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Marine survey in Bay from August 2

Int'l research vessel to drop anchor in Ctg next week to conduct the survey



SOHEL PARVEZ
 The marine research vessel, Dr Fridtjof Nansen, will dock at Chittagong next week to survey fish stocks, biodiversity and the amount of micro plastics in the Bay of Bengal, said officials of the fisheries ministry.

The two-week long survey will start from August 2 in the exclusive economic zone in the Bay of Bengal, said Md Towfiqul Arif, joint secretary (blue economy) of the ministry. The second such survey under the Nansen programme in Bangladesh will help gather information on the current
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Locals collecting water from a tube well set up by Wasa in Pannitola of Old Dhaka. The people in the area have long been facing an acute crisis of drinking water. Despite having Wasa connections, many of them don't get any water at their houses while others complained of getting smelly water. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

It was a drama, BCL men not involved

Says law minister about attack on Mahmudur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Claiming that the attack on Mahmudur Rahman was a drama, Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said Bangladesh Chhatra League did not attack the Amar Desh acting editor in Kushtia.

"Chhatra League was not involved in the attack, but its name has been implicated," he said while talking to reporters after attending as the chief guest a workshop for lower court judges at Judicial Administration Training Institute in the capital.

On Sunday, Mahmudur, who is known as a pro-BNP-Jamaat intellectual, was attacked allegedly by BCL men on Kushtia court premises after he secured bail in a defamation case filed over "derogatory" remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Earlier, Kushtia BCL
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HOLEY ARTISAN CASE Court rejects Hasnat's bail petition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petition of Hasnat Reza Karim in Gulshan's Holey Artisan Cafe' attack case, even though the former private university teacher was not named in the charge sheet submitted on July 23.

Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Fahd bin Amin Chowdhury passed the order after Hasnat's lawyer Hasib UR Rashid moved a petition seeking bail in the case.

In his order, the magistrate said as the case was ready for trial and the trial would be conducted by the Anti-Terrorism Tribunal, the court rejected the bail petition of Hasnat.

During yesterday's hearing, the lawyer said his client's name was not included in the charge sheet as the investigators did not find his involvement in the incident, adding that his client had been languishing
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MEDICINE PRODUCTION IN BANGLADESH GSK shuts factory after six decades

Closure to affect 1,000 people employed at its unit in Ctg

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, has decided to close its medicine manufacturing unit in Bangladesh after over six decades of operation.

The company made the decision at its board meeting held at a city hotel yesterday, two of its directors told The Daily Star.

The closure would affect around 1,000 people it employs at its factory in Fouzderhat of Chittagong.

GSK, however, will continue with its consumer healthcare unit that produces Horlicks, Sensodyne and Glaxose-D in Bangladesh as the company makes a healthy profit from this segment.

"There is no way that GSK Pharmaceuticals can survive in Bangladesh," one of the directors commented.

Responding to a query about GSK's efforts to sell its pharmaceuticals unit, he said the company evaluated all options, including sale, but nothing worked.

"Who is going to buy this white elephant?" the director said. "It's a very old plant and has been incurring losses for years. Also, GSK was struggling to maintain its global standard at the factory," said the member of the board.

The London-based pharmaceuticals giant makes vaccine solutions for Hepatitis A and B, Cervical Cancer, Chickenpox, Measles, Mumps and
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BARAPUKURIA SCAM Coal mining company MD suspended

STAR REPORT

Petrobangla has suspended Managing Director of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited (BCMCL) Habib Uddin Ahmed in connection with the "disappearance of 1.44 lakh tonnes of coal" from the mine, reports UNB.

Abul Mansur Md Faizullah, chairman of Petrobangla, the coalmine's parent company, said they took the action against the MD yesterday.

Earlier, Habib Uddin was withdrawn from the BCMCL after the "disappearance of coal" came to light a few days ago when a team from Power Development Board visited the coalmine in Dinajpur and found that there was no adequate reserve of coal in the yard of the mine.

In another development,
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Stop 'copying' our nat'l flag

New Zealand tells Australia



CNN ONLINE

New Zealand's acting Prime Minister Winston Peters has accused Australia of copying his country's flag, telling its neighbour to get its own design.

"We had a flag that we've had for a long time, copied by Australia," Peters told local network TVNZ on Tuesday.

"They (Australia) should actually change their flag and honour the fact that we got there first with this design," added Peters, who is filling in for Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern while she is on maternity leave.

The flags are indeed similar. Both are based on the British ensign, with a dark blue background, a United Kingdom Union Flag in the top left corner and the Southern Cross star constellation.
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CUSTODIAL DEATH 2 Indian cops get capital punishment

TOI, Kerala

In perhaps the first instance of the death penalty being awarded to police personnel in India for custodial death, two Kerala cops were given the highest punishment of the land on Wednesday for the murder of a scrap dealer who was subjected to third degree torture.

