

RMG worker

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said Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Model Police Station.

They were sent to the court to have their statements recorded, he said.

The girl was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, a schoolgirl was raped allegedly by one of her neighbours in Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila on Wednesday evening.

Her mother filed a case with Abhaynagar Police Station accusing Shamim Hasan, 18, son of Shahidul Hasan.

Police held the alleged rapist yesterday after the case was filed.

According to the case statement, Shamim, who used to stalk the girl on her way to and from school, entered the victim's home when nobody else was home and raped her.

Hearing her screams, another neighbour rushed to the house and Shamim fled the scene, police said. The girl was sent to Jashore General Hospital for medical tests yesterday.

Abhaynagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (investigation) Milon Kumar Mandal confirmed the arrest of Shamim.

Meanwhile, in Faridpur town, police over the last two days arrested four youths in connection with the gang-rape of a 14-year-old girl.

The arrestees are: Asibur Rahman, 24, Imran Sheikh, 24, Papan Sheikh, 23, and Nannu Sheikh, 24, of Bihari Colony area in Faridpur town.

The victim's father lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station against five -- the four arrested and Malek Sardar, 24, around 1:00pm yesterday. The victim is now under treatment at Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

According to the case statement, on August 11, the victim went out to buy medicine for her sick father around 7:00pm. The accused took her to a secluded area where two of the accused raped her while the other two helped them.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (Sadar Circle) of Faridpur Rasedul Islam said, "The incident came to the notice of the police when the victim was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday. After talking to the victim, police arrested four youths ..."

[Our Narayanganj, Benapole, and Faridpur correspondents contributed to this report]

Chocolate

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morning, the powder spread around the immediate vicinity of the factory, leaving a fine cocoa dusting.

The company says one car was lightly coated, and that it has offered to pay for any cleaning needed -- but hasn't yet been taken up on the offer.

Factory production was able to continue as normal and the company says the particles were completely harmless to people or the environment.

The ventilation system has now been repaired.

The incident was tweeted by a Twitter account for Olten with the caption: "Cocoa rain in the Olten industrial quarter: the ventilation system is to blame."

One replied to say "What a treat", while another wrote: "Ooooh I wish I was there."

"2020 is turning around," one Twitter user wrote. "Chocolate snow ... surely only in the next life?" another wrote.

Bangabandhu

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Bangladesh's application for membership until it releases all Pakistani prisoners of war and other detainees.

CABINET BODY REVIEWS FOOD POSITION

The Cabinet sub-committee on foodstuff and commodities under the chairmanship of acting Prime Minister Nazrul Islam meets today to review the stock of food grains and other essential commodities in the country. The sub-committee meets every alternate day to review the food position and take necessary decisions. An emergency operation room headed by a senior officer has been working since June 1, 1972 to deal exclusively with food price and the law and order situation in the country. The cell is located at the prime minister's secretariat.

SOURCES: August 22, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.



Fire crew members and municipal workers make a concerted effort to pump out water from a flooded road underpass following monsoon rainfalls in Gurgaon on the outskirts of New Delhi, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

A curious list for old-age allowance

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allowance for around five years. His allowance is still being withdrawn, alleged Fakhar Uddin Ahmed, a resident of Ranchap village.

Fifty-year-old Vobendra Dey of the same village died three years ago. He had been getting old age allowance for around seven years and his allowance is still being withdrawn.

Some people, who have been listed before reaching their age limit, are Abdul Monaf, 56, Ummar Ali, 62, Shashank Malakar, 48, and Jyotirmoy Malakar, 53, Pankaj Rudrapal, 56, Sujan Mia, 62, Abul Mia, 63, Asik Mia, 58, Shailesh Dey, 64, Abdul Karim, 64, Abdul Karim, 52, Ashkir Mia, 52,

Maleka Begum, 50, Anil Roy, 54, and Parmesh Chandra Dey, 55.

