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From worker to apparel entrepreneur

Once an RMG worker, Chhobi Das Gupta now runs factory in Ctg employing 100 people

MD ABBAS, Ctg

After the death of her father, Chhobi Das Gupta started working as a garment worker at the age of 12. She dropped out of school and became the bread winner of a family of seven struck hard by poverty.

For the next 18 years, she worked at different garment factories contributing to the country's largest forex-earning sector. She managed admission at Bangladesh Open University as well but had to step back again due to financial stress.

Despite hardship, Chhobi had a dream that one day she would start a garment factory of her own and, to make that a reality, she started saving from her monthly salary.

After saving for 18 years, Chhobi finally started her own factory "Sense Fashion" at a rented flat in Chattogram's Khalifa Patti in February, 2016. She appointed six workers and bought 10 sewing machines with a capital of Tk 7 lakh -- Tk 5 lakh that she saved and the rest she borrowed.

Two years later, her business grew bigger prompting her to move the factory to Rabeya Tower in New Chaktai

CHANGE MAKER



Garment worker-turned entrepreneur Chhobi Das Gupta instructs an operator at her garment factory in Chattogram's Notun Chaktai area. Launched around three years ago, the factory now employs more than 100 workers. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Salman made PM's adviser Joy reappointed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Salman F Rahman, vice-chairman of Beximco Group, has been appointed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser on private industry and investment.

Hasina appointed the businessman, also an Awami League lawmaker, to the post under article 3B (1) of the Rules of Business 1996, according to a Cabinet Division gazette published yesterday.

Salman, who has been elected from Dhaka-1 in the December 30 election, will enjoy the status of a minister without any financial benefits, said the notification, adding that his appointment would take immediate effect.

Earlier, he served as AL President Hasina's adviser on private sector development affairs.

Meanwhile, the PM reappointed her son Sajeb Wazed Joy as her part-time and honorary information and communication technology adviser, said another gazette issued yesterday.

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B'baria road crash claims five lives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least five people were killed and four others critically injured as a microbus hit a roadside tree after the driver lost control in Brahmanbaria's Bijoy Nagar upazila yesterday.

The accident took place on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Birpasha area around 2:30pm, said Hossain Sarker, officer-in-charge of Sarail Bishwaroad Highway Police Station, adding that the microbus driver was on the run after the accident.

He said all the victims, except one, were employees of mobile phone brand Oppo and they were on their way to Sylhet from Dhaka to attend a wedding.

The dead were identified as Apu, 33, and his wife Jhumur, 20, Rizon, 31, Hasan Zaman, 32, and Parash Kanti, 32, of south Goran area in the capital's Khilgaon area. Jhumur was a housewife.

The injured were admitted to Habiganj's Madhabpur upazila Health Complex in critical condition.

OC Sarker said highway police later found the driver Nabir Ali in Madhabpur around 9:30pm and arrested him.

PHOTO ON PAGE 13

HIZB UT-TAHRIR'S SECRET CAMPAIGN Pvt universities main target

CMP's counter terror unit says the militant outfit out to recruit operatives in Ctg

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Hizb ut-Tahrir is campaigning secretly in Chattogram city, targeting private university students to recruit fresh operatives, said officials of Counter Terrorism (CT) unit of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

To strengthen the outfit's organisational activities, its leaders and operatives are working in several groups and picking new members who have good academic and family backgrounds, the officials said.

As part of its strategy, the Hizb ut-Tahrir men are regularly holding meetings and carrying out other organisational activities in different parts of the city. They have chosen busy intersections and playgrounds for their regular meetings to dodge the eyes of law enforcement agencies.

The freshers are being used to paste posters and distribute leaflets in the city, the officials added.

The banned militant outfit's new move came to light after CT officials arrested its two suspected operatives on January 7 and 14. They are Sabqat Ahmed and Fahad Bin Solaiman.

Sabqat, student of a private university in the city, is the chief of the outfit's private education institution wing. Fahad is a college student.

Before the December 30 election, Hizb ut-Tahrir men had pasted posters in the city's Lalkhan Bazar and Court Building areas, criticising the government and urging the people to boycott it.

