

## Money

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Section 4 also explicitly criminalises money laundering and lays down punishment.

Under the same section, any person who commits or abets or conspires to commit money laundering, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of at least four years but not exceeding twelve years and, in addition to that, a fine equivalent to twice the value of the property involved in the offence or Tk 10 lakh, whichever is greater.

The act suggests that the court may also pass an order to forfeit property of the convicted person in favour of the state. Moreover, under section 14, the court may issue an order to freeze or attach the property, within or outside the country, involved in money laundering or any other offence. Under section 17, if any person or entity is convicted of money laundering, the court may pass an order for confiscation of any property, within or outside the country, involved directly or indirectly in money laundering or predicate offence in favour of the state.

The most important section of the act, which makes the ACC immensely important is section 12. It lays down the inevitability of the approval of ACC by providing that notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure or any other law, no court shall take cognisance of any offence under the Money Laundering Prevention Act of 2012, except with the approval of the ACC.

The section also explicitly says that after concluding the investigation under this act, the investigation officer shall take prior approval of the ACC before submitting his/her report and shall submit a copy of the approval before the court along with the report.

## No problems

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said, "Every year, I say that I don't want to stay in the post anymore. This time we have to find out new leadership."

Asked about protests against construction of Bangabandhu's sculpture, he said it is abuse of religion, nothing more.

Several senior leaders of Gonoforum including Reza Kibria, Subrata Chowdhury, and Prof Abu Sayeed were absent at the press conference. Asked about their absence, Dr Kamal said: "Prof Abu Sayeed, Subrata Chowdhury, Reza Kibria are in isolation, and thus could not attend."

At the briefing, Mostafa Mohsin Montu said, "The misunderstanding that had existed among them was like a quarrel among brothers in a family."

"We have a guardian [Dr Kamal] and we have resolved our problems keeping him in front of us," he added.

Gonoforum MP Mokabbir Khan, the party's convening committee members SM Jagul Haider Afrik, Shafiq Ullah, Mohsin Rashid, AR Jahangir, Mohiuddin Abdul Quader, Mostaq Ahmed, among others, were present at the briefing.

The last council of Gonoforum was held on April 26, 2019. Reza Kibria, who joined the party before the 2018 parliamentary elections, was made the party's general secretary, a move that surprised many.

Conflict started in Gonoforum following that council, causing expulsion and counter-expulsion of party leaders. A meeting was held on September 26 under the leadership of Mostafa Mohsin Montu, former general secretary of Gonoforum. They announced to hold the party's council on December 26.

They also expelled Reza Kibria, general secretary of the convening committee of Gonoforum; Mohsin Rashid, Shafiq Ullah and Mostaq Ahmed, for their activities against the unity and interests of the organisation.

On October 17, Reza Kibria announced to expel Montu, Subrata and six others from the party. They also announced to hold council on December 12.

Amid this situation, Dr Kamal Hossain on December 13 in a statement said the expulsion and counter expulsions that took place in the party so far will be considered invalid from now on.

He also said that there will be a national council to solve the ongoing problems.

## Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3

has significantly contributed to a reduced score for the country in the scorecard," said Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, eminent economist and convener of National Anti-Tobacco Platform.

Bangladesh must reduce the number of tiers for cigarette taxation, introduce specific excise taxes and significantly increase its existing excise taxes on all tobacco products to save lives and raise much needed revenue, he said.

Increased taxes on tobacco products will reduce consumption and generate revenue to bear coronavirus-related medical expenses and implement government stimulus packages, said Mahfuz Kabir, research director of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

In Bangladesh, 37.8 million adults use tobacco and 41 million fall victim to second-hand smoke in their own homes, said the release. About 1.26 lakh people die every year in Bangladesh from tobacco use, and the economic burden from tobacco use amounted to Tk 30,500 crore in 2017-18, according to Progga.

Tobacco taxes are the single most effective way to minimise negative health and economic impacts of tobacco consumption, it said.

The "Cigarette Tax Scorecard" has been created by University of Illinois Chicago's Institute for Health Research and Policy, where Tobacconomics is based in.

"The Scorecard shows considerable untapped potential for cigarette tax increases to raise revenue for a Covid-19 recovery and importantly, prevent premature deaths and promote a healthy and productive workforce," said Tobacconomics director and lead author of the scorecard Frank J Chaloupka.

## IUB student to vie for int'l award in entrepreneurship

CITY DESK

Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) student Efaz Ahmed is going to participate in the prestigious Global Student Entrepreneur Awards after winning its local chapter. At the GSEA Global Phase, he will have the opportunity to win USD 40,000 in grants and awards for his start-up "Let's Furnish".

Efaz, from the university's biochemistry department won the competition after overcoming five other competitors in the final, said a press release.