Shafiq Mia, 60, Panua Rabidas, 50, Siraj Mia, 53, Abdul Mukit Chowdhury, 50, Mahmud Ali, 64, Niranjan Malakar, 64, and Abdur Rahim, 54, Abdul Bachit, 53, Khalik Mia and Mansur Mia, 55, and Panmati Das, 55, are also on the list.

Usually, the elected member of a union parishad ward prepares the list of aged poor of his or her area. Then, the member sends the list to the chairman of that union parishad. After giving approval, the chairman forwards it to the Department of Social Services.

Joyaln Abedin, a resident of Ismailpur village, recently filed a

complaint with the office of deputy commissioner over irregularities in distributing old age allowance.

In his complaint, Joyaln alleged that a local union parishad member, Sheikh Abdur Rauf, has included names of some persons in exchange of bribe though they don't fulfil the criteria.

Following the complaint, local social service officer has started probing it.

Contacted, Kulaura social service officer Ibrahim admitted that some people are taking the allowance by providing false information.

He hinted that these names were included by the UP member.

"We have already suspended

allowances to around 15 to 20 persons for providing false information," he told The Daily Star.

Sheikh Abdur Rauf, member of ward-4 of the union parishad, denied the allegations of his involvement in such irregularities. These names were included by some previous members and chairmen of the UP, he claimed.

Abdul Bachhit, the incumbent chairman of the UP, claimed that he knew nothing about the irregularities. It may have been done by the previous UP chairman.

Contacted, immediate-past UP chairman Mahmud Ali denied the allegations and said he knew nothing about it.

Ex-Trump aide Steve Bannon arrested

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Brian Kolfage, Andrew Badolato and Timothy Shea "received hundreds of thousands of dollars in donor funds from We Build the Wall, which they each used in a manner inconsistent with the organization's public representations."

The initiative began in 2018 as a GoFundMe campaign to raise money organizers said would go towards the border wall Trump had promised during his 2016 campaign, which Bannon orchestrated.

Kolfage, a 38-year-old based in

Florida, had vowed that all funds raised would go to the wall and he would not take compensation -- but according to the indictment, he took more than \$350,000 for his own use and worked to hide his actions.

'LAUNDER DONATIONS'

After calling the effort a "volunteer organization," Bannon, 66, received over \$1 million of the donations which he funneled through a non-profit he controlled, using some of it for his personal expenses, prosecutors said.

All four men are charged with one

count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

"Not only did they lie to donors, they schemed to hide their misappropriation of funds by creating sham invoices and accounts to launder donations and cover up their crimes, showing no regard for the law or the truth," said Philip Bartlett, head of New York's division of the US Postal Inspection Service which worked on the investigation.

Prior to leading Trump's 2016 presidential bid, Bannon -- a brash,

aggressively conservative voice of US nationalism -- headed the far-right outlet Breitbart News.

Once a prominent voice in the president's ear, Bannon was behind some of Trump's most controversial moves, including his ban on some travelers from abroad and the decision to pull the United States out of the Paris climate change agreement.

After frequent clashes with others in the White House including Trump, Bannon was pushed out in August 2017.

Putin critic in coma

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said he.

The Kremlin said it was aware that Navalny was ill and wished him well, but said there was no evidence yet to back claims he had been poisoned.

British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab said he was deeply concerned by reports that Navalny has been poisoned. "My thoughts are with him and his family".

There is a long history of Kremlin foes being poisoned or falling ill after suspected poisonings.

They include Alexander Litvinenko, who died in London in 2006 after drinking tea laced with polonium-210, and Sergei Skripal, a former double agent who was poisoned with a nerve agent in 2018 in Salisbury, England.

The Kremlin has repeatedly denied involvement in those and other incidents, calling them anti-Russian provocations.

Yarmysh did not say who she believed may have poisoned Navalny but said police had been called to the hospital.

A regional health ministry spokeswoman, Tatyana Shakirova, confirmed that Navalny has been hospitalised in Omsk and said doctors

assessed his condition as serious.

