



Anti-tobacco campaigners form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday to protest the screening of the film *Debi*, which has smoking scenes.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Palestinian arrested over killing of Israeli: police

AFP, Jerusalem

A Palestinian suspected of having killed a young Israeli woman has been arrested in a raid in the West Bank city of Ramallah, an Israeli police spokesman said yesterday.

The body of Ori Ansbahe, 19, was found on Thursday evening in the south of Jerusalem, and she was buried on Friday in the Israeli settlement of Tekoa.

The suspect comes from the flashpoint city of Hebron in the south of the occupied West Bank, police said.

All other details of the woman's killing remain the subject of an Israeli gag order.

Previous Israeli statements about her murder came only from top diplomats and politicians.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, accused the UN Security Council of staying silent in the face of what he charged was the complicity of the Palestinian Authority (PA) of president Mahmud Abbas in such attacks.

"The PA maintains its policy of paying salaries for terrorists and educating its youth with incitement, and a 19-year-old girl was brutally murdered in Israel," he said.

"The Security Council has the responsibility and moral duty to make a clear condemnation of this barbaric murder and to act firmly against the culture of terror in the Palestinian Authority."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed in a statement on Friday evening that "the security forces will track down those responsible for this killing and we will treat them with the full force of the law."

Netanyahu's principal challenger in an April 9 general election, former armed forces chief of staff Benny Gantz, said he had full confidence in the ability of the security forces to arrest the killer.

The West Bank was hit by a bout of unrest in December as tensions eased in the Gaza Strip, but they later eased in the West Bank too.

## India to open

FROM PAGE 16

This is being done as part of efforts to preserve the biodiversity of the Ganges, India's Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

"The gates will be kept open between 1:00am and 5:00am every day because that is the time when hilsa fishes move," said Inland Waterway Authority of India Vice Chairman Pravir Pandey

"This has been done in consultation with the Indian Council for Agricultural Research, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Central Water Commission and the Farakka Barrage authorities."

This will lead to increased availability of hilsa in India, a spokesman of Indian Shipping Ministry said.

## Making polls

FROM PAGE 1

vice chairman.

The mayors of municipalities, chairmen and members (from seats reserved for women) of municipalities and union parishads automatically become members of upazila parishads.

Before the announcement of the polls schedule, the AL decided that it would not issue nomination papers for the two vice-chairman posts.

After the schedule was announced on February 3, it changed the decision and began to sell nomination papers for the two positions alongside chairman post.

The party yesterday revised its decision, said an AL leader.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader announced the names of its chairman candidates through a press conference at the party president's Dhanmondi office.

"The vice chairman posts in the election will remain open to all" he said.

The fifth upazila polls will be held in 480 out of the 492 upazilas between March and June in five phases and the EC so far announced schedules for the first two.

Elections to 87 upazila parishads will be held on March 10 in the first phase. The last date for submitting nomination papers is February 11 and for withdrawal is February 19. They will be scrutinised on February 12.

Election in 129 upazilas will be held on March 18 in the second phase.

The EC is planning to hold the third-

phase polls on March 24, the fourth on March 31 and the fifth on June 18.

The BNP on January 24 announced that it will boycott the polls as it saw no prospect of a free and fair election.

A combine of eight left-leaning parties, Left Democratic Alliance, and Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan and Bangladesh Muslim League also have boycotted the polls.

The parties said the Election Commission "controlled by the government might stage a farcical election like the 11th national polls held on December 30".

### BUDGET DOUBLES

The Election Commission Secretariat has finalised a budget of Tk 740 crore for the upazila elections -- almost double the amount for 2014 polls, EC sources said.

Besides, the commission will also spend another Tk 170 crore in training officials on electronic voting machines in the election, carrying out awareness campaign, holding mock voting using EVMs and buying tablet PCs for election officials, they added.

"Budget for this year's upazila election increased as honorarium for election officials increased. Again, prices of different materials for using polls are on the rise too," Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star.

In 2014 upazila polls, the EC spent around Tk 383 crore and about Tk 185 crore of it was on security.

## AL candidates lists for first phase

**Panchagarh:** Amirul Islam (Panchagarh Sadar), Mahmudur Rahman (Tetulia), Hasnat Jaman Chowdhury (Debiganj), Faruk Alam (Boda) and Towhidul Islam (Atwari).  
**Nilphamari:** Shahid Mahmud (Nilphamari Sadar), Tofayel Ahmed (Domar), Moksedul Momin (Syedpur), Tabibul Islam (Dimla), Jakir Hossain (Kishoreganj) and Ansar Ali Mintu (Jaldhaka).  
**Lalmonirhat:** Nazrul Haq Patwary (Lalmonirhat Sadar), Ruhul Amin (Patgram), Liakat Hossain (Hatibandha), Rafiqul Islam (Aditmari) and Mahbubuzzaman Ahmed (Kaliganj).  
**Kurigram:** Aman Uddin Ahmed (Kurigram Sadar), Mostofa Zaman (Nageshwari), Nurunnabi Chowdhury (Bhurungamari), Ataur Rahman (Phulbari), Abu Noor Md Akteruzzaman (Rajarhat), Golam Hossain Mantu (Ulipur), Shawkat Ali Sarkar (Chilmari), Mujibur Rahman (Rowmari) and Shafiul Alam (Rajibpur).  
**Joypurhat:** SM Solaiman Ali (Joypurhat Sadar), Abdus Salam Akanda (Akkelpur), Minfuzur Rahman (Kalai), Mustakim Mandol (Khetlal) and Monirul Shahid Mandol (Panchbibi).  
**Rajshahi:** Mansur Rahman (Paba), Nazrul Islam (Durgapur), Abdus Salam (Mohonpur), Fakrul Islam (Charghat), GM Hira Bacchu (Puthia), Layeb Uddin (Bagha), Jahangir Alam (Godagari), Lutfor Haider Rashid (Tanore) and Anil Kumar Sarkar (Bagmara).  
**Natore:** Shariful Islam Ramjan (Natore Sadar), Shaiqul Islam (Singra), Siddikur Rahman Patwary (Baraigram), Sekendar Rahman (Bagatipara), Ishahaq Ali (Lalpur) and Jahidul Silam (Gurudaspur).

**Sirajganj:** Riay Uddin (Sirajganj Sadar), Ali Akhand (Belkuchi), Faruk Hossain (Chauhali), Khalilur Rahman Sirajee (Kazipur), Imrul Hossain (Raigonj), Azad Rahman (Shahjapur), Sanjit Kumar Karmakar (Tarash) and Shafiqul Islam (Ullapara).  
**Jamalpur:** Mohammad Abul Hossain (Jamalpur Sadar), Kamruzzaman (Melandah), SM Jamal Abdun Naser (Islampur), Abul Kalam Azad (Dewanganj), Gias Uddin Pathan (Sarishabari), Obaidur Rahman (Madarganj) and AKM Saiful Silam (Bokshiganj).  
**Netrokona:** Tafsir Uddin Khan (Netrokona Sadar), Golam Rasul Talukdar (Barhatta), Emdadul Haq Khan (Durgapur), Nurul Islam (Kendua), Habibur Rahman (Madan), Golam Kibria Jabbar (Khaliajuri), Abdul Khaleque (Kalmakanda), Shahid Iqbal (Mohonganj) and Jahidul Islam Sujan (Purbadhala).  
**Habiganj:** Moshir Rahman Shamim (Habiganj Sadar), Alamgir Chowdhury (Nabiganj), Abdul Hye (Bahubal), Mortuja Hasan (Ajmiriganj), Abul Kashem Chowdhury (Baniachong), Mushfiul Alam Azad (Lakhai), Abdul Kadir Laskar (Chunarughat) and Atikur Rahman (Madhabpur).  
**Sunamganj:** Khaiful Huda (Sunamganj Sadar), Abul Kalam (Dakkhin Sunamganj), Rafiqul Islam Talukdar (Bishwambarpur), Fazlur Rahman (Chhatak), Abdur Rahim (Dowarabazar), Karuna Sindhu Chowdhury Bablu (Tahirpur), Shamim Ahmed Murad (Dharmapasha), Yousuf Al Azad (Jamalganj), Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mahmud (Shalla) and Pradip Roy (Derai).

## Trump ignores

FROM PAGE 16

The State Department said Thursday Washington had already taken action, pointing to last year's revocation of visas for nearly two dozen Saudi officials and the freezing of assets of 17 others.

Some members of Congress have publicly stated that they suspect the powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was directly responsible for the killing, based on the CIA's conclusions.

Predicting little movement, a bipartisan group of senators on Thursday proposed a bill that would cut off some weapons sales and require sanctions against any Saudis involved in Khashoggi's killing.

"Seeing as the Trump administration has no intention of insisting on full accountability for Mr Khashoggi's murderer, it is time for Congress to step in and impose real consequences to fundamentally re-examine our relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and with the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen," said Robert Menendez, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Trump administration claims it has no compelling evidence of the direct involvement of the young and powerful Saudi leader, although the senators -- briefed in private by intelligence leaders -- stressed they remained convinced that the prince known as "MBS" was responsible.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo raised Khashoggi's killing among other issues during a meeting in Washington Thursday with Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi foreign minister, according to the State Department. Al-Jubeir reiterated Friday that the prince was not involved in the murder and blaming him would be crossing a "red line."

"For anyone to think that they can dictate what we should do, what our leadership should do, is preposterous," al-Jubeir told reporters.

Trump has publicly said he is not concerned whether Prince Mohammed was involved, arguing that the Saudi alliance benefits Washington due to the kingdom's purchases of weapons and its hostility to regional rival Iran.

The deadline coincides with new embarrassing developments for the prince.

The New York Times, citing officials who had seen US intelligence, said Prince Mohammed had warned in an intercepted conversation with an aide in 2017 that he would go after Khashoggi "with a bullet" if he did not return to Saudi Arabia from the United States.

US intelligence understood that the ambitious 33-year-old heir apparent was ready to kill the journalist, although he may not have literally meant to shoot him, according to the newspaper.

Special UN rapporteur Agnes Callamard said Thursday after a visit to Turkey that the killing of Khashoggi, who had written critical pieces on Saudi Arabia in the Post, had been "planned and perpetrated" by Saudi officials.

# Homemaker

FROM PAGE 16

qualities intact. It also reduces the cost, brings in more harvest and profit," Rina told this paper.

Following in her steps, other farmers of the area were also getting better results, said Shoyeb Mahmud, upazila agriculture officer in Delduar.

Rina produces six maunds of vermicompost every two months and sells them to farmers of the village as well as of adjacent villages at Tk 25/kg, he added.

Moreover, the energetic lady had developed a seed bank with about a hundred varieties of vegetables, spices, and near-extinct varieties of paddy, the officer noted.

"Most farmers do not preserve seeds of the crops they grow. I sell my seeds to them and sometimes I give it to them on condition that they will preserve their seeds and give those to me in exchange," Rina told this correspondent.

"Rina apa [elder sister] taught us the techniques of sowing seeds and usage of fertilisers for better yields. We take advice from her over various problems that we face during farming," said Amena Khatun, another female farmer of Mamudpur.

In 2004, Rina received training under project "Naya Krishi Andolon" ran by a local NGO Unnayan Bikolper Neeti Nirdharanee Gobeshana Kendra.

The training taught her organic farming and natural methods to

control pests, Rina recalled.

Born in Hinganagar village of the upazila in 1971, Rina was married to local farmer Main Uddin in 1985 when she was a student of class-VII in school.

Rina and her husband received 130 decimal of land and a home on 20 decimal land by inheritance.

"My husband and I applied the techniques to cultivate crops and vegetables on our land," Rina said while recalling her initial days in farming.

She not only gained solvency and reputation but also improved the lives of her family members. Her two children, a daughter and a son, completed higher education and have jobs.

Rina's daughter Bipasha Akhter is proud of her parents.

"When my father goes to nearby market to sell vegetables, they are sold within the blink of an eye because people know that the products are produced by my mother and are free of chemicals and pesticides," said Bipasha.

Nominated by the Department of Agricultural Extension, Rina went to Bangkok in 2015 on the occasion of 35th World Food Day.

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific organised the programme where Rina was honoured with a crest, certificate, and cash for her contribution to organic farming and leading female farmers in her locality.

## Mosquitoes put

FROM PAGE 16

mosquitoes feel full, the insects' desire for blood can be satiated.

"We were impressed and amazed that drugs designed to affect human appetite worked perfectly to suppress mosquito appetite," study author Leslie Vosshall said in a statement.