The final round of EOGSEA Bangladesh phase, hosted virtually this week, was attended by State Minister of Foreign Affairs Shahrar Alam as chief guest.

The minister said initiatives like this will inspire youths to develop entrepreneurial skills, the press release said.

Among others, Tina F Jabeen, managing director of Startup Bangladesh; Prof Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, dean, School of Business and Entrepreneurship, IUB and board member of EO Bangladesh; Zareen Mahmud Hosen, President of EO Bangladesh and director, Shasha Denims Limited also spoke on the occasion as guest speakers.

## Flag girl Najmun at Abinta Kabir school

CITY DESK

Najmun Nahar, also known as "Bangladeshi Flag Girl", visited Abinta Kabir Foundation School on December 17. The institution for underprivileged girls accorded her a reception for her achievement of travelling 144 countries of the world.

She shared stories from her travels in front of the 90 students of the school and exhibited a short video about her journey and her motivations for it, a press release said.

## Public hearing

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**A WITNESS TO HISTORY** For over a hundred years, Birchandra Ganapathagar (public library) has been a centre for educational, cultural, intellectual and socio-political activities in Cumilla city.

It was constructed by then Tripura King Birchandra Manikka Bahadur. A library and a two-storey auditorium were also built on the premises.

A witness to some of the most important events in our history such as the Language Movement and Liberation War, this town hall has been graced by the presence of distinguished individuals including Bindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Mahatma Gandhi, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazul Haque and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, among others.

Cumilla Theosophical Society, Cumilla Club and Ministerial Officers' Club were also established on the Town Hall premises -- in 1889, 1917 and 1920 respectively.

## Covid-19 positivity rate

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September and October.

From November, however, it started rising again.

A high percentage of positive cases means that more testing should probably be done -- and it suggests that it is not a good time to relax restrictions aimed at reducing coronavirus transmission, according to John Hopkins University.

As a rule of thumb, the positivity rate is thought to be "too high" if it is more than five percent.

In May, the World Health Organization recommended that the positivity rate should be below five percent for at least two weeks before governments considered reopening.

With yesterday's 1,267 new infections, the total number of cases in the country rose to 4,99,560, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Besides, the death toll due to the highly transmissible virus rose to 7,242 with yesterday's 25 deaths.

With this, the death rate stood at 1.45 percent.

Compared to the previous week, the number of Covid-19 deaths has increased by 4.23 percent last week ending on Saturday.

In the same 24-hour period, 1,987 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illnesses raising the total number of recoveries to 4,35,601. This was around 87.20 percent of all confirmed cases.

Of the yesterday's deceased, all of them died in hospitals while 17 of them were males.

Three were aged between 31 and 40, two between 41 and 50, five between 51 and 60 and the rest 15 were above 60 years, according to the press release.

## Ex-PBCP man killed

FROM PAGE 12

Phultala Police Station.

They were arrested in Phultala soon after the killing, he added.

They were also among the 35 people who surrendered to the authorities, he added.

Police applied to a court to place the arrestees on a seven-day remand yesterday.

Witnesses told police that four or five men appeared on the scene on two motorcycles and shot Lipu before fleeing.

Police found three shells of shotgun bullets at the scene. Locals took him to Upazila Health Complex where a doctor declared him dead.

An autopsy was done at Khulna Medical College.

## Rajshahi Zilla

FROM PAGE 12

drinks at Lazuk's leg space, said the DNC official.

Nuruzzaman identified himself as a Deputy Secretary of the government and Lazuk as one of his friends, the DNC official said.

After he was detained at 8:30pm, Md Nuruzzaman was taken to Chapainawabganj circuit house for confirmation of his identity from local government officials.

Since then, he was staying at the circuit house as the local government officials were not allowing the department officials to take him to the police station, claimed the DNC official.

Contacted, Chapainawabganj's Deputy Commissioner Manjurul Hafiz denied that there was any pressures on DNC officials.

"Law has its own course, I have no authority to hinder the legal process. It is totally a false claim that we are trying to stop the arrest," said the DC.

However, the DC said, the detained official was still staying at the circuit house and the narcotics control officials were also at the circuit house, to take him to police station.

Meanwhile, Saiful Islam, inspector of DNC's Chapainawabganj office, filed a case against the duo with Chapainawabganj Sadar Police Station this afternoon, said Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The officials of the Department of Narcotics Control will investigate the case, added the police official.

DNC official Kazal further said the arrestees were taken to the district court around 2:30pm to produce before magistrate.

**সবাই মিলে জমি কিনে**

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## Mujib felicitates

FROM PAGE 12

Maulana Bhashani and the editors, printers and publishers of The Sangbad and The Gonokantha to 'issue retraction' and apologise within 24 hours for the allegations of misappropriation of public funds and acquisition of property.

