



They're all in it together

Airport officials, rogue recruiting, travel agencies join hands to send workers abroad with fake papers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Some recruiting agencies, travel agencies, and airport employees have joined hands to send migrant workers abroad with forged papers, law enforcers have found during probe.

In this connection, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit arrested five people of travel agencies, including an owner, early this month.

Arrestee Khorshed Alam is the owner of Shadhin Tours and Travels.

Investigators found that his role was to "manage" the airport. He used to pay Tk 30,000 allegedly to on-duty police officials for every passenger they allow to pass with forged documents.

They investigators said Khorshed was at the centre of a nexus of several unscrupulous recruiting agencies. He would "manage" the airport for the agencies provided they buy air tickets from his agency.

A law enforcement agency's internal report, a copy of which this paper obtained, also stated that immigration officials and recruiting agency staffers sent migrant workers abroad without proper documents for bribes.

According to the report, airport officials, including three inspectors and two sub-inspectors, were working in tandem with different recruiting agencies to send the workers to Lebanon, South Africa, Egypt, and Iran.

The nexus between recruiting agencies and airport officials was discovered after four incidents of migrants attempting to go abroad with forged papers came to light.

On August 1, the four workers, who had landed in Lebanon, were not allowed to enter the country and deported. Their visas could not be found online and it became evident that their visas were forged.

During interrogation, it was learnt that they had left Dhaka on July 29

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Thousands of people demonstrating in front of BNP headquarters in the capital's Nayapaltan area. They demanded the release and proper treatment of the party chairperson Khaleda Zia. The photo was taken around 2:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Bangladesh-India relations scale newer heights

Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the relations between Bangladesh and India have reached new heights.

The PM said this when Indian High Commissioner Vikram Kumar Doraiswami met her at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

The PM and the envoy discussed issues relating to the enhancement of trade and commerce between the two neighbouring countries.

Hasina emphasised the resumption of Akhaura-Agartala rail line to boost connectivity and trade.

Doraiswami told the PM that the Indian president will visit Bangladesh to join the Victory Day celebrations coinciding the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of the Independence.

"This is a special year, a year when the Indian President and the prime minister are visiting Bangladesh. For India, Bangladesh is a very dear country," he said.

Officials of the two countries are working on finalising the Indian President's tour.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Tajuddin condemns plan to send UN observers

DECEMBER 1, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

WE WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY INTERFERENCE: TAJUDDIN

The prime minister of Bangladesh, Tajuddin Ahmad, today said the proposal to send UN observers to Bangladesh was nothing but a "planned conspiracy" and "a foul attempt to protect the military regime from the back door".

Tajuddin added that the supporters of the proposal would be solely responsible for the fate of anybody who would try to come to Bangladesh as observers at "the peak period of our victory".

He further said those who had been silent spectators at the time of an unprecedented genocide in Bangladesh by Yahya's invading army had now come out to save the army junta in the name of sending UN observers.

"We will not tolerate any interference on any pretext in this final stage of our liberation struggle against the colonial force," added the Bangladesh premier.

US SUSPENDS ARMS SHIPMENT TO INDIA

The USA today suspended what it called the licensing of arms shipment to India.

BRITISH MP WANTS COMMONWEALTH TO EXPEL PAKISTAN

British MP John Pardoe called for a special Commonwealth meeting to expel Pakistan from the organisation and to recognise Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign country. He made the appeal in the British parliament.

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Pakistan win first Test

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

There was no late drama on the fourth day as Pakistan expectedly registered a comfortable eight-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday, signaling the start of the second cycle of the ICC World Test Championship with a defeat.

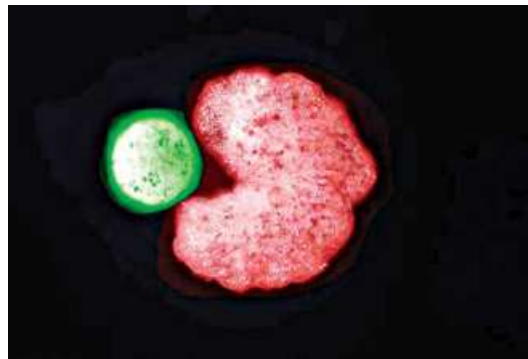
Resuming on the final day at 109 without loss, Pakistan chased the 202-run target without any much trouble as with Azhar Ali (23 not out) and skipper Babar Azam (13 not out) took the visitors to a comfortable win to give them a 1-0 lead in the two-match Test series.

Openers Abid Ali and Abdullah Shafique once again set the tone, adding a 151-run opening stand to follow up their 146-run stand in the first innings.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz provided the first

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World's first living robots can now reproduce



CNN ONLINE

The US scientists who created the first living robots say the life forms, known as xenobots, can now reproduce -- and in a way not seen in plants and animals.

Formed from the stem cells of the African clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*) from which it takes its name, xenobots are less than a millimeter (0.04 inches) wide. The tiny blobs were first unveiled in 2020 after experiments showed that they could move, work together in groups and self-heal.

Now the scientists that developed them at the University of Vermont, Tufts University and Harvard University's Wyss Institute for Biologically

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PCJSS activist shot dead in Rangamati

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A leader of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti was yesterday shot dead in Sadar upazila of Rangamati.

The victim Abishkar Chakma, 40, from Kandebchara village under Balukhali union in Rangamati sadar upazila was peppered with bullets as he emerged from a house in Kizing village, where he spent the night, at around 5 am, said locals.

The body was recovered from the spot in the afternoon and will be handed over to the family after the autopsy, said Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Rangamati Kotwali Police Station.

The motive for his murder was not known.

No case was filed in this regard until the evening, the police official said.

In the last two decades, hundreds of people have been killed in turf wars among the regional

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Black smoke forms a cloud above a readymade garment factory that caught fire in Gazipur city's Konabari area. At least 3,000 workers were employed there. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

20 injured in post-polls violence in two dists

STAR REPORT

At least 20 people were injured in post-polls violence in Narayanganj and Pabna yesterday.

In Narayanganj, at least 10 people were wounded as supporters of a defeated independent union parishad chairman candidate in Kayetpara union attacked the houses of some local Awami League and Jubo League leaders in Naora village of Rugganj upazila in the evening, said police.

The attackers set

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 1

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:15	12:45	3:45	5:19	7:00
5:50	1:15	4:00	5:22	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Omicron shows up on tests

Says India, advises states to ramp up checks; Mumbai delays school reopening

AGENCIES

India's health ministry said yesterday states should ramp up Covid-19 testing as the world battles the new coronavirus variant Omicron, while some cities delayed the reopening of schools as a precautionary measure.

The ministry also said the Omicron variant "doesn't" escape RT-PCR and RAT (testing)", appeasing some concerns among

domestic health workers that changes in the spike protein of the virus could lead to conventional tests failing to detect the variant.

It comes as the ministry warned state governments last week that a recent fall in testing could undermine India's efforts to contain the pandemic.

While India has not reported any Omicron cases yet, authorities are studying

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