talk further.

Chan Mia, a meat seller close to

Wahed Mansion, said, "We have heard that chemical stores have moved to another place. But there are still some stores operating inside residential buildings."

A resident of Chawkbazar, preferring anonymity, said, "We have seen fire department carrying out awareness activities occasionally in the area. But the efforts could not put much impact on businessmen and homeowners as they prioritise profit over safety."

Before the fire, chemicals were being transported in day time but now it is done at night, he alleged.

Mohammad Belayet Hossain, a member of Bangladesh Chemical and Perfumery Merchant Association, said this business is ages-old and it is not possible to shift overnight.

Still, many warehouses have moved to different places on their own in the last one year.

"For example, some shifted to Demra, some to Narayanganj, but the relocation was not done in a planned way. Therefore, chemical warehouses are spread across different areas of the city and we have no control over them," said Belayet, a former general secretary of the association.

But none could shift to the government designated places as those are still not ready, he said.

The government has long been saying about establishing a permanent hub but those are only limited to rhetoric. "Whatever the government does, it has to consult with us as we know how to maintain chemical," he added.

Brigadier General Md Sazzad Hussain, director general of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence, said, "After the Chawkbazar incident, we stopped issuing any licence. All the chemical stores were not relocated from Old Dhaka. Some of them are still doing their business."

Md Abdul Halim, secretary of industries ministry, said they are hoping to relocate the chemical warehouses temporarily to Shyampur and Tongi by June and December this year respectively.

"The work for relocation is going on in full swing," he said.

About the permanent chemical village, he said they will complete the land purchase procedure by June. "We will be able to shift the entire chemical industry in next two years."

Expressing frustration, noted architect Iqbal Habib said, "If we consider the home ministry's recommendations, we will find that basically nothing changed except some awareness."

"Fire incidents are still taking place on a small scale regularly. It means another big tragedy is looming."

UPDF man

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organisational work, the statement read.

Around 8:00 am, criminals opened fire on the duo, leaving Suman dead on the spot. Akarshan was abducted by the criminals, it added.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify their claims.

Mir Jahidul Haque Roni, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said

a team was sent to the remote area to recover the body. But they could not find the body as of 6:39pm.

Meanwhile, a UPDF statement demanded arrest of the killers.

In the last two years, more than 70 people were killed due to conflicts among regional political parties in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban.

One Bangladeshi

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Four other Bangladeshi patients are also undergoing treatment for coronavirus at Singapore's National Centre for Infectious Diseases.

Besides, five other Bangladeshis, who are not infected but had stayed with those who are, have been quarantined there.

The foreign minister said that the Singaporean government is making sure that no other Bangladeshi gets infected there.

In last 24 hours, three more people had been infected with coronavirus in Singapore, raising the number of patients to 81, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) said in a press release yesterday.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday reiterated his call not to pay heed to rumours regarding coronavirus, said a press release from the ministry.

No rumours regarding coronavirus would be tolerated in the country, he said while speaking to the journalists following his visit to the newly-constructed building of the Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM) in Dhaka.

"A vested quarter is trying to spread rumours saying coronavirus will spread from consuming chicken or by being near anyone who has returned from China," he said.

Star wins

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heartfelt thanks to The Daily Star," he added.

The Best in Social Media Engagement award of WAN-IFRA is the most notable award for publishers for their outstanding work in digital media.

The awards are presented in almost every region in Asia, Middle East,

Africa, Europe and Latin America.

The Daily Star achieved the South Asian Digital Media Award for the third time this year. Earlier, The Daily Star won the award in 2017 and 2018 in Gold and Silver categories respectively.

The event was powered by Google News Initiative and Facebook.

Excess land will go to landless

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He urges farmers and cultivators to work for agricultural revolution in the country. He says that not an inch of land must remain fallow.

Bangabandhu recalls, amidst thunderous applause, that his government has already declared exemption of land revenue up to 25 bighas.

He calls upon the people to work selflessly with the same vigour with which they faced the Pakistan occupation army.

"We have to build such a society where these hungry people, cultivators, labourers could smile again," he adds.

LAND CEILINGS UP TO 100 BIGHAS

Bangabandhu, at a public meeting in Bhola, declares that a family would be allowed to hold 100 bighas of land, and the ceiling may be reduced if necessary. The excess land available from the families and the khash lands would be distributed among

the landless peasants with immediate effect, he adds.

CONCERN OVER BENGALLEES IN PAKISTAN

Bangabandhu expresses his grave concerns about the Bangalees living in Pakistan. Addressing a huge gathering in Ramgati he regrets that Pakistani President ZA Bhutto turned down his proposal for repatriation of Bangalees. He also reiterates that he has no objection if any non-Bangalee wants to go to Pakistan. Bangabandhu once again asks the Pakistan president to accept the reality of Bangladesh and recognise the new nation.

MASS GRAVE FOUND IN HATHAZARI

A mass grave is discovered at Hathazari, Chittagong where it is estimated that more than one thousand people were buried by collaborators of the Pakistan army. Skeletons, decomposed bodies and women's hair still remain in this mass grave behind Hathazari Wadudia Madrassah. The skeletons are found

with their limbs tied with ropes.

RAISE GONO BAHINI

General MAG Osmani, Commander-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, calls for raising a large people force to back a limited, well-trained regular army for the defence of the country.

NEW AID PLEDGED FOR BANGLADESH

At a closed-door meeting of donor countries at the United Nations, several countries including Denmark, Norway and the US pledge new aid to Bangladesh. The meeting was convened by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The US representative Christopher Philip reportedly quotes from President Richard Nixon's State of the World message in which he had said that the US government would not lose sight of the aspirations of the 70 million Bangalees.

SOURCES: February 21, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Daily Ittefaq, Azad, Morning News, The Bangladesh Observer and Purbodesh.

No high rises

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Describing the Cox's Bazar sea beach as the world's longest sandy sea beach, she said the 80-mile sea beach is one of the most beautiful tourist spots of the world.

The PM advised the authorities to develop the Sabrang Tourism Park as a "dedicated tourist site" for foreigners.

She also instructed them to ensure all necessary facilities maintaining international standards so that foreign tourists could be attracted to the region to witness natural beauties.

Hasina also gave the authorities concerned necessary guidelines to ensure various facilities in the three tourism parks.

The consultancy firm which

prepared the master plan for Sonadia Eco-Tourism Park assured the premier that tourists would be able to visit the park within 24 months. However, it will take nine years to give a complete shape to the park.

At the directives of the premier, the BEZA has undertaken steps to develop the tourism parks. A total of 909 acres of land out of 8,967 acres of Sonadia will be used for developing the eco-tourism park, said officials.

Earlier, BEZA Executive Chairman Paban Chowdhury gave an overview of the three master plans. The plans would be finalised within a month as per the PM's latest guidelines, he added.

PM's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim and Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office Tofazzel Hossain Miah, among others, were present at the programme.

Sabrang Tourism Park will be the first exclusive tourism park in Cox's Bazar district encompassing an area of 1,047 acres in Teknaf's Sabrang union. It is an amazing hill and sea beach territory with multifaceted and admirable beauty.

The Naf Tourism Park, popularly known as Jaliardwip, will be the first island based tourism park in Bangladesh encompassing an area of 271 acres.