

I will go

FROM PAGE 12

Soon after the magistrate ended the court session, she turned to her lawyer Nilanjana Rifat Surovi and said, “I will go insane if I do not get bail.”

“What do we have to talk about? Ask for my bail! Don’t you understand how much I suffer? What is going on with you? Why don’t you ask for bail?”

Speaking to The Daily Star, Md Mojibur Rahman, one of the defense lawyers, said they did not file a bail petition in yesterday’s hearing due to some “technical issues” of Pori Moni’s relatives.

However, the defence filed a petition with the court, seeking permission to talk to her. The court rejected that petition.

In the police forwarding report, the IO said Pori Moni gave important information about the recovery of narcotics from her home which was being verified.

“If she gets bail, she will tamper with the investigation and can leave the country.”

The IO appealed to the court to keep her in jail until the investigation is complete.

Pori Moni was produced at the lockup of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate’s Court of Dhaka at 11:50am.

She was produced before court around 2:45pm, following a petition filed by her lawyers.

Earlier, she was placed on a six-day remand in two phases in the same case.

On August 5, Pori Moni and her associate Ashraf Islam Dipu were shown arrested in the case filed by Rab with Banani Police Station under the Narcotics Control Act.

The previous day, Rab detained them after raiding her house.

Reluctant

FROM PAGE 12

becoming increasingly difficult to transport all kinds of foodstuffs and supplies from the ports, reported The Daily Telegraph.

THAILAND TURNS DOWN PAK REQUEST FOR FUEL

Pakistan had proposed Thailand that every day 12 Pakistan aircraft would each take 26,000 gallons of aviation fuel from the country. But Thailand turned it down saying that they would not like to be involved in Pakistani affairs. Recent disclosures about the killings of Buddhists in the Chattogram region had made many Thai citizens acutely aware of Pak barbarity in East Pakistan.

GUERRILLA RAID AT LOUHAJANG

The Associated Press (AP) today reported that Bangladeshi forces attacked and set ablaze a police station and another government building at Louhajang, 30 miles from Dhaka.

The reports said the guerrillas made government forces retreat after a fierce gun battle on August 21 night. They then moved into the two buildings and burned them to the ground, destroying all records. NIXON NAMES 6 FOR STUDY OF US AID TO PAKISTAN American President Nixon named a panel of six to review steps already taken by the United States to help the millions made homeless by the war in East Pakistan and to make recommendations for further assistance, reported The New York Times.

REFUGEE COUNT RISES IN INDIA

The number of Bangladeshi refugees who had entered entered India was believed to have reached eight million, Indian government officials declared today.

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Dhaka, Beijing

FROM PAGE 12

The minister said, “We are very lucky to have a good friend like China.”

When China was having difficulty during the early days of the Covid-19 outbreak, Bangladesh sent medical equipment, and later when Bangladesh got into trouble, the Chinese government, as well as some private companies there, also offered help to us, he added.

Stressing that all countries need to work together to defeat the pandemic, Momen said the most important thing at this time is to have enough vaccines distributed to countries around the world, whether they are rich or poor.

“It is very sad that many rich countries ... have accumulated a lot of vaccines and are not sharing those with the poorer countries.

“Vaccines should be a public good and should be distributed to all countries without any discrimination,” he said.

Momen expressed gratitude to the Chinese government and people for helping Bangladesh in the fight against Covid-19.

About tracing the virus’s origins, Momen said that it should be objective rather than politically motivated.

“Finding the origin and the cause, I think, should be left to the scientists,” he said.

India okays

FROM PAGE 12

two-shot regime, some health experts say the country will need to further boost its indigenous vaccine production.

Logistical challenges make Indian vaccines, which don’t need any special storage facilities, the easiest to transport and use across the country.



UK coalition forces, Turkish coalition forces, and U.S. Marines assist a child during an evacuation at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan. This photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Serving in silence

FROM PAGE 1

From 2009-2020, the bank has provided more than 1.39 lakh cubic metres of bones and 54,768 pieces of amniotic grafts to hospitals and clinics for use in various surgeries. During the same period, 8,351 patients went through tissue transplants with the help of doctors and scientists at the Institute for a nominal price.

In some cases, the cost is 10 times lower than that in India, doctors said.

In Bangladesh, tissue-banking research started in the ‘90s at Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) with support from IAEA Research Programme. From 1997 to 2002, Bangladesh received required skills development training and research assistance under the IAEA-Gi Regional Cooperative Agreement.

Later in 2003, BAEC launched an independent laboratory -- Tissue Banking-and Biomaterial Research Unit - in Savar. It was renamed as Institute of Tissue Banking and Biomaterial Research in 2017.

Institute Director and Chief Scientific Officer Dr SM Asaduzzaman said that apart from tissues, they

collected amputated bones and skulls from hospitals and stored them in sterile boxes in laboratory freezers.

Parts of amniotic sacs, commonly called bag of waters in which embryos and later fetuses develop in amniotes, are used for tissue transplants as they help burn wounds heal fast. They are collected from hospitals where mothers have just given birth.

The bank controls microbiological quality of the grafts and stores them at minus 40 to 80 degree Celsius following guidelines from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The work force is small -- the Institute has only eight scientific officers and fifteen laboratory and administrative staff. Still it has collected 15,419 amniotic sacs and 8,287 bones from different hospitals from 2009 to 2020, said Asaduzzaman.

Md Sanaullah, a day labourer from Bhola, is another beneficiary of the tissue bank. He had been suffering from a foot tumour for long and could not walk properly for more than two years. Recently, he collected bone tissues from the bank for just Tk 3,000 for his upcoming surgery at

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in Dhaka.

“We thought these surgeries were very expensive. Given our poor financial condition, we were preparing to accept the reality. But the doctors here have assured us that he’ll do fine after the operation,” said Sanaullah’s brother-in-law Md Taiyash.

Apart from collecting and supplying amniotic sacs and bone tissues, the bank has so far helped in transplanting 347 skulls.

“If someone has an injury or infection in the head, doctors usually inform the bank to collect and process the skull through cold sterilisation, which is later repaired during the surgery,” said Asaduzzaman.

The Institute provides tissues to over 100 hospitals and clinics for surgical treatment across the country, after authorisation by doctors of the hospital concerned. The Institute verifies the doctor’s identity, and then provides the processed tissues to the patient’s representative.

“Suppose a patient developed cancer from a foot tumour. If he collects bone tissues from us and undergoes a surgery at a government

hospital like National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, it will cost him around Tk 20,000. This includes the surgical and medical bills,” Asaduzzaman said.

Similar treatments in India would cost about Tk 2 lakh, he added.

Recently, the government has approved a Tk 173-crore project for the expansion of the Institute and establishment of a full-fledged Human Tissue Bank.

After the fund approval on July 28, Planning Commission Member Nasima Begum said many people did not know that the Institute even existed, especially in a country where accidental injuries are high.

In 2020, more than 8,600 people were injured in about 4,900 road accidents alone, according to Bangladesh Passengers Welfare Association.

The Institute is a big support for patients like them, particularly for those who lack financial means to go abroad for treatment, Nasima said.

“We hope their activities will expand with the new project and patients countrywide can also avail these services at a nominal price,” she added.

Two held for gang-rape of teen

FROM PAGE 12

the station.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said Abdur Rahman picked the girl up from a road while she was going to her friend’s house around 3:00pm on Friday. He then raped her at an under-construction building.

Later, Rahman called his friend Ibrahim and they took the girl to Ibrahim’s house, where they both raped her and videotaped the incident.

They then took all the jewellery she had on her and kicked her out of the house around 7:00pm, the OC said quoting the case statement.

On information, police detained the two alleged rapists from the house on Friday night on the basis of verbal complaint.

They were shown arrested and were produced before the district court after the victim’s mother filed the case yesterday morning, added the OC.

Md Shahidul Islam, superintendent of Noakhali police, said the victim was taken to Noakhali General Hospital for medical tests.

In Mymensingh’s Gafargaon, police arrested a grocer yesterday noon for allegedly raping of a speech-impaired girl.

The arrestee was identified as Ratan Mia, 55.

The victim’s mother filed a case with Gafargaon Police Station accusing Ratan yesterday morning, after the girl told her family what happened on Friday night.

Anakul Sarker, OC of the police

station, said the 15-year-old girl went to Ratan’s shop at local Shibbari Bazar to buy biscuits on Friday morning.

“Ratan forcefully took the girl to behind the shop and raped her.”

The victim was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for medical tests.

In Bogura’s Shibganj, a 14 years old madrasa student was raped on Friday night.

The victim’s father filed a rape case with the Shibganj Police Station yesterday morning, accusing Dulal Islam, 30, and Minhazul Islam, 29. Police, however, have not been able to arrest them yet.

According to the case statement, the victim, a residential student of a

madrasa hostel, was on her way home on foot around 8:00pm on Friday as she was feeling sick.

The accused followed her, picked her up and took her to banana orchard where Dulal raped her while Minhazul was an accomplice in the crime.

Later, the victim took shelter at a petrol pump, from where she was rescued by police patrol following a phone call at 999, said Siarajul Islam, OC of the Shibganj Police Station.

“We have been conducting drives since the incident to detain the accused, while the girl was sent to the Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical college hospital for medical tests yesterday.”

Travellers in limbo as India flights uncertain

FROM PAGE 12

“They mostly visit for complicated neuro and gastric surgeries that can’t wait. So, we will end up losing these patients,” he added.

Out of the foreigners who visit India for medical purposes, 45 percent are from Bangladesh, according to the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Contacted, a top official of Biman told The Daily Star yesterday that they had announced the resumption of flights from today following a

statement of Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, who on August 17 said that flight operations between Bangladesh and India will resume from August 20.

The foreign minister also said that India had agreed to resume flight operations based on a request made by Bangladesh considering the demand.

More than 3,500 Bangladeshis travel to India daily on an average, with about 10 percent of them being medical tourists.

“We have already informed the passengers about the prevailing situation. They will be able to change their ticket on their preferable day without any extra charge. Besides, passengers will also be able to take a refund of their ticket if they want,” he added.

A top official of CAAB told The Daily Star that they are yet to get any formal reply from their Indian counterpart about resuming flights with Bangladesh from August 11 under the air bubble agreement.

CAAB sent the letter to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India on August 4.

“That is why it is hard for us to say right now when the flights between the two countries will resume,” the CAAB official said wishing anonymity.

Earlier, when the pandemic began in March last year, air communication with India was closed for several months. Flights resumed on October 28 last year under the air bubble agreement.

Bolivia files ‘genocide’ charges against ex-president Anez

AFP, La Paz

The Bolivian prosecutor’s office said on Friday it had filed charges of “genocide” and other crimes against former acting president Jeanine Anez, over the death of 20 opposition protesters in 2019.

Attorney General Juan Lanchipa said he had presented documents “against citizen Jeanine Anez” before the country’s Supreme Court of Justice, including charges for “genocide,” which carries a sentence of 10 to 20 years in prison, according to the Bolivian penal code.

The conservative Anez came to power in November 2019 after her predecessor and rival, former president Evo Morales, resigned following weeks of protests over his controversial re-election to an unconstitutional fourth term.

He fled the country after an election audit by the Organization of American States (OAS) found evidence of fraud.

After the election, at least 37 people died in violence that flared between supporters and opponents of Morales, as well as between protesters and the security forces.

Most of the deaths came in clashes between Morales supporters and security forces after the socialist leader’s flight.

The specific accusation against Anez relates to two incidents in November 2019 in which a total 22 people died. A report released by the OAS on Tuesday described those incidents as “massacres.”

Lanchipa said they had been “provisionally classified as genocide, serious and minor injury and injury followed by death.”

Bolivia’s opposition has decried

the lack of separation of powers in the country, saying the courts, electoral body and public prosecutor’s office are all loyal to leftist President Luis Arce, who is also a member of Morales’s Movement for Socialism (MAS).

“First of all, we need to reform the judiciary because it is not independent or autonomous,” said centrist lawmaker Alejandro Reyes.

“As long as there is no judicial reform, we cannot do anything.”

However, the case is unlikely to go to court, as for that to happen, the supreme court must ask congress for authorization to hold Anez responsible for what happened.

Authorization could only be given by a two-thirds majority, and although MAS controls congress, it does not enjoy a sufficiently large majority.

While MAS lost the presidency for a year to Anez, it never gave up control

of congress.

After Morales resigned, Anez was the most senior parliamentarian left and was sworn in by congress as interim president, despite the lack of a quorum, with MAS legislators boycotting the session.

MAS cried foul and accused the interim government of having pulled off a coup.

Under Anez’s administration, Bolivia held peaceful, transparent elections in October 2020 in which Morales’s protege Arce stormed to a landslide victory.

He subsequently vowed to go after those he accused of staging a coup.

Anez was arrested in March 2021 on accusations of leading a coup against Morales. She also faces other charges of terrorism, sedition and conspiracy. She has remained in pre-trial detention since then.

80 children

FROM PAGE 12

percent from Dhaka South City Corporation areas and the rest from outside Dhaka.

Afsana Alamgir Khan, deputy programme manager (malaria and Aedes-transmitted diseases) of DGHS, said children tend to have less of their body covered in clothes as they often wear shorts and sleeveless tops, which also make them vulnerable to mosquitos.

She added that the Aedes usually bite the legs of a person.

She recommended keeping children in mosquito nets when possible and having them wear full-sleeve clothes, pants or pajamas so that their bodies remain covered.

She also urged families to get the children tested for dengue immediately if they have high fever.

Early detection and treatment can save lives, she said. Delayed hospitalisation can lead to critical illnesses and even fatalities.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, four dengue patients died and 278 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours until 8:00 am yesterday.

Of the new cases, only nine are from outside Dhaka.

As of yesterday, 7,750 people were confirmed to have dengue this year. Of them, 425 were from outside Dhaka. Thirty-five of them had died, and the fatalities happened in July and August. Most of the deaths happened this month.

An overwhelming majority, 5,092, were diagnosed this month.

In July alone, 2,286 people were hospitalised with dengue.

At present, over 1,200 individuals are undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 87 outside, the DGHS data shows.

Woolly

FROM PAGE 12

how climate change may affect species, noting that studies had shown the movements of elephants had altered.

“We don’t want our kids to see elephants the way we see mammoths,” he told the Guardian.

Writing in the journal Science, Bataille and colleagues from a host of research institutions report how they studied the remains of a 28-year-old woolly mammoth that died about 17,100 years ago north of the Brooks Range in Alaska – but not before travelling about 70,000km (43,500 miles). In a nod to the nearby Kikiakrorak River, the mammoth has been named Kik.

The team analysed ancient DNA from Kik’s remains, revealing the animal was a male, and then turned their attention to one of his 1.7-metre-long tusks.

These appendages grew over a mammoth’s life. Layers were added daily, and contain chemical signatures about where the mammoth lived at the time they formed. In particular, the team looked at the ratio of different forms, or isotopes, of strontium, reflecting those in the mammoth’s food.

Bataille noted there was a pronounced variation in strontium isotope ratios in plants and soils across Alaska because the underlying rock types, from which they get their strontium, varied dramatically, ranging from ancient remains of the Earth’s crust to relatively recent volcanic deposits.

“You can have strontium isotope [ratios] that [vary] at 5-10km of scale,” he said.

The team compared the strontium isotope ratios from the tusk layers with maps for the region they previously produced using artificial intelligence and data from rodent teeth recovered from all over Alaska.

This allowed the researchers to model the likely routes that Kik had taken over his lifetime, with the results further refined by looking at oxygen isotope ratios in the tusk; these can shed light on factors such as temperature at the time a layer was formed.

The results reveal Kik probably covered about 70,000km in his life, roaming the lower Yukon River basin as a young mammoth before his range expanded from age two to about 16, when the team say he probably moved as part of a herd.

After that age there was a distinctive shift in his range. “Our hypothesis is that he got kicked out of the matriarchal herd at that point, which is what happens to male elephants at about that age as well,” said Bataille.

Kik’s long-distance hikes between interior Alaska and the north slope of the Brooks Range of mountains during this time, the team add, were probably down to seasonal changes in resources. The final 18 months of his life saw the mammoth living in a small area to the north of the Brooks Range.

The team say their study suggests both climate change and human activity may have played a role in the fate of the mammoths: a warming climate may have led to shrinkage or fragmentation of the habitats the mammoths roamed and relied on and an expansion of less favourable ones such as forested areas and peatlands. That, in turn, may have left the creatures more vulnerable to human hunters. The team’s data suggests Kik spent time in the mountains, passing by some of the earliest human sites in Alaska, where other mammoth remains have been found.