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MOB BEATING

60 killed in nine months

Says rights group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 60 people were killed in mob beatings in the last nine months, says Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

Of them, 17 were killed in July alone, said the rights body.

The ASK prepared a report of rights violation between January and September based on its own findings and news published in several national dailies.

It shared the report with the media yesterday.

A sudden rumour of child lifting resulted in an increase of mob beating across the country in July and August, the rights organisation said.

Besides, 291 people were killed in "crossfires" in the last nine months.

Of them, 142 were killed in "shootouts" with police, 84 with Rab, 41 with BGB, 22 with DB, and one each with joint force and coast guard.

Of the dead, 35 were residents of Rohingya camps, ASK said.

Also, police tortured six people to death. Three people were shot dead by police and three others by BGB, said the rights body.

As per allegations of family members and witnesses, plainclothes men identifying themselves as law enforcers detained 12 people.

Four of them returned, one was shown arrested, and seven are still missing, said ASK.

However, law enforcement agencies denied these allegations.

In the last nine months, 48 prisoners died in jail while 34 people were killed and 1,867 more injured in 160 incidents of political violence.

Also, 203 women faced sexual harassment and 12 of them died by suicide.

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Structures built by cutting parts
of a hillock in the centuries-old Tarapur Tea Estate in Sylhet's Baragul. Bottom right, a madrasa has been set up, razing another part of the hillock. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO:
SHEIKH NASIR



Hills razed,
homes built

MINTU DESHWARA and
DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The hillocks at the centuries-old Tarapur Tea Estate, a Debottor (endowed) property in Sylhet, are being razed and grabbed by some locals.

After the estate remained illegally occupied by industrialist Ragib Ali and his son Abdul Hye for decades, it was returned to the shebab (caretaker) in line with a Supreme Court verdict in 2016.

A Sylhet court the next year sentenced Ragib and his son to 14 years in prison in a case filed for forging documents to grab the property. The two are now on bail after filing an appeal with the High Court.

However, as shebab Pankaj Kumar Gupta is yet to get full control over the estate due to some legal issues pending with the SC, another group of grabbers have started cutting hillocks and building houses there.

The estate authorities said these hillocks are not part of the estate's tea garden and were not being used for plantation for long, which gives the grabbers the scope to build the homes made of corrugated sheets.

Some influential people in the area are behind

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Robotics in schools

Pilot project to start next year in secondary schools; wider implementation from 2021

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The government is planning to introduce robotics at the secondary level in schools on a pilot basis from next year in an effort to equip young learners for the technology-driven world.

The education ministry, in partnership with Dhaka University's robotics and mechatronics engineering department, has already started the ground work to this end.

Under the pilot scheme starting next year, students from grade-VI to VIII of around eight schools in Dhaka and other divisional cities will be given basic lessons on robots, its functions, and applications.

"In this era of industrial revolution, we need to prepare our younger generation so that they can keep pace with their peers across the world. This subject will

help them understand the technological advancements happening globally," Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel told The Daily Star recently.

He said the ministry held meetings with several international firms and found one Chinese company, UBTECH Robotics, which had experience in developing curriculum for robotics in Vietnam and Malaysia and organising trainings in several countries.

Recently, the company gave a demonstration to the government officials, showing them how the two countries were teaching the subject to children, he said.

"We've gone through their books and syllabus. We will start the process of

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RAPE ALLEGATION

2 real estate businessmen arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two real estate businessmen landed in jail yesterday, a day after police arrested them on charge of raping a woman at an office in the city's Dhanmondi area.

Shakil Kamal Chowdhury, 52, and Mohiuddin Sikder, 50, are directors of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB).

Police arrested them from an office located on Road 13 in Dhanmondi on Sunday night after the victim filed a case, said Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station.

In the case statement, the 27-year-old woman alleged that the two raped her on Sunday afternoon when she went to their office for an interview after being invited by Shakil.

She stated that she got acquainted with Shakil through Facebook seven to

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Saudi prince warns of oil price hike

Urges global community to deter Iran; prefers political solution to military intervention

REUTERS, Washington

Saudi Arabia's crown prince warned in an interview yesterday that oil prices could spike to "unimaginably high numbers" if the world doesn't come together to deter Iran, but said he preferred a political solution to a military one.

Speaking to the CBS program "60 Minutes," Mohammed bin Salman also denied ordering the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi operatives last year, but said he ultimately bears "full responsibility" as the kingdom's de facto leader.

While Khashoggi's death sparked a global uproar and tarnished the crown prince's reputation, the Trump administration's tense standoff with Saudi arch-foe Iran has more recently dominated US policy toward Riyadh, especially after the September 14 attacks on the heart of the Saudi oil industry.

"If the world does not take a strong and firm action to deter Iran, we will see further escalations that will threaten world interests," Prince Mohammed, known as MBS, said through a translator. "Oil supplies will be disrupted and oil prices will jump to unimaginably high numbers that we haven't seen in our lifetimes." In an interview conducted last week in



SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

OC suspended
over rape
allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officer-in-Charge of Paltan Police Station Mahmudul Haque has been suspended following allegations of rape.

He allegedly raped a woman after promising to marry her and give her a decent job.

A departmental case has also been filed against the OC.

The Police Headquarters

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:45 12:45 4:15 5:53 7:30
JAMAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:56 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

ফাইলেরিয়াসিস নির্মল, কৃমি নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও ক্ষুদ্র ডাক্তার কার্যক্রম
রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ শাখা, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা



০১-০৭ অক্টোবর ২০১৯ইঁ জাতীয় কৃমি নিয়ন্ত্রণ সংগ্রহ সফল করুন

- ০১-০৭ অক্টোবর ২০১৯ইঁ প্রাথমিক ও মাধ্যমিক পর্যায়ের সকল শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে উপর্যুক্ত মাধ্যমে বিদ্যালয়গামী ও বিদ্যালয় বহুজ্ঞ ৫-১৬ বছর বয়সী সকল শিশুকে ১ ডেজন কৃমি নাশক ঔষধ খাওয়ানো হবে।
- একই সাথে পরিবারের অন্য সদস্যদেরকেও নিজ ব্যবস্থাপনায় কৃমি নাশক ঔষধ দেবন করতে হবে।

- বছরে ২বার, ৬মাস পর পর আপনার শিশুকে কৃমি নাশক ঔষধ খাওয়ান
- আহারের পূর্বে ভালভাবে হাত সাবান দিয়ে ধূয়ে ফেলুন
- কাচা ফলমূল নিরাপদ পানিতে ধূয়ে খাবেন
- স্বাস্থ্য সম্মত পাথরখানা ব্যবহার করুন
- পাথরখানা ব্যবহারের পর ভালভাবে হাত সাবান দিয়ে ধূয়ে ফেলুন
- নিয়মিত নখ কাটুন
- পাথরখানা ব্যবহারের সময় জুতা বা স্যাক্সেল ব্যবহার করুন।
- সবাই একসাথে কৃমি নাশক ঔষধ দেবন করি, কৃমিমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ গড়ি।

জিডি-১৬১১

Silica beads to save glaciers

MAIL ONLINE

A newly devised type of silica bead could help save melting glaciers from the onslaught of climate change, scientists say.

The innovative new approach, developed by a company called Ice911, employs minuscule beads of glass which are spread across the surface layer of glaciers.

