

'Little' efforts, big dream

FROM PAGE 12 "We want underprivileged children to chase their dream of prospering in life. We want to stand by the children with our little efforts," said Minarul Islam, founder of Doshomik Pathshala.

The school is currently running in Tangail town's Kagmari slum, Zila Sadar slum and Nagarjalpai slum areas and educating 20, 12, and 10 students respectively.

Islam and nine others take turns in shouldering the burden of teaching as well as channelling their pocket money in the running of the classes.

"I feel mental peace when I see the smiling faces of the underprivileged children -- it is very pleasant for me to spend time with them," said Amena Akter Tilitoma, one of the teachers.

Along with providing education, the school provides books, notebooks, pens, slates, pencils, bags and other academic materials to the children for free.

The youths also give the children chocolates, biscuits, bread and other foods for free.

It also organises different types of

socio-cultural programmes like Pitha-Payesh festival, music festival and sports events. The school conducted a health awareness campaign to make children aware of washing hands with soap and wearing masks.

One student who benefited from the initiative is four-year-old Ismat Ara from Kagmari slum.

"I like to go to school because they [teachers] give me chocolates, biscuits, notebook and pens. I am really happy for being able to study in this school," she said.

In Kagmari slum, the group takes classes six days a week, and in the other two slums, just once a week.

Salma Akter, a resident of Nagarjalpai slum, could not be more grateful for the project.

Her husband lost his livelihood during the pandemic and could not buy a smartphone for their children's online classes.

"So their education stopped." But thanks to Doshomik Pathshala, their education has resumed.

"We are grateful to the school authorities," she said.



Anti-government protesters light up candles during a protest against the Thai government demanding Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's resignation and the abolition of 112 Lese-Majeste law, in front of the Bangkok Remand Prison in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Senate body votes

FROM PAGE 12 A new fund drive for \$558 million to assist more than 90 lakh Bangladesh refugees in India was launched by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. The high commissioner told newsmen that thousands of refugees were still streaming into Indian camps daily and that the recent monsoon season -- one of the worst in history -- had further worsened the condition of the refugees.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini ambushed the Pakistani army at Bhagoti and Sukria and killed 20 enemy soldiers and wounded 10. On the same day, Mukti Bahini shelled Pakistani army position at Ramkrishnapur and killed five enemy soldiers. Another group of guerrillas fired on an enemy patrol near Sadipur and killed three Pakistani soldiers.

In the Mymensingh-Sylhet sector, Mukti Bahini ambushed Pakistani troops between Durgapur and Nazirpur and killed two enemy soldiers. On the same day, Mukti Bahini disrupted telecommunications between Kishoreganj and Mymensingh.

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Commerce ministry sends

FROM PAGE 12 operatives; and Yakub Ali Patwari, former chairman of Land Reform Board, have been shortlisted by the commerce ministry.

The High Court may pass an order next week after reviewing the proposed names, said Sayed Mahsib Hossain, whose writ petition elicited the move.

Last month, Hossain on behalf of his client Md Farhad Hossen, an aggrieved Evaly customer, filed a writ seeking dissolution of the e-commerce platform and distributing the proceeds among creditors.

Hossen had purchased a washing machine from Evaly in May but never received the product.

Subsequently, the court placed a

freeze on the sale and transfer of Evaly's assets and also sought all relevant documents from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms to decide whether a board can be formed to run the company.

After examining the documents, a High Court bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar on October 12 called for forming a four-member interim board at the earliest for assessing the liabilities of Evaly, which is said to be upwards of Tk 1,000 crore.

The board will consist of a retired justice, a jurist, a secretary and a chartered accountant, and the court sought names of three former or incumbent secretaries and one additional secretary to serve as a member.

CAAB's laxity cost exporters

FROM PAGE 1 and for the unusual freight charges as a result of the global shortage of containers.

"There is a lot of backlog at the airport," said Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

In fact, none of the two EDS scanning machines was running for 10 or 12 days and only the dog squad was functional, Nurul Amin, director of the Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association, told The Daily Star.

However, one EDS scanning machine has started functioning since Monday, he said, adding that the CAAB has assured them that the other two machines would be running from today.

Contacted, CAAB Chairman M Mafidur Rahman acknowledged the delays.

The warranty period of the two EDSs, which cost Tk 17 crore each, expired last year, he said.

The machines were supplied by local business group Navana, which has no major knowledge on the maintenance of EDSs.

"This caused the delays. We had to bring in technical experts from Malaysia or India to fix problems with the EDS machines."

And flying in experts became tricky amid the travel ban for the global coronavirus pandemic.

It was also not possible to bring in spare parts from abroad to fix the EDS machine, Rahman added.

Khaleda's treatment continues

FROM PAGE 12 Khaleda's medical team members, however, did not say anything about the treatment.

Her family sources said the 76-year-old former premier has been suffering from various complications, including arthritis, diabetes and old-aged problems.

"Apart from these, she has been suffering from depression. She is all alone for a longer period. If the government considers allowing her to go abroad to meet her only surviving son, she would be better and would also get better treatment," they added.

Khaleda's physician AZM Zahid Hossain earlier said she was admitted to the hospital as per doctors' advice and the medical board formed earlier, led by Dr Shahabuddin Talukder, will continue her treatment.

On April 27, Khaleda was admitted

to Evercare Hospital with Covid infections. She had been undergoing treatment there until June 19 for post-Covid complications and some other underlying health problems.

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government freed Khaleda from jail for six months through an executive order suspending her sentences on March 25 last year.

On September 19 this year, the government extended for six more months the suspension of her jail term.

It was for the fourth time the government extended her release by suspending her jail sentences in the Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia Charitable Trust graft cases based on two conditions.

As per the conditions, she will not be allowed to go abroad for treatment

as she will have to stay home and receive treatment there.

The BNP chief's doctors said she has been suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, ophthalmological and dental complications.

Her family applied to the government twice in May and August this year seeking permission to take her abroad for better treatment, but the government turned it down saying that there is no scope for a convicted person to avail of such a scope.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said Khaleda's treatment is not possible in the country.

Speaking at a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity, he said although Khaleda deserves bail, she is in jail for three years and she did not receive any treatment in that time.

Taliban warn US, EU of refugee wave

FROM PAGE 12 Afghan economy collapses, large numbers of migrants will set off for the continent, piling pressure on neighbouring states such as Pakistan and Iran and eventually on EU borders.

Washington and the EU have said they are ready to back humanitarian initiatives in Afghanistan, but are wary of providing direct support to the Taliban without guarantees it will respect human rights, in particular those of women.

The European Union has pledged one billion euros in aid, but European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stressed that it would be used to help Afghanistan's neighbours or given in "direct support" to the Afghan people, bypassing the Taliban government.

"We have been clear about our conditions for any engagement with the Afghan authorities, including on the respect of human rights," she said on Tuesday.

The Taliban insist they pose no threat to civilian rights, and have urged government workers including some women to return to their professions, while swearing to defeat IS-K and return Afghanistan to stability.

But girls were not allowed back into high schools when the new term started just under a month ago, and many women have complained of being forced out of professional and public roles like journalism.

Some high school girls' classes have resumed in the northern cities of Kunduz and Mazar-i-Sharif, but in the capital and the Taliban's southern

heartland they are still excluded.

"FEAR AND DESPAIR' And in the west, around Herat, harsh punishments for alleged criminals have resumed, recalling the brutal previous era of Taliban rule before they were overthrown in the 2001 US-led intervention.

On at least two occasions dead suspects were hung publicly from cranes in Herat, and on Tuesday an alleged thief was flogged in the street in the Obe district near the city.

Witnesses described how Taliban officials invited male residents to attend the whipping.

"I was in fear and despair. Everyone was in fear and despair. I was feeling the pain when they were being flogged," a medical doctor aged around 40 told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Grocer turns

FROM PAGE 12 in the capital.

Four victims -- two men and two women -- were also rescued during the raid, he said.

"Those recruiting agencies had no licence or approval from the ministry concerned. They used other authorised agencies to send people abroad," the Rab official said at the briefing later in the day.

The six other arrestees are: Jalal Uddin Limon, 38, Maruf Hasan, 37, Jahangir Alam, 38, Laltu Islam, 28, Alamin Hossain, 30, and Abdullah Al Mamun, 54. They work at those offices in different positions.

Mozammel claimed that Tutul emerged as a top human trafficker in the country over the past several years. Toiyob, a confidante of Tutul, was a tea seller but he would pose as a manager of a reputed airline company.

The group mainly targeted unemployed and insolvent men and women. It would take Tk 2-2.5 lakh from each of them, promising them good overseas jobs.

Taking the money, the group would organise fake trainings and take fake medical tests of the job seekers to earn their confidence. Later, the job seekers

would be trafficked to Jordan, Libya, Saudi Arabia and other countries, the Rab CO said, adding that many of them were forced into doing illegal and backbreaking jobs there.

Many job seekers paid the group money but could not fly, he said.

At least 15 job seekers and their family members were present at the Rab briefing yesterday.

One Ashraful Islam from Gaibandha told The Daily Star that Tutul and Toiyob sent his niece to Jordan on June 9 this year. Ashraf was able to contact her only once. Since then, she has been traceless.

Another victim, Shamim from Jamalpur, said he paid Tk 4 lakh to Tutul in instalments two years ago for a job in Saudi Arabia. He has not got the job and Tutul has lately not been answering his phone calls either.

Another victim said he paid Tk 3 lakh to Tutul, who later handed him a fake air ticket.

Rab said two cases -- one under the human trafficking act and the other for fraudulence -- will be filed against the arrestees.

It also said they were digging deep into the matter to know more about it.

World's tallest living

FROM PAGE 12 2014, at the age of 18.

Due to her condition, Gelgi usually moves around in a wheelchair, but she is able to use a walker for short periods.

Gelgi is keen to use her platform to inform people about rare medical conditions like Weaver.

"Every disadvantage can be turned into an advantage for yourself so accept yourself for who you are, be aware of your potential and do your best," she said in the statement.

Her height intrigues people

when they see her, but most people are kind and supportive, Gelgi told Guinness World Records.

"It's an honour to welcome Rumeysa back into the record books. Her indomitable spirit and pride at standing out from the crowd is an inspiration," said Craig Glenday, editor-in-chief of Guinness World Records, in the statement.

"The category of tallest living woman is not one that changes hands very often, so I'm excited to share this news with the world," he added.

Azerbaijan, Iran agree to mend ties 'through dialogue'

AFP, Baku

Azerbaijan said yesterday it had agreed with Iran to resolve a diplomatic crisis through dialogue weeks after ties soured over allegations Israel's military was active in Azerbaijan.

Iran last month protested against what it said was the presence of its sworn enemy Israel in Azerbaijan and vowed to take any necessary action. It staged military exercises near its border with Azerbaijan, sparking criticism from officials in Baku, which has denied Iranian claims.

Azerbaijan said yesterday its Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov had spoken by phone with Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and the pair had agreed to resolve differences through

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bhaug (বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক) recruitment. It includes the bank logo, a photo of a man, and a table listing 20 positions with details like post name, location, and salary. The table has columns for 'ক্রমিক নং', 'পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্র', 'রোল নম্বর', and 'প্রার্থী সংখ্যা'.

Advertisement for the Bangladesh Railway Authority (গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার). It includes the railway logo, the website www.railway.gov.bd, and a table listing 20 positions for recruitment. The table has columns for 'ক্রঃ নং', 'স্টেশন/এলাকা', 'ঘাট/মহালের নাম ও অবস্থান', 'সরকারি দর', 'দরপত্র দিলে জন্মের তারিখ', 'দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়', 'দরপত্র খোলা কমিটি (TOC) দরপত্র বাস্তবতার তারিখ ও সময়', and 'দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি (TEC) কর্তৃক দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়'.