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ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE

2 top leaders of AL fronts under scanner

NBR asks banks to freeze all accounts of Maruf, Kawser



The National Board of Revenue yesterday asked banks to freeze all accounts of Jubo league presidium member Sheikh Fazlur Rahman Maruf and Awami Swetchasebak League President Molla Mohammad Abu Kawser.

Amid the ongoing anti-corruption drive, the NBR also directed banks to freeze accounts of their spouses and their business firms in its bid to look into their tax compliance.

The banks were asked to provide within seven days the details of their accounts since July 2012.

Several top leaders of Jubo League and Krishak League have been arrested and are facing multiple investigations since the government launched a drive against corruption

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ANTI-GOVT STANCE

Menon's tactic to avert a split in his party

Say insiders

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon's sudden anti-government stance is nothing but a desperate attempt to prevent another split in the left-leaning political organisation, said party insiders.

They said the party forum had recently discussed that the component of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance almost lost its identity due to its pro-government stance, moving away from its agenda which is to work for the workers, farmers and others from the lower-income group.

The party president's pro-government role and the party's failure to raise voice on different crucial national issues over the years made its leaders and activists frustrated, the insiders said.

A section of the party members is also unhappy with Menon, a lawmaker from Dhaka-8, as he participated in the last three

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IMPORT OF LUXURY CAR

BNP lawmaker jailed for 5 yrs for evading tax

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Harunur Rashid, BNP lawmaker in Chapainawabganj-3, to five years' imprisonment in a case filed for tax evasion during the import of a luxury car.

The tax was dodged by abusing the MPs' duty-free car import facilities, according to the case statement.

The court also sentenced Enayetur Rahman Bappi, former managing director of NTV, to two years' imprisonment while Istiaq Sadek, owner of Sky Autos, was sent to jail for three years in the same case.

Harun was fined Tk 50 lakh, in default of which he will have to serve six more months in jail, while Enayet was fined Tk one lakh, in default of which he will serve two more months in jail. Istiaq was fined Tk 40 lakh and will have to serve six more months in jail if he fails to pay the amount.

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UK PM denied new Brexit deal vote

Speaker rules it would be 'repetitive and disorderly' for MPs to vote again on deal

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was dealt another blow yesterday when the speaker of parliament denied him a second shot at winning MPs' approval for his EU divorce deal, with Brexit looming in just 10 days' time.

House of Commons speaker John Bercow -- a colourful figure who has played a starring role in the Brexit drama -- said Johnson was not allowed to push for the same measures twice in the same parliamentary sitting.

Lawmakers, meeting on a Saturday for the first time in 37 years, had voted to demand that the Conservative prime minister delay Brexit while they further consider his newly-agreed EU divorce agreement.

"The motion will not be debated today because it would be repetitive and disorderly to do so," Bercow said.

"Today's motion is in substance the same as Saturday's motion and the House has decided the matter."

Johnson is trying to secure an October 31 break from Brussels that severs many of the island nation's economic relations with Europe after 46 years of EU membership.

But lawmakers refused on Saturday to give their backing to his revised settlement plan until all the domestic legislation needed to ratify it has passed.

They also mandated the British leader to send a letter to Brussels asking to postpone the Brexit deadline until January 31 next year.

Johnson's foes are now forging new alliances and trying to attach amendments that could either force him to push for closer trade ties with the EU -- or abandon the deal and accept a third delay this year.

The option of extending Brexit past the latest October 31 deadline is now in the hands of the 27 remaining EU member states.

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EU worried over rights situation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union has raised concerns over the human rights situation in Bangladesh, particularly focusing on the reports of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

In response, Bangladesh reiterated its "zero tolerance" policy to violations of laws and human rights by law enforcement agencies and the government's commitment and continued efforts to ensure accountability and uphold human rights.

The EU and Bangladesh agreed to develop a roadmap to help improve labour and human rights situation in the country.

"We have raised concerns on some areas of human rights... We have agreed to continue the discussion," said Paola Pampaloni, EU's deputy managing director of the External Action Service

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30 mummies in wooden coffins found in Egypt

CNN ONLINE



Egyptian authorities on Saturday revealed the contents of 30 ancient wooden coffins discovered in Luxor and yes, they include mummies.

Mostafa Waziri, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, told reporters the discovery was the country's largest in more than a century.

It is the first cache of coffins to be discovered by an Egyptian mission, after years of foreign-led archaeological digs.

"The last one was in 1891, [led by] foreigners. 1881, [also] foreigners. But ... 2019 is an Egyptian discovery," Waziri said. "This is an indescribable feeling. I swear to God."

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Youth lands in jail for raping woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man accused of raping an intellectually challenged woman in Netrakona's Barhatta upazila was sent to jail yesterday.

Prodipto Biswas, 35, was detained hours after he allegedly raped the woman on Sunday.

The 24-year-old woman was on her way to a pond in the afternoon when the accused forced her into a bush and raped her. Badrul Alam Khan, officer-in-charge of Barhatta Police Station told The Daily Star.

Hearing her screams, ...

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 22

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:50	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:15
JAMAAT 5:25	1:15	4:15	5:39	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Man's body found in travel bag

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police yesterday recovered the beheaded body of a man from an abandoned luggage in Shambhuganj bridge area of Mymensingh city.

Police could not immediately identify the victim aged about 40, said Khondaker Shaker Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station.

A five-member bomb disposal unit reached the spot in the early morning and opened the luggage where they found a body wrapped in plastic, said Humayun Kabir, additional police superintendent of police in Mymensingh.

Several parts of the body were amputated, he said.

Terming the incident as a cold-blooded murder, police said the killing might have taken place somewhere outside the district and the perpetrators left the body there to mislead the law enforcers.

The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical

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Fishing boats lying idle on the shores of the Karnaphuli river in Chattogram's Fisheries Ghat area amid the ongoing 22-day ban on catching and sale of hilsa. Fishermen in the area have little to do since the ban was imposed on October 9. *Inset*, a fisherman loading fishing baskets onto a boat.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Explain why it shouldn't be declared illegal

HC tells govt about provision for permission to arrest public servants

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain why seeking permission from the authorities concerned before arresting a government employee in criminal cases should not be declared illegal and contradictory to the constitution.

The bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman issued the rule following a writ petition.

The HC wanted to know within four weeks why the

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