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Kabiguru's 75th death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is so much talk suddenly these days about religion, or rather the misinterpretation of it, which leads to intolerance, violence and bigotry. Rabindranath Tagore did not live in a world of violence and religious extremism as we know it today. But the polymath was still able to get to the bottom of it with stunning, mind-piercing insights.

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Diseases spread as floodwater starts receding

STAR REPORT

With recession of floodwater, diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases have been spreading sporadically among the flood-affected people, intensifying the sufferings of the flood victims.

The situation at different parts of the country has turned to worse as there is an acute shortage of pure drinking water in addition to improper sanitation.

The victims are mainly suffering from diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, fever, eczema, itches and other waterborne diseases.

Amid the situation, many flood-affected people are allegedly being cheated by the health department in some areas including Manikganj as the water purification tablets being distributed among them were found to be ineffective.

The flood victims have been given water purification tablets Halazone, which has not worked, they alleged. The people fell sick after drinking contaminated water as the tablets which they used to purify it failed, they complained.

The tablets were manufactured by Hind Pharma in Bhopal Industrial Area in India in September 2014 and the expiry date is August 2016.

Civil surgeon of Manikganj Dr Emran Ali said the tablets became ineffective due to improper preservation. "I have asked my team members to retrieve the distributed tablets. I have also asked them to stop distributing those tablets anymore," he added.

Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj Rashida Ferdouse

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With itches and rashes on their bodies, Romicha Begum and her daughter stand inside their home in Bhushirvita village of Kurigram yesterday. Inset, infected legs of another local. As floodwater has started receding from the country's northern region, some water-borne diseases are breaking out, causing sufferings to people there.

PHOTO: ABDUL WAHED

Websites ran 'misleading' reports

Says Inu about blocking 35 sites

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said 35 news websites were blocked on advice from intelligence agencies and police for running misleading and instigating reports or statements about the anti-militancy drives.

"Drives are going on to tackle militancy and terrorism across the country. We have earlier alerted the media, whether registered or unregistered, so that they run the reports at least with responsibility.

"But some of them published unexpected statements that gave misleading information about the anti-militancy raids, instigating militants. Therefore, steps have been taken against them on advice from intelligence agencies and police," Inu told BBC Bangla.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission on Thursday directed all International Internet Gateway (IIG) operators to block 35 news websites.

The 35 websites are: rtnews24.com,

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CYBER HEIST OF \$81M BB FUND

Philippines' Rizal Bank fined \$21m

BB team in Manila for recovering some of the lost money

REUTERS, Manila

The Philippine central bank yesterday said it would fine Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) a record 1 billion pesos (\$21 million), after the bank was used by cyber criminals to channel \$81 million stolen from Bangladesh Bank in February.

The central bank said in a statement that it was the largest amount it has ever approved "as part of its supervisory enforcement actions" on a bank.

RCBC said separately that it would pay the fine over a one-year period, in two tranches of 500 million pesos each.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh ambassador to the Philippines said yesterday that Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has given a commitment that \$81 million stolen from the account of Bangladesh Bank in New York and traced to bank accounts in Manila would be returned.

"We are very hopeful that we will get the total \$81 million. The reason is I got commitment from president himself," Ambassador John Gomes told a



media briefing in Manila.

A Bangladesh central bank team is currently in Manila to try and recover some of the lost money, but said they were close to getting back only \$15 million.

Unknown hackers tried to steal nearly \$1 billion from the Bangladesh central bank's account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York between Feb 4 and Feb 5, and succeeded in transferring \$81 million to four accounts at RCBC in Manila.

RCBC earlier yesterday challenged Bangladesh Bank to take it to court, telling Reuters that the "Philippine side has done its part" and that the transfers were made based on authenticated instructions over payments network SWIFT.

After the fine was announced, RCBC President and Chief Executive Officer Gil Buenaventura said in a statement: "With this payment, RCBC affirms its continued viability and determination to fulfil its firm commitment against money laundering,

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NZ gets 'ATM for mood deposits'



BBC ONLINE

A city in New Zealand now features a cash machine-like terminal that asks people about their feelings instead of dispensing money.

The machine has been installed in Whangarei as part of an art project called Moodbank, after previous stints in other cities.

It has a touch screen that allows passers-by to select from more than 1,000 options and combine them to describe their current state of mind, regional daily Northern Advocate reports.

The "deposits" are then stored to give updates on the city's emotional condition on the project's website.

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Monk survives attack in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A gang of unknown criminals allegedly tried to kill a Buddhist monk in Bandarban on Thursday night.

At around 8:20pm, a gang of four to five masked men carrying knives tried to enter the room of Tain Dima Bikkhu, 62 said the victim's assistant Aung Ching Marma.

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 6

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-20	12-45	5-00	6-47	8-15
JAMAAT	4-55	1-15	5-15	6-50	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The wild elephant that came from India wades through floodwater in Madarganj upazila of Jamalpur yesterday.

PHOTO: DEPARTMENT OF FOREST

Efforts on to rescue elephant

It will be taken to Bangabandhu Safari Park

STAR REPORT

The wild elephant that entered Bangladesh from India on June 27 would be taken to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur after its rescue from a char area in Jamalpur.

A joint rescue team comprising forest and veterinary officials from Bangladesh and India followed the elephant for almost the whole day yesterday. But they did not get a suitable place to tranquilise the animal, said forest officials.

"Once we rescue the elephant, we would take it to the Safari Park in Gazipur for its medical examination and treatment as it has been moving in the water for days," said Wildlife Inspector Ashim Kumar Mallick of the forest department.

"Later, we would decide the place where the elephant would be released,"

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Top IS leader of Sinai killed in airstrike: Egypt

AFP, Cairo

An Egyptian air strike killed the head of the Islamic State group branch behind scores of deadly attacks on security forces and suspected of downing a Russian airliner, the army said Thursday.

The army's announcement did not say when the operation took place but named the head of the Egyptian affiliate of the jihadist group based in the Sinai Peninsula as Abu Doaa al-Ansari.

He was killed along with top aides and dozens of others jihadists in an operation carried out jointly by the air force and the anti-terrorism squad, the army's spokesman said on Facebook.

Since Egypt's military overthrew Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013, jihadists have spearheaded an insurgency against the army and police with daily attacks in North Sinai.

Most of the attacks that have killed hundreds of policemen and soldiers have been claimed by the "Sinai Province", the Egyptian branch of IS.

Military forces "were able to kill the leader Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, the terrorist called Abu Doaa al-Ansari, and a number of his top aides in addition to more than 45 terrorist elements," said the spokesman.

A military source told AFP that Ansari was the group's "number one" leader.

Ansar Beit al-Maqdis was the previous name of the jihadists before the group swore allegiance to the Islamic State group in November 2014.

The statement said dozens of others were "targeted with precise hits" in the operation against strongholds of the

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