"Doctors are doing everything possible to stabilise his condition," she said. "The poisoning version is one of several versions being considered. It's not possible now to say what the reason was."

Navalny, a 44-year-old lawyer and anti-corruption activist, has served many stints in jail for organising anti-Kremlin protests and has been physically attacked in the street by pro-government activists.

He has helped investigations into what he has said are outrageous examples of official corruption, with his videos on the subject garnering millions of views.

Russia holds regional elections next month and Navalny and his allies have been working to increase support for candidates whom they back.

SCREAMING IN PAIN

Passenger Pavel Lebedev posted an account of what he saw on social media.

"At the start of the flight he went to the toilet and didn't come back. He started feeling really sick. They struggled to bring him round and he was screaming in pain."

Navalny's plane later made an

emergency landing in Omsk. Footage posted on social media showed a motionless Navalny being stretchered into an ambulance by medics.

S7, the airline he was travelling with, said Navalny had started feeling very ill soon after take-off and the captain had decided to make an emergency landing at a nearby airport.

He had not eaten or drunk anything on board, it said.

Navalny had a cup of tea at a Tomsk airport cafe before boarding his flight, Yarmysh said.

She drew a parallel with an incident last year in which Navalny suffered an acute allergic reaction that one doctor said could have resulted from poisoning with an unknown chemical.

"Obviously the same has been done to him now," Yarmysh said.

Rejoinder

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the rejoinder said.

We regret that we quoted him incorrectly. However, we maintain that no exaggerating and confusing words were in the news.

Migrant dies in mass border crossing into Spanish enclave

AFP, Madrid

One African man died and eight people were injured when around 300 migrants tried to storm the border fence separating the Spanish enclave Melilla from Morocco yesterday, local authorities said.

The man, whose identity and nationality were not known, appears to have died from "natural causes", the Spanish government's local delegation said in a statement.

He fell from a height of about five metres (16 feet) and emergency services on the ground were not able to revive him, a local police spokesman said.

"It was dark, the area was unknown and it seems like he fell," the spokesman said, adding it was not clear if the migrant died from injuries sustained in his fall or from a heart attack.

Another eight migrants were lightly injured, mainly with bruises, as well as three police officers, including one who dislocated his soldier, he added.

"It was not a violent assault, there was just the typical pushing of those trying to get in who we did not let through," the police spokesman said.

About 30 of the roughly 300 migrants who stormed the triple barbed wire fence which separates Melilla from Morocco managed to get into the tiny Spanish territory, the statement said.

The rest were "intercepted and rejected" by Moroccan security forces, it added.

It was one of the largest such mass attempts to cross over the border into Melilla, which along with Spain's other North African enclave of Ceuta, have the European Union's only land borders with Africa and are regular flashpoints for African migrants.

UK accused of ignoring warnings over virus-hit exams

AFP, London

The British government came under fresh pressure yesterday over its botched policy for grading exams cancelled during the coronavirus lockdown, as a new set of results showed a surge in top marks.

Schools minister Nick Gibb admitted he was warned weeks ago about the risks of using an algorithm to moderate assessments made by teachers, which the government abandoned this week after an uproar.

He insisted the model, which was intended to protect against potential widespread grade inflation, was fair but said it was implemented incorrectly.

The government said it would revert to teacher assessments after pupils took to the streets in protest at last week's A-level results, sat by 17 and 18-year-olds.

The "standardisation" process saw 40 percent of results downgraded, with children in disadvantaged areas particularly affected.

But a new set of results published yesterday, for GCSE exams sat by 16-year-olds, seemed to confirm fears that the unmoderated system would lead to grade inflation.

Some 25.9 percent of pupils received top marks -- up from 20.6 percent last year. The pass rate was 76 percent, up from 67 percent.

Gibb apologised to all students for the "pain and anxiety" they have suffered because of the chaos.

