

Jamaat secy

FROM PAGE 12

Arafat, police said.

The identities of the rest could not be known yet.

Meanwhile, Jamaat Amir Shafiqur Rahman in a press release protested the arrest of the leaders saying Jamaat is a democratic political party and they were arrested while attending a party programme.

He demanded unconditional release of the party leaders.

Special drive

FROM PAGE 12

Of the deceased, 32 were male and 33 female.

Dhaka division accounted for the highest number of deceased with 17 during that period followed by 13 in Chattogram. Ten each died in Khulna and Sylhet, six in Rajshahi, four in Rangpur, three in Barishal and two in Mymensingh.

Due to the massive transmission of Delta variant, the country witnessed a higher number of Covid-19 cases and deaths from June, which peaked in July.

Since early August, the transmission of Delta variant and deaths of Covid-19 patients have been declining.

SPECIAL VACCINATION DRIVE RESUMES TODAY

The special mass vaccination Covid-19 campaign for the second dose will begin today.

The mass vaccination campaign will be held from September 7-12, said member secretary of Covid-19 Vaccine Management Taskforce Committee of the health directorate, at an online briefing on Sunday.

"Those who got the first shot between August 7 and 12, will receive the second doses from the same centres," Shamsul Alam said.

From August 7-12, around 34 lakh people got the first dose of the Sinopharm vaccine in a special campaign carried out at around 14,000 vaccination centres across the country.

The campaign discontinued largely because of shortage of vaccine doses.

Savar cops press

FROM PAGE 12

enforcers said.

Mohammad Kamal Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Savar Model Police Station and also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, court sources said.

Of the accused, Nasir and Omi are now on bail. Shahidul has been shown a fugitive in the charge sheet, Officer-in-Charge Kazi Mainul Islam of the police station told The Daily Star.

The IO appealed to the court to issue arrest warrant for Shahidul.

Pori Moni filed the attempted rape and murder case against Nasir, also a real-estate businessman and presidium member of the Jatiya Party, Omi and four unidentified people on June 14.

A team of detectives carried out a raid at a house in Uttara Sector-1 and arrested Nasir and Omi in this connection the same day.

In the case, Nasir and Omi were placed on a five-day remand for quizzing.

They were also shown arrested in another case filed with Airport Police Station under the Narcotics Control Act.

Earlier, Pori Moni held a press conference and alleged that Nasir and Omi wanted to rape and murder her on June 9 midnight when she went to the Dhaka Boat Club in Birulia, Savar.

At least 30 dead in weekend DR Congo attack

AFP, Bunia

At least 30 people were killed in a weekend attack in the restive northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo, local and UN sources said yesterday.

The jihadists of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) are suspected to have carried out the attack in the Ituri area on Saturday, they said.

Social media giants

FROM PAGE 1

crimes.

Jabbar's comment comes after the High Court on Sunday blasted the BTRC for its failure to stop the spread of defamatory media reports, videos and pictures from online platforms.

"The BTRC can instantly stop defamatory materials from spreading online. But it doesn't -- as if it enjoys them," said the HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah while hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Tasmiah Nuhya Ahmed on August 25.

Company buys

FROM PAGE 1

was filed with the High Court on July 11 by four organisations seeking Tk 5 crore in compensation for each of such families.

The organisations are Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) and Safety and Rights Society (SRS). The High Court has yet to make a judgment.

"We spoke to the families of workers and all of them signed an undertaking before receiving the money," said Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, who along with a team from Drik, did a research on the affected workers.

"However not everyone could read what they were signing to. A few who had smartphones took photos which they later shared with us," said Ahmed.

For example, 44-year-old Shahana's husband Mahtabuddin told the researchers that he did not know what he signed, nor was he read out the

The writ petition, which was submitted as public interest litigation, sought an HC directive to get the BTRC to take all necessary steps to remove and stop the further spread of materials assassinating individuals' characters from all platforms.

"No country in the world has invented the technology to delete specific social media content. One needs to block Facebook or YouTube in the country to stop people from viewing the specific defamatory material," Jabbar said.

Many women and teenagers have

undertaking he was signing. When the researchers asked him why he signed something without reading, he said he was helpless and he could not read.

"So many places asked for our national identity cards and we gave it. How do we say no?" Ahmed quoted Mahtab as saying.

Deceased 35-year-old worker Nazma's brother Faruk received the money on behalf of her family and he told the researchers that he signed something in English.