The scientists carried out experiments on female Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which require human blood for the proteins they need to produce eggs. This species is responsible for spreading yellow fever, dengue fever and Zika virus.

The researchers noted, however, that once these mosquitoes fed on human blood and become bloated, their attraction to humans declines for several days.

"It's like the ultimate Thanksgiving dinner," said Laura Duvall, a study author.

The team of researchers from Rockefeller University in New York City targeted their research on neuropeptide Y (NPY) receptors, which regulate food intake in humans.

The scientists gave the mosquitoes a saline solution containing the drugs developed by the pharmaceutical

industry to activate and inhibit these receptors in humans, and found the insects' appetite and attraction to humans dropped sharply.

They measured this by hanging up a nylon stocking previously worn by Duvall for long enough for body odors to be absorbed, and observing whether mosquitoes flew toward it. They also tested the mosquitoes on mice to see whether they would bite a live host, Duvall told CNN.

The scientists tested all 49 NPY receptors in mosquitoes with the drugs to determine which was responsible for controlling appetite. They also conducted extensive testing on thousands of compounds to determine which could target mosquitoes directly rather than also having an impact on humans.

James Logan, head of the department for disease control at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, described the discovery of this potential new technology as "exciting" and "intriguing."

Paul Reiter, a former professor of medical entomology at the Pasteur Institute, also told CNN that the proposed method was a "fascinating idea" and "very plausible."

## Reporting of adverse

FROM PAGE 16

Pharmaceuticals Industry and Current Issues" at a city hotel in the capital yesterday.

The event was organised by Square Pharmaceuticals, the market leader, to commemorate Samson Chowdhury, who founded the group.

While giving a presentation on adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting, Prof Sayedur Rahman of pharmacology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University said medicines are meant to heal diseases, but they themselves have negative impacts on health. So, benefits are weighed up against the risks while prescribing a drug.

Racial, genetic and environmental factors influence the pattern to a great extent, the BSMMU pharmacologist said. Pre-marketing studies and trials reveal only half of the risks involved since drugs are tested at the time on a limited number of people. The potential of remaining risks could be learned in the next 15 years through ADR reporting.

Science and activities relating to detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects and any other drug-related problems are called pharmacovigilance.

Pharmacovigilance has been well discussed since the Directorate General of Drug Administration drew the National Guideline on the Pharmacovigilance System in Bangladesh in 2013 with the help of the USAID. The health and family welfare ministry set up the National Pharmacovigilance Centre at the DGDA and formed an Advisory Drug Reaction Advisory Committee to assess reports and recommend regulatory decisions and actions to ensure medicine safety.

To enter the global scenario, Bangladesh also became the 120th member of the World Health Organization's International Drug Monitoring Center in December 2014.

But the results of all these are not very promising.

Referring to a survey, Sayedur said a

good number of doctors comprising 65 percent were aware that adverse drug reaction could be reported. However, only 8 percent saw the reporting form. The number of positive respondents dips further to 4 percent when asked about how to report a case. It was shocking to learn that none of them was trained to submit an ADR reporting form.

Underreporting of such reactions can have severe impacts on public health as globally one in seven hospital in-patients experience adverse drug reaction, Sayedur said, adding, deaths of hospital in-patients due to such occurrences are 0.24-2.9 percent. In the USA, the fourth major cause of deaths is ADR.

At the outdoor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, 11.9 percent patients were diagnosed with ADR. At selected outdoor at BSMMU, 3.75 percent patients were seen to have encountered such reactions, Sayedur informed.

The ADR also has a toll on the health economy. According to an estimate in 2000 in the USA, economic impacts of ADR exceeded \$177 billion.

Bangladesh does not have any such studies.

Reporting of any reactions may lead to changing in the dosage, packaging or labelling or withdrawal of a product from the market in the interests of public health.

The pharmaceuticals industry should come forward to encourage the practice of ADR reporting as that would help boost their credibility, which is necessary when they look forward to expanding their market outside the country, experts said at the programme.

By not reporting adverse impacts of drugs, Sayedur said, "We are not participating in the global knowledge-building process."

Confirmation of an ADR is not necessary, he said, adding that "just report" whenever untoward consequences are noticed following intake of medicine.