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Samrat stood on Arman's know-how

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

He passed his SSC exams from Railway High School in the capital in 1988 and went to his village home at Sonapur in Feni for a few days.

But he came back to Dhaka soon afterwards, because his elder brother beat him up for playing cards with his friends.

After a while, Enamul Huq Arman left Bangladesh for Pakistan, his family members told The Daily Star.

"We do not know much about his activities in Pakistan. We only know he used to work at the house of actor Nadeem Baig," Arman's younger brother Mahmudul Huq Jewel said over phone yesterday.

He added that Arman was a gambling addict and he learnt many tricks when he was in Pakistan.

At the end of 1993, he returned to the country and started a business of electronics in the city's Baitul Mukarram area. With the profit from his sales, he began to import different goods from Singapore in luggage.

"My brother had a clothes store at Nayapaltan Super Market. He used to import shirts and pants from Thailand, Singapore and Dubai," Jewel said.

When Arman was settled in Dhaka, he brought his two brothers and parents from Feni to Dhaka and involved



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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a puja mandap at the capital's Ramkrishna Mission yesterday, the Maha Nabami of Durga Puja.

PHOTO: PID

Festivals are for all: PM

UNB, Dhaka

The people of Bangladesh have learnt to move forward upholding its non-communal spirit, and it is a big achievement for the country, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

"We always say religions are for individuals, but festivals are for all. We celebrate our festivals together," she said.

Hasina came up with the remarks while visiting Ramkrishna Mission in the city on the occasion of Durga Puja, the largest festival of the Hindu community.

Responding to the call of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, people irrespective of their religions fought shoulder to shoulder and liberated the country sacrificing their blood, she said.

"So, we always wanted that the people from all religions to perform rituals of their respective religions independently with dignity in this independent

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US troops start leaving Syria's northern border

Kurds alarmed as Turkey readies offensive

AFP, Qamishi

US forces in Syria yesterday started pulling back from Turkish border areas, opening the way for Ankara's threatened military invasion and heightening fears of a jihadist resurgence.

The withdrawal from key positions along Syria's northern border came after the White House said it would step aside to allow for a Turkish operation President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned could come at any moment.

The move marks a major shift in US policy, and effectively abandons the Kurds, who were Washington's main ally in the years-old battle against the so-called Islamic State group.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish-led militia that controls much of northeastern Syria, said in a statement early yesterday that "US forces withdrew from the border areas with Turkey".

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor confirmed that US forces had pulled back from key positions in Ras al-Ain and Tal Abyad.

A Kurdish official also told AFP that

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Dengue cases top 90,000

STAR REPORT

The number of this year's recorded dengue patients hit 90,278 yesterday, with 52,636 hospital admissions in August alone.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 348 new patients were hospitalised across the country -- 90 in Dhaka and 258 outside of the city -- in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. Of the patients, 1,327 are still receiving treatment at hospitals.

A total of 52,636 people got infected with dengue in August alone, surpassing the total recorded cases of 50,166 between 2000 and 2018, according to DGHS control room.

DGHS detected only 1,796 patients in August last year, and the annual figure never crossed 11,000 since the first dengue outbreak in the country in 2000.

Meanwhile, a dengue patient died at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) on Sunday night, taking the death toll to 151. The official figure, however, is 81.

Rekha Mollick, 45, wife of Chitta Mollick under Keshabpur upazila of Jashore, was admitted to KMCH on Saturday evening.

She had been suffering from the viral fever for the last days, and died about 24 hours later at 10:45pm on Sunday, said Partha Protim Debnath, assistant registrar of the medicine department at KMCH.

Rekha was hospitalised in a critical condition, and she also had other complications like diabetes and heart abnormality, he said.

Atiar Rahman Sheikh, assistant civil surgeon of Khulna, said 16 people including 10 women died of dengue in Khulna this year, 13 of them at KMCH.

Dr Rasheda Sultana, director (health) of Khulna division, said the dengue situation in this division is alarming because patients are being admitted to hospitals and clinics in its 10 districts daily for the last few days. "Rain might be a cause of the worsening situation," she said.

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HILSA CATCHING 22-day ban starts tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A 22-day long ban imposed on hilsa fishing across the country to stop fishermen from catching mother hilsas will begin tomorrow and continue till October 30.

During the ban period, 912.84 tonnes of rice, allocated by the fisheries department, will be distributed among 67,552 fishermen registered for the Patuakhali's Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF).

In a meeting of the district taskforce committee in Patuakhali deputy commissioner's office, the fisheries department planned different programmes to observe the ban.

The programmes planned include poster, announcing the ban through microphones in different haats (markets) and at the mouths

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5,000-year-old city discovered in Israel



AFP, Hadera

Israeli archaeologists on Sunday unveiled the remains of a 5,000-year-old city they said was among the biggest from its era in the region, including fortifications, a ritual temple and a cemetery.

"We have here an immense urban construction, planned with streets that separate neighbourhoods and public spaces," Yitzhak Paz of the Israel Antiquities Authority told AFP at the site near the Mediterranean in the country's centre.

He called it a major discovery in the region from the Bronze Age.

The archaeological site known as En Esur "is the largest site and the most important from that era" in the region, said Itai Elad, another archaeologist overseeing the excavation.

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SHIPBREAKING YARD Worker dies as iron sheet falls on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker died early yesterday after an iron sheet fell on him while working at the HM Shipbreaking yard in the district's Sitakunda upazila.

The dead was identified as Robiul Islam, 21, from Islampur upazila of Jamalpur district.

Shamim Sheikh, inspector (investigation) of Sitakunda police station, said the workers were dismantling a scrapped ship

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 8

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BOMB ATTACK ON BUS 10 killed, 27 injured in Afghanistan

AFP, Jalalabad

At least 10 people were killed and 27 wounded yesterday when a bomb hit a bus carrying army recruits in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, an official told AFP.

A bomb had been left in a motorcycle that detonated as the bus passed, Nangarhar governor spokesman Ataullah Khogyani said.

"Unfortunately, 10 civilians including a child were killed and 27 were wounded in this incident," he said.

It was not immediately clear how many army recruits had been wounded, or if they were being counted as civilians.

Nasrat Rahimi, spokesman for the interior ministry, confirmed the toll.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Jalalabad is the scene of frequent attacks by the Taliban and the Islamic State group.



Motorcyclists wait out the rain under a tree shade, leaving their bikes triple parked haphazardly on a road curve beside Ramna Park on Minto road in the capital. Such violations of road rules, especially given the road curve, pose a risk of accidents.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

WORK ON CELLS, OXYGEN Trio wins Nobel Medicine Prize



Gregg Semenza

William Kaelin

Peter Ratcliffe

AFP, Stockholm

Three researchers from the US and Britain yesterday shared the Nobel Medicine Prize for research into how human cells sense and adapt to changing oxygen levels, opening up new strategies to fight common diseases such as cancer and anaemia.

William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza of the US and Britain's Peter Ratcliffe split the nine million Swedish kronor (\$914,000, 833,000 euros) award.

While the fact that humans need oxygen to survive has been understood for centuries, how the body registers and responds to oxygen was little known prior to the trio's pioneering work.

"They established the basis for our understanding of how oxygen levels affect cellular metabolism and physiological function," the jury said.

Semenza studied a gene known as EPO which causes the body to create more red blood cells and isolated the specific DNA segments that help it to adapt to low oxygen levels.

Ratcliffe and Semenza then applied this knowledge to show that the oxygen sensing mechanism was present in virtually all human tissues.

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