

JUST A HOOK TO SOME LOVED ONES' SAFETY TO US



Rooপুর, Country's Largest and the First Nuclear Power Plant
Proud to be a part of a new era in progress

Rooপুর project work in progress using Shah Cement

AGAINST TRAFFIC 'VIPs' at it still

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vehicles carrying high-ranking officials continue to drive against traffic on city streets despite the ongoing police crackdown on people floating the traffic rule.

Some of them got lenient punishments and one was let off the hook during the traffic police drive yesterday.

It was 5:15pm during the evening rush hour when a black SUV (Dhaka Metro Gha-14-2085) "carrying a high-ranking police official" was heading towards Baitara intersection from Tejgaon on the wrong side.

Two traffic sergeants on duty stopped the vehicle and one of them talked to the driver near the intersection. The driver said an additional deputy inspector general of police was in the vehicle that had tinted glass.

The sergeant asked for the vehicle's documents and fined the driver Tk 400 for driving against traffic.

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A traffic official fines a car for travelling on the wrong side of the road in the capital's Bijoy Sharani intersection around 5:00pm yesterday. Left, motorcyclists, including a cop, are being disciplined for traffic offences while another car is being driven against the traffic in the area. The Dhaka Metropolitan Police in last three days conducted drives against driving the wrong side of city streets.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/AMRAN HOSSAIN

KURD INDEPENDENCE Big 'yes' vote expected

Erdogan warns of 'ethnic war' risk

AFP, Ashil

Iraq's Kurds are expecting the announcement of a big "yes" vote for independence, as authorities in Baghdad weighed how to respond to a referendum they considered illegal.

Large numbers turned out in northern Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region for Monday's vote, which went ahead despite fierce objections from Baghdad, Ankara and Iran.

Votes were still being counted yesterday, with results expected by the end of the day and no doubt of an overwhelming outcome in favour of independence.

The vote is non-binding and will not lead automatically to independence, but is seen by the Kurds as a major step towards a

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CORRUPTION CHARGES Zila parishad chairman jailed

Seven others also sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment, fined Tk 1.96 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jessore court yesterday sentenced eight people including the Narail Zila Parishad chairman and former municipality mayor to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for irregularities in a cattle market lease.

Judge Nitai Chandra Saha of the Special Judges Court also fined the convicts Tk 1.96 lakh in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in August 2008 over misappropriation of the same amount.

Incumbent Narail Zila Parishad Chairman Sohrab Hossain Biswas was mayor of the Narail Sadar municipality between 2004 and 2005. At the time, a tender was floated for lease of a cattle market in Narail district town, said Public Prosecutor Sirazul Islam, when one HM Sohel Rana Polash won the bid by offering Tk 65,555, the highest.

The winning bidder deposited Tk 33,000 as bank draft in compliance with the bidding rules but later refused to take the lease.

The then municipality commissioner Jahangiri Biswas and five others and the acting secretary of the municipality recommended that Sohel should be allowed to withdraw the money. The mayor, Sohrab accepted it.

Later, without floating a re-tender, they showed the cattle market as Khas land and misappropriated Tk 1.96 lakh over three years.

Apart from Sohrab and Jahangiri, Narail municipality mayor at present,

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HURLING BOMBS AT JUDGES 'Boma Mizan', 2 other JMB men get 14 yrs in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Gc

A court in Chittagong yesterday jailed three operatives of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh for 14 years in two cases filed in connection with hurling bombs at judges in two courtrooms in 2005.

The convicts are Chittagong JMB Commander Javed Iqbal alias Mohammed alias Aman Ullah, Shahadat Ali alias Masum Billah and Jahidul Islam alias Boma Mizan, said court sources.

The court of Chittagong Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Shahadat Hossain Bhuiyan delivered the verdict after it found them guilty. Javed and Shahadat were present at the courtroom, Additional Public Prosecutor Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star.

Of the convicts, Mizan is on the run while Javed and Shahadat are behind bars, he added.

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Mizan, still on run

\$53m for a stone!

AFP, London

British jeweller Graff yesterday said it has purchased the world's largest uncut diamond - roughly the size of a tennis ball - for \$53 million (44.5 million euros).

Canadian miner Lucara Diamond sold to Graff the 1,109-carat gem, the Lesedi La Rona, which was found in Botswana's Karowe mine in late 2015.

"We are thrilled and honoured to become the new custodians of this incredible diamond," said company chairman, Laurence Graff, in a statement.

The stone will tell us its story, it will dictate how it wants to be cut, and we will take the utmost care to respect its exceptional properties."

Lucara confirmed the hefty price tag in a statement issued in Vancouver.

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Saudi Arabia agrees to let women drive

REUTERS, Riyadh

Saudi King Salman yesterday ordered that women be allowed to drive cars, state media said, ending the kingdom's status as the only country where that is forbidden.

The royal decree ordered the formation of a ministerial body to give advice within 30 days and then implement the order by June next year, according to state news agency Saudi Press Photo.

The SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 27
For the month of Sha'ban
AZAN 4:40 12:45-3:30 6:05 7:30
JUMAT 5:15 1:15 4:45 6:10 8:00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'DEFAMING BANGABANDHU' 10 teachers granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Gc

A Chittagong court yesterday granted bail to 10 teachers in a sedition case filed on charge of defaming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through a question paper at Banshkhali upazila.

The Court of District and Sessions Judge Md Helal Chowdhury granted bail to the 10 after 13 accused were produced before his court, said defence counsel advocate Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury Babul.

Dukul Barua, the teacher who prepared the question paper, Taherul Islam, headteacher of Kalipur, and Nazeera Khanum, GHS High School and President of Banshkhali Teachers' Association, and Mohammed Mia, general secretary of the association, were sent to jail for the court rejected their bail prayers.

The teachers who have obtained bail are Secondary Teachers' Association of Bolkhali

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Devotees worship Goddess Durga at a mandap (makeshift temple) in Chittagong city's Cheragi Pahar area on the first day of the five-day Durga Puja festival yesterday. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR

NORTH KOREA TENSIONS Trump ignores peace pleas

Accuses Pyongyang of torturing US captive 'beyond belief'; Mattis, South Korea urge calm

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump yesterday accused North Korea of torturing a captive US student "beyond belief," spurring pleas from allies and foes in east Asia to tone down his warlike rhetoric.

For the first time, Trump publicly accused Pyongyang of abusing the late 22-year-old Otto Warmbier, an allegation likely to heighten tensions between the two nuclear powers.

Last June the Ohio native was sent home in a coma after more than a year in prison in North Korea. He died a few days later.

Questions about Warmbier were personally shocked and angered by Warmbier's death, and that the government suspects misreatment.

But the US president had stopped short of publicly accusing the regime of torture, a move that would raise expectations of a tough response, raise tensions and could complicate any future releases.

Since June, the United States and North Korea have traded military moves and bombastic insults in a stand-off over Kim Jong-un's nuclear and ballistic weapons programs.

After seeing Warmbier's parents on television yesterday morning, Trump cast previous concerns aside.

"Otto was tortured beyond belief by North Korea," he said in an early morning tweet.

The missile came just hours after South Korea - whose densely-populated capital Seoul is located just 35 miles

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