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Headache called brick kiln

Operating in residential area, adjacent to school

MINTU DESHWARA

A brick kiln is being operated in a residential area and adjacent to a primary school, posing serious health hazards to students and people in Jalalia under Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar.

Locals say they have been facing various types of health problems due to the pollution caused by the brick kiln.

Students of Begum Jebunnesa Government Primary School, which is located a few yards from the brick kiln, are the worst sufferers.

"My son is a student of this school. He has been suffering from a cough for the last few years. We often have to take him to doctors. He gets well after medication but after a few days, the problem comes back," said Sadeq Miah, a resident of the area.

The authorities of the Mohsin Brick Field claimed it has been functioning for around 32 years and the school was founded after it came into being.

Talking to The Daily Star, local government officials said it would not be justified to evict the brick field as it was established earlier than the school.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that the brick kiln authorities have piled up bricks at the entrance of the school, which is now closed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Headmistress Nargis Akhter said, "A school is a place where children come to study and play. But such a

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A brick kiln operating at full-throttle near a school in Jalaliya area of Sylhet's Kamalganj upazila. The kiln has expanded its activities in the area near the school, which has been closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

CTTC nabs top fugitive criminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was facing at least 27 cases, including 10 for murder, when he fled to India to evade arrest. But he was held in 2008 by the Indian authorities and sentenced to 10 years in prison for passport forgery and intrusion.

He then came out of jail and contacted another top fugitive to establish a "reign of terror" in Dhaka's Mirpur area staying in India.

Police claimed this after arresting the man, Mofizur Rahman Mamun, in Mirpur's Pallabi area yesterday morning. The law enforcers said he had come to Bangladesh recently.

A team of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit (CTTC) made the arrest around 6:45am near Baitun Nur Jame Mosque area, said CTTC Deputy Commissioner Saiful Islam.

CTTC officials said Mamun stood accused in at least 27 cases and he was wanted in 15. He was sentenced to life term

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SUED UNDER DSA Journo Akib gets bail after 42 days in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court granted bail to Akib Hridoy, a local journalist in Kishoreganj, for six months yesterday, 42 days after he was arrested under the controversial Digital Security Act.

Md Sarwar Murshed Chowdhury, the then deputy commissioner of the district, filed the case with Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station on December 28 last year against Akib on charge of issuing threats and spreading hatred against him, executive magistrate concerned of a mobile court and police on Facebook live.

Police arrested Akib, 28, who works as a Kishoreganj correspondent for an online TV and an online media outlet, from his house in Ukilpara area of the district the same day.

The following day, police produced Akib before a magistrate's court

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Dogs detect Covid-19 with 94pc accuracy



REUTERS, Hanover

A German veterinary clinic has trained sniffer dogs to detect the novel coronavirus in human saliva samples with 94% accuracy.

The dogs are conditioned to scent out the "corona odour" that comes from cells in infected people, said Esther Schalk, a vet at Germany's armed forces school for service dogs.

Filou, a 3-year-old Belgian Shepherd, and Joe Cocker, a 1-year-old Cocker Spaniel, are two of the dogs being trained at Hanover's University of Veterinary Medicine.

"We did a study where we had dogs sniffing

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Rohingyas will be repatriated to Rakhine

Says Myanmar coup leader; martial law declared in several cities
AGENCIES

Myanmar's army chief yesterday said Rohingya refugees who escaped to Bangladesh during a 2017 crisis will be repatriated to Rakhine state.

He insisted military rule would be different this time, as martial law was declared across swathes of the country after massive protests against the new junta.

The orders, covering parts of Yangon, Mandalay and other areas, banned people from protesting or gathering in groups of more than five, and imposes an 8:00pm to 4:00am curfew.

New junta chief General Min Aung Hlaing, wearing a green military uniform, made his first televised speech since seizing power. He insisted that the putsch was justified by "voter fraud".

