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# Picking up where Baker left off

US couple moves to Madhupur to run the free clinic a doctor from New Zealand ran for 32 years

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

A physician couple from the US has become the successors to late Dr Edric Sargisson Baker, the New Zealander who established the Kailakuri Health Care Center in Madhupur upazila in 1996.

Thousands of miles from home, Dr Baker had provided primary health care services to the poor for free for 32 years, until he passed away on September 3, 2015, aged 75 in a mud hut next to the centre.

Giving new impetus, the physician couple -- Dr Jason Morgenson, 45, and Dr Merindy Zoschke, 44 -- joined the health care facility in July this year as volunteering medical consultants. They have moved in with their four children aged between three and five years, including a pair of twins,

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Dr Merindy Zoschke, 44, and Dr Jason Morgenson, 45, the physician couple from the US, along with their children in Tangail's Madhupur upazila. Inset, a portion of the Kailakuri Health Care Centre in the upazila where the couple serve as voluntary consultants.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL



# New strategy of old JMB

Recruiting members using online platform

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In an attempt to dodge the law enforcers, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) has opted for an online platform that allows anonymous communication for recruiting new members, police said.

The "Ehsar" (permanent) members of the banned militant outfit have been using the Tor (The Onion Router) browser for fresh recruitments, following the same strategy used by international militant outfit Al-Qaeda.

The browser is well-known for its ability to prevent online surveillance.

Currently, the outfit has some 40 Ehsar members and each of them receives a monthly payment of Tk 1,000-1,500.

The Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CITC) unit of police revealed the information. It said the information was gleaned from Abu Raihan alias Mahmud, who was made the local "Ameer" of the JMB in 2017 when the outfit declared itself "a global militant outfit".

Raihan was arrested with two others -- Habibur Rahman and Rajibur Rahman -- at the capital's Bhatara on November 25.

"We have come to know about some

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# Full stop for UK's apostrophe society



AFP, London

Britain's Apostrophe Protection Society is closing down, its founder has announced, saying it had sadly lost the fight against "ignorance and laziness".

Former journalist John Richards, 96, started up the society in 2001, aiming to preserve the correct use of what he said was the "much abused punctuation mark".

Richards spent the last quarter of his career as a sub-editor, preparing journalists' copy for the newspaper -- a task which often involved correcting their use of apostrophes.

When he retired, he kept spotting the same glaring mistakes in daily life and decided to take action, seeing the apostrophe as an endangered species in need of protection.

But Richards said that with regret, he was now closing down operations for two reasons.

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# STUDY ON CAPITAL 57pc would prefer village if amenities ensured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 57 percent of Dhaka dwellers would have gone to villages had there been employment opportunities and basic civic facilities like good education and healthcare, revealed a study by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Respondents to the study have identified five most serious problems that make life in the capital distressing.

The study titled "A glimpse into life in Dhaka city" was conducted by a five-member team on behalf of the BIDS.

"Faced with various problems, over 44 percent of nearly one crore residents of the capital's city corporation area suffer from depression, anxiety and mental illness," said

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# CHECKING AIR POLLUTION

# Bye bye brick!

Plan chalked to end its use in govt constructions by 2025

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government has decided to phase out the use of bricks by 2025 in all its construction works to reduce the air pollution as brick kilns are one of the major sources of air pollution in Bangladesh.

The government plans to use concrete blocks in 10 percent of its construction projects from this fiscal year.

According to the plan, concrete blocks will be used in 20 percent of the government's construction projects from 2020-2021, 30 percent from 2021-2022, 60 percent from 2022-2023, 80 percent from 2023-2024, and 100 percent by 2025-2025.

"We are hopeful of achieving the target... But yes, it is tough to achieve 10 percent at this stage. But we have to start..." Mahmud Hasan, additional secretary (Environment) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The government has issued a gazette on November 24 making the provision for using blocks instead of bricks in its construction projects mandatory.

It said that in order to make it mandatory, it will use blocks to construct walls of building, herringbone bond roads, and type B village roads to phase out the uses of bricks by 2025.

The prohibition, however, will not be applicable for constructing, repairing and modifying of bases and sub-bases of highways.

It also said legal action would be taken in the case of any deviation from the mentioned time-frame of the work plan.

"Under the Annual Development Programme, projects will be revised in December. We are hopeful that the use of blocks in 10 percent of the construction work instead of bricks will be made mandatory," said Ziaul Haque, director (Air Quality Management) of the Department of

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# Dhaka Wasa MD apologises to High Court

Faces music over untrue statement on sewerage lines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday came down heavily on Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) for not complying with its 2011 directives over sealing all sewerage lines to the Buriganga and for making an untrue statement about sewerage lines connected to the river.

The Dhaka Wasa is responsible for controlling all underground drainage systems in Dhaka city, but it wanted to avoid the responsibility by saying that the Dhaka city corporations are supposed to control the drainage system, the HC said, adding that it would not accept any negligence in discharging duties.

The bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice Mohammad Ullah made the observation while hearing a writ petition.

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# Rab man busted with 800 yaba pills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Police yesterday held a RAB personnel with 800 yaba pills from his rented house at Domonpukur Thikadarpara in Bogura's Shajahanpur upazila.

The detainee was identified as Md Shahinur Rahman, 38, from Gaibandha's Saghata upazila, police said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Obaidul Al-Mamun, sub-inspector of Shajahanpur police station, said, "On information that Shahinur was selling yaba pills at Thakadar para of Domonpur village, police

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# PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 3

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-15	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
JAMAAT 5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# NEWS PORTALS

# Registration set to begin next week

Says info minister

UNB, Dhaka

The registration process of online news portals will start next week, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said yesterday.

"The process will continue for some days as it is not an easy task to investigate about 3,500 news portals," he said while talking to reporters at the secretariat.

A total of 3,517 applications were submitted after the ministry had called for registration applications from the online news portals.

The applications were sent to the home ministry for investigation, the minister added.

A permission will be required before launching an online news portal in future, he said.

Besides, like a newspaper, an online news portal will also have to obtain a declaration from the information ministry

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Two children practise how to read and write, while a school-goer goes past them on an overbridge in front of Azimpur Girl's School in the capital. Eleven-year-old Aklima, right, an orphan, and six-year-old Rubina, who are unrelated, were donated books by a good Samaritan who was moved by their dedication to pursue education despite the lack of opportunities to do so.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# BJP chief sets 2024 deadline for the NRC

Says all 'infiltrators' to be expelled from India by then

STAR REPORT

BJP President and Indian Home Minister Amit Shah yesterday set a 2024 deadline for implementing the controversial National Register of Citizens across India and said "each and every" infiltrator will be identified and expelled before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Notwithstanding the admission by some BJP leaders in West Bengal that apprehensions over the NRC had cost the party dearly in last week's bypolls there, Shah told assembly election meetings in Jharkhand that the nationwide registration of citizens will be conducted despite reservations voiced by opposition parties, reports our correspondent in New Delhi.

"Today, I want to tell you that before the 2024 polls the NRC will be conducted across the country and each and every infiltrator identified and expelled," he said.

"Rahul Baba [Congress leader Rahul Gandhi] says don't expel them. Where will they go, what will they eat? But I assure you that before the country goes to polls in 2024, all illegal immigrants will be thrown out," he told election rallies in Chakradharpur and Baharagora.

Shah said uprooting terrorism, naxalism and construction of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya were as important in the Jharkhand election as local matters like development, reports The Times of India.

Raking up the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri mosque dispute once again, the BJP president alleged the Congress

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