

PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS



Pedestrians are forced to jaywalk in this part of Mirpur Road in College Gate area, as a police box takes up the entire width of the footpath. Occupation of footpaths and public spaces are a common sight in Dhaka, but citizens expect law enforcers to evict the encroachers, instead of being the violators. The photo was taken recently.

Govt can confiscate HK bank accounts of Morshed Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed the government and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to confiscate the Hong Kong bank accounts and shares of former foreign minister M Morshed Khan and his son Faisal Morshed Khan.

The court of Senior Metropolitan Special Judge Emrul Kayesh passed the order following a petition jointly filed by the government and the ACC, seeking its permission to confiscate the bank accounts and shares of Morshed and Faisal.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Deputy Attorney General Kazi Zinat Hoque appeared for the state and Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan argued for the ACC. No lawyer was present for Morshed and Faisal.

Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the authorities concerned of Hong Kong have recently sent a letter to the government and ACC that Morshed and Faisal have Hong Kong dollars worth Tk 16 crore with Standard Chartered Bank and 16.8 lakh shares of Far East Communications Limited in Hong Kong.

The money and shares will be returned to Morshed and Faisal if the authorities concerned of Bangladesh government do not confiscate them by October 15, the Hong Kong police and bank authorities wrote in the letter, he said.

He said the Hong Kong authorities gave the information under the Mutual Legal Assistance Act, 2012.

The ACC lawyer said the commission filed a case with Gulshan Police Station in 2013 against Morshed Khan, his wife Nasrin Khan and their son Faisal Morshed Khan under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 and the case is now pending with the court of Judge Emrul Kayesh.

"We will now send the court order to Hong Kong authorities for confiscating the bank accounts and shares of Morshed Khan and Faisal Morshed Khan. The case against them will run as usual," he added.

PM flies to NY today to join UNGA

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka today for New York for an eight-day official visit to the USA to attend the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

She will deliver the country statement at the UNGA 74th Annual General Debate on September 27.

During the visit, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on September 24 and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on September 28.

A VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the premier and her entourage will take off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for Abu Dhabi in the afternoon.

The flight will land at Abu Dhabi International Airport in the UAE at 6:30pm (local time).

After a one-day stopover, the PM will fly to New York by an Etihad Airways flight at 10:30am (local time) on September 22.

She will arrive at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York on September 22.

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China making efforts to resolve Rohingya crisis

Says embassy statement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China is making efforts in mediating and facilitating repatriation of Rohingyas from Bangladesh to Myanmar, in order to resolve the crisis, the Chinese embassy said in a statement yesterday.

The statement comes after Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Li Jiming, visited Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar from September 15 to 17, accompanied by officials from ministries of foreign affairs, and disaster management and relief of Bangladesh, and UN High Commission for Refugees.

"The visit is the latest embodiment of China, as a good neighbour and friend of Bangladesh and Myanmar, making efforts in mediating and facilitating repatriation in order to resolve the Rohingya Issue," the statement said.

It demonstrates the strong determination of China to uphold peace and stability and to promote development and prosperity in the region."

Under China's mediation, a tripartite

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Dhaka, the new sin city!

Quips BNP leader Moyeen Khan pointing at recent crackdown on casinos

UNB, Dhaka

In the wake of crackdown on casinos in the capital, BNP senior leader Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday alleged that the government has turned Dhaka into a city of casinos like Las Vegas, USA.

"We earlier heard that Bangladesh would be upgraded to a developed country like Singapore. I want to say that the government went a step above and turned Dhaka into a city like Las Vegas," he said.

Dr Moyeen, a BNP standing committee member, came up with the remarks while speaking at a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club. Doctors Association of Bangladesh organised the event, demanding release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

On Wednesday, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided some clubs in the city, detained and sentenced at least 182 people in connection with running casinos, gambling and drug abuse, and sealed off at least two clubs.

They also arrested Jubo League Dhaka South Organising Secretary Khalid Mahmud Bhuiyan from his Gulshan home for running a casino at a football club in Fakirerpool. His arrest came after a Rab mobile court detained and sentenced 142 people, raiding the casino in Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club and seized some blackjack tables, slot machines, Tk 24.29 lakh in cash, yaba pills, and some bottles of alcohol.

At yesterday's human chain, Dr Moyeen said Dhaka was built around 400 years back during Mughal era, and later it earned the name of "the city of mosques"; but that city now has become a "city of casinos".

"The government says they've transformed Bangladesh into a middle-income country. If Dhaka becomes like Las Vegas due to that transformation, I've no idea what the city will be like when the country becomes a developed one," the BNP leader quipped.

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'Unfinished business' despite progress: UNFPA director

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite Bangladesh making progress in ensuring access to full range of sexual and reproductive health information and services for all, there is still "unfinished business", said the visiting UNFPA regional director for Asia Pacific Björn Andersson.

"There is unfinished business in terms of maternal health, family planning and harmful practices," he told The Daily Star during an interview in Dhaka on Wednesday while commending Bangladesh's progress under the ICPD commitment.

ICPD stands for International Conference on Population and Development, a 1994 meeting in Cairo, Egypt where 179 governments adopted a revolutionary programme of action and called for women's reproductive health rights to take centre stage in national and global development efforts.

ICPD is turning 25 this year, while UNFPA -- which is pursuing the



UNFPA's Asia-Pacific Regional Director Björn Andersson speaking at a meet the press programme in Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR

movement -- is turning 50. The 2019 summit on ICPD will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in November. The governments of Kenya and Denmark, and UNFPA are co-convening the summit.

"It's [Nairobi meet] a way to re-

energise the commitments and to see how we can move forward in closing the gaps," Andersson said.

The UNFPA regional director also talked about Bangladesh's progress in population development -- especially

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met with a group of representatives from Bangladesh Chhatra League, including its newly appointed acting president and general secretary, at Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Cop jailed for attempting to loot \$18,800

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspended official of Uttara East Police Station and a former BGB member were sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment, for their attempt to loot US\$18,800 (Tk 15 lakh) from the owner of a currency exchange business.

Metropolitan Magistrate Debdas Chandra Adhikary of Speedy Trial Court-3 of Dhaka passed the order in presence of the two convicts -- suspended ASI Alamgir Hossain and ex-BGB member Masum Billah.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default of which they will have to serve one more month in jail.

Alamgir Hosen and Masum Billah were on bail, but the court cancelled their bail and sent them to jail after the verdict.

The accused tried to snatch US\$18,800 from one Ilias Hossain, owner of a currency exchange company in front of Rajlakkhi Market of Uttara in Dhaka on April 4, 2017.

Ilias was waiting for a car in front of the market when the accused in association with three others picked him up in a vehicle -- introducing themselves as detectives -- and tried to snatch the money that was with him.

Hearing his screams, locals stopped the vehicle and captured Masum, but the ASI

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Inequality a major challenge to SDGs

Development experts tell conference

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Inequality remains a major challenge in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, said development experts yesterday, calling for effective actions to improve distribution of high economic growth.

Higher investment in education, skills, health, and creating decent jobs targeting people and areas still lagging behind, is crucial and the government should focus on that, they added.

Besides, creating more space for the civil society, and private sector, tackling climate change impact should also be given priority for achieving the SDGs that the UN has

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DENGUE OUTBREAK Daily admission below 500, first time in months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daily number of dengue patients admitted to different hospitals across the country went down under the 500-mark yesterday, for the first time since July 24.

However, hospitals outside Dhaka are still seeing new patients. A total of 491 patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, of which 332 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A total of 83,481 dengue patients have been admitted to hospitals across the country this year, of which 45,711 are from Dhaka and rest are from outside Dhaka, according to DGHS.

The unofficial number of deaths is 149, although the official figure is 68.

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) on their fifth day of drives against Aedes mosquito yesterday found Aedes larvae in 39 houses and structures, after visiting 10,212 houses and structures in DNCC areas.

The mobile courts also found Aedes-breeding places in 6,049 houses and structures.

The teams destroyed both larvae and breeding places during their drive, said an official of DNCC.

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DHAKA TODAY
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: Global Climate Strike, Organisers: Save the Children and Green Savers, Venue: Manik Mia Avenue, Time: 10am
FESTIVAL: 14th National Children's Theatre and Cultural Festival, Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Time: 4pm
EXHIBITION: Home Grown Orchid Display, Organiser: Bangladesh Orchid Society, Venue: House CEN-C2, Road 95, Gulshan, Time: 9am
TRAINING: Self-leadership: Personal Mastery Programme, Organiser: Arena Excellence, Venue: Rupayan Center, Mohakhali, Time: 8:45am-5pm
SESSION: Jatir Jonok Ke Jano, Different activities will take place to learn about Bangabandhu

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