"I don't understand English, so I asked the authorities what was written there and they said that it is written that you are getting compensation," the researcher quoted Faruk as saying.

A report by a citizen's investigation committee formed to look into the factory fire also noted, "The workers had to sign an undertaking so that they cannot make any more demands regarding compensation from the authorities."

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua who

become victims of cyber-bullying, said BTRC Chairman Shyam Sunder Sikder at the press conference yesterday.

"We advised them to file a general diary with the police and send us the copy. Only then can we start the process from our end. We then contact the social media platforms to remove the materials."

The social media platforms take them down only if the contents fail to meet their community guidelines, he said.

"We cannot do anything beyond this," Sikder said.

In the last year, the BTRC has

was a part of a citizen's investigation committee that looked into the incident said it is illegal to take such an undertaking.

Talking on the issue, Taqbir Huda, coordinator, Justice for All Now (JANO), said, "Forcing victims to make a blanket surrender of any further claims through this agreement and payment of 2 lakh taka highlights the immense power disparity that continues to define industrial labour relations."

"It is also an affront to labour and human rights since these victims may well be entitled to a number of other claims, such as unpaid wages as well as compensation from a group insurance scheme and from the pending writ petition filed by 4 NGOs on 11 July 2021 seeking Tk 5 crore in compensation for each of the families," said Huda.

Sajeb Group's Senior General Manager (international markets) Kazi Abdur Rahman, said taking the

requested the Facebook authorities to remove 18,836 objectionable links, said Md Nasim Parvez, director-general of the BTRC's systems and services department.

Of them, 4,888 were removed. The BTRC asked YouTube to take down 431 videos, but only 62 were blocked, he said.

And, the process takes time, according to Sikder. To expedite matters, the BTRC has requested Facebook many times to set up an office in Bangladesh.

"Facebook is yet to do so," Sikder added.

undertaking did not mean the workers cannot make demands. "They are constantly making demands and we are trying to fulfill them," he said.

However when asked about legal claims for compensation made at court, he said he needs to speak to lawyers.

Barua said, "We are calling this Tk 2 lakh a donation. The issue of compensation is not settled yet."

"In the Raza Plaza case, the HC formed a committee to determine the amount of compensation and the committee suggested 17-25 lakh per claim. The case is still pending with the High Court."

Huda said, "Sajeb Group was able to limit their liability to pay compensation to a measly sum of only 2 lakh taka for each worker killed by the deadly fire in their factory precisely because that is how little value our own labour law attaches to the life of a worker killed in an industrial 'accident.'"

without having to pay upfront by accessing ShopUp's Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) product embedded within the app.

ShopUp said it opened logistics network REDX for small online sellers in February last year as a new end-to-end third party logistics (3PL) service provider. Within four months, REDX became the largest third party last mile service provider in the country.

Throughout the pandemic, REDX has been playing the crucial role of spearheading the economic growth of small online businesses, delivering more than 50 percent of all 3PL e-commerce shipments across the country, the company added.

ShopUp, which has 400 permanent employees and 5,000 delivery personnel, has witnessed more than 13 times growth in revenue and 11 times growth in the number of total shipments over the past 12 months.

The company opened an office in Bengaluru last year, with a large part of its tech and engineering talent based in India.

proceedings had been instituted against National Assembly members.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In Dhaka-Comilla-Chittagong sector, Mukti Bahini today fired on Pakistani troops in Chandla in Dhaka district and killed seven Pakistani troops and injured eight.

In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini demolished a road bridge to the north of Lalmonirhat dislocating the enemy supply line. Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

ShopUp raises \$75m in investment

FROM PAGE 12

Investors usually pay a higher share price for investing in the company than Series A investors.

The oversubscribed round is the largest Series B funding for a B2B e-commerce platform in South Asia.

This new round of funding comes only 10 months after the startup announced that it got \$22.5 million investment in its series A round. This round brings ShopUp's total funding to over \$110 million, including investment in the pre-series A seed round, making it the highest-funded start-up in Bangladesh.

During this round, ShopUp has also increased its ESOP pool by three-fold. An ESOP pool consists of shares of stock reserved for employees of a private company.

"Our mission is to put 4.5 million small retailers in the driving seat of Bangladesh's economic growth," said Afeef Zaman, CEO and co-founder of ShopUp.

"We are building best-in-class infrastructure to support retail operations all over the country,

adding new categories to serve the underserved small retailers and launching new financial products to meet the unarticulated needs of the retailers we serve."

Headquartered in Dhaka, ShopUp's funding takes the total amount received by Bangladeshi startups to \$113 million so far this year, according to data from LightCastle Partners. Of the sum, \$109 million came from foreign sources.

With the investment, ShopUp looks to cater to small neighbourhood mom and pop retail shops across Bangladesh, one of the most fragmented retail markets in Asia, with 98 percent of all retail consumption happening through 45 lakh retail shops spread out across the country.

These shops face daily struggles when procuring goods from multiple suppliers, distributors, and wholesalers. Problems such as product unavailability, lack of price transparency and unreliable delivery severely hamper their ability to manage day-to-day businesses.

On top of that, a staggering 73

Bangladesh wants to join UN session

FROM PAGE 12

meeting from September 13 to 17, 1971, had given notice of its desire to raise the Bangladesh issue. It had circulated a draft resolution condemning mass massacre and the denial of human rights in Bangladesh. The executive committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union yesterday conceded India's right to raise the issue and have full discussion at the Conference but decided that in accordance with traditions there would be no resolution on the subject. BANGABANDHU 'A TRUE

FOLLOWER' OF SUHRAWARDY

Begum Akhtar Sulaiman, daughter of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, described Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a "true follower of her father and founder of the Awami League", who was certainly fulfilling her father's "uncompleted mission". Bangabandhu and his followers were working for the restoration of the democratic setup and integration of Pakistan, Akhtar Sulaiman said in an interview published in the Urdu Weekly "Wattan" of London. 72 AWAMI LEAGUE MNAS TO BE

TRIED IN ABSENTIA

Seventy-two Awami League members elected to the Pakistan National Assembly would be tried in absentia by a military tribunal, the Pakistan government announced today. The decision was taken after members of the Awami League failed to appear before the military authorities on September 1, 1971 despite repeated directives, the government said. Although President Yahya Khan granted general amnesty to East Pakistanis who committed offences in the past six months, criminal

Why shouldn't HC order to close illegal news outlets?

FROM PAGE 12

chairpersons of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and Bangladesh Press Council have been made respondents to the rule. They have to respond in two weeks.

The HC bench issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Milad Mohammad Zainul Islam, general secretary of Sylhet's Bianibazar Press Club, seeking necessary directives on this issue.

Citing the petition, petitioner's lawyer Syeda Rafika Khatun told The Daily that unregistered news

portals, internet protocol television (IPTV) and Facebook pages very often circulate false and fake news creating adverse impact on the society at home and abroad which should be stopped.

Specific rule needs to be formulated to run the news portals, IPTV and Facebook pages and determine academic qualifications of journalists to stop such activities, the lawyer added. Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented the state during hearing on the petition.

Earlier on August 16 this year, another HC bench issued a rule asking the government to explain

why it should not be directed to formulate an ethical code of conduct for newspapers, form a broadcasting commission for electronic media, and stop operation of all unregistered online news portals.

The bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah issued the rule, following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyers Rasida Chowdhury Nilu and Zaren Rahman.

In the petition, they said the body of a 21-year-old college student was recovered from her rented flat on April 26 this year, for which her family filed a case under

section 360 of the Penal Code, 1860 for instigating or abetting suicide.

But some mainstream media organisations, particularly online news platforms, published the victim's photograph without blurring it.

Some news portals posted numerous reports, suggesting that the victim was of "questionable character", and due to the reports, social media has been flooded with comments that blame the victim.

BTRC and Bangladesh Press Council, however, have not taken any steps to stop their operation, said the petitioners.

Ear blocked

FROM PAGE 12

Scientifically known as "cerumen impaction", this blockage can muffle your hearing and can sometimes even cause temporary hearing loss. So, how do we take care of this?

Let's bust a common myth first: no, we cannot avoid extra ear wax build up with a "good" hygiene routine. We can resort to using ear drops, after they have been prescribed by a doctor, to help the wax drop off on its own.

How can one understand that there is an excess of wax? Symptoms can vary for this. A patient may experience reduced hearing. They may also feel their ear has been "filled up", a sense of dizziness, or ringing in their ears. Cerumen impaction is harmless and can be differentiated from a perforated ear drum since impaction does not hurt and does not discharge liquid from the ear. However, it is recommended to see a doctor first since they can assess the situation properly.

