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SHAH CEMENT

Air pollution in Dhaka very alarming: HC

Govt asked to implement court directives, place report in 30 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that the present air pollution level in Dhaka was very alarming for all and the people's right to life, one of their fundamental rights, might be compromised if the pollution could not be controlled right now.

The court ordered the authorities concerned of the government to implement its January 13 directives and submit a report to it in 30 days after complying with the directives.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Mohammad Ali came up with the observation and order after clippings of some newspaper reports on air pollution in Dhaka were placed before it during the hearing on a writ petition.

On January 13, another HC bench issued some directives to the government to reduce air pollution in and around the capital and also ordered the Department of Environment to shut the rest of the illegal brick kilns in five districts, including Dhaka.

During hearing of the same writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), the HC

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Rehana Akter, right, suffered critical injuries and lost four of her family members to the fire at Tazreen Fashions factory on November 24, 2012. She bursts into tears while sharing her horrifying memories of that fateful day with another survivor Bilkis, left.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Journo Kajol gets HC bail

Cannot be released as he is arrested in 2 more cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to photojournalist Shafigul Islam Kajol in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

However, Kajol cannot be released from jail following the verdict as he is arrested in two other cases, his lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star.

Yesterday, the bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the judgement after Kajol submitted a petition seeking bail in the case filed with Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Following the same bail petition, the HC bench on October 19

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INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

2 Bangladeshis among 100 on BBC's annual list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi women -- Rina Akhter, a former sex worker, and Rima Sultana Rimu, a teacher -- have been included in BBC's annual list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world.

This year, "100 Women" is highlighting those who are leading change and making a difference during these turbulent times, according to the BBC.

The list also includes Sanna Marin, who leads Finland's all-female coalition government, Michelle Yeoh, star of the new Avatar and Marvel films and Sarah Gilbert, who heads the Oxford University research into a coronavirus vaccine, the report said.

During the pandemic, Rina and her team of helpers have served around 400 meals a week -- including rice, vegetables, eggs and meat -- to sex workers in Dhaka

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Honorary doctorate degree for Bangabandhu

November 25, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

4 LAKH WOMEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED IN BANGLADESH

Nearly four lakh women have been sexually assaulted during the liberation struggle in Bangladesh. At least 20 percent of them are either social outcasts or have lost their property or their bread-earning male family members. There are another million economically destitute women who have either lost their husbands, earning male family members or their only source of income. The above facts are revealed today by Jahangeer Haider, director (admin), National Board of Bangladesh Women's Rehabilitation Programme.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY TO HONOUR BANGABANDHU
Calcutta University has decided to confer Doctor of Law degree on Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

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Filling station worker set on fire by coworkers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petrol pump operator in the capital's Jurain was set on fire early yesterday allegedly by his co-workers, who police said had poured octane on the victim.

The injured, Riad Hossain, 20, also a college student, was being treated at the intensive care unit at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Quoting doctors, Inspector Bachchu Mia of DMCH Police Outpost said Riad sustained 40 percent burns on his body.

Police arrested three other operators -- Mahmudul Hasan Emon,

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Pianist's velvety tones soothe hungry monkeys



REUTERS, Lopburi

While on tour in central Thailand, British musician Paul Barton has been mobbed by unruly audiences that tug his hair, steal his music and climb over his piano.

Barton is a rock star to hundreds of hungry wild monkeys that he hopes his music can calm,

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Man held for throwing acid on ex-wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A woman fell victim to acid attack allegedly by her ex-husband in Natore's Baraigram upazila on Monday night.

Police arrested accused Abu Taleb right after the victim's father filed a case in this connection, said police.

The victim -- Nargis

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A ship filled with scraps being unloaded at Chattogram port. Once the shipbreaking industry of Bangladesh used to meet the country's steel mills' demand of iron. Due to its high demand, iron now being imported from abroad in the form of scraps.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Vaccine hopes lift spirits across globe

World leaders see light at end of tunnel; Russia says Sputnik V vaccine 95pc effective

AGENCIES

Hopes over Covid-19 vaccines have given a boost to virus-weary citizens across the globe, but the disease remains rampant and world leaders are urging people to be patient.

France was expected to loosen its coronavirus restrictions yesterday as the boss of a major airline said proof of vaccination will likely become the only way people can fly in a post-pandemic world.

French President Emmanuel Macron will address the country -- currently under lockdown -- to announce a reworking of the rules following a drop in nationwide infections.

Macron's televised speech comes a day after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said thanks to a major vaccine breakthrough, "the escape route is in sight" from the coronavirus crisis.

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MONEY LAUNDERED TO CANADA

PM wants ACC to probe allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed the Anti-Corruption Commission to probe into the allegations of money being laundered to Canada by some Bangladeshis, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader.

"Our foreign minister has already talked about laundering money to Canada. The prime minister has already directed the ACC to investigate it and take action against those involved," Quader told reporters at a press conference on contemporary issues at his secretariat office.

Replying to a question, he said action would be taken on whoever is involved, irrespective of their political identity or whether they are pro-government bureaucrats.

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BRAC partnered and signed an agreement with Handicap International-Humanity & Inclusion (HI) to launch a pilot Disability Inclusive Ultra-Poor Graduation programme in Bangladesh

BRAC has partnered with Handicap International-Humanity & Inclusion (HI) in Bangladesh to launch a pilot Disability Inclusive Ultra-Poor Graduation programme targeting the ultra-poor populations in four (4) districts of Bangladesh. This two-year partnership will cater to the needs of the participants and their households throughout the twenty-four months' programme cycle.

Termining the partnership between BRAC and HI as a "milestone" in BRAC's endeavour to make Graduation programme more inclusive to the most marginalised and vulnerable groups, Mr. Shameran Abed said that "the strategic partnership will strengthen our collective effort to lift persons with disabilities out of ultra-poverty. This will enhance BRAC's capacity to implement disability inclusive Graduation approach in scale in Bangladesh and globally and assist respective governments to adapt the approach based on the

country context". Mr. Rajesh Chandra from HI also said "Aligned with its worldwide strategy to 'leave no one behind', Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion (HI) is delighted to extend in Bangladesh its global collaboration with BRAC. This technical partnership will support economic empowerment of people with disabilities in four (4) districts of Bangladesh. HI, along with Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs), aspires to support the Government of Bangladesh to ensure inclusion of people with disabilities in development".

It should be noted that, in Bangladesh, since its beginning in 2002, BRAC's UPG programme, through its groundbreaking Graduation approach, has served almost 2.1 million ultra-poor households to achieve socio-economic resilience, in order to progress along a pathway out of extreme poverty.