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CLIMATE CHANGE

World 'losing the race'

UN chief warns leaders at World Economic Forum in Davos

AFP, Davos

The world is "losing the race" against climate change, UN chief Antonio Guterres warned yesterday, demanding bolder action from governments to arrest runaway warming.

Guterres delivered a no-holds-barred appraisal to business and political leaders gathered at the World Economic Forum in Davos, which has featured much hand-wringing on the planetary crisis this week.

"In my opinion it is the most important global systemic threat in relation to the global economy," the UN secretary-general told his high-calibre audience.

"Climate change is running faster than what we are," he said. "I believe we are losing the race."

The business community and civil society are increasingly engaged, "but the political will is still very slow", he said, lamenting the position of climate doubters.

"We are moving dramatically into a runaway climate change if we are not able to stop it."

A UN summit last month in Poland, which was designed to advance the Paris climate accord, laid bare continuing fissures over the share of responsibility among countries to cap temperature rises.

The Paris accord has been shaken by the withdrawal of the United States under President Donald Trump, and by threats to do the same by Brazil's new hard-right leader, Jair Bolsonaro.

Guterres, on an earlier Facebook Live broadcast, said the commitments made in Paris were already "not enough" but



SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Risky ride home

Rawshan Ara stares lovingly at her one-year-old son while they sit on a coupling at the back of the Mymensingh-bound Isha Kha Express. Rawshan, who lives on alms, came to the city and was on her way back home in Tongi. The risk she undertakes is one born out of necessity, the same for many others around the country. The photos were taken at Cantonment Railway Station around 1:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladeshi cattle trader killed in 'BSF shooting'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader along Char Ashariadaha border in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila early yesterday.

The victim, Jamal Uddin, 45, was the son of Golam Mostafa of Moynartek Dhabermath village, said sources of Shahebganj BGB camp.

Initially, the BGB camp and his family members said Jamal was killed in BSF firing. But top officials at the battalion headquarters in Rajshahi refuted the claim.

Contacted, Maj Ashif Bulbul, second-in-command of BGB Battalion-1, said they sent an official to Jamal's house. The family told the official that Jamal "died of a heart attack", he added.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the family's statement.

Asked why there was an injury mark on his body that looked like a bullet wound, the official said they were investigating the matter.

Jamal entered India

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

KABIRHAT 'RAPE'

Medical board finds no trace of gang rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

The medical board, formed to conduct medical test on an alleged rape victim in Noakhali's Kabirhat, did not find any evidence of gang rape.

The test report was sent to the office of Noakhali superintendent of police on Wednesday, said Dr Khalil Ullah, superintendent of Noakhali General Hospital.

A mother of three was allegedly gang-raped in the early hours of Saturday.

Hearing the test results, the victim expressed frustration and said there were still marks of torture on her body and she could not move properly.

Meanwhile, detectives yesterday arrested another accused Jamal Uddin, 29, from Cumilla's Chaudhagram upazila.

Zakir Hossain, investigation officer of the case, said they arrested Jamal following the confessional statement of Zakir Hossain Jahir, the prime accused in the case.

In the statement, Jahir mentioned the names of four other people, including Jamal, who were involved in the rape.

With Jamal, police arrested all the four.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

'Protect Rohingyas'

Fortify Rights calls upon Modi govt not to drive out the refugees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian authorities beat and threatened Rohingyas, forcing some to flee to Bangladesh in recent weeks, said Fortify Rights yesterday.

"India should urgently protect Rohingya genocide survivors seeking safety and not force them out of the country," said Matthew Smith, chief executive officer of the regional rights body.

"Refugees should never be imprisoned based on their status as refugees. Prime Minister Modi's government should immediately release detained refugees, provide the UN access to them, and protect all survivors of atrocities," he said in a statement.

Indian border security forces reportedly forced 31 Rohingyas towards Bangladesh last week. As they were in "no man's land" near Brahmanbaria, Indian authorities subsequently took them in custody.

More than 1,300 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh from India since May last year, according to Bangladesh Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Abul Kalam. However, the actual number is believed to be much higher.

According to Indian government, there are an estimated 40,000 Rohingyas refugees in India, and about 18,000 of them are registered with the UNHCR. Many of them escaped mass atrocities in Myanmar since 2012.

Earlier this month, Indian authorities reportedly refouled a Rohingya family of five to Myanmar and, in October 2018, forcibly deported seven Rohingyas to Rakhine.

Article 3 of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Blind girl raped in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A 12-year-old blind girl has allegedly been raped by her father's co-worker in Kalmakanda upazila of Netrakona.

The incident that allegedly took place on Saturday came to light on Wednesday after the girl's family filed a case with Kalmakanda Police Station.

The lone accused Sajal Mia, 27, a day labourer, is still on the run, said Mazharul Karim, officer-in-charge of the police station.

