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ILLEGAL SHOPS IN FULBARIA DSCC tears down hundreds

Traders 'attack' DSCC team, stage protest

HELEMLU ALAM

Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday demolished several hundred illegal shops at Fulbaria Supermarket-2 in Gulistan, which was built violating the main design of the supermarket.

Traders and shop owners protested the DSCC move. Some 911 shops were constructed illegally in the open and parking spaces of the market's A, B, and C blocks (City Plaza, Nagar Plaza and Zaker Plaza) over the years.

Previous mayor Sayeed Khokon marked most of the shops as illegal and current Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh started the demolition.

Sources said crores of taka were spent in underhand dealings for constructing and running the illegal shops over the years.

DSCC officials initially faced obstruction from shopkeepers when they went to knock down the illegal parts of the supermarket.

Yesterday, shopkeepers threw brick chunks from inside the market at the DSCC team. Police fired teargas canisters to bring the situation under control.

Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh after a programme at the Nagar Bhaban yesterday said many shops were constructed violating the main design of the DSCC supermarket.

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With slogans hurriedly printed out on pieces of paper, traders at Fulbaria Supermarket-2 in Gulistan stage a demonstration yesterday after Dhaka South City Corporation demolished, inset, hundreds of illegal shops there. The market had at least 911 shops built violating its design.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

CIVIL LIBERTIES Rights body classifies Bangladesh as 'repressed'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civicus, an international non-profit that fights for civil liberties and civic rights globally, released a report yesterday classifying Bangladesh as "repressed".

The annual report from Civicus titled "People Power Under Attack 2020" rates and tracks respect for fundamental freedoms in 196 countries.

The categories used to judge countries include freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

Countries are rated as "open", "narrowed", "obstructed", "repressed" and "closed". Canada for example is rated as "open".

Pakistan, India, Myanmar are also rated "repressed" while Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan are classified as "obstructed".

In Bangladesh, the Civicus Monitor

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TWICE TRAFFICKED? Covid fuels fears for trafficking survivors

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, Dhaka

Parvez Morshed thought he was going to become a tailor in Saudi Arabia, but the Bangladeshi migrant was tricked by a recruiter and ended up working as a builder earning half the promised pay.

Unable to support his family and clear the loan he borrowed to get the job, Morshed returned home mid-pandemic to work in a garment factory that ran a programme hiring trafficking victims.

"The job in Saudi was supposed to be a way out for my family. But it put us in more trouble than before," Morshed told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

"It has been difficult to get jobs due to the coronavirus, so I consider myself fortunate to be working here. It saved my family from a lot of trouble," said the 30-year-old tailor, four months into his new job.

Morshed is one of the lucky few.

Charities helping Bangladeshi migrants who have been tricked into fake jobs, ending up saddled with debt or working in dire conditions, say workers now risk falling back into the same trap as the Covid-19 fallout eats into income opportunities at home.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Inconsistent laws will become void on Dec 16

December 9, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ANTI-PEOPLE PROVISIONS UNDER SCRUTINY

Substantial progress has been made by the government in scrutinizing existing laws to identify the provisions which will automatically become void with the commencement of the constitution on December 16, informs Law Minister Dr Kamal Hossain. He adds that all existing laws inconsistent with the constitution would become inoperative as the supreme law of the land unambiguously provides for immediate enforcement of the fundamental rights, which have been guaranteed.

BANGABANDHU GARLANDED

The convener of Bangladesh Jatiya Hawkers League Mustafa Kamal on behalf of the hawkers garlands Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban today. He also presents the premier a golden replica of boat for receiving the Julio Curie medal. Earlier, the hawkers assembled at Baitul Mukarram and marched to the Gono Bhaban in a procession.

CABINET MEETING

Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today presides over of a meeting of the cabinet at the secretariat. The meeting continues for four hours. The cabinet discusses various issues including food

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Man dies in police custody

Police say suicide; family claims tortured to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver died in custody at Dashmina Police Station in Patuakhali.

The victim's family alleged police tortured him to death. The law enforcers, however, claimed that the man took poison in custody.

The dead -- Liton Kha, of Bashbaria village in Dashmina upazila -- used to drive a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Dhaka.

According to the victim's relatives, Liton had a longstanding land-related dispute with the authorities of a local madrasa.

Following the dispute, the madrasa authorities recently filed a complaint with police and upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) mentioning Liton killed

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Everest 'grows' as China, Nepal agree new height



AFP, Kathmandu

The highest point on Earth got a bit higher yesterday as China and Nepal finally agreed on a precise elevation for Mount Everest after decades of debate.

The agreed height unveiled at a joint news conference in Kathmandu of 8,848.86 metres (29,031 feet) was 86 centimetres (2.8 feet) higher than the measurement previously recognised by Nepal, and more than four metres above China's official figure.

The discrepancy was due to China measuring

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Bob Dylan sells rights to all his songs

REUTERS, London

US singer-songwriter Bob Dylan has sold the rights to his entire song catalogue to Universal Music Group (UMG).

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
 JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BSF shoots 2 Bangladeshis dead in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two Bangladeshis died of bullet wounds after being shot by Indian Border Security Force on Betna border in the district's Haripur upazila early yesterday.

The victims -- Najir Uddin and Rabiul Islam, both aged 30, -- were residents of Manikkhari village in Haripur upazila and Mashaldangi village in Baliadangi upazila respectively.

Quoting locals, Haripur Police Station OC Awrangajeb said the two were hit by bullets when members of Koaligar BSF camp opened fire on a group of 7-8 Bangladeshis near the border pillar no-367/2-s around 6:30am. The group was trying to enter India without valid documents.

Soon after the shooting, the fellow Bangladeshis somehow managed to rescue the injured.

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Three brokers harass a passenger at Mawa Launch Terminal yesterday as the trio try to get the passenger on board the bus they work for. The man in the centre had just arrived in Mawa crossing the Padma and is heading for Dhaka.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

COVID-19 PANDEMIC WHO against mandatory vaccines

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization said on Monday that persuading people on the merits of a Covid-19 vaccine would be far more effective than trying to make the jabs mandatory.

The WHO said it would be down to individual countries as to how they want to conduct their vaccination campaigns against the coronavirus pandemic.

But the UN health agency insisted making it mandatory to get immunised against the disease would be the wrong road to take, adding there were examples in the past of mandating vaccines use only to see it backfire with greater opposition to them.

"I don't think that mandates are the direction to go in here, especially for these vaccines," Kate O'Brien, director of the WHO's immunisation department, told a virtual news conference.

"It is a much better position to actually encourage and facilitate the vaccination without those kinds of requirements."

"I don't think we envision any countries creating a mandate for vaccination."

O'Brien said there may be certain hospital professions in which being vaccinated might be required or highly recommended for staff and patient safety.

But WHO experts admitted there was a battle to be fought to convince the general public to take the vaccines as they become available.

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