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Dhaka to open 7 new missions

Cabinet okays move to have those in Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sudan, India

REZAUL KARIM

Considering the potential for expanding its export market and the service needs of the growing number of Bangladeshi expatriates, Dhaka has decided to soon open seven new diplomatic missions in India, Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Romania, Sudan and Sierra Leone.

The cabinet approved the decision yesterday in its regular weekly meeting at the secretariat, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The decision was also aimed at improving trade, people-to-people contact and cultural ties with the seven countries.

Of the seven new missions, Bangladesh will have fully-fledged embassies in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, Sudanese capital Khartoum, Sierra Leone capital Freetown and Romanian capital Bucharest.

Bangladesh will open another Deputy High Commission in Chennai, the capital of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The country already runs diplomatic missions in New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Agartala and Guwahati.

With the opening of seven new missions, the number of Bangladesh missions abroad will be 80 in 59 countries, officials said.

The cabinet also gave retrospective approval to run 17 more new diplomatic missions, which are already in operation in Athens, Milan, Mumbai, Istanbul, Lisbon, Kunming, Beirut, Mexico City, Brasilia, Port Louis, Copenhagen, Warsaw, Vienna, Addis Ababa, Abuja, Algiers and Guwahati.

A high official at the foreign ministry said, "The opening of the new missions is part of the Awami League government's plan to prioritise economic diplomacy in its foreign policy."

Justifying the government's decisions, he said it became necessary for the government to open more embassies abroad to serve the growing number of expatriate

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Mirpur suffers as workers block 2 roads for 12 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred workers of a garment factory blocked two streets in Mirpur-1 area for around 12 hours yesterday, protesting the sacking of their co-workers.

The workers of Meridian Fashions Ltd also clashed with law enforcers that left at least 10 people, including two policemen, hurt. They attacked some vehicles and threw brick chunks at nearby garment factories as well, say police and witnesses.

The protesters became furious as they found a notice hanging on the main gate of the factory in Mirpur-1 in the morning.

The notice read that the RMG unit shall remain closed till Thursday and it might not reopen for a "longer period if the situation did not improve".

The notice was put up on Sunday night after some workers protested the termination of 22 fellow workers the previous day. The 22 were sacked following workers' demonstrations over arrears.

Finding the notice, the workers took to the streets in front of the factory around

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Demonstrating workers of Meridian Fashions Limited blocked a street in the capital's Mirpur-1 area yesterday to protest when some of their co-workers were let go and the factory was closed for three days. They were agitating for back pay. Bottom, people had to walk and a rickshaw was set on by a few workers during the road blockade.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

REPLACEMENT PILGRIMS Agents want more swaps

RASHIDUL HASAN

Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab) has requested the religious affairs ministry to increase the number of replacement hajjis to 10 percent from seven percent of the total pilgrims sent from each agency.

Hajj officials, however, say the move is aimed at taking more money from the pilgrims.

Replacement hajjis are those who can perform the ritual in case any registered hajji cannot go to Saudi Arabia for some reason or have passed away.

The number of such hajjis was five percent last year. But, this year it was raised to seven percent following hajj agencies' demands.

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Taliban-IS attack kills 50 Afghan villagers

Say officials; majority of victims were Shias

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban and Islamic State group jointly massacred dozens of civilians in an Afghan village, officials said yesterday, highlighting rare co-operation between the insurgents that could increase the strain on Afghanistan's beleaguered security forces.

The fighters killed more than 50 men, women and children in the remote Sayad district of northern Sar-e Pul province on Saturday after overrunning the Afghan Local Police (ALP) -- a government-backed militia -- in a 48-hour battle, according to local officials.

"It was a joint operation by Daesh (IS) and Taliban fighters. They had recruited forces from other provinces of the country and attacked

Mirzawalang village," Zabihullah Amani, a spokesman for the provincial governor, told AFP.

The spokesman alleged that dozens of Taliban and IS group fighters under the command of Sher Mohammad Ghazanfar, a local Taliban commander who Amani claims pledged allegiance to IS, launched a co-ordinated attack on the area on Thursday.

"The fighters overran the area and it led to the massacre of innocent and defenceless civilians," he said.

