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Your Right to Know

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Rab in for reckoning

ZYMA ISLAM and PORIMOL PALMA

Rab will neither be allowed to own properties in the US nor engage in transactions with anyone in the US because of the sanctions.

However, only the seven former and current high officials of Rab, who were named in Friday's order will be restricted from entering the United States, according to an official of the US Embassy in Dhaka. Other Rab employees will not necessarily be affected by this.

The executive order 13818 to which Rab has been subjected to is titled "Blocking the Property of Persons Involved in Serious Human Rights Abuse or Corruption".

The term "person" refers to an individual or entity in the order.

"As a result of designations pursuant to the Executive Order, all of the property and interests in property within US jurisdiction of the designated individuals and entities are blocked," said the official, "and accordingly, a US person generally may not engage in any transactions with such an

entity, unless authorised by the Office of Foreign Assets Control."

In the order, the term "United States person" means any US citizen, permanent resident, entity organised under the laws of the US or any jurisdiction within the US (including foreign branches), or any individual in the United States.

The executive order signed by former president Donald Trump in 2017 mentioned that properties of individuals or entities subjected to the sanctions cannot be transferred, exported or withdrawn.

The embassy official said that the Global Magnitsky Act, which enabled the sanction against Rab, is focused on assets of designated entities.

Currently, the named individuals on the Specially Designated Nationals list are former director general of Rab Benazir Ahmed, Director General of Rab Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, Additional Director General (operations) of Rab Khan Mohammad Azad, former additional director general (operations)

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Loaded trucks are parked near Raja Narayan Dhar Road in Lalbagh area of the capital yesterday. Locals claimed that the truck stand is illegal and has been set up occupying the land of the BIWTA.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh defends Rab

Momen questions human rights in US

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka yesterday defended the actions of Rab saying the force is on the forefront of combating heinous crimes, including terrorism and drug trafficking.

It also raised questions about the human rights situation in the US.

The response came after the United States on Friday imposed sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former officials, including Benazir Ahmed, now inspector general of police (IGP), and Director General of the force Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun.

The authorities here termed the US decision unilateral and underscored the need for pursuing the path of dialogue, engagement and collaboration, instead of

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Murad denied Canada entry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Disgraced former state minister Murad Hassan on Friday was denied entry to Canada, where he was headed to after stepping down from his post last week.

Canada Border Services Agency did not make any official statement on the incident.

Neither did the agency make public its reasons for putting Hasan back on the Emirates Airlines aircraft on which he landed in Toronto Pearson International

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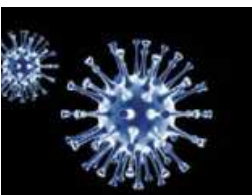
IN BANGLADESH

First Omicron cases detected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two players of Bangladesh women's national cricket team, who tested positive for Covid-19 last week, were infected with the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

"They are in good health. [But] we will observe them for two weeks and they can be released once they've cleared the virus completely," said Health Minister Zahid Maleque at an event at Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday.



The two -- one 21 years old and the other 30 -- are the first cases of the new variant in the country.

On Monday, the mandatory quarantine period for the cricket team was extended as per government rule after the two tested positive.

The government announced a 14-day mandatory institutional quarantine for all incoming passengers from seven South African countries, including Zimbabwe, in

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Girl going to school killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A schoolgirl was killed after a battery-run three-wheeler hit her from behind while she was crossing a road in Pirojpur's Nesarabad upazila yesterday.

The victim -- Maisha Akter, 10, of the same upazila -- was going to school when the accident occurred, said locals.

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HSIA RUNWAY CLOSURE

Mismanagement, delays irk passengers

RASHIDUL HASAN

Hundreds of passengers had to endure what they said was mismanagement at the Dhaka airport over the last two days following the introduction of an eight-hour daily closure of the lone runway.

The authorities of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport had assured that the runway closure, which came into force on midnight Thursday, would not cause any significant disruption to flight schedules and passenger handling services, but in reality just the opposite happened, passengers alleged.

The runway needs to be closed to facilitate the construction and expansion of taxiways for the under-construction third terminal of the airport by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab). The daily closure will continue till June next year.

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A neighbourhood street at Bastuhara Colony in Khulna city resembles a gutter and smells even worse as rain water mixed with sewer water inundates the area due to poor drainage.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

PRE-POLLS VIOLENCE

Independent runner killed

STAR REPORT

An independent union parishad chairman candidate was killed and at least 20 other people were injured in pre-polls violence in Pabna yesterday morning.

The casualties occurred when supporters of the Awami League chairman candidate in Varara union of Pabna Sadar upazila and a party rebel candidate clashed in Koladi area of Varara village, police said.

The dead is Md Yasin Alam, 35, a resident of Varara village and also an independent chairman candidate in the polls, scheduled for December 26. Meanwhile, the Election Commission yesterday postponed the polls to Varara Union Parishad following the death of the independent candidate, confirmed Senior District Election Officer Md Mahabubur Rahman.

Sultan Hossain, the rebel AL chairman candidate and also a cousin of the deceased, said, "Although Yasin was contesting the election, he was a supporter of mine."

He alleged that supporters of AL candidate Abu Sayeed attacked his followers in Koladi Chara Bottola area around 9:00am when they were conducting electioneering.

"Carrying arms and lethal weapons, they attacked my supporters, leaving 10 to 15 people injured. Among the injured were Yasin and seven of my family members," Sultan said.

Md Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, said some injured were taken to Pabna General Hospital.

As Yasin's condition deteriorated, he was referred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. But he died on the way to RMCH, the OC added.

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4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Bangladesh being readied to tap into opportunities

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government is preparing the country for tapping the opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution to accelerate its economic growth towards the desired level.

"We're formulating an innovative education ecosystem (IEE) by increasing the budget for research and innovation. We're framing the National Blended Learning Policy-2021. Through this policy, we'll be able to introduce an education system bridging the technological gap," she said.

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