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SHAH CEMENT

# Ex-Kafco boss in tight spot

Allegations over recruitment, CSR fund use surround him

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The immediate past chairman of Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company (Kafco) created a post called consultant (HR) with the monthly salary of Tk 4.5 lakh just before leaving and appointed a retired joint secretary to it.

Md Abdul Halim, also a former secretary of the industries ministry, served as the chairman from August 2018 to May this year.

He created the post without any approval in a board meeting or by circular and hired retired joint secretary Kaisarul Islam for the position in February under a one-year contract, according to Kafco officials.

Both the ex-chairman and Kaisarul are from Bakerganj upazila of Barisal, they said.

There is also an allegation against Halim of misusing CSR funds for his upazila.

The Bangladesh government has 43 percent ownership of Kafco, a multinational fertiliser factory, and the rest 57 percent is owned by several countries, including Japan, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

As the government has the highest share, the industries ministry secretary serves the Kafco as its company chairman.

Talking to The Daily Star on August 29, Abdul Halim said the post was created as per the decision of multiple board meetings. "A proposal came from the board meeting to appoint Kaisarul Islam since he is qualified. I have approved it as per the decision of the board meeting."

Asked about the logic behind Tk 4.5 lakh in salary per month, he said, "Kafco's salary structure is different than

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People line up in front of the BRTC bus depot at Joar Sahara in the capital's Khilkhet for their driving tests. A large number of people have been showing up for the test after the BRTA restarted taking the tests in the last week of August. The tests had been suspended since the coronavirus outbreak. This photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

TRAVEL WITHOUT TICKETS

## New system set up at three train stations to stop it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway has established access control systems at three major stations so that no one can travel on trains without tickets.

The three stations are Airport Station in Dhaka, Joydebpur station in Gazipur and Narsingdi station. The authorities have also raised Airport Station's Platform-1 to ease access to the trains.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon inaugurated the facilities at a programme at Airport Station in the capital yesterday.

Meanwhile, BR opened the three stations to the public from yesterday morning after a gap of more than five months. Most trains will pick up and drop passengers at those stations from now.

BR resumed operation of passenger train services on May 31, more than two

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## BORDER TENSIONS

# Foreign ministers of India, China meet in Moscow

AGENCIES

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in an attempt to defuse tension after a spike in hostilities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the de facto border between the two nations.

The foreign ministers are in Moscow to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting. They met at a Russia-India-China lunch earlier.

No details of the outcome of the talks came out till filing of the report.

The Jaishankar-Wang talks took place against the backdrop of a fresh stand-off at the southern bank of Pangong Tso on Monday, when Chinese soldiers armed with spears and rifles tried to approach Indian forward posts, allegedly to try and force a physical fight on the lines of the June 14 clash at Galwan Valley, in which 20 Indian soldiers died for the country. In the confrontation, shots were fired for the first time along the LAC in 45 years.

India said Chinese soldiers, forced to retreat, fired shots in the air. China claimed that Indian soldiers had fired warning shots after "crossing the LAC",

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

# Drought hits northern areas

September 11, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### BANGABANDHU DUE ON SEPT 14

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman today calls upon the people to receive Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his arrival at Dhaka Airport on September 14 in a disciplined manner. In a statement, he says, "We know that huge numbers of people will assemble at the airport to receive the beloved leader who is returning home after recovering from illness but at the same time we must also see that the rush of people does not create inconvenience for the leader."

### FREE EDUCATION UP TO CLASS VIII FOR GIRLS

Bangladesh Minister for Education and Culture Professor Yusuf Ali announces today that education for female students up to class VIII would be made free from the coming academic year. Highlighting the basic principle of future education policy, the minister says that the government is going to adopt a new education policy which would help inculcate patriotism and eliminate class or group interest, parochialism and exploitation of man by man.

The minister stresses that the framers of the education policy have been instructed to place special emphasis on technical and vocational education. This would maximise job opportunities for educated young men and would ensure proper and quick utilisation of the country's natural and economic resources.

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## 10-year-old murdered after rape in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A 10-year-old girl was allegedly murdered after raped in Tangail Sadar upazila.

Police recovered her body from a field near her house on Wednesday evening and sent it to Tangail General Hospital for an autopsy yesterday morning.

The victim is Shanta, daughter of Sadek Ali, a CNG-run three-wheeler driver of Chowdhury Malancha Mirpur Modhyapara village.

Rafiq Miah, a cousin of the victim, said Shanta went missing on Wednesday noon.

Later, Shanta's body was found on a nearby arum field in the evening, he said, adding that several injury marks were spotted on her body.

Shanta's father alleged

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## Scientists develop 'light tweezers' that can move DNA



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have created what they claim is the first-ever "opto-thermo-electrohydrodynamic tweezers" - laser tweezers that can be used to move single proteins.

These tiny tweezers make it easier for researchers to better understand our DNA and other biological molecules, the researchers at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee said.

Laser tweezers are able to move tiny objects, but still have limitations.

Generally, optical tweezers can only focus their lasers to approximately half their wavelength.

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## SINHA MURDER PROBE

# Writ petition filed with HC to prevent info sharing

Cox's Bazar court rejects Sinha's sister's plea for making SP an accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition has been filed with the High Court seeking its directive on the authorities concerned not to circulate, publish and disclose to the media any information and facts regarding the investigation into Major (ret'd) Sinha murder case.

Debdulal Rakshit, brother of Nandadulal Rakshit, suspended sub-inspector of Teknaf Police Station and accused in the murder case, submitted the petition to the HC on Tuesday seeking its directive on the information and home secretaries to take necessary measures to this effect.

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## Tk 40 LAKH BRIBE HC denies bail to suspended ACC director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday again refused to grant bail to suspended director of Anti-Corruption Commission Khandaker Enamul Basir in a case filed against him on charges of taking Tk 40 lakh in bribes.

The court, however, issued a rule asking the ACC and government to explain in three weeks why Enamul should not be granted bail.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the rule following a bail petition filed by Enamul.

Enamul has to remain in

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A black-crowned night heron resting on a tree branch on Rajshahi Medical College Hospital campus. The bird is nocturnal. Thousands of the birds come and reside in the campus and its adjacent areas for breeding every year.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## BREXIT CHAOS EU ponders legal action against UK

REUTERS, London/Brussels

Britain and the European Union held emergency talks yesterday over Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan to undercut parts of the Brexit divorce treaty, with Brussels exploring possible legal action against London.

As Britain pushes ahead with its plan to act outside international law by breaching the divorce treaty, EU negotiators are trying to gauge how to deal with London.

European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic expressed concern about the plan before a meeting with British counterpart Michael Gove in London, taking place alongside trade talks between chief negotiators Michel Barnier and David Frost.

EU diplomats and officials said the bloc could use the Withdrawal Agreement to take legal action against Britain, though there would be no resolution before the end-of-year deadline for Britain's full exit.

One EU source said Britain would not succeed if it aims to try to use the planned breach of the Withdrawal Agreement as a threat to extract concessions from the bloc in trade talks.

"If they try to do that, it will fail," the EU source said on condition of anonymity.

A note distributed by the EU executive to the 27 EU member states said the Withdrawal Agreement gives the bloc up to four years to launch a legal procedure against Britain, if it violates EU rules during a transition period this year.

The British government says its planned law, put forward on Wednesday, clarifies ambiguities in the Withdrawal Agreement, and its main priority is the 1998 Northern Irish peace deal that ended decades of violence. It said the bill would be debated on Monday.

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## PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 11

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:35 12:30 4:30 6:14 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:17 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION