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FIREARMS MANAGEMENT Long-due system launched

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The government has moved to bring arms sales and licencing procedures under an automation system to prevent illegal use of legal arms in the country.

The Special Branch of Police launched a software named Firearms Management System on March 22 to this end, through which authorities can verify the legality of a firearm online with a few clicks.

The SB designed the software following a home ministry directive in November 2018, which came after a deputy commissioner's (DC) call on the government to introduce an automation system at a DC-level conference the same year.

Police authorities used to keep the firearms licence and inspection records manually, said Abdus Salam, special superintendent of SB.

"But this software helps track every legal bullet and firearm. If, for example, someone tries to use an illegal firearm claiming it to be legal, then we can check it in a couple of minutes just by inputting its serial number. It will reduce the use of illegal firearms," he added.

Currently, people willing to carry a rifle or a shotgun have to apply manually to the DC, who sends the application to



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Around 20 homes have been devoured by the Padma at Aria-Gohailbari of Pabna Sadar upazila over the last two months. Villagers alleged that encroachers have been lifting sand and soil from the area, resulting in the river erosion. The photo was captured a few days ago.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU



Raducanu makes tennis history

AFP, New York

British teenager Emma Raducanu completed the greatest underdog title run in tennis history on Saturday, becoming the first qualifier to capture a Grand Slam crown by defeating Canada's Leylah Fernandez in the US Open women's final.

The 18-year-old was the first British woman in 44 years to win a Slam crown after beating 19-year-old left-hander Fernandez 6-4, 6-3 to take the \$2.5 million (2.1 million euro) top prize.

"I knew I would have to dig deep," Raducanu said. "It was an incredibly difficult match but I thought the level was really high. I had to play some of

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Khurram Panni defects to Bangladesh

SEPTEMBER 13, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MORE DEFECTIONS TO BANGLADESH

The Pakistan Ambassador to the Philippines Khurram Panni today defected to the Bangladesh government.

Khurram Panni, 49, was the first diplomat of ambassadorial rank to defect to the Bangladesh cause. He came to Manila as ambassador in March, 1970 and his tenure of duty was not scheduled to end until late in October, 1971.

Panni told a news conference that he would ask the Philippine government for permission to remain in Manila and start his mission. He was moving from the official residence to new quarters.

He said: "I hereby disassociate myself from the present usurper army junta of West Pakistan which claims to be the Government of Pakistan. It is totally illegitimate and absolutely barbarian. It has no mandate of the people -- it has no right to call itself the Government of Pakistan."

"Pakistan, as I knew it, lies buried under a mountain of corpses -- the corpses of innocent men, women and children of Bangladesh. It lies buried under the agony of the eight million refugees whom they have pushed out into India. It lies buried under the mass plunder and rape which the West Pakistani government are perpetrating there every day."

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Govt moves to shut down tannery estate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The environment, forest and climate change ministry has moved to implement a JS body's recommendation on shutting down the tannery complex in Savar.

The parliamentary standing committee on the ministry at a meeting on August 23 recommended shutting down the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate (STIE) at Hemayetpur because it does not have adequate facilities to treat the amount of liquid waste generated by the tanners it houses.

In a press release on September 11, the ministry said the chairman of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has been requested to turn in a clear explanation by September 20 as to why the STIE should not be shut down as per the parliamentary standing committee's

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'Bangladesh can be another wonder'

The last three years of Rensje Teerink, ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Bangladesh, have been eventful with the Rohingya crisis, coronavirus pandemic, Taliban's control of Afghanistan, and Bangladesh becoming eligible to graduate from the LDC status. The Daily Star's Porimol Palma spoke to her before she leaves for Brussels after completing her assignment. She shared her thoughts on the future EU-Bangladesh relations.

DS: What makes you happy or sad as you leave Bangladesh?

Teerink: My professional engagement as an envoy of the EU to Bangladesh has ended but my relationship with the country remains resolute. A second chapter of my link to this marvellous country is about to start. Since 2017, I have marvelled at the unyielding resolve of the people of this country. Despite the ravages of pandemic, Bangladesh has managed to maintain a relatively low fatality rate. Also, the fact that this country is proudly celebrating 50 years as a nation and looking towards middle income status is something to cherish. Naturally, I am sad to leave Bangladesh, will miss the hospitality, compassion, empathy and the indomitable fortitude of the people.

DS: The EU has taken some initiatives to help Bangladesh overcome the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Can you give us

details?

Teerink: In June 2021, the EU and Germany transferred EUR 33 million (around BDT 330 crore) to Bangladesh to strengthen key areas of its social security system and build resilience to Covid-19, with a particular focus on affected workers in export-oriented industries. This is the second disbursement from the joint EUR 113 million grant made available by the EU and Germany as part of Team Europe's response to fight Covid-19 in Bangladesh. Funds are channelled through the budget support programme on National Social Security Strategy reforms in Bangladesh.

DS: Bangladesh is seeking extension of LDC privileges for 12 years after 2024. What are the EU's thoughts on that?

Teerink: Under the EU's GSP, Bangladeshi exports are exempt from normal customs

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Chameleon-like artificial 'skin' invented



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A team of researchers say they have developed an artificial skin-like material that, like a chameleon, can change its colours to match its surroundings.

The flexible and multi-layered "skin", less than a hundred micrometres and thinner than a human hair, was created with a special ink that changes hue depending on temperature and is controlled by tiny, flexible heaters.

Dr Ko Seung-hwan, a mechanical engineering professor at Seoul National University, told Reuters: "If you wear woodland camouflage uniforms in a desert, you can be easily exposed. Changing colours

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Two 'drug traders' killed in 'gunfights'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two alleged drug peddlers were killed in "gunfights" with members of Border Guard Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

One of them killed in Ukhiya upazila was identified as Mohammad Shahjahan, 27, while the identity of the other, aged between 25 and 30, killed in Teknaf upazila could not be known immediately.

One "shootout" happened in Tulatui Jaliler Goda bridge area of Ukhiya when BGB men took position on information

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Large motors of old ships are being dismantled to extract valuable metals, including iron and copper. This photo was taken from Bhatiari of Chattogram's Sitakunda recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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FBI releases 1st 9/11 memo

Document outlines contacts hijackers had with Saudi associates in US

REUTERS, Washington

The FBI on Saturday released the first document related to its investigation of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States and allegations of Saudi government support for the hijackers, following an executive order by President Joe Biden.

Relatives of the victims had called on Biden to skip memorial events to mark Saturday's 20th anniversary if he did not declassify documents that they have contended will show Saudi Arabian authorities supported the plot.

The partially redacted 16-page document released by the FBI outlined contacts between the hijackers and Saudi associates, but no evidence the government in Riyadh was complicit in the attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people.

Saudi Arabia has long said it had no role in the attacks. The Saudi embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment sent out of hours late on Saturday.

In a statement issued on September 8, the embassy said Saudi Arabia has always advocated for transparency around the events of September 11, 2001, and welcomes the release by the United States of classified documents relating to the attacks.

"As past investigations have revealed, including the 9/11 Commission and the release of the so-called '28 Pages', no evidence has ever emerged to indicate that the Saudi government or its officials had previous knowledge of the terrorist attack or were in any way involved," the embassy's statement said.



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 13

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:17 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION