

Getting a shot at a new life

Transgender people given 20 houses in Sirajganj under govt's Ashrayan-2 project marking Mujib Borsho

MATHEWS CHIRAN, Back from Sirajganj

Before reaching her teen years, Borsha had to leave her parents' house.

The reason -- she was a transgender person. Not being accepted in her own family and bullied in many ways by her peers, she realised she needed to choose a separate path.

Knowing that she does not belong to traditional society, she started seeking other transgenders at the local bazar in Sirajganj's Rayganj upazila and eventually joined the transgender community.

Not having any formal education only compounded her struggles.

"The life led by those in the transgender community is not a dignified one. I had to ask for money from local stalls every day, people didn't like transgender people; they used abusive words when addressing us. It was pathetic," said a tearful Borsha, who is now 35.

"We didn't have a good place to live. People didn't want to rent to us. It was difficult to find good shelter. We had to live by cramming inside small rooms," she said.

"But now, we have a dignified life and a home. I never thought this would happen," said Borsha, wiping her tears.

Marking Mujib Borsho, the Prime Minister's Office built 20 houses under the Ashrayan-2 Project for 50 transgender people like Borsha in Sirajganj's Dhopakandi area, which falls under Hatikumrul union in Ullapara upazila.

Similarly, 125 transgender people have also been rehabilitated in Sadar upazila of Dinajpur.

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Borsha, a transgender woman, is all smiles while cuddling a goat named Ononto in front of her house in Sirajganj's Dhopakandi area. Borsha is one of 50 transgender people in the district who have been given houses and trained in new skills by the government's Ashrayan-2 project. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Hungary turns down Dhaka's vaccine offer

Reports Hungarian media STAR REPORT

A Hungarian newspaper reported that it was Bangladesh that offered the East European country 5,000 doses of a coronavirus vaccine.

The statement contradicts Bangladesh's foreign affairs State Minister Shahriar Alam's claim that it was Hungary that requested for the 5,000 doses.

Speaking on the thanksgiving motion on the president's speech at parliament on January 31, Shahriar Alam said Hungary and Bolivia requested Bangladesh to give them the vaccine doses.

"Hungary has requested us for 5,000 shots of Covid-19 vaccine. We will provide them with the vaccine from the stock we have. The prime minister and the ministry of health will decide on Bolivia's request," he said.

Hungarian newspaper, Hungary Today, yesterday reported that Bangladesh offered to send 5,000

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GRAFT ENQUIRY, PROBE BY ACC No harm if same official does both

HC says in full text of verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in the full text of a judgement has upheld the rule that allows the Anti-Corruption Commission to assign the same officer the task of conducting both the inquiry and investigation of a corruption case, observing that there is no scope for the officer to become biased in doing this job.

"It is the Commission who may delegate or assign its power to its subordinate officer by a gazette notification to inquire or to investigate into the case.... In the process of tacking decision in submitting investigation report before the court concerned the investigating officer has nothing to do. Entrusting the same official to act as informant and investigator as well does not readily leave space of causing bias," the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahman and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman said in the verdict.

The full text of verdict was released on Thursday night.

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'America is back'

Biden ends support for Saudis in Yemen war, toughens stance on China, Russia, increases refugee cap in major US foreign policy reset

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden on Thursday promised a new era after the scattershot foreign policy of his predecessor, Donald Trump, declaring "America is back" on the global stage in his first diplomatic address as president.

In his speech, Biden signaled aggressive approaches to China and Russia, urged Myanmar's military leaders to halt their coup, and declared an end to US support for a Saudi Arabia-led military campaign in Yemen.

Biden also froze former president Donald Trump's plans to redeploy troops from Germany and dramatically increased the annual number of refugees whom US will accept.

"American leadership must meet this new moment of advancing authoritarianism, including the growing ambitions of China to rival the United States and the determination of Russia to damage and disrupt our democracy. We must meet the new moment ... accelerating global challenges from the pandemic to the climate crisis to nuclear proliferation," said Biden.

Trump angered European and Asian leaders with tariffs, fracturing of global alliances, and threats to withdraw US troops. He did little to push back against a wave of authoritarianism in some countries.

After a Trump-inspired mob attacked the US Capitol on Jan. 6, protesting Biden's election win, foreign allies and rivals alike expressed doubts about the health of American democracy.

Biden's speech on Thursday was a full-throated attempt to vanquish those doubts, and convince Americans of the value of a forceful international approach.



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Allegations should be investigated

UN chief's spokesman says in response to question about Al Jazeera report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations is aware of the reporting done by Al Jazeera investigations concerning allegations of corruption against senior officials in Bangladesh and the press release issued by the Ministry of Defence in Bangladesh, Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, said in response to a question during a briefing on Thursday.

"The allegations of corruption [are] a serious matter that should be investigated by the relevant authorities," he said.

"Bangladesh is the largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping operations. The deployment of such

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World's first flying race car unveiled



MAIL ONLINE

The world's first flying race car has been unveiled - with top speeds of 75mph and 'octocopter' speeders that will see it compete in a new event later this year.

Named Airspeeder, it will initially be flown by a remote pilot and can take off and land vertically, according to its developers Alauda Aeronautics.

Its first foray into the world of racing will see it operated remotely for a racing series that will act as a 'technical test-bed' ahead of a crewed racing series in 2022.

The flying vehicle has been in development for more than three years and is part of a bid to create a sport that can 'accelerate a new clean-air aerial mobility revolution'.

The firm, based in South Australia is developing a full grid of electric flying race-craft ahead of the

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Al Jazeera report ill-intended, fabricated

Says Bangladesh Police Service Association

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Police Service Association yesterday slammed and trashed the news report, titled "All the Prime Minister's Men", broadcast by Qatar-based international TV channel Al Jazeera on February 2.

BPSA termed the report "ill-intended, misleading and fabricated".

In a rejoinder yesterday, President of the association Md Shafiqul Islam,

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:52 7:15
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:56 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A view of the Metro Rail station at Uttara's Diyabari in the capital. Construction work of the station is almost complete and it has already become a landmark in the area. When Metro Rail construction is completed, the Mass Rapid Transport-6 line will start from Diyabari and reduce travel time to Motijheel to around less than an hour.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HARASSMENT OF BANGLADESHI WORKER Malaysia cops probing bribery allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in Malaysia are investigating an incident of bribery by law enforcement personnel, to which a Bangladeshi migrant worker reportedly fell victim near the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

A video of the incident, first circulated on Wednesday, has gone viral on WhatsApp, Free Malaysia Today (FMT) reported

yesterday, without disclosing the name and details of the Bangladeshi worker.

Brac termed the incident "unfortunate" and said incidents of maltreatment of Bangladeshis in Malaysia was "not new".

Brac Migration Programme urged the Malaysian police to stop harassing Bangladeshis workers, adding that it would send an official complaint to the

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বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০২১-২০২৩
"Made in Bangladesh with Pride"

বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স: বাড়ী # ৭/৭এ, ব্লক # এইচ ১, সেক্টর # ১৭, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০

সম্মানিত সদস্যদের জন্য নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আসন্ন বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচনে শুধুমাত্র অটো ভোটারদের জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নির্বাচন রুলস এন্ড প্রসিডিউর এর ধারা-৩ এর বি মোতাবেক যারা অদ্যাবধি সদ্য তোলা ছবি (৬ মাসের অধিক পুরাতন নয়) জমা দেননি তাঁদেরকে আগামী ১০ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০২১ইং তারিখ এর মধ্যে অনুগ্রহপূর্বক ছবি জমা দেওয়ার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে। উক্ত তারিখের মধ্যে নতুন ছবি জমা না দিলে ভোটার আইডি দেয়া সম্ভব হবে না। যারা ইতোমধ্যে ছবি জমা দিয়েছেন তাঁদের জন্য এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রযোজ্য নয়।

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