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'She kept traffickers in sync'

Police says after arresting seven including Nodi; Aadhaar cards, passport seized

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Once a victim of human trafficking, Nodi Akter became a trafficker herself and worked as a coordinator between traffickers in India, Malaysia and UAE.

She was among seven members of a transnational racket arrested by police on Monday.

In 2017, she was trafficked to Malaysia. After returning to Bangladesh in 2019, she got involved in the murky crime.

Police yesterday revealed this information, along with detailed identities of the six other arrestees. They also revealed that a UP member in Jashore's Sharsha upazila helped trafficking victims cross the border by introducing them to Border Guard Bangladesh members as her relatives.

Nodi is known by several names to the victims she trafficked, Md Shahidullah, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told a press briefing at his office yesterday.

Her name is Jaya Akter Jannat on her Indian Aadhaar Card, and many also know her as Eti in the country. The name in her passport is Noorjahan, while she is also known as Jolly in the border areas of Satkhira, and Preety in the border areas of Jashore.

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The canal beside the Rasulpur-Jatrabari-Sanir Akhra Road in the capital overflows and floods the road. Rain over the last few days coupled with garbage clogging the drainage system resulted in the overflow, locals said. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

AL founding anniversary today

Party plans muted celebrations

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Awami League, the oldest and largest political party in Bangladesh, is celebrating its 72nd foundation day today in a restricted manner amid the pandemic.

The anniversary programmes will begin in Dhaka's Dhanmondi Road-32 in the morning with the hoisting of the national and party flags at Bangabandhu Bhaban and the AL central office, reports UNB.

The AL and its affiliated organisations will pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at his portrait at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

The ruling party will also hoist the national and party flags at its offices across the country.

A delegation from the Awami League Central

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SUNAMGANJ RAIL LINK Two ministers appear to resolve feud

STAR REPORT

Planning Minister MA Mannan and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday talked about resolving a spat between them over the route selection for a prospective railway in Sunamganj.

Momen on June 9 sent a demi official (DO) letter to Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, supporting the stand of five other MPs of the district, including a Jatiya Party MP, over the route, leaving Mannan irked.

After facing criticism for opposing the planning minister and widespread rumour of a rift between the two, the foreign minister on June 14 on his Facebook account claimed to have 50 years' friendship with Mannan and said there is no feud between them.

In a Facebook post on Sunday, the planning minister, however, expressed his surprise over the foreign minister's "hasty" move and said Momen should have discussed the matter with him before taking sides on this issue.

Yesterday, both the ministers talked about resolving the matter.

Talking to the media after a meeting of

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Abetting repression

JUNE 23, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH GOVT HAILS AID PAKISTAN BODY'S DECISION
Bangladesh Home Minister AHM Kamaruzzaman welcomed today the decision of the Aid Pakistan Consortium to withhold further aid until there was a political settlement of the Bangladesh issue.

"In my opinion, the consortium could not have taken a better decision and the people of Bangladesh expect it to stop further aid until the occupation army is withdrawn from their territories," said Kamaruzzaman.

Any aid to Pakistan at this time would have been diverted to inhuman and barbarous activities, he added.

Regarding a political settlement, the home minister wanted to make it clear that the emotional ties or bonds of the people of Bangladesh with West Pakistan "have completely broken down after what has happened since March 25".

Kamaruzzaman, who returned from a weeklong tour of training camps of Bangladeshi freedom fighters, called for an unrelenting battle against the Pakistan army and their collaborators. They were enemies of the people who had to be fought till they were physically wiped out, he said.

ARMS SHIPMENT CRITICISED
The New York Times in an editorial titled "Abetting repression" vehemently criticised the US government today for continuing supply of arms and ammunitions to Pakistan. In the latest incident, a Pakistani freighter sailed from New York on June 22, 1971 bearing

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Allow her treatment abroad

BNP standing committee demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee has demanded that the government immediately allow party Chairperson Khaleda Zia to go abroad for better treatment.

"AFM Siddique, head of the medical board formed for overseeing her treatment, informed us that Khaleda Zia recovered from Covid-19, but she is suffering from post-Covid complications. She is not out of danger yet," BNP Secretary General Mirza

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Elephant in room

Thai family gets repeat gigantic visitor



AFP, Bangkok

Some families living in a jungle may be fearful of things bumping at night, but for one household in Thailand, the sight of an elephant rummaging through their kitchen was not a total shock.

"It came to cook again," wrote Kittichai Boodchan sarcastically in a caption to a Facebook video he shot over the weekend of an elephant nosing its way into his kitchen.

Likely driven by the midnight munchies, the massive animal pokes its head into Kittichai's kitchen in the early hours of Sunday, using its trunk to find food.

At one point, it picks up a plastic bag of liquid,

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Rich nations hoarding Covid shots

Says Momen on his return from US

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday expressed disappointment over rich countries' behaviour in terms of supplying Covid-19 vaccines, saying they are hoarding vaccines and stipulating conditions for supply to other countries.

"Our prime minister said Covid-19 vaccines should be a public good.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 23

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:05 12:45 5:00 6:52 8:17
JAMAAT 4:20 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Stop support for Banshkhali Power Plant

129 eminent citizens, 74 bodies write to Chinese minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred twenty-nine individuals and 74 organisations from 21 countries, including Bangladesh, wrote to Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao urging him to withdraw and end provision of finance and technical support to the SS Power I Ltd (Banshkhali Power Plant) in Chattogram immediately.

They also urged all companies involved to withdraw support for the project.

Sultana Kamal, president, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan (Bapa); Shaheen Anam, executive director, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF); Zafrullah Chowdhury, health rights activist and trustee, Gonoshasthaya Kendra; Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori; Anu Muhammad,

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A physically challenged person, sitting on his wheelchair, holding a battery-run rickshaw from behind for faster movement, an act that poses a serious risk to his life. The photo was taken on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Ashulia recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

PHONE TAPPING 10 SC lawyers serve govt legal notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten Supreme Court lawyers yesterday served a legal notice on the government in order to know what necessary steps have been taken to prevent the incidents of phone tapping and to ensure the right to privacy of telecommunication.

Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, head of Law Lab researching law and constitution, sent the legal notice on behalf of 10 lawyers to the authorities concerned, requesting them to inform the notice senders about the measures taken to this effect in seven working days.

If the respondents of the legal notice do not provide the information in seven days, the notice senders will have no other option but to take legal action against them for getting proper redress, without making any further reference, he said in the legal notice.

The lawyer said, in the legal notice, that in recent years the notice senders have come across numerous incidents of eavesdropping and recording of a private telephone conversation from various newspaper reports published in different national dailies including The Daily Star.

The Daily Star, published a newspaper report on May 25 this year, following the surfacing of an audio recording of a telephone conversation between a Superintendent of Police and an Additional Superintendent of Police, both of them have been temporarily suspended over an allegation of making offensive, disrespectful and unsavoury remarks about the Army and Rapid Action Battalion in a sensitive telephone conversation between them.

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