During investigating the incident, police found involvement of Sabqat

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No 'ghost' cases filed

Says home minister

STAR REPORT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday rejected the claims about "ghost" cases and said they had been filed on specific charges, despite the presence of police cases against dead people or for incidents that did not take place.

"There are no 'ghost' cases. Legal steps are [being] taken against the accused on specific charges," Khan said, according to the UNB.

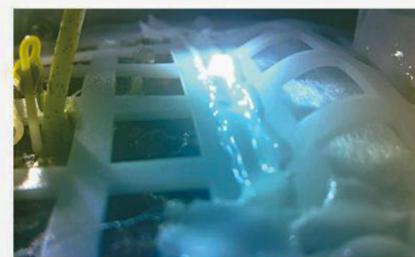
The minister made the remark at a rally of party activists in Dhanmondi which was organised for marking the January 19 victory rally a success.

Anyone found innocent during investigations are being acquitted, the minister added.

However, The Daily Star has found a number of cases filed by police against

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Cotton seed sprouts on lunar lander



AFP, Beijing

A small green shoot is growing on the moon in an out-of-this-world first after a cotton seed germinated on board a Chinese lunar lander, scientists said yesterday.

The sprout has emerged from a lattice-like structure inside a canister since the Chang'e-4 lander set down earlier this month, according to a series of photos released by the Advanced Technology Research Institute at Chongqing University.

"This is the first time humans have done biological growth experiments on the lunar surface," said Xie Gengxin, who led the design of the experiment.

The Chang'e-4 probe -- named after a Chinese moon goddess -- made the world's first soft landing on the moon's "dark side" on January 3, a major step in China's ambitions to become a space superpower.

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PM to invite parties to dialogue

Says HT Imam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Political Affairs Advisor HT Imam yesterday said the PM would invite all political parties for "talks", just a day after Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said Hasina would invite the parties to "exchange post-election greetings".

Imam, however, said the BNP's demand for a fresh election was unrealistic and

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-00
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-40 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Girl hacked by stalker in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A student of class-X was hacked allegedly by a stalker in Jhautala area of Kalkini upazila in Madaripur.

The victim's family members claimed that she was hacked by Samon Akon, 25, as she refused to get married to his elder brother Ramon Akon, 30, an expat in Italy.

Samon, who had been following the victim since long, hacked the victim on her way to school, said Mofazzal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kalkini Police Station, quoting the victim's family members.

The girl was hacked on her head, neck and mouth, the OC said.

However, Samon denied the allegation and said he was staying in Dhaka when the incident happened.

"I came to Dhaka on Monday night to receive my brother who is coming from Italy. I did not hack the girl. We have no

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Large quantities of winter vegetables, including cauliflowers and cabbages, have been arriving in the capital by river. Inset, traders dump damaged vegetables into the Buriganga, causing pollution. The photos were taken in the city's Mirpur-1 Beribandh and Shyambazar areas yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, ANISUR RAHMAN

RENEWED FIGHTING IN RAKHINE

UNHCR chief's trip postponed

AFP, United Nations

Myanmar has postponed a planned visit by the UN refugee chief to Rakhine state following renewed fighting between security forces and insurgents, a spokesman said Monday. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi was due to visit last week but Myanmar authorities scrapped the trip to Rakhine, where hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims were driven out in a military crackdown that started in 2017.

The troubled western state has seen fighting flare again in recent weeks, this time between security forces and the Arakan Army (AA), an ethnic Rakhine armed group calling for more autonomy for the state's Rakhine Buddhist population.

Thirteen police officers were killed by AA militants in January 4 attacks on police posts near the Bangladeshi border.

"Based on assessment of Myanmar authorities of the security situation in Rakhine, the visit has been postponed," said UNHCR spokesman Andrej Mahelic.

Britain is expected to raise the issue at the UN Security Council later this week, according to diplomats.

The decision to delay Grandi's trip and uncertainty surrounding a separate planned visit by the UN envoy Christine Schraner Burgener to Myanmar is fuelling concerns that authorities are backtracking on their commitments to address the Rohingya refugee crisis.

"They have done nothing at all and didn't particularly want that to be exposed," said a Security Council diplomat of the decision to postpone Grandi's visit.

Myanmar's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to requests for information.

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