The doctor may use tools like a suction cup or the ear irrigation procedure.

The key here is to avoid inserting objects like Q-tips since it may fill the canals up more or even burst your ear drum.

Ministry returns

FROM PAGE 12

PROJECTS IN QUESTION

There are some 3,400 bridges, including 321 major ones, under the 3,000km railway network of the country, but many of those bridges have gone past their economic service life.

The BR in November last year initiated a project to repair and develop 143 major and 622 minor bridges in the West Zone, sources said.

The estimated cost of the project was 5,402.63 crore and the possible implementation period is between July 2021 and June 2027.

A similar project was initiated in December last year to repair and develop bridges in the East zone.

An estimated cost of the project was Tk 3,095.75 crore, sources said.

Another project was taken to build a 16-story building to be used as the West Zone's headquarter complex in Rajshahi. The project cost was around 200 crores.

The last project was taken for rehabilitation of rail lines in the East Zone.

Three BR officials, involved with the projects, said three projects of repairing bridges and tracks are really important for the railway, because poor tracks and bridges are often blamed for accidents.

WHAT DOES THE RAIL MINISTRY SAY? In its letter, the ministry said taking up a project without studies is a violation of government's directives.

In some cases, feasibility studies and technical studies are carried out during the project implementation period.

As a result, projects have to be revised even before the physical work starts. This lengthens project duration and escalates cost, the ministry said.

The prime minister, in several ECNEC meetings, directed officials to take up investment projects after a feasibility study. The matter was given utmost importance in recent meetings of the Cabinet Division and the committee of secretaries, it added.

Although meetings of the Project Evaluation Committee for two of the four projects have already been convened, the secretary of the ministry ordered sending back the proposals, it added.

The ministry also asked the BR to prepare a feasibility study report following the format followed by the Planning Division.

WHY THIRD PARTY?

Three BR officials said they carried out departmental studies, which is a common practice, before taking up those projects.

They also questioned the necessity of the involvement of third parties, especially since three of the projects involve repair and rehabilitation of tracks and bridges.

They added that engaging a third party would delay the essential projects. A BR engineer of the West Zone said many of the bridges are more than 100 years old and their departmental assessment found them risky.

"In this situation, what is the need for a third-party study?" he questioned.

However, a joint secretary of the development and planning wing said the ministry asked the BR to involve third parties in line with government directives.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director (S.E.), RHD
Road Research Laboratory
Mirpur, Dhaka
☎: 02-44804208, E-mail: sebrri@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 04.01.21.337 Date: 06.09.2021

Corrigendum Notice

This is to notify for all concerned that the amendment of Request for Expressions of Interest notice vide Reference No. 04.01.21.307, Date: 17 August 2021 is as follows:

Subject	Original Timeline	Revised Timeline	Remarks
EOI closing date and time	08 September 2021, 12:00pm Local time	23 September 2021, 12:00pm Local time	All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Further information and guidelines are available in the website of Roads and Highways Department & CPTU.

Md Ahsan Habib
ID No. 601922
Director (SE), RHD
Bangladesh Road Research Laboratory
Mirpur, Dhaka

GD-1595

Taliban

FROM PAGE 12
claim of victory was false and opposition forces continued to fight.

The NRF includes local fighters loyal to Ahmad Massoud -- the son of the famous anti-Soviet and anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud -- as well as remnants of the Afghan military that retreated to the Panjshir Valley.

As Taliban fighters amassed in the valley, Massoud yesterday called on Afghans in and out of the country to "rise up in resistance".

Taliban spokesman Mujahid said he had been told that Massoud and former vice president Amrullah Saleh had escaped to neighbouring Tajikistan.

SHANG-CHI
LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS

QUIZ CONTEST

The Daily Star | STAR
10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER

Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email. Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

QUIZ - 03 What was Wenwu's source of power?

WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 02

- Sakhawat Hossain, Middle Badda.
- Nafisa Yesmin, Dhaka Cantonment.
- Mohammad Saquib Shahmat Alam, Moghbazar.
- Hasan Saeedur Rahman, Merul Badda.
- Ummul Ara Sayeda, University of Dhaka.
- Shahriar Hossain, Dhaka Cantonment.
- Farhana Haque, DOHS Baridhara.
- Shinthiya Ahmed, Bashundhara R/A.
- Jarin Tasnim, Mirpur.
- Iftekhar Azam Ifte, Paribag.