The death penalty by a CBI court comes on a day when the killing of Rakbar
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PRAYER TIMING JULY 27
 Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 4-20 12-30 5-00 6-50 8-15
 JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Exotic Grey Peacock

The Grey Peacock Pheasant can be found strutting across the forest floors of Fatikchhari. The bird is rare in Bangladesh and seen in the forests of Chittagong. A secretive ground dweller, it is also the largest of Asiatic pheasants found across Southeast Asia. The beautiful bird sports delightfully colourful feathers adorned with purple green ocelli or eyespots. So confident in their plumage, a male peacock pheasant is known to impress a prospective mate by displaying their many colours in a mating dance ritual.

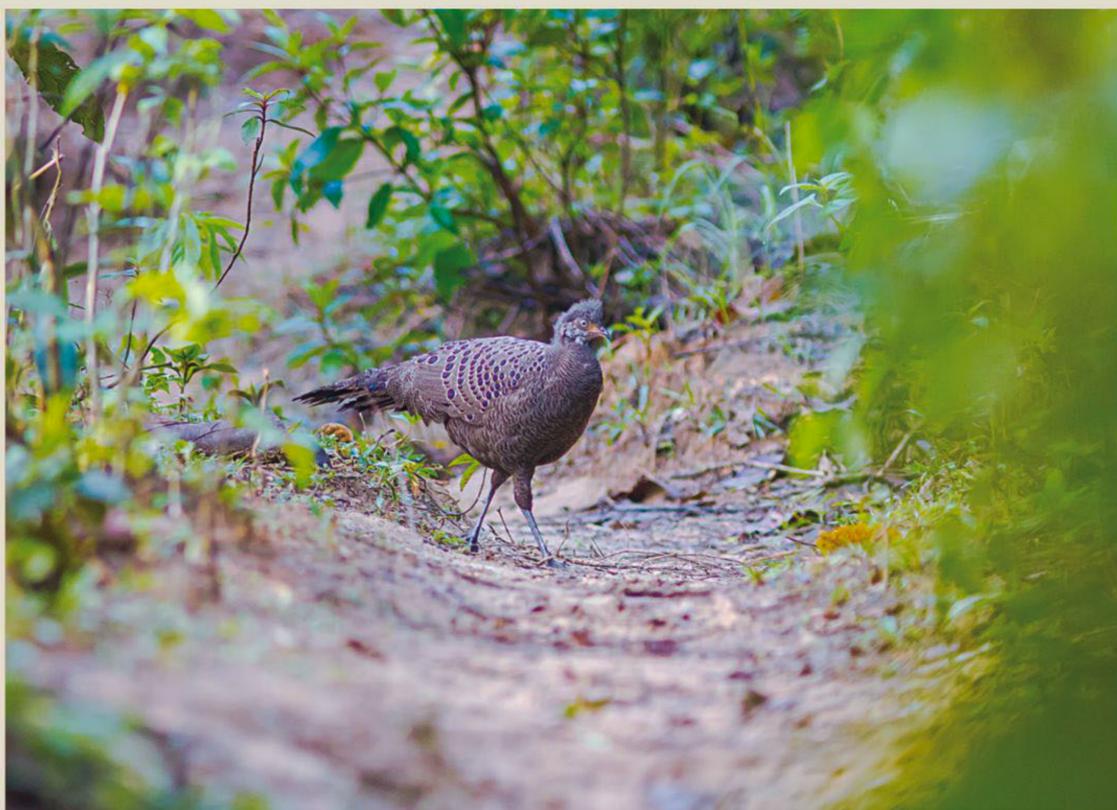


PHOTO: SAYAM U CHOWDHURY

Brac wants govt to fund NGOs' dev projects

Cites decline in foreign funding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Brac wants the government to fund NGOs to implement development programmes as foreign funding for the sector has been declining with the country moving into middle-income status.

"In the coming days the government can fund the NGOs for implementing programmes. The government can set the standards of the programmes and monitor them," said Brac Executive Director Muhammad Musa.

Governments in many countries fund NGOs this way to implement NGOs' programmes, he added.

The other source of funding for the development sector could be the social enterprises, he said, adding that Brac was already doing it and would depend more on such enterprises in future.

"For example, profit from Aarong [a social enterprise of Brac] is invested in our education and health programmes. Thus we have already reduced dependency on donors," Musa said at the launch of Brac's annual report of 2017 in the city's Brac Centre Inn yesterday.

He said the trend of declining foreign fund would continue as Bangladesh was heading towards being a middle-income nation. In March, the UN said Bangladesh has fulfilled the eligibility requirements to graduate from "Least Developed Country" to "Developing Country" status.

Foreign funding of NGOs through the NGO Affairs Bureau dropped 15 percent year-on-year in fiscal 2015-16. During that period, the NGO Affairs Bureau released
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