



Kormojibi Nari, a women's rights organisation, stages a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday, protesting the recent murder of a 15-year-old girl, who used to sell flowers on the Dhaka University campus. Speakers at the rally demanded maximum punishment for the killer.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

2 govt officials held for robbing exchequer

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used to handle payments of more than 700 employees, including doctors, nurses, officials and staffers of the hospital.

As part of his job he was connected with officials of district account and finance officials in Dinajpur. Amirul built close ties with Mahfuzur Rahman to steal funds from the state treasury. Later, they teamed up and collected user IDs and passwords. Afterwards, they also made fake user IDs and passwords using fake national ID card digits to steal funds digitally.

Recently, Amirul filed a fake bill with a fake national ID number along with other payment documents of M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital. Later, Mahfuzur Rahman

digitally transferred the money to the mentioned account, using the user ID and password, according to the FIR.

On the afternoon of January 31, Amirul collected the cheque of Tk 9,87,680 from the district account and finance office against the documents. As the submitted documents raised suspicion, Saiful immediately requested the manager of Sonali Bank Limited's corporate branch in Dinajpur not to cash the cheque and the bank also halted the payment.

Later, the district's account and finance department found that the duo transferred at least Tk 2,19,69,428 digitally to an account from February 3, 2019, to 31 January 2021.

Dr Mujahidul Islam, Director of

M Abdur Rahim Medical Hospital in Dinajpur, said after learning of the incident, he checked the account and found no irregularities in the hospital's fund.

Saiful Islam, the account and finance officer in Dinajpur, told The Daily Star over phone that they are still investigating the incident and are yet to figure out where the funds have been transferred. But, he said Amirul and Mahfuzur had been transferring funds digitally for the last two years, at the beginning of each month.

The DB of Dinajpur is investigating the incident.

Imam Zafar, the officer-in-charge of Dinajpur DB, said they were interrogating the arrested persons.

Don't give the scope next fiscal year

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"The creation of the opportunity to whiten black money has lightened the gravity of offences that are being committed to evade tax or to have ill-gotten gains," he mentioned.

Abdul Mazid, former chief of the National Board of Revenue, said, "The Finance Bill 2020 should be reformed because it has created this situation where honest and regular taxpayers are paying 15 to 25 percent tax every year and tax cheats and other offenders are whitening their money only by paying

10 percent tax."

Rizwan Rahman, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "Tax cheats and leaders of criminal gangs are becoming major players in the capital market as they are investing there a huge amount of black money whitened by paying 10 percent tax. They are also investing in real estate, hospitality industry and so on."

"In this way, the business environment is being affected, and honest industrialists and investors,

who pay taxes, are being discouraged," he mentioned.

NBR data shows 7,445 individuals whitened Tk 10,220 crores by paying Tk 950 crore as tax in the last six months of the current fiscal year.

According to the Finance Bill 2020, a person can whiten all his or her undisclosed income by paying 10 percent tax.

Once the money is whitened this way, no authority will be able to question the source of the undisclosed income.

Have EC probed by judicial council

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secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association, former SCBA secretary Md Bodruddoza, SM Aminul Islam Sanu, Syeda Ashifa Ashrafi Papiya, Taimur Alam Khondaker, Md Golam Mostafa, Md Zahirul Islam, Md Aktaruzzaman, Md Mujahidul Islam, Shihab Uddin Khan, Md Kamal Hossain and SM Zulfikure Ali. Most of them are known as pro-BNP lawyers.

Shihab Uddin Khan told The Daily Star that 12 lawyers among the 101 signatories went to the Bangabhaban, official residence of the president, yesterday afternoon and handed the letter to officials on duty to place it before President Hamid.

The lawyers in the letter cited different allegations against the CEC and other election commissioners, including misappropriation of money from the budget allocated for polls-related training, irregularities in recruiting EC staffers, using cars in violation of the relevant rules, irregularities in purchasing electronic voting machines (EVMs),

inaction and failure in taking action against irregularities in different polls, incompetence in discharging constitutional duties and taking financial benefits as "special speakers".

They said the present CEC and other commissioners have failed to perform their constitutional responsibilities and duties and have turned the EC into an organisation which is benefitting by misusing power.

Such grave unethical and finance-related misconduct by the constitutional post holders are the offence that deserves impeachment, they said in the letter, adding that the CEC and other ECs, accused of corruption and gross misconduct, need to be removed through conducting an inquiry by forming the SJC under Article 118(5) of the constitution immediately.

The SJC comprises the chief justice and two other senior-most judges of the Appellate Division to probe allegations against SC judges, the Election Commission and other constitutional bodies, and recommend removal of individuals

involved in the allegations.

Earlier on December 14 last year and January 17 this year, 42 eminent citizens sent two letters requesting the president to constitute the SJC to probe allegations of "serious financial corruption and gross election-related misconduct" against the EC.

In the letter sent on December 14, the citizens mentioned that members of the EC, under KM Nurul Huda's leadership, have committed misconduct and irregularities, including spending Tk 2 crore for delivering speeches as "special speakers" and Tk 8.08 crore in recruiting staffers for the commission.

Three commissioners have also allegedly been using cars in violation of relevant rules. The letter also said the EC has committed gross misconduct and irregularities in buying and using the electronic voting machines, and in holding the 11th parliamentary election and elections to Dhaka north and South city corporations, and Khulna, Gazipur, Sylhet, Barishal and Rajshahi city corporations.

WHO slams critics

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first cases were reported.

Ryan was responding to a question which referenced new US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who earlier Monday told NBC that China was falling "far short of the mark".

"China has to step up and make sure that it is being transparent, that it is providing information and sharing information, that it is giving access to international experts and inspectors," Blinken said.

"Its failure to do that is a real problem."

Ryan said the team in the field deserved international support, and in the meantime, "it's time for people who say and think they have information to start providing it".

He added that all infectious disease investigations find information that then throws up further questions.

"It's a detective story," he said.

EU TIGHTENS RULES
The European Union tightened its rules for visitors from outside the bloc, specifying that they would only be allowed in freely from countries with very few coronavirus cases and almost none of the more transmissible variants.

The EU commission chief has defended the slower vaccine rollout in

the bloc as a "good decision", saying the European Union would not put the safety of citizens at risk, in an interview published yesterday.

Ursula von der Leyen's comments in Le Monde French daily come after she was criticised over a far slower vaccine rollout than in the UK and also a botched move to halt the exports of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

"Some countries started to vaccinate a little before Europe, it is true," she said, pointing to emergency procedures used for authorisation.

But she added: "The commission and the member states agreed not to compromise on the safety and effectiveness requirements linked to the authorisation of a vaccine."

SPUTNIK V VACCINE
Russia's Sputnik V vaccine is 91.6 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19, according to results published in The Lancet yesterday that independent experts said allayed transparency concerns over the jab, which Moscow is already rolling out. Sputnik V -- named after the Soviet-era satellite -- was approved in Russia months before results from its final-stage clinical trials were published, leading to scepticism from experts.

Meanwhile, Chinese police have arrested more than 80 people who

were making counterfeit Covid-19 vaccines, state media said, as China races to inoculate millions before the Lunar New Year holiday.

The gang had been putting saline water into vials and selling them as Covid-19 vaccines in an operation that had been running since last September, according to Xinhua news agency.

Police swooped on several locations across Beijing and multiple cities in the eastern provinces of Jiangsu and Shandong, seizing "more than 3,000 fake Covid-19 vaccines on the spot," Xinhua said.

It has not been made public how many vaccines were sold, but police have traced where the vaccines ended up, it said.

An AFP tally from official sources found yesterday that more than 100 million Covid-19 vaccines have been given around the world.

But none of the world's 29 poorest countries has formally started mass vaccination drives, while the richest nations have given more than two-thirds of jobs administered.

Israel leads the race by far, with 37 percent of its population having received at least one dose, while more than a fifth have already got their second.

12 more die

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A total of 480,728 patients (89.67 percent) recovered until yesterday morning.

So far, 3,678,649 samples have been tested, including 14,635 in the 24-hour period.

Bangladesh reported its first novel coronavirus cases on March 8 last year and the first death on March 18.

Missing Rohingya women trafficked from Indonesia refugee camp

AFP, Lhokseumawe

Scores of Rohingya women missing from a refugee camp in Indonesia have been trafficked into Malaysia to reunite with their husbands, several sources have told AFP.

Just over 100 refugees remain at the camp in Lhokseumawe on Indonesia's northern coast, well down from the almost 400 who arrived in separate boat landings between June and September last year.

Neither local authorities nor the UN could account for the whereabouts of the women, who are feared to have enlisted traffickers to help them cross the Malacca strait into Malaysia.

"They talked with their husbands on the phone and made arrangements," said Namashah, whose own reunification with his wife and daughter was profiled in an AFP series on trafficking networks.

Relatively affluent Muslim-majority Malaysia is the main destination for Rohingya fleeing sprawling refugee camps in Bangladesh set up to house them after a bloody crackdown by Myanmar's military drove them into the poor South Asian country.

"We heard that some traffickers went to camp, took money and then helped the women escape," he added.

Some of the women had since called friends in the Lhokseumawe camp to say they had reunited with their husbands, Namashah said, but others may have fallen into more dire circumstances.

"Some are missing and we don't know what happened, whether they got there or were sold by traffickers," he added.

"We've heard some are with their husbands and others got caught," said Fatimah Binti Azizulhaq, 20.

At least 18 Rohingya from the Lhokseumawe camp and over a dozen suspected smugglers were recently caught by police several hundred kilometres south, in Medan city, a frequent staging point for illegal crossings into Malaysia.

A Myanmar military crackdown in 2017, which UN investigators said amounted to genocide, forced 750,000 Rohingya to flee across the border into the Bangladesh district of Cox's Bazar, where many ended up in sprawling refugee camps.

Thousands have since paid smugglers to get them out of Bangladesh, enduring harrowing, months-long sea journeys punctuated by illness, beatings by traffickers and near-starvation rations to reach Indonesia and Malaysia.

More than 100,000 Rohingya live on the margins of society in Malaysia, registered as refugees but not allowed to work, forcing the men into illegal construction and other low-paid jobs.

Some Rohingya men in Malaysia pay smugglers to bring over their families, or new brides from arranged marriages.

Another camp dweller, Asmot Ullah, said there were "parents crying in Bangladesh because they borrowed money to send their kids to Malaysia, but they reached Indonesia" instead.

Big stride

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neutrons and synapses in our brains, they report in the journal Nature Nanotechnology.

The new research looks in part to deal with the fact that as demand for computing capacity grows across the world, it brings the need for more data centres; as data centres grow, so does the energy required to power them, which in turn can make them unsustainable.

"It is clear that we have to find new strategies to store and process information in an energy efficient way," said Alexander Khajetoorians, professor of scanning probe microscopy at Radboud University and the leader of the project.

Artificial intelligence works by recognising patterns in the world by being able to spot, and learn, from what it can see. Currently, that is done through machine learning software that hands off its information to a computer hard drive.

Cold wave may end in a day

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Sandwip, Sitakunda, Rangamati, Cumilla, Hatiya, Sreemangal, Satkhira, Jashore and Kushtia experienced mild cold wave, said the bulletin.

"Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country from midnight to morning," the bulletin added.

Night and day temperature may rise by one to two degrees Celsius over the country.

The weather forecast for the next 24 hours was released at 9:00am yesterday.

Yesterday's lowest temperature was recorded at 6.3 degrees Celsius in Chuadanga, said the Met office report.

People, especially those who

earn daily wages, of Chuadanga and Kushtia are passing hard days due to the bone-chilling cold.

"Pulling rickshaw is my only income source. But I cannot pull the rickshaw due to severe cold. The weather is so adverse that people don't dare to come out of home without any emergency," said Sobed Ali, a rickshaw-puller in Kushtia town.

Farmers are also facing difficulties working in their croplands due to bitter cold and dense fog.

Abdul Alim, a farmer of Sundarganj village in Chuadanga's Alamdanga, said, "I have been sitting idle inside home for the last three days because I cannot go to croplands due to cold."

[Our correspondent in Kushtia contributed to this report.]

Erdogan ally backs call

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that his party was ready to join the process of writing it up.

Some analysts interpreted Erdogan's comments as part of a plan to extend his rule in the face of lagging public support.

The 66-year-old Turkish leader has headed the nation of 83 million people as prime minister or president since 2002.

His ruling AK Party pushed through constitutional changes in 2017 creating an executive presidency and eliminating the prime minister's post.

Erdogan then won his first of two potential five-year terms as president under the new rules in 2018.

Neither Erdogan nor Bahceli have fully explained why Turkey needs a new constitution or what the changes could entail.

But the Washington Institute think-tank's Turkey director Soner Cagaptay said they signalled Erdogan's recognition that he was losing public support.

Erdogan's popularity has been

waning since he unleashed a sweeping crackdown after surviving a failed coup in 2016.

Accompanying economic problems have eroded support among working class voters who form a part of Erdogan's political base.

Cagaptay called the switch to a presidential system "perhaps Erdogan's greatest mistake in domestic politics to date" because it complicates his re-election chances.

"The presidential system requires a two-way race, at least in the run-off where two candidates compete against each other, which means that the system has unified Turkey's disparate opposition groups," Cagaptay told AFP.

Some Turkish media reports have suggested that Erdogan would like to keep the presidential system while making other changes whose details remain unclear.

Erdogan's rule under the current system could run until 2028 if he wins re-election in a vote now scheduled for June 2023.

Dhaka urges KL to finalise

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of Malaysia in favour of Rohingyas and sought further support from both Malaysia and ASEAN for a durable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

He urged Malaysia to continue the operation of the Field Hospital to the support of the Rohingyas even in a limited form.

Momen noted that recently the First Gentleman of Singapore donated relief materials to the Rohingyas staying in Bhasan Char island.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister sought Malaysian support to Bangladesh's candidature for ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

The foreign minister hoped that Bangladesh-Malaysia bilateral relations would reach a newer

height during her tenure in Dhaka through meaningful cooperation and collaboration in different areas of interest.

Momen mentioned that Bangladesh has been enjoying a brotherly and cordial relationship with Malaysia since independence.

He noted that Malaysia is important to Bangladesh on a wide range of issues such as overseas employment, higher education, science-technology, agro-processing, trade, tourism, energy, etc. and foreign investment.

He suggested that an investment delegation from Malaysia may visit the Economic Zones and Industrial Parks in Bangladesh to invest in Bangladesh where an investment-friendly environment is prevailing.

HK leader defends 'ambush lockdown' tactics

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's leader defended her administration's use of "ambush lockdowns" yesterday after a spate of overnight operations to conduct surprise mandatory coronavirus tests uncovered no new cases.

The new tactic involves authorities giving no warning of an impending lockdown, sealing off buildings where cases are detected and then ensuring everyone inside is tested, usually overnight.

But the operations have had limited success.

Overnight on Monday police cordoned off designated areas in four densely populated districts. Authorities conducted some 1,700 tests but found zero new infections.

Yesterday, city leader Carrie Lam said the ambush lockdowns were "not a waste of manpower and money but instead well worth" the resources.

"We can't take the number of confirmed cases as the sole or decisive standard," Lam told reporters.



"Efficacy does not only concern recovery rate, but also prevention of the disease."

Hong Kong's government are taking a much more proactive approach to testing similar to tactics used on the authoritarian mainland as it struggles to contain a winter wave of infections.

Yesterday morning, the government warned authorities would forcibly break into their apartments if law enforcement suspected people were hiding in their homes or refusing to submit a mandatory test.

Lam's de facto deputy Matthew Cheung said officials would use "wider and more frequent" lockdowns as the city heads into the Lunar New Year holidays next week.

Hong Kong was one of the first places to be struck by the coronavirus after it spilled out of central China.

	বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক (সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ) প্রধান কার্যালয় মতিবিল, ঢাকা-১০০০ বাংলাদেশ		
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৩টি ব্যাংকে 'অফিসার (ক্যাশ)' পদে সমন্বিতভাবে ৩য় পর্যায় নিয়োগ প্রসঙ্গে			
ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক ও বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ 'অফিসার (ক্যাশ)' এর ২৫৫টি শূন্য পদে সমন্বিতভাবে ৩য় পর্যায় নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বিগত ১৬/১১/২০১৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত পরীক্ষা এবং ১৭/০২/২০১৯ থেকে ১৬/০৪/২০১৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের সমন্বয়ে প্রণীত তালিকা হতে মেধাক্রম এবং প্রার্থীদের পছন্দের ক্রমের ভিত্তিতে ২৫৫ জন প্রার্থীকে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচন করা হয়েছে। নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট (https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd) এ আপলোড করা হয়েছে।			
নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রম সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত হবে।			
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