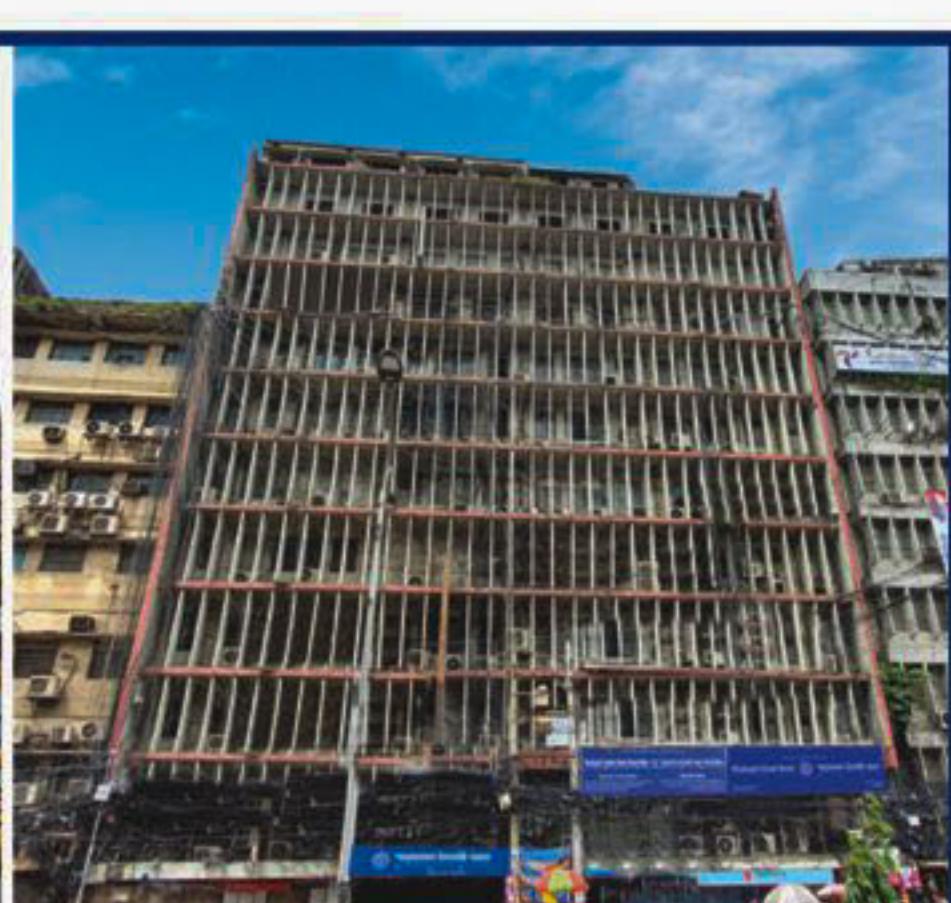
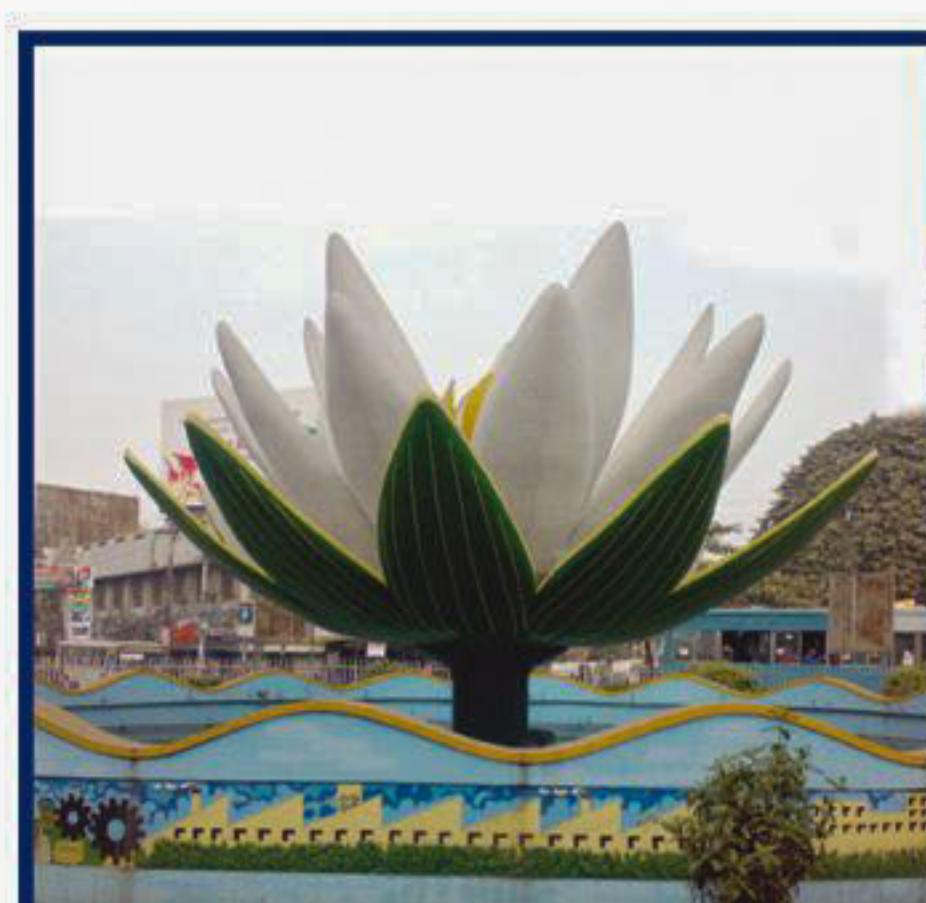
There they help to reflect light beating down on them and slow what has become a tremendous pace of melt throughout the last several years.

"I just asked myself a very simple question: Is there a safe material that could help replace that lost reflectivity?" founder of Ice911, Leslie Field said.

The mixture from Ice911 is made up of tiny spheres of silica -- a material found commonly in rocks -- which they say would be environmentally safe.

What they landed on was a silica-based

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



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