



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXI No. 294

KARTIK 30, 1428 BS

Your Right to Know

RABIU SANI 9, 1443 HUIR

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



NBR SERVER breached, again

'Locked' consignments released; duty dodged for 153 tonnes of import items



MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

Cybercriminals have once again breached the National Board of Revenue's highly-sensitive server system and made away with at least 153 tonnes of goods worth crores of taka from the Chattogram port.

Like in the past, the fraudsters used the login IDs and passwords belonging to two customs officials to have nine consignments released. The scam took place between June and October this year.

In the process, nine importers evaded a large sum of duty -- the

amount is yet to be estimated.

When their credentials were used, none of the two officials had authorisation to access the system. One of them was transferred to another location months ago while the other was on suspension over a bribery allegation, unrelated to this incident.

Investigations are underway, but both officials denied any link. Managing directors of two importing companies and the chairman of another did not respond to our calls and text

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Moments before a guardian, left, lets go of a child before she joins others to go towards the SSC exam halls at Motijheel Government Boys' High School yesterday. Yesterday was the first day of the tests that had been delayed by around nine months due to coronavirus situation.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SSC students follow rules, parents don't

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SSC and equivalent exams began yesterday amid strict maintenance of Covid-19 health guidelines inside the exam centres.

While the examinees maintained the rules, parents waiting outside the centres were hardly cautious.

This year's Secondary School Certificate and equivalent exams started after over a nine-month delay due to the Covid-19 situation. They are the first public exams taking place since the pandemic took a hard hit on the education sector since March last year.

Usually, SSC exams are held in February.

While visiting several centres, our correspondents found all students wearing their masks and entering the centres in queues after getting their temperatures checked.

Candidates sitting for the exam in Motijheel Government Boys' High

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Marsh, Warner fire Australia to maiden World T20 title

MAZHAR UDDIN FROM DUBAI

Australia were just being Australia: ruthless, invincible and powerful as Aaron Finch and Co gave no quarter to New Zealand on way to lifting their maiden ICC T20 World Cup title with a comprehensive eight-wicket victory in the final at the Dubai Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Who would have thought it would be Mitchell Marsh, a player who was not even considered in the T20 squad even two series before the World Cup, will emerge as the hero for the side in the final?

The 30-year-old guided the Aussies with a match-



winning unbeaten 50-ball 77 to gun down the target of 173 runs.

Probably no other team knows better how to handle the pressure of a World Cup final than the Aussies and they came with all guns blazing while chasing a challenging total in the all-important final.

Despite posting 172 for four riding on a magnificent 48-ball 85 from skipper Kane Williamson -- the highest-ever total in the finals of T20 World Cup history -- New Zealand might feel they were at least 20 runs short in the end.

But the way Marsh and an in-form David Warner

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Australia players celebrate with the Twenty20 World Cup trophy following their eight-wicket victory over New Zealand in the final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

House erupts over elected unopposed, diesel price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday witnessed heated debate on the large number of union parishad chairmen and members getting elected unopposed and the diesel price hike.

Speaking on a point of order, BNP MP Harun Rashid said many MPs in the current parliament and the chairmen and members of union parishads are "not-elected" because they faced no opponents in the elections.

Pandemonium erupted at the House chamber as treasury bench MPs strongly criticised the remark, raising a hue and cry to prevent the opposition MP from delivering his speech.

Many ruling party MPs started speaking without microphones, condemning Harun's remarks.

At one point, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said she could not hear anything and asked everyone to calm down. Then she put on the headphones to hear what Harun was saying.

The speaker, who was presiding over the sitting, then asked the BNP MP to withdraw his remarks.

At one stage, Harun told the speaker that he was withdrawing his remarks on request made by the Speaker.

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OBSERVATION ON RAPE CASE

Judge relieved of court duties

SC asks law ministry to take away her judicial powers; 80 eminent citizens slam her comments

"A wrong directive was issued to law enforcers. For this, action against her [the judge] was extremely necessary and action has been taken. This will proceed as per the law."

LAW MINISTER ANISUL HUQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain relieved Mosammat Kamrunnahr, a judge of a Dhaka tribunal, of her duties yesterday, three days after she recommended police not to register any rape case if the complainant goes to them after 72 hours of the incident.

The chief justice ordered Judge Kamrunnahr not to participate in court functions from 9:30am yesterday, says a press release from the Supreme Court, adding that the CJ made the decision following consultation with senior judges of the SC.

Besides, the SC wrote to the law ministry asking it to suspend the judge's judicial powers and attach her to the ministry, the release said.

A government notification later in the day said Judge Kamrunnahr was attached to the ministry.

On Thursday, Judge Kamrunnahr of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 of Dhaka acquitted all five accused, including Apan Jewellers owner's son Shafat Ahmed, in the sensational Banani Raintree double rape case.

While passing the acquittal order, she recommended that police should not record any rape case if the complainant does not show up at the police station within 72 hours of the incident.

The judge noted that the Banani case was lodged 38

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'Election is now in ICU, democracy on life support'

Says EC Mahbub Talukdar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar proposed for a separate body to conduct the local government bodies election, terming the ongoing union parishad polls "bloodstained".

So far, 39 people were killed during and after the elections, he told a press conference at the Election Commission office in Agargaon.

"It would not be an exaggeration to call this year's Union Parishad elections a bloodstained election. We have probably failed to convey the message that elections are not bigger than life."

Citing the election of a disproportionate number of candidates practically unopposed, Talukdar said: "I want to say metaphorically that election is now in ICU [Intensive Care Unit] and democracy is on life support as its side effect. Literally, this cannot be called an election. There is no election when there is no competition."

The UP election should not be held party-wise; rather, it should remain open like it was in the past.

Some 834 union council elections went

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CLIMATE SUMMIT 2021

'Compromised' deal 'not enough'

COP26 climate summit ends amid cries of betrayal; text weakened on fossil fuel after India, China objections; 'loss and damage' mentioned

AGENCIES

Nearly 200 nations came together late Saturday on a global deal to combat climate change after two weeks of painful negotiation, but fell short of what science says is needed to contain dangerous temperature rises.

Rich countries stood accused of failing at the COP26 summit in Glasgow to deliver much-needed finance to vulnerable states at risk of drought, rising seas, fire and storms.

Britain's COP26 president Alok

Sharma rounded up the marathon negotiations telling delegates: "It is now decision time. And the choices you are set to make are vitally important."

But China and India insisted that language on fossil fuels be weakened in the final summit decision text.

As the final deal was clinched, a tearful Sharma said "I apologise for the way this process has unfolded. I am deeply sorry," before banging down his gavel.

Delegates entered the talks charged

with keeping the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of limiting temperature rises to 1.5-2C degrees within reach.

They were also tasked with finding the funding for nations most at risk of climate-related droughts, floods and storms supercharged by rising seas.

Observers said the agreement fell far short of what is needed to avert dangerous warming and help countries adapt or recoup damages from the disasters already unfurling globally.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In Everlasting Memory of

MD. MUJIBUR RAHMAN

Founder Chairman of Blessing Group
Managing Director of Roxy Paints Ltd.
Former President of Bangladesh Paints Dyes & Chemicals Merchants Association

On his 1st Death Anniversary

The void he left, no one can heal. The memories that we cherish, no one can steal. His values will continue to inspire us to take his noble works forward. He will live on with us always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

.....Deeply missed and remembered by.....

(15 November 2020)