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ASTRAZENECA VACCINE

West backs shot after S Africa halts roll-out

Says it prevents grave illness, death, stops virus transmission

REUTERS, London

Western governments rushed to offer support for the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccination after South Africa halted its roll-out when research showed it offered minimal protection against mild infection from a variant spreading there.

The arrival of vaccines has given hope that scientists can tame a pandemic that has killed more than 2.3 million people worldwide. But if vaccines are less effective against new variants, they may need to be tweaked and people may need booster shots.

South Africa announced its pause after researchers from the University of Witwatersrand and the University of Oxford found that the AstraZeneca vaccine provided only minimal protection against mild or moderate infection from the B.1.351 variant, now the dominant form of the virus in that country.

The research is not yet peer reviewed and did not provide data on older people most likely to die or need hospitalisation. There was no data on whether the vaccine would prevent severe illness, and researchers said that was still possible.

"This study confirms that the pandemic coronavirus will find ways to continue to spread in vaccinated populations, as expected," said Andrew Pollard, chief investigator on the Oxford vaccine trial.

"But, taken with the promising results from other studies in South

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MC COLLEGE GANG RAPE Husband held overnight for testifying at court

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The husband of the woman gang-raped at a college in Sylhet last year was arrested on Saturday just so that he testified in the court the next day.

Lawyers raised eyebrows, saying that such a strong action is only taken when a witness ignores a general warrant issued by a court.

They added that the night spent in police custody must have been traumatising for the man whose wife was gang-raped at MC College on September 25, 2020.

"According to the law, when a witness ignores a summons the court can issue a general warrant. If the general warrant is ignored, the court may then issue a non-bailable warrant, which happened in this particular instance. But the judge skipped the second step," said Shahiduzzaman Chowdhury, the lawyer of the man who is also the plaintiff of the case.

The non-bailable warrant was issued by the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Sylhet on January 24. Judge Mohitul Haque Enam Chowdhury of the tribunal released the man after he signed a commissary bond and attended a hearing of the case on Sunday.

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'GUNFIGHT' WITH BGB 2 Rohingya 'drug dealers' killed in Bandarban

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Two Rohingya "drug dealers" were killed in a "gunfight" with members of Border Guard Bangladesh in Bandarban's Ghumdhum border area early yesterday, says BGB.

The dead were identified as Mohammad Zobair and Dil Mohammad from Kutupalong Rohingya camp.

Acting on a tip off, a team of BGB-34 Battalion conducted a drive at Garjanbania Chakmapara in Naikkhangchhari upazila around 4:00am,

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Workers set up unplanned fiber optic and dish cables without safety gear. Various service providers are making their staffers do such work without necessary precaution, which is ultimately making them risk their lives in case of short-circuits. The photo was taken yesterday at Mohammadpur's Haji Chinu Mia Road.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

JONNY'S MURDER IN CUSTODY Fugitive convict 'selling drugs' in Pallabi

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Five months have passed since the delivery of the verdict in the case filed over the murder of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny in police custody, but two convicts are still eluding arrest.

Much to the disappointment of the victim's family, Russell, one of the two absconding convicts, is running drug business in Rahmat Camp area of the capital's Pallabi which is less than half a kilometre away from the victim's house, said locals.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a local youth said Russell visits the area once in every two to three weeks with drugs in a motorcycle and leaves after collecting the money earned by his men from sales of yaba pills and other drugs.

"Russell recently told some locals that he would see me," Jonny's brother Intiaz Hossain Rocky, also the plaintiff of the case, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Police are seemingly showing indifference to arrest him, he added.

The other fugitive convict is Sub-Inspector Qamruzzaman Mintu.

With the victim's family observing the anniversary of Jonny's murder today, Rocky demanded arrest of the two convicts and quick disposal of the case in higher courts.

On the night of February 9, 2014, police informants Sumon and Russell called police after Jonny slapped Sumon in his face over harassing women at a pre-wedding programme.

Later, a group of policemen hauled Jonny and Rocky to Pallabi Police Station and tortured the brothers brutally. Jonny died of his wounds at a city hospital.

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 9
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:52 7:15
JAMAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:56 7:45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION