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HIGHWAY THEFT OF EXPORT CARGO Drives on to arrest gangs

BGMEA, truck owners call for tougher laws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asaduzzaman Mollah is a member of a highway robbery gang, and as part of their plan, he engineered to get a job as a driver at Noman Group, the country's largest textile exporter.

And in the middle of July, Mollah succeeded in his plan: he made way with a cloth-laden lorry while in transit to the Chittagong Port for shipment abroad.

But this is not an isolated incident. Incidences of such theft have surged in recent months, leaving garment exporters, who are already battling adverse circumstances for the global coronavirus pandemic, on edge.

"Sometimes, it is not possible to know about the robbery unless exporters receive complaints from buyers that some products were missing as the gang members tend to seal the cartons again," said Tofazzal Hossain Majumder, president of the Bangladesh Truck Covered Van Owners Association.

In the last couple of months, there have been more than 50 such incidences of theft on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway.

Often, the thefts take place in collusion with the drivers, who stop their vehicles and unload products in roadside warehouses.

In such cases, installing Global Positioning System tracking devices on the lorries to monitor their routes can help, Majumder said.

But sometimes robbers intercept the goods-laden trucks

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Lamont Marcell Jacobs of Italy sprints to the finish line ahead of the others to win the men's 100m gold of Tokyo 2020 at the Tokyo Olympic Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Italy's Jacobs wins stunning 100m gold

AFP, Tokyo

Italy's Lamont Marcell Jacobs outshone a field of unusual suspects to claim a shock Olympic gold in the men's 100 metres on Sunday, breaking retired Jamaican star Usain Bolt's 13-year hold on the blue ribbon event.

Jacobs, 26, timed a European record of 9.80 seconds, with American Fred Kerley taking silver in 9.84sec in one of the most understated major championship 100m races of recent times.

Canada's Andre de Grasse, a bronze medallist at the 2016 Rio Games, repeated the feat in 9.89sec.

The athletes were introduced in a dramatic light show -- the stadium floodlights were shut off and 12 projectors cast 3D images of the world, zooming in to the Tokyo skyline, and then the name of each sprinter.

The lights came back on, swiftly followed by a horrendous false start for Zharnel Hughes in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

BANGLADESHIS IN KSA 3,437 died in two years

JAMIL MAHMUD

At least 3,437 Bangladeshis died in different parts of Saudi Arabia, where the Bangladesh consulate general in Jeddah has its jurisdiction between July 2019 and June 2021.

Of the dead, 2,448 were buried locally after taking due permission from their families back home. The other 989 bodies were sent back home, said a recent report of the consulate general.

Fiscal year-wise, 1,696 Bangladeshis died in 2019-2020 and another 1,741 died the following fiscal year, the report said.

It highlighted different services that the consulate general provided the expatriates during the last two fiscal years.

As per the consulate general's data, about 7 lakh Bangladeshis live in various cities under its jurisdiction, which spans over the western part of

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Scientists create first genetically modified marsupial



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists in Japan have created the first ever genetically modified (GM) marsupial, breeding a litter of albino opossums using the gene-editing technique CRISPR.

CRISPR, which uses proteins to find, bind to, and modify certain stretches of genetic material, has been around since 2012, and has been used to modify everything from tomatoes to (far more controversially) human embryos.

But up until now, thanks to researchers at Japan's RIKEN institute, those results have never been replicated in marsupials, the family of mammals

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

8 killed in three road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and seven others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna Highway near Arial Kha Bridge toll plaza in Madaripur's Shibchar upazila around 9:00pm on Saturday.

In separate developments, two more people, including a garment worker, were killed in Bogura and Faridpur yesterday.

In Madaripur, the dead are Nirmal Kumar, 30, Mohammad Sohan, 24, Pulak, 25, Mohammad Miraz, 31, Mohammad Arif, 29, and Sohid Mallik, 45, said police.

Quoting locals, Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Shibchar Highway Police Station, said, the accident happened as the driver of a Dhaka-bound truck lost control of the steering wheel.

"The truck was carrying construction materials

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Freedom fighters' strength growing, admits Yahya

AUGUST 2, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA'S MESSAGE TO DHAKA CONFERENCE

Pakistan President Yahya Khan today admitted the growing strength of the freedom fighters of Bangladesh and said "their challenge should be met".

"We have to meet the challenge of anti-national elements who seek to jeopardise our economy in an attempt to undermine the unity and integrity of the country," he said in a message to a four-day conference of chief executives of banks and financial institutions opened in Dhaka today.

Meanwhile, Yahya Khan in an interview with Tehran daily Kayhan International last week said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "would be court-martialled and I cannot say whether or not he would be alive when the [National] assembly meets."

OUTSIDE AID FOR REFUGEES CAN'T BUY US: INDIRA Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said today that no amount of foreign aid for refugees could influence India's policy towards Bangladesh. "Our Bangladesh policy is based on idealism and practical politics," she added.

As regards recognition of Bangladesh she said recognition at this moment could precipitate matters to such an extent that it might be harmful.

Meanwhile, in a communication to the UN Secretary-General, India today asked the international community to help restore

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Bangladesh, India flag off fifth rail route

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India and Bangladesh yesterday began regular operation of freight trains through the Haldibari-Chilahati rail route 56 years after it had been suspended following the India-Pakistan war in 1965.

The service, which was inaugurated by the two countries' prime ministers during a virtual bilateral summit on December 17 last year, officially began yesterday with the Indian Railways dispatching stones from Dam Dim Station of Northeast Frontier Railway to Bangladesh.

This is the fifth rail route between the two countries after Petrapole-Benapole, Gede-Darshana, Singhabad-Rohanpur and Radhikapur-Birol.

The commodities that can be exported from India to Bangladesh through the rail route include stones and boulders, food grain, fresh fruits, chemical fertilisers, onion, chillies, garlic, ginger, fly ash, clay, lime, wood and timber etc. From Bangladesh, all exportable commodities can be sent.

Businesses see it as a very positive development as it will help reduce transport cost and time in the export-import business between the two neighbours.

In fiscal 2020-21, Bangladesh Railway

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Girl stabbed on her wedding day dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A ninth-grader, who was stabbed by a stalker on her wedding day four days ago, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The victim, Tarmina Akter, 14, was a daughter of Toyab Ali of Lohanipara village in Rangpur's Badarganj. She was a madrasa student, said police.

Accused Sakhawat Hossain, 23, went into hiding after the incident on July 28.

According to the victim's family members, Sakhawat of the same village used to

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Amid rain, garment workers going to work as their factories were reopened yesterday. The factories had been closed for 12 days due to Eid holidays and Covid lockdown. The photo was taken from the Chattogram EPZ area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

POST COUP MYANMAR Military ruler takes PM role

Pledges elections in 2023, agrees to work with Asean special envoy

REUTERS, Bangkok

Myanmar's military ruler Min Aung Hlaing has taken on the role of prime minister in a newly formed caretaker government, state media reported yesterday, six months after the army seized power from a civilian government.

In a speech yesterday, Min Aung Hlaing repeated a pledge to hold elections by 2023 and said his administration was ready to work with a future regional envoy on Myanmar.

The announcement and speech came exactly six months after the army seized power February 1 from a civilian government following elections that were won by Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling party but that the military said had been fraudulent.

Min Aung Hlaing has chaired the State Administration Council (SAC) that was formed just after the coup and that has run Myanmar since then, and the caretaker government will replace it.

"In order to perform the country's duties fast, easily and effectively, the state administration council has been re-formed as caretaker government of Myanmar," a newsreader on state Myawaddy television said.

In his speech, Min Aung Hlaing repeated a pledge to restore democracy, saying, "We will accomplish the provisions of the state of emergency by August 2023".

He added: "I guarantee the establishment of a union based on democracy and federalism."

Shortly after the coup, junta leaders promised new elections within two years. The reference yesterday to

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 2

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:47 8:15

JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION