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SHAH CEMENT

Pornography spreads amid futile govt ban

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

The government initiative to block pornography websites has proved a futile exercise due to lack of technological knowhow and concerted efforts from the state agencies.

On January 1, 2017, the government launched an anti-porn campaign to create safe and secure internet space for all. In the process, it has blocked 22,000 porn sites in the last three years.

But statistics show only blocking websites has had little effect on Bangladeshi internet users as they are increasingly visiting pornographic websites. Besides, such videos can be easily downloaded and circulated.

The country has a very rigid law titled Pornography Control Act-2012, which says preservation, distribution, selling, displaying, advertising of pornographic contents is a punishable offence.

The offender can be sanctioned with two years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Tk 100,000.

Production of pornography, forcing people to act in pornography, sexual harassment through pornography, displaying and distributing pornography through internet and electronic devices come with more severe punishments.

However, the government agencies are at a loss how to enforce the law. Mustafa Jabbar, minister of post, telecommunication and ICT declared

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Trash collectors dumping waste collected from nearby households at a roadside ditch in Beribandh area of the capital's Hazaribagh. As piles of garbage fill up the yard, a lot of the waste is burned, which causes air pollution. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Farmers fear crop loss as cold spell lingers on

STAR REPORT

As the cold spell lingers on, farmers are in fear of incurring losses because their crops might be affected by the bitter cold.

Now, they are applying different tactics to protect their crops, specially Boro seedlings and potato.

"I keep my entire seedbeds covered with clothes or polythene at night and uncover these when the sun is visible," said Animesh Barman, a farmer of Chutbathina village in Thakurgoan Sadar upazila.

He has prepared the seedbeds on five decimals of land.

"We will have to do it until the weather improves. If the cold spell lingers on,

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Scientists achieve quantum teleportation



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Quantum teleportation – sending qubits of photons through a fiber-optic cable – has been demonstrated by researchers for the first time.

The achievement could be used to develop a quantum internet service, which would revolutionise data storage and computing; scientists also claim it will usher in a new era of communication.

Scientists sent qubits through 44 kilometers of fiber-optic network with a 90 percent degree of

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Work to establish a happy society: Bangabandhu

December 24, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SWADHIN BANGLA BETAR WORKERS' ROLE LAUDED

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today makes a fervent appeal to all to work for the establishment of a happy and exploitation-free society on the ashes left by the enemy. He says the lakhs of shaheeds of the Liberation War would never come back. But those toiling people who survived the war must be enabled to enjoy the fruits of independence. He asks all to work in

this spirit.

The prime minister speaks at a function at the Gono Bhaban organised by the Swadhin Bangla Betar Karmi Samity, a body of artists, announcers and others who had been connected with the Swadhin Bangla Betar, which used to operate from Mujibnagar during the months of the Liberation War. Appreciating their role in the Liberation War, Bangabandhu says in an



মুজিব মূল্য শতবর্ষ 100

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AHMED SHAFI'S DEATH

Allegation of murder politically motivated

Says Hefajat chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Hefajat-e Islam Emir Junayed Babunagari said the organisation's former emir Ahmed Shafi was not killed and the allegation of him being murdered was politically motivated.

"He died a natural death," Junayed said in a press conference organised at Hathazari Madrasa yesterday.

Junayed Babunagari read out their statement in the press conference.

"He died as God wanted. Those who formed an autocratic system centering Ahmed Shafi and cracked down on innocent students of the madrasa are now out to prove it as murder", Junayed said.

This is a part of conspiracy to disrupt the country's prevailing stability, he apprehended.

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KSA'S SUDDEN COVID BAN 100 Bangladeshis sent back from Abu Dhabi Airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 100 Bangladeshi workers heading to Saudi Arabia were forced to return from Abu Dhabi Monday night following the sudden decision of the Saudi government to suspend all international flights, including to and from Dhaka.

According to the workers, they were flying to Saudi Arabia via Abu Dhabi from Dhaka on Sunday, Shariful Hasan, head of Brac migration programme, said yesterday.

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US under siege from Covid-19

Hospitals overwhelmed before holidays as Trump rejects Covid relief bill

AGENCIES

Americans were warned again not to travel for Christmas as the latest Covid-19 surge left hospitals struggling to find beds for the sick and political leaders imposed restrictions to try to curb new infections, making for a grim holiday season.

A new, even more contagious variant of the coronavirus quickly spreading across Britain caused more fear in Americans already weary from nine months of the pandemic and prompted talks among top

US officials to ban travel from the United Kingdom.

The United States is already grappling with a nationwide spike in infections that added more than a million new cases in just six days, according to a Reuters tally, a total of more than 18 million since the pandemic began.

In California, an epicenter of the latest surge, intensive care unit (ICU) beds were scarce and hospitals said they lacked enough doctors and nurses to care for patients.

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COVID IMPACT ON MEDIA HOUSES Objective journalism key to survival

Speakers say at ANN webinar

THE DAILY STAR/ANN

Amid shrinking space for press freedom and changing consumers' habits during Covid-19 pandemic, good old-fashioned, objective journalism is the key to survival for media houses, speakers said in a webinar organised by Asia News Network (ANN) on Wednesday.

The online conference titled 'Covid-19 and Impacts on the Media' was attended by ANN members as well as academics from reputed universities.

"Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on global development rarely seen in history," said Zhou Shuchun, Standing Committee member of the CPPCC National

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-25 12-45 3-45 5-24 7-00
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-00 5-27 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Today is the 47th Death Anniversary of Begum Firdaus Rizvi



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের এপিএস প্রকল্পের আওতায় প্রণীত "কিশোর-কিশোরী বিষয়ক জাতীয় কৌশল পত্র" এর খসড়াটির বাংলা ও ইংরেজি ভার্সন জনমতের জন্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট <https://mowca.gov.bd>-তে ১৩/০১/২০২১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত আপলোড থাকবে। আপনার মূল্যবান মতামত এই E-mail: apc.mowca@gmail.com ঠিকানায় প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

Branch Opening

BANANI 11 BRANCH

www.ucb.com.bd

Journey towards prosperity UCB is now at Banani 11

UCB with its 200th branch, is going to start the journey from today, December 24, 2020 at Banani 11. We are looking forward to serve you with all modern banking facilities. We cordially welcome you to our new branch to experience the difference.

Mr. Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Land, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will inaugurate the branch as **Chief Guest**.

Mr. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, Chairman, Executive Committee, United Commercial Bank Limited will attend as **Special Guest**.

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UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK LIMITED **UCB**