However, he could not say when another cohort of young people waiting for their Btec vocational qualification would get them, after the results were delayed at the last minute.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government has been criticised for many aspects of its response to the coronavirus outbreak, which has killed more than 41,000 people in Britain -- the worst toll in Europe.

But the exams chaos risks being particularly damaging, affecting voters who do not normally follow politics.

While Johnson's Conservatives have led the main opposition Labour party in opinion polls throughout the virus crisis, a new YouGov poll found this slipped from nine points to two in the past week.

Labour education spokeswoman Kate Green said the government was "warned again and again about the problems with the grading algorithm" but did nothing.

Europe can

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the country could experience the types of spikes and continued infections witnessed in the United States and Europe, said KCDC deputy director Kwon Jun-wook.

"Consider the Covid-19 pandemic now to be in full-swing."

INDIA REGISTERS NEW PEAK

India has recorded nearly 70,000 new cases in the past 24 hours, which is the biggest single-day spike so far. According to the Health Ministry update yesterday morning, the country saw 69,651 new cases over the past 24 hours.

With the nearly 70,000 new cases, India's coronavirus tally now stands at 28,36,925. Apart from the case spike, 977 deaths were also recorded on Wednesday, taking the Covid-19 death toll to 53,866.

In the United States, the country's top infectious diseases official, Anthony Fauci, said the government would not make any future Covid-19 vaccine obligatory for the general public.

But he said local jurisdictions could make it mandatory for some groups, like children.

"You don't want to mandate and try and force anyone to take a vaccine. We've never done that," said Fauci, a member of the White House coronavirus task force, during a video talk Wednesday organised by George Washington University.

His comments came hours after Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that coronavirus vaccines, once approved, would be mandatory for everyone in his country barring medical exemptions.

The pandemic has killed at least 787,918 people worldwide since surfacing in China late last year, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP yesterday.

More than 22.4 million cases have been registered.

VACCINE DEAL

The EU said yesterday it has concluded talks with German pharmaceutical firm CureVac, aiming to secure 225 million doses of a potential coronavirus vaccine.

It is the fourth agreement the bloc has reached with companies working on a potential vaccine against the virus, after deals with Sanofi-GSK, Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca.

"The envisaged contract with CureVac would provide for the possibility for all EU member states to purchase the vaccine," the European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, said in a statement.

An agreement to buy the vaccine will come once it has been shown to be safe and effective, the commission said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
Office of the Jail Super Jamtalpur District Jail jailsuperjamtalpur@gmail.com			
Memo No. 58.04.3900.097.01.001.20-3883 ৫ ৯৪৪২		Date:19-08-2020	
e-Tender Notice			
This is to notify all concerned that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.			
SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing date & time Closing date & time
01	485660	Supply of UnnatamanerMashur Dal (Mota) for the period of October/2020 to September/2021.	19-Aug-2020 16:00:00 06-Sep-2020 10:30:00
02	485661	Supply of UnnatamanerCholar Dal for the period of October/2020 to September/2021.	19-Aug-2020 16:00:00 06-Sep-2020 10:45:00
This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).			
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Over half of Lebanon 'trapped in poverty' even before blast: UN

AFP, Beirut

Lebanon's economic crisis doubled poverty rates to more than half the population even before this month's cataclysmic explosion at Beirut's port, a United Nations agency said Wednesday.

"Estimates reveal that more than 55 percent of the country's population is now trapped in poverty and struggling for bare necessities," the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) said.

That figure for May 2020 was almost double the rate of 28 percent for last year, it said.

Extreme poverty had shot up to an estimated 23 percent of the population, up from eight percent in 2019, it added.

Lebanon's economic and political crisis deepened on August 4 when a massive blast at Beirut's port killed 181 people, wounded thousands and ravaged huge areas of the capital.

The disaster came on the heels of the country's worst financial crunch in decades, which had already seen tens of thousands lose their jobs or much of their income, even as the novel coronavirus pandemic hit.