The majority of those killed were Shias. Most were shot but some were beheaded, Amani added.

Verifying information from poor, mountainous areas of Afghanistan made inaccessible by fighting and with patchy communications is difficult, and AFP was not able to access the village.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Scotland Yard using music to fight crime

PTI, London

In a novel initiative, Scotland Yard is using classical music as its latest weapon to fight crime in London.

A Metropolitan Police officer was set to pump the tunes of Mozart from a speaker system into a notorious housing estate here in an attempt to calm the atmosphere, relax residents and disperse troublemakers, The Sunday Times reported.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, known as Mozart, is regarded as a prolific and influential composer of the Classical era.

Adam Weber, a 23-year-old constable in-charge of law and order on the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, was inspired by the idea of classical music as a crime-fighting tool following a pilot

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2 Sylhet BCL men stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were hacked in front of Jalalabad College at Sobhanighat in Sylhet yesterday afternoon.

Sahin Ahmed, 22, student of Metropolitan University, and Abul Kalam Asif, 18, student of Madan Mohan College, are supporters of Abdul Alim Tushar, BCL Sylhet metro unit general secretary. Shahin was moved to Dhaka for better treatment while Abul was admitted to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 8

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-15

JAMAAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



BOGRA 'RAPE' Court sends victim to a safe home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A court in Bogra yesterday sent the teenage girl, who was allegedly raped by suspended Shramik League leader Tufan Sarkar, to a safe home in another district.

Initially the girl expressed her objection to going to a safe home. "I did not commit any crime. Why should I go to a safe home?" she told The Daily Star.

After the girl and her mother were released from Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, they along with their father

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SAVAGE... Tied to a tree, seven-month pregnant Shefali Begum was beaten and kicked in Dimla upazila's Uttar Baishpukur village on Friday allegedly on the instructions of a local Awami League leader. The victim, aged 32, said some cohorts of the AL leader tortured her as she refused to settle a case outside court over the murder of her father in 2012. In this photo, which went viral, two police women are seen rescuing Shefali in the village in Nilphamari.

TORTURE ON PREGNANT WOMAN Three arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police have arrested three people, including a member of Gram (village) Police, in a case filed for torturing a seven-month pregnant woman in Uttar Baishpukur village of Dimla upazila.

Victim Shefali Begum, 32, wife of a rickshaw puller in Baishpukur Kolonjhar village, alleged that some people tied her to a mango tree and beat and kicked her indiscriminately on instructions of a ruling Awami League leader.

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Swaraj to arrive in September

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is expected to arrive in Bangladesh in the first half of September to attend the fourth Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meeting.

This was discussed when Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla had a

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জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকল ইমারত নির্মাণকারীর অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, রাজউক আওতাভুক্ত এলাকায় "ঢাকা মহানগর ইমারত (নির্মাণ, উন্নয়ন, সংরক্ষণ ও অপসারণ) বিধিমালা ২০০৮" এর বিধি ১৮ অনুসারে ভবন মালিক কর্তৃক রাজউক হতে বসবাস বা ব্যবহার সনদপত্র (Occupancy Certificate) গ্রহণ করা বাধ্যতামূলক। গ্যাস, পানি ও বিদ্যুৎসহ অন্যান্য সেবা (Utility Services) পাবার জন্যও Occupancy Certificate আবশ্যিক। এ ছাড়াও উক্ত সনদ (Occupancy Certificate) না থাকলে রাজউক এর আওতাধীন এলাকায় ভবনের মালিকানা হস্তান্তর ও নামজারীর অনুমোদনও পাওয়া যাবে না।

এমতাবস্থায়, সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে রাজউক অনুমোদিত নকশা অনুসারে ভবন নির্মাণপূর্বক রাজউক হতে বসবাস বা ব্যবহার (Occupancy Certificate) সনদপত্র সংগ্রহ করার পর উক্ত ভবন ব্যবহার করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। Occupancy Certificate ছাড়া কেউ ভবন ব্যবহার করলে রাজউক তার বিরুদ্ধে বিধিমাতে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করবে।

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জিডি-১৬০৫