The allegations against Abdul Mannan were attributed to Maulana Bhashani and were published in the Sangbad and The Gonokantha on December 19, 1972.

**TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA** Bulgaria and Bangladesh have signed a trade agreement for 1973 envisaging an increase of 30 percent in commercial exchanges.

Source: December 21, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Bangladesh Observer and Ittefaq.

## Jubo League leader

FROM PAGE 12

three were arrested in a case, filed by the college principal on Friday morning under the Special Powers Act.

The arrestees are: Anisur Rahman, 35, Sabuj Hossain, 20, and Hridoy Ahmed, 20. Anisur is the president of Kaya Union Jubo League.

The three were picked up from different places in Kumarkhali upazila early yesterday.

The SP said another accused named Bachchu was on the run. He said the four were directly involved in the incident.

Tanvir said the college night guard witnessed the incident. "Vandals took position near the sculpture around 11:00pm on Thursday. Around two hours later, Anis hit the sculpture three times with a hammer. Then they left the place on a motorcycle."

Jubo League leader Anis is from Raydanga village, which is adjacent to the college. He had long been lobbying for the post of the college governing body president, said sources.

Wishing anonymity, a member of the college governing body said some teachers were appointed to the college last year. There were allegations that the recruitments were made in exchange of money.

Nizamul, also a vice president of Awami Tanti League, has been the governing body president for about five years.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal staged a protest rally and formed a human chain in Kumarkhali town yesterday over the vandalism of Bagha Jatin's sculpture.

On December 4, vandals damaged an under-construction sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Kushiā town.

## MP Aslamul seeks SC

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the possession of three companies of his group.

He submitted the petition to the apex court last week, his lawyer Mohammad Ozi Ullah told The Daily Star yesterday.

Citing the stay petition, the lawyer said Aslamul Haque's companies have obtained all relevant clearance certificates required for establishing industries, and they have not grabbed land of any river.

He said in addition to submitting the stay petition to the Appellate Division, Aslamul Haque has also lodged cases with the civil courts seeking remedy on the same issue.

Lawyer Ozi Ullah could not say specifically when the hearing of the stay petition will be held.

Meanwhile, the National River Conservation Commission's (NRCC) lawyer Manzill Murshid told this correspondent that he received a copy of the petition on December 12.

He said he would oppose the stay petition during its hearing before the Appellate Division.

On December 10, the HC cleared the way for the government to carry out eviction drives and recover the Buriganga's land in Keraniganj from the possession of three companies of Maisha Group.

The court rejected a writ petition collectively filed by the three companies challenging the eviction activities of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

The three companies are CLC Power Ltd, Dhaka West Power Ltd and Dhaka North Power Utility Company Ltd.

Delivering the verdict on the petition, the HC said the rivers of the country must be protected at any cost.

A government probe, led by the NRCC, has found that Aslamul, lawmaker of Dhaka-14, filled up more than 54 acres from the Buriganga and wetland to construct a power plant and a private economic zone in Basila of Keraniganj.

The MP started the illegal activity in 2010, according to the probe report.

## Severe Covid variant found

FROM PAGE 12

including London, and the rest of the country, the newspaper said.

Britain's government on Monday said a rise in new infections might be partly linked to the new variant as it moved its capital city and other areas into the highest tier of Covid-19 restrictions.

The MP started the illegal activity in 2010, according to the probe report.

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গাড়ি ক্রয়ের জন্য আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যাকের নির্ধারিত সিডিউল ক্রয়ের মাধ্যমে তাঁদের প্রদত্ত মোট উল্লেখিত দরের ১০% টাকা জামানত হিসেবে (কেবলতথ্যগোপ্য) মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর অনুকূলে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে ক্রয়কৃত পে-অর্ডারসহ আবেদন করতে হবে।

সিডিউল ক্রয় এবং গাড়ি পরিদর্শনের তারিখ ও স্থানঃ গাড়ি প্রতি নগদ ১,১৫০.০০ (এক হাজার একশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (অফারতথ্যগোপ্য) প্রধান সাপেক্ষে ২০ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ ইং হতে ২৪ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকাল ১১.০০ টা হতে বিকাল ৪.০০ টা পর্যন্ত ব্যাকের জেনারেল সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৬১ দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ থেকে সিডিউল ক্রয় এবং গাড়ি পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।

দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও স্থানঃ ২৮ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ ইং বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা। মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয়, জেনারেল সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন, সেকেন্ড-৭, ৬১ দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

উক্ত তারিখে (২৮ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ ইং) উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকে) বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে। গাড়ি হস্তান্তর বাদে ব্যবসায়ী বায়ভার ক্রেতাকে বহন করতে হবে।

উল্লেখ্য, কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

ডায়িস প্রেসিডেন্ট এবং বিভাগীয় প্রধান