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Lost Muslin yarn know-how recovered

SUKANTA HALDER and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The lost muslin yarn technology used to churn out exceedingly delicate fabrics much coveted in the 17th and 18th centuries the world over has been recovered by an expert team of the government.

In the ancient and medieval period, the muslin cloth made by the weavers of Dhaka became a status symbol for the rich and aristocratic class. In 1747, Dhakai Muslin exports fetched Tk 28.5 lakh, found the researchers.

The fall of the Mughal Empire, lack of patronage of the British rulers, expansion of the East India Company, Industrial Revolution in England, the imposition of high taxes on muslin and the cutting of the fingers of weavers were the main causes behind the loss of the Muslin cloth since the middle of the 19th century.

"The muslin we have made is 99 percent similar to the cloth preserved in the UK's Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Museum in Bangladesh," said M Monzur Hossain, chief scientist of the project titled 'Bangladesh's Golden Tradition Muslin Yarn Making Technology and Recovery of Muslin Fabrics (Phase I)'.

The Tk 12.1 crore project came into being after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked during a visit to the ministry of textiles and jute in October 2014 if the lost technology of muslin could be restored.

Subsequently, a committee was formed consisting of experts from the Bangladesh Handloom Board (BHB), the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation, the Cotton Development Board, the Bangladesh University of Textiles, Dhaka University and Rajshahi University.

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Maintaining no physical distancing, people standing in long queues in front of Delduar Upazila Health Complex in Tangail to receive coronavirus vaccines. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

AI statement on DSA 'motivated'

Says info minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday rejected Amnesty International's statement over the Digital Security Act (DSA), saying that the statement was "motivated".

Talking to reporters at his residence in the capital, the minister also said Amnesty International has lost its acceptability.

"Amnesty International has been issuing statements against Bangladesh and its government one after another," said Hasan, also ruling Awami League joint general secretary.

In a statement on Sunday, the rights body said it has found a concerning pattern in which the Bangladeshi authorities are weaponising sections 25, 29 and 31 of the DSA to target and harass critical voices.

The cyber tribunal based in Dhaka, which holds trials of cybercrimes

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Humayun Ahmed's family serves legal notice on GP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deceased writer and director Humayun Ahmed's family members sent a legal notice to Grameenphone, the country's largest mobile phone operator, for infringing on intellectual property rights.

Grameenphone used four popular characters created by Humayun -- Baker Bhai from Kothao Keu Nei, Elachi Begum from Ayomoy, Sobhan Saheb from Bohubrihi and Taiyab Ali from Ure Jay Bok Pokkhi -- commercially without permission.

Barrister Hamidul Mizbah sent a legal notice to Grameenphone on behalf of Humayun's wife Meher Afroz Shaon, daughters Nova Ahmed, Sheela Ahmed and Bipasha Ahmed, son Nuhah Humayun, and brother Zafar Iqbal.

The mobile operator launched a series of promotional programmes in July 2020, under a campaign titled "Kemon Achen Tara", which was released on Grameenphone's official Facebook page and YouTube channel, for which no permission or licence was obtained from family members or heirs.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya will commit suicide: Nixon

JULY 28, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CONVERSATION AMONG NIXON, KISSINGER AND FARLAND
American President Richard Nixon, his security adviser Henry Kissinger and the US Ambassador to Pakistan Joseph Farland held a discussion today on issues surrounding Bangladesh War.

Ambassador Farland presented a grim picture and said, "If we push [Pakistan President] Yahya [Khan] to the point where he reacts, the reaction will be such that the entire subcontinent will be [in turmoil]."

Nixon commented on this point, "He [Yahya] will commit suicide."

Kissinger added, "They [Indians] think that by, well, if they can undermine East Pakistan then in West Pakistan so many forces would be, will unloosen, will be turned loose that the whole Pakistan issue will disappear. The Indians and West Pakistanis they hate each other."

As to the future course of action, Nixon advised, "Let's not aggravate the problem; let's try to help on the problem -- East Pakistan. And the main thing ... let's not stir it up. It's stirred up too much. Inevitably it will be a bloodbath down there."

Ambassador Farland shared that since March 25, 1971 the US had sent over 2,200 rounds of .22 ammunition for survival rifles. He added that 40 to 50 percent of what is in the pipeline was for spare parts for trucks and for communication equipment without which the "starving refugees could not be fed."

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NSO 'should be sanctioned'

4 US Democrats suggest action against Israeli cyberfirms over Pegasus revelations

AGENCIES

Four Democratic lawmakers in Washington on Monday suggested blacklisting or imposing sanctions against the Israeli firm NSO Group that licensed spyware used by governments to hack the smartphones of journalists, human rights activists and business executives.

They also said recent revelations of misuse reinforced their conviction that the "hacking-for-hire industry must be brought under control".

The Democrats' statement was in response to an investigation by The Washington Post and 16 media partners into a list of phone numbers that included surveillance targets and that appeared to be concentrated in countries thought to have been clients of the NSO Group.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Huge comet heading close enough to us to become visible



CNN ONLINE

Astronomers have discovered the largest known comet, and it's about a thousand times more massive than others.

Comet Bernardinelli-Bernstein, so named because it was found by University of Pennsylvania department of physics and astronomy graduate student Pedro Bernardinelli and Professor Gary Bernstein, is between 62 to 124 miles (100 to 200 kilometres) across.

The team announced the discovery in June. This unusual comet will make its closest approach to our sun in 2031, but you'll likely need a large amateur telescope to see it.

The giant comet, also known as C/2014

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Woman held over NGO loan case, acquitted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A court in Gazipur yesterday acquitted a woman arrested over a case filed in connection with repayment of a loan from an NGO.

The court of Nazmunnahar, judicial magistrate of Gazipur, acquitted the woman when she was produced before the court.

The woman, Shahnaz Parvin of Sreepur upazila, had paid the outstanding after the delivery of a verdict in a loan related case against her, said Md Monirul Islam, inspector of Gazipur court.

She was supposed to file an appeal with the court which she did not do, the inspector said.

For that reason, an arrest warrant was issued, he said. Sreepur police arrested Shahnaz Monday evening

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Low over the Bay triggers caution at ports

UNB, Dhaka

The maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three as a low pressure area has been formed over the north Bay and adjoining areas.

"Under its influence, deep convection is taking place and steep pressure gradient lies over the north Bay and adjoining areas," said a Met office bulletin yesterday.

Squally weather may affect the areas of the maritime ports, North Bay and adjoining coasts, it said.

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 28

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:50 8:15
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The man being rescued had jumped into the Buriganga off the Babu Bazar Bridge in the capital after allegedly snatching a mobile phone from a pedestrian. Stuck in dense layer of water hyacinth, he floated on the water for around two hours. Rescuers later handed him over to police.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

WB to finance extra jobs for poorer nations

Indonesia records 2,069 deaths in a day

AGENCIES

A new World Bank financing mechanism will allow developing countries to purchase Covid-19 vaccines collectively through the Covax facility, it was announced Monday.

Covax was set up to ensure 92 developing territories could access coronavirus vaccines to fight the pandemic, with the cost covered by donors.

The new mechanism will allow those countries to buy additional doses on top of the subsidised ones they will already receive via Covax.

Using money from the World Bank and other development banks, the facility says it will make advanced purchases from vaccine manufacturers based on aggregated demand across countries.

The financing mechanism builds on the existing Covax cost-sharing arrangement which aims to provide 430 million additional doses, or enough doses to fully vaccinate 250 million people, for delivery between late 2021 and mid-2022 for the 92 countries.

Those doses could be purchased through new financing arrangement. Countries should also have some flexibility in selecting to buy particular vaccines that align with their preferences.

Covax is co-led by the World Health Organization

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