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# One man holds 2 vital posts in 2 universities

KANGKAN KARMAKAR, Dinajpur

A university professor has managed to hold multiple important administrative posts simultaneously at universities situated in different districts for over one and a half years now.

Prof Dr Md Mostafizer Rahman has been appointed both as the chairman of Department of Microbiology at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur and Dean of Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science at Gono Bishwabidyalay in Savar.

On top of that, he has also been serving as the director of Planning, Development and Works at HSTU.

All the information mentioned above were available on the universities' websites and confirmed by sources.

Asked whether a professor could occupy these many posts, Kamal Hossain, director (admin) of University Grants Commission (UGC), told The Daily Star that one could do so only if s/he was on lien or received permission from his primary employer.

Contacted, Prof Mostafizer claimed he no longer held the dean's post at Gono Bishwabidyalay.

"I was the Dean of Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science at Gono Bishwabidyalay between 2015 and 2018. I was on lien at that time," he said.

"The university authorities might have forgotten to remove my name from their website," he added.

The Daily Star, however, found documents that showed Prof Mostafizer attended a conference of National Veterinary Deans' Council (NVDC) in Dhaka on August 27 this year as the Dean of Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science at Gono Bishwabidyalay.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is all smiles as she receives a jersey with her name on it from Fifa President Gianni Infantino yesterday. Infantino called on Hasina at her office.

PHOTO: BSS

# Councillor Sayeed removed

'Missing meetings' cited as reason

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday removed ward councillor AKM Mominul Haque Sayeed of Dhaka South City Corporation for being "absent in meetings and staying abroad without permission".

Issuing an order in this regard, the local government ministry said the councillor of ward-9 was removed as allegations against him were proved.

The move came weeks after reports surfaced that Sayeed was involved in illegal casino business in the capital.

Sayeed is also the president of Arambagh Krira Sangha and joint general secretary of the Dhaka South Jubo League.

He reportedly fled the country last month after the law enforcers launched a crackdown on illegal gambling, extortion and tender manipulation.

Jubo League, the youth

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# EMBEZZLING Tk 141CR Shipbreaking yard owner, ex-banker sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against an industrialist and a former manager of Mercantile Bank Ltd in Chattogram on charges of fraudulence, misuse of power and money laundering.

The two allegedly misappropriated a Tk 141.13 crore-loan which was sanctioned for ship breaking purposes.

Chattogram-1's ACC Integrated District Office Assistant Director Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury filed the case with the office against industrialist and owner of Mishmak Ship Breaking Industry Ltd Mohammed Mizanur Rahman Shahin, and former manager of Mercantile Bank in the port city's Agrabad branch Nanda Dulal Bhattacharya for embezzling the loan money, said ACC Deputy Director Lutfar Kabir Chandon.

He said the duo collaborated to embezzle the money taken as loan from the bank and the huge amount of money was sanctioned against the ship breaking company to import three scrap vessels from abroad.

"Accused Mizanur Rahman took a Tk

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# 15,000 kids under 5 die each day

Says experts' report on child mortality in developing world

AFP, Paris

More than 15,000 children under five die each day in the developing world, with huge disparities in death rates between and within countries, according to a detailed assessment of childhood mortality released Wednesday.

From 2000 to the end of 2017, 123 million newborns, infants and toddlers perished in 99 low- and middle-income countries that account for more than 90 percent of under-five deaths, the study found.

Adding preliminary figures for 2018 -- along with nations not included in the tally such as China, Mexico, Brazil and Malaysia -- the early childhood death toll will exceed 130 million for the first two decades of the 21st century, researchers told AFP.

The main cause of death varied depending on age, a consortium of several hundred experts reported in the journal Nature.

Premature birth was the biggest killer of infants under one. Two-to-four year olds were more likely to succumb to malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, and lower respiratory infections such as pneumonia.

The chance of a newborn or toddler dying varied up to ten-fold between nations, and up to 40-fold between regions.

In 2017, for example, only four children in 1,000 in Santa Clara, Cuba failed to reach their fifth birthday. But in the district of Garki, Nigeria an estimated 195 of every 1,000 children born did not cross that threshold.

"It is as reprehensible as it is tragic that, on average, nearly 15,000 children under age five die every day," said senior author Simon Hay, director of the Local Burden of Disease group at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in the US state of Washington.

"We need to enable precise targeting of interventions, such as vaccines,"

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# ABRAR MURDER Suspects Amit, Tanvir on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two accused in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case on fresh remand.

Amit Saha, a batch-16 student of the university's civil engineering department, and Khandaker Tabakhkharul Islam Tanvir of batch-17 of mechanical engineering department, were placed on three-day remand each.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sayed passed the order after Inspector Md Wahiduzzaman of Detective Branch of police, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced the accused before the court on completion of their five-day remand.

The IO sought seven-day remand for the accused stating that police needed more information from them.

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# The one with Rachel breaking Instagram



CNN ONLINE

Jennifer Aniston's debut on Instagram started with a bang -- by crashing the app.

There were so many people excited to finally follow her that it caused issues for the platform.

"We are aware that some people were having issues following Jen's profile," a spokesperson for Facebook, which owns Instagram, said in a statement to CNN.

"We are thrilled to have this 'Friend' as part of the Instagram community."

The actress joined the social media platform on Tuesday, posting a photo with her former 'Friends' co-stars Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, David Schwimmer, Matthew Perry and Matt LeBlanc.

That one photo temporarily caused her profile to crash and some fans were unable to follow her for a time. However, it didn't stop her follower count from skyrocketing. As of Wednesday,

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# Two killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two suspected drug peddlers were killed in a "gunfight" with police at Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar early yesterday, hours after their arrest.

The dead are Ziabul Haque alias Babul, 30, and Azim Ullah, 46, inhabitants of Teknaf, said police.

According to the law enforcers, Babul was accused in several criminal cases.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said they arrested the duo in Hinla Bazar area on Wednesday afternoon.

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**PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 18**  
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-50 12-30 4-00 5-38 7-15  
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-41 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



# THE RESTLESS ONE

A female Taiga Flycatcher catches her breath on a tree in a mango orchard in Chapainawabganj's Alinagar area. The winter visitor is known to always be on the move, hopping from one tree to another. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

# Turkey, US agree to pause Syria assault

Kurds withdraw

REUTERS, Ankara

Turkey agreed yesterday to pause its offensive in Syria for five days to let Kurdish forces withdraw from a "safe zone" Ankara had sought to capture, in a deal hailed by Washington but which Turkish leaders cast as a complete victory.

The truce was announced by U.S. Vice President Mike Pence after talks in Ankara with Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan, and was swiftly hailed by President Donald Trump, who said it would save "millions of lives".

But if implemented it would achieve all the main objectives Turkey announced when it launched the assault eight days ago: control of a strip of Syria more than 30 km (20 miles) deep, with the Kurdish YPG militia, formerly close U.S. allies, obliged to pull out.

"The safe zone will be primarily enforced by the Turkish Armed Forces," a joint U.S.-Turkish statement released after the talks said.

A Turkish official told Reuters Ankara got "exactly what we wanted" from the talks with the United States. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu described it as a pause, solely to allow the Kurdish fighters to withdraw.

Kurdish fighters would be forced to give up their heavy weapons and their positions would be destroyed, Cavusoglu said. He declined to call the agreement a "ceasefire", saying ceasefires could be agreed only by legitimate sides, and not by the Kurds that Turkey considers terrorists.

Pence said Washington had already been in contact with

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