"Sajal is a resident of Paikapara village of neighbouring Durgapur upazila of the district and often used to visit the girl's house," he added.

On the day of the incident, he went there around noon and "raped" the girl as no one else was there, Mazharul further said, adding that the accused fled the area soon after the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Travel ban for Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers'



AFP, The Hague

The Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam said yesterday its version of "Sunflowers" will no longer be allowed to travel after restoration work showed it was in a "fragile" condition.

The museum in the Dutch capital is one of only five in the world with a copy of Vincent van Gogh's masterpiece, and it rarely goes abroad, with the last time being in 2014.

But international experts involved in the restoration said that even that was too much for the 130-year-old painting, meaning that it will now "stay at home in Amsterdam".

"An important conclusion of the research is that the soil and paint layers are stable, but very sensitive to vibrations and changes in air humidity and temperature," Van Gogh Museum director Axel Rueger said.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

PM to address nation today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the nation today following the formation of her new government earlier this month.

State-owned Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will simultaneously broadcast her address from 7:30pm, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said yesterday.

Private television channels and radio stations will also air the speech.

Hasina formed the government for a third consecutive term following the Awami League's victory in

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 25

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:30 12:30 4:15 5:43 7:15

JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:47 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



PHOTO: ENAM UL HAQUE



The city's 'first' shade of purple

ENAM UL HAQUE

For the first time in a generation, a rare Purple Heron was spotted near a lake in the capital. These birds of Bangladesh are seen only occasionally in the reed beds of large fresh-water lakes called haors.

It was heartening to see the beautiful bird trying to find a place in this rather

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

ঢ্যানারির বর্জ্য ধ্বংস করায় র্যাব ও প্রাণিসম্পদ অধিদপ্তরকে অভিনন্দন

গত ২২ ও ২৩ জানুয়ারি সাভারের ডাকুর্তা ইউনিয়নের ৫টি খোলা স্পটে স্থপকৃত বিপুল পরিমাণ ঢ্যানারির বর্জ্য ধ্বংস করায় র্যাপিড অ্যাকশন ব্যাটেলিয়ন (র্যাব) ও প্রাণিসম্পদ অধিদপ্তরকে এবং একই সাথে অভিযানের নেতৃত্বদানকারি র্যাবের ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট জনাব সারোয়ার আলম কে আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি।

এ ধরনের বিষাক্ত বর্জ্য-পরিবেশ এবং মানুষের জন্য অত্যন্ত ক্ষতিকর। সে কারনেই এ ধরনের শিল্প বর্জ্য সঠিক পদ্ধতিতে ধ্বংস করার সুনির্দিষ্ট নীতিমালা রয়েছে। আমরা আশা করব পরিবেশ, প্রাণিকুল এবং বিশেষ করে মানুষের জীবন ও সুস্বাস্থ্যের কথা বিবেচনা করে র্যাব ও প্রাণিসম্পদ অধিদপ্তরের এ অভিযান অব্যাহত থাকবে।

গত ২২ ও ২৩ জানুয়ারি জাতীয় দৈনিকে প্রকাশিত খবরে কিছু ভুল তথ্য উপস্থাপন করা হয়েছে যেমন- ৫টি খোলা স্পটে স্থপকৃত ঢ্যানারির বর্জ্য জঙ্গ বা ধ্বংস করা হলেও প্রতিবেদনে বলা হয়েছে যে ঢ্যানারির বর্জ্য দিয়ে তৈরি হাঁস মুরগি মাছের খাদ্য তৈরির কারখানায় অভিযান চালানো হয়েছে। বলা হয়েছে- ঢ্যানারির বর্জ্য দিয়ে তৈরি ১১ হাজার টন হাঁস মুরগি মাছের খাদ্য জঙ্গ করা হয়েছে। আসলে ওগুলো ছিল ঢ্যানারির বর্জ্য। কাজেই এর সাথে পোস্তি শিল্প কিংবা ফিড প্রস্তুতকারক শিল্পের কোনই সম্পর্ক নেই। এ ধরনের ভুল সংবাদের কারনে ভোক্তাদের মাঝে নেতিবাচক ধারণা ও ভীতির সৃষ্টি হয়েছে-যা কাম্য নয়।

বাংলাদেশে এখন সরকারিভাবে নিবন্ধিত ১৯৮টি ফিড মিল রয়েছে। ফিড ফর্মুলেশন এবং প্রযুক্তির ব্যবহারে অত্যন্ত নিরাপদ পোস্তি ও ফিস ফিড এখন দেশেই তৈরি হচ্ছে- যেখানে নিম্নমানের উপকরণ ব্যবহারের কোন সুযোগ নেই।

তাই ভোক্তা সাধারণকে আমরা জানাতে চাই আপনারা নিশ্চিন্তে পোস্তি'র ডিম ও মুরগির মাংস এবং মাছ খান; প্রোটিনের চাহিদা মেটান; সুস্থ থাকুন।



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