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SHAH CEMENT

Example of miscarriage of law, order

SIMON ALI

Monoranjan Hajong, the father of traffic police sergeant Mohua Hajong, lost one of his legs after getting hit by a car on December 3 at the capital's Chairman Bari area.

The car was driven by Saif Hasan, the son of a Supreme Court justice.

What transpired after the incident was the perfect example of miscarriage of law and order and the reach of the influential few of the society.

The accused was taken to the police station along with the car from the place where the incident took place, and yet, he was released without facing any kind of action, Jyotirmoy Barua, an advocate of the Supreme Court, told The Daily Star.

"This is highly regrettable."

After 14 days, the case was accepted against three "unknown persons".

Two days before, the accused person himself filed a general diary against the victim's family. In the GD, the detailed information of the accused was included.

Despite having this information, the case was filed after 14 days with the mention of unknown perpetrators.

"I can't match the facts. Not taking the case under the name of the accused is a crystal clear example of a criminal offence and it is a violation of professional responsibilities."

He went on to call for departmental action against the officer-in-charge of Banani police station as well as a trial under the criminal law.

"We always say the judicial wing is independent and the

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A child receiving gifts from Santa Claus on the occasion of Christmas in the capital's Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BUSINESS

Govt's borrowing from banks surges

The government's borrowing from the banking sector surged this fiscal year mainly due to the lower investment of general people and firms in national savings tools. The government took loans of Tk 22,344 crore from banks between July 1 and December 14, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed. It borrowed Tk 26,078 crore last fiscal year.

Although the accelerated borrowing is yet to put any adverse impact on the private sector, this may bring about a credit crunch in the banking sector in the coming months if the current trend of public borrowing continues.

STORY ON B1

RMG THEFT Rab busts another gang red handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive arrested five alleged burglars of a gang who steal apparel items from a cargo van during the shipment from Dhaka to Chattogram via highway.

They were held from Feni's Chhagalnaiya area on Friday during stealing a covered van that was coming from Dhaka's BIRDS and Z to Chattogram port for foreign shipment.

The arrestee are Md Alamin, 28, Md Nizam, 22, Md Shahzahan, 51, Md Maimul Hasan Asik, 20 and Md Nuran Nabi, said Rab sources.

After Rab was informed of the robbery, a drive was conducted at Chhagalnaiya area's Dhumghat BISIC Industrial area, said Niaz Morshed Chapal, the media officer of Rab-7. The five were held red-handed.

The gang members used to take off the seals of the padlocks on the cargo door, open the cartons and remove some garments items from the bottom of the boxes and resal the cartons back to their original state, he said.

Rab was trying to arrest the other members of the syndicate, he added.

MIGRANT BOAT ACCIDENTS

At least 30 killed in Greece

AFP, Athens

Greek coast guards scoured for survivors in the Aegean Sea yesterday after the latest in a series of migrant boat accidents that have killed at least 30 people in just days.

Late Friday, the coastguard found 16 bodies, including those of three women and a baby, and rescued 63 people from a boat that overturned and sank near the island of Paros.

According to those rescued, around 80 people had been on the vessel that was bound for Italy.

Smugglers operating from Cesme and Bodrum on the Turkish coast are packing migrants in yachts to send them to Italy using new, more dangerous routes, according to the ERT television channel.

Three coast guard patrol boats, private vessels, a coast guard plane as well as divers searched for more survivors, officials said.

The latest tragedy -- the third since Wednesday -- came amid high smuggler activity not seen in Greek waters in months.

Hours earlier, 11 bodies were recovered from another boat that ran aground on an islet north of the Greek island of Antikythera on Thursday evening.

Coast guard said on Saturday that two of the rescued migrants -- both men suspected of being the smugglers -- were arrested.

Ninety people stranded on the islet were rescued.

And on Wednesday, a dinghy carrying migrants capsized off the island of Folegandros, killing at least three people.

Thirteen people were rescued, while dozens remain missing, Greek authorities said.

Survivors gave conflicting accounts: Some said there had been 32 people on board, while others put the number around 50, a coast guard official told AFP.

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Bodies of siblings found in Sangu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Firefighters yesterday found the bodies of the brother and sister who were swept away by the strong current of the Sangu in Rowangchhari, Bandarban, on Friday afternoon.

Ahnad Akib, 22, a student of Brac University, and his sister Mariam Binte Adni, 16, a school student, drowned after they went down to the water near Badhura waterfall, said Mirza Zahir Uddin, inspector of Rowangchