



A migrant from Honduras, part of a caravan of thousands from Central America trying to reach the United States, crawls through a hole under a border wall to cross illegally from Mexico into the US in Tijuana, Mexico on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
magazine published its 15th annual list, available on the website of its Asia edition, on Tuesday.
Last year, Hasina was ranked 30th. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who became the first female Chancellor of Germany in 2005 and is serving her fourth term, retained the top spot for eight consecutive years.

British Prime Minister Theresa May, who inherited the Brexit turmoil from former prime minister David Cameron and has tirelessly spent the past two years negotiating the exit, has been ranked second.

The rest of the top five are International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde, General Motors Chief Executive Officer Mary T Barra, and Fidelity Investments Chairman and CEO Abigail Johnson.

In the list, 20 personalities were named in the category of "politics" and Hasina was sixth among them. "In 2017, [Sheikh Hasina] Wajed provided aid to Rohingya Muslim refugees fleeing Myanmar, allotting 2,000 acres of land in Bangladesh for the refugees.

"Now she is working on the safe repatriation of Rohingya to Myanmar, saying that Bangladesh can't bear the burden of permanent shelter," the Forbes said.

Queen Elizabeth II was ranked 23rd and US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump ranked 24th.

This year, 20 new faces made the list.

Dhaka to claim

FROM PAGE 16
simply [of] Bangladesh," he said. Muhith said since money from all over the world was kept in the NY Fed, they were responsible for it. "It will be in their favour... Our case will also favour them", he added.

Muhith said the case against the Fed would have to be filed with a New York court by January 15 and they had taken the opinion of a New York law firm in this regard.

Preparation for filing the case was going on as per their advice, Muhith added.

According to US laws, money-laundering cases have to be filed within three years of the crime being committed.

Muhith again said RCBC was the main culprit so the main case would be against them.

The finance minister however said it was questionable what the Fed's position would be, adding that its name would be included as the money was stolen from there and while it had informed Bangladesh Bank (BB), it did not wait for BB's reply.

He said therefore a case would also be filed against the Fed.

In August, at a meeting on the reserve taskforce, the decision of filing the case was taken.

Unidentified hackers stole \$101 million from Bangladesh's central bank account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York by using fake orders on the SWIFT payments system in February 2016.

Later, \$81 million was sent to accounts in RCBC, from where it disappeared into the casino industry in the Philippines.

So far, Bangladesh was able to retrieve \$15 million from the Philippines. \$20 million was sent to a bank in Sri Lanka which Bangladesh also recovered.

Child suicide on the rise

FROM PAGE 16
pressure. Many of them may not resort to suicide but still get hurt, which affect them for a long time," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Many parents consider good grades as the key to success and that is why they keep their children busy studying most of the time. Teachers also put pressure on students.

Already burdened, when a student gets reprimanded by teachers or family member or others, they take extreme decisions, Mahmood said.

Mahjabeen Haque, chairperson of the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology at Dhaka University, said teenage is a "very vulnerable period" because the teens are very emotional.

Cognitive, emotional, social and physical development of a child does not happen at the same level. The level of maturity in all children of a particular age is not the same, she added.

"This is something families and teachers need to keep in mind. But unfortunately, many of them are not aware of these."

A child gets frustrated when his or her expectations are not fulfilled. A child requires psychological support in teen years. But they often do not get the support and take extreme deci-

YEAR	SUICIDE	ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
2018 (11 MONTHS)	293	22
2017	213	11
2016	149	3
2015	228	14
2014	145	23
2013	76	12
2012	49	2

SOURCES: BSAF

sions, said Mahjabeen.

Prof Shalahuddin Qusar Biplob, head of Psychiatry at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said children interacted with family members less nowadays. "So, they take decisions on their own and in many cases, they end up making immature decisions, including that of dying by suicide."

Talking about the country's education, he said, "In our education system, there is no mechanism to identify stress in children and neutralise it."

None of the three major stakeholders -- family, school and administration -- are conscious about a student's stress management, he added.

543 appeals

FROM PAGE 1
Helal Uddin Ahmed.

Khaleda's hearing is expected to be on Saturday.

If the commission takes five minutes to dispose of an appeal, it would take at least 13 hours to complete its work for day-1. That is without any break.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda and his colleagues would have to work from morning till midnight.

The commission would hear the appeals like a court hears appeals and the appellants would be allowed to employ lawyers.

The EC Secretariat officials have started preparing seven binders, consisting relevant documents, for each appeal.

For every case, the CEC, the four commissioners, and two EC officials would get a binder each.

The EC Secretariat officials would need to prepare at least 3,800 binders.

The officials were wondering as to how they would complete this job in just three days.

"The hearings will continue as long as it takes to complete," said EC Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed while announcing the schedule for the appeal hearings.

The appellants would be notified through the ROs and the EC website as to when their appeals would be heard, he said.

The petitioners would be informed about the EC decision the moment their hearings end and they would get a certified copy of the order that very day.

Aggrieved appellants would be able to appeal to the High Court with the certified EC order.

A total of 3,065 nominations were submitted for the December 30 polls and during scrutiny on December 2, the ROs rejected 786 of them.

Conviction in cases, defaulting on loans, and not paying utility bills were among the reasons for rejections.

As a party, the BNP had the highest 141 nominations rejected by the ROs. The AL had only three.

Thirty-eight nominations of the Jatiya Party had been rejected and 384 independents were disqualified.

The disqualified aspirants include

heavyweights like Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader, and Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddique.

Of the 543 appeals, a record in Bangladesh's electoral history, 84 were filed on Monday, 237 on Tuesday, and 222 yesterday.

The second highest number of appeals was filed ahead of the 2008 polls when 300 of the 557 rejected appealed, EC officials said.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday requested the EC in a letter to quickly dispose of the appeals so that the parties could finalise their candidates.

The EC Secretary said, "We have explained to them that it would take three days to dispose of the huge number of appeals. They are convinced."

EC Additional Secretary Mokhesur Rahman said they were yet to decide whether journalists would be allowed in the hearings. It would be decided tomorrow, he added.

KHALEDA'S APPEAL

The BNP filed three appeals with the EC against the ROs' decision to reject Khaleda's nominations for Feni-1, Bogura-6 and Bogura-7.

Her conviction in two corruption cases were shown as the reason by the ROs.

A six-member team of the BNP, led by the party's law affairs secretary Kaiser Kamal, submitted the petitions to the EC yesterday.

Kaiser later told reporters that Khaleda would be a candidate if the commission made a fair decision. Without Khaleda, the general election would become a farce, he claimed.

Khaleda's nomination rejections are illegal as appeals against her sentencing are pending with courts, he said.

MENON AGAINST ABBAS

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday filed an appeal challenging the acceptance of BNP leader Mirza Abbas's nomination for Dhaka-8. Menon alleged that Abbas concealed information in his affidavit submitted to the RO.

Mainul gets

FROM PAGE 16
lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain told The Daily Star.

As many as 22 cases were filed against Mainul across the country over the incident. He earlier secured bail in three other cases, the lawyer added.

He said the HC bench passed the orders on the grounds that only the person who is defamed by any comment can file a defamation suit.

Those who are not defamed by a comment cannot file a defamation case as per section 198 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), Khandker Mahbub said, adding that the complainants of the two cases were not defamed by his client's comment.

Milimaya, a human rights activist in Rangpur, and Farzana Yasmin Lita, convener of Jamalpur Jubo Mohila League, had filed the two cases with the courts concerned as Mainul, also a former caretaker government adviser, called journalist Masuda Bhatti "a person of loose moral" during a live talk show at a private television channel on October 16.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Deputy Attorney General Khurshidul Alam said he opposed the two petitions. He argued that the accused should not be granted bail as the trial proceedings of the cases was at a very early stage.

He said the government would file appeals with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking stay on the HC orders.

KL financier

FROM PAGE 16
and Van Gogh artwork.

Low, commonly known as Jho Low, is accused of playing a central role in plundering the investment fund.

He was an associate of Malaysia's former leader Najib Razak, whose government lost power in May in large part due to allegations that the then premier was involved in the vast fraud.

Since being ousted, Najib has been hit with a barrage of charges linked to the scandal. He denies any wrongdoing.

The new money laundering charges, allegedly committed between 2009 and 2014, were filed in a court in the capital Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

Besides Low, 37, four others linked to IMDB including a business development manager and a finance director were also hit with charges including criminal breach of trust.

"An arrest warrant has been obtained from the court and efforts are being intensified to arrest the five individuals who have left Malaysia," Mohamad Fuzi Harun, inspector-general of police, said in a statement.

With just \$85m

FROM PAGE 16
aid the digital India program. India aims to provide high data connectivity of 100 GBPS in the country under the Digital India Mission.

The GSAT-11 is equivalent to the combined power of almost all communications satellites sent into orbit by India. A communications specialist told NDTV that the satellite is like a constellation of 30 classical orbiting satellites.

India has hired the French Ariane-5 rocket as it can heavy payload into orbit. India's own geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle MK iii or GSLV MK iii can haul satellites that weighs upto 4 tons.

India has stunned the world before with low-cost space missions. In 2014, India sent its own Mars orbiter, The Mangalyaan, with a cost around just \$74 million. Whereas Nasa's Maven Mars mission, which also reached Mars orbit in 2014, cost around \$671 million.

Be visible, vibrant

FROM PAGE 1

The comments came several days after the CEC had said there was no violation of electoral laws during the filing of nomination papers for the December 30 polls.

Election Commissioner Kabita Khanam addressed yesterday's programme ahead of Huda. In her speech, she called upon the members of the committees to be "visible".

Referring to the call, the CEC said, "It means you have not made yourselves visible yet. It also means you are not aware of such a major duty given to you."

"When you become visible and vibrant, people will know you and consider you as their acquaintances. They will come to you and have more trust in you," he said.

He also said the EC was receiving hundreds of complaints. "It was not supposed to happen as you [members of the enquiry committees] are there."

"We will send the complaints to you."

Huda reminded the committee members of their responsibilities, saying that government officials and employees have long been involved in the electoral process.

"People should not go here and there with their problems. You have to be proactive while carrying out your duties. You have to be vibrant," he said.

The 122 electoral enquiry committees, consisting of judicial officers, were formed to ensure prevention and control of pre-polls irregularities. Each committee has two members -- a joint district judge and an assistant district judge.

The committees, on the basis of allegations, would look into them and make recommendations to the EC for taking actions.

After the inaugural session, the EC held a closed-door meeting with the members of the electoral enquiry committees. The commission asked them not to do anything out of enthusiasm.

Talking to this correspondent, some members of the committees said they did not get any complaint and that they thought their "main duty" would

commence after December 9.

"If we don't get any complaint, will we find out those by going through newspapers?" asked an additional magistrate from Sylhet division.

Leave coal

FROM PAGE 2

"just transition" towards renewable that protects miners and national energy security.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told officials at negotiations Tuesday that "the dialogue with industries is sometimes difficult and complex".

"But we believe that even in the oil and gas industry, there is a growing conscience that the present trend is not sustainable."

'DETACHED FROM REALITY'

Paris committed countries to limiting temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) and to the safer cap of 1.5C if possible.

But a UN body warned last month that the gap between greenhouse gas emissions and levels needed to hit the Paris targets was bigger than ever before.

Air pollution alone is now estimated to kill as many as nine million people every year.

"More and more communities are understanding the need to transform our energy systems and their immediate reason is they can see how damaging coal plants or oil drilling are," said Napcil.

"It's becoming a popular cry that there has to be a swift transition away from these kinds of energy."

Groups representing big energy are present at COP negotiations and environmentalists fear they may embolden nations to stick by old coal.

Jesse Bragg, of the Corporate Accountability group, told AFP fossil fuel influence at UN climate talks had "succeeded in making what goes on in those rooms very, very detached and different from the needs of the world."

3 teachers suspended

FROM PAGE 1

chairman of the Dhaka Education Board and the director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education to cancel the teachers' Monthly Payment Order (MPO), stop payment of their wages, and take departmental action against them.

It sent separate letters to the Rab and the police, urging them to take legal action against the three.

The school management committee also postponed yesterday's annual exam to Friday and said today's one would be held later.

In another development, a Dhaka court directed police to submit on January 9 its investigation report on the incident. Metropolitan Magistrate Sadrir Yeachir Ahsan Chowdhury passed the order after accepting a case.

Yesterday, agitating students, mostly ninth-graders, took position near the main entrance to the institution on the capital's Bailey Road, saying the handling of the incident by teachers was responsible for the tragic death of their classmate Aritry Adhikary.

Throughout the day, the students protested holding placards and chanting slogans like "It's not suicide, it's murder", "We want justice".

One of the placards read, "You couldn't have helped her. But you pushed her to death".

The parents and other guardians kept the students surrounded, apparently to protect them from any untoward situation.

The agitators were pressing for a six-point demand, including resignation of the school's governing committee. Asked, Golam Ashraf Talukder, president of the body, said no decision was made in this regard.

The students also demanded removal of the acting principal and her trial for what they said was instigating the suicide. They said she should publicly apologise for her behaviour.

The other demands included prevention of mental and physical torture on students, stopping threat of expulsion and introduction of student counselling at the school.

Although one demand of the students -- suspension of the teachers -- was met, they vowed to continue their demonstration until the others were realised.

The Daily Star correspondents talked to at least 10 parents and all of them claimed that many of the teachers misbehave with students and their guardians.

"There are some teachers, including the principal, who look down upon us whenever we try to talk to them," said Bashir Hossain, one of the guardians.

On Tuesday, Aritry's father Dilip Adhikary filed a case with Paltan Police Station accusing Nazneen, Zinat and Hasna Hena of provoking the suicide. It was handed over to the DB yesterday.

About the ministry's investigation into the incident, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said, "It's clear to the probe committee that she [Aritry]

had to choose the path of suicide after not being able to tolerate her parents' humiliation."

So, those three teachers cannot avoid responsibility, he said.

The investigation has already unearthed many other irregularities at the school, he said. "This institution does not have a principal. It's an irregularity. Students are admitted and [different] sections are opened [at the school] without following the rules. There is no approval of opening a branch. Yet they have opened [a] branch."

Aritry was found hanging from the ceiling of her home in the capital's Shantinagar on Monday hours after she and her parents were allegedly insulted by some teachers of the school.

Talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday, Dilip said Zinat, the morning shift in-charge, told them that Aritry had been expelled after she was caught cheating in the annual exam on Sunday. Zinat also said Aritry would not be allowed to take the rest of the tests, he said.

The death and the subsequent agitation, joined by parents, rocked the 66-year-old institute and prompted the education ministry and the school authorities to form two probe committees.

Besides, the High Court directed the education secretary to form another five-member committee, headed by an additional secretary of the ministry, to look into the matter.

Meanwhile, at a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Child Right's Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh made some recommendations to the government for stopping physical and mental abuse of students at educational institutions.

According to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, a total of 171 students were abused by teachers at different educational institutions from January to November this year. Among the students, two died by suicide, said Sheeba Hafiza, executive director of ASK.

FOOTAGE

Yesterday, the school authorities handed over footage of a CCTV installed at the principal's room to journalists.

According to the footage, Aritry and her parents enters the room at 11:18am on Monday. Apparently, Dilip tries to convince the acting principal time and again but fails.

Nine others were seen inside the room, shows the footage with no audio. After sometime, Nazneen is seen showing Dilip the door. At 11:22am, Aritry leaves but her parents stay. It appears that Dilip again tries to talk to Nazneen but the acting principal talks to others instead.

The parents leaves the room at 11:25am, shows the footage which was doing the rounds on social media.

Meanwhile, one of Aritry's family friends said a prayer for her would be held at Siddeshwari Kali Mandir this evening. He requested everyone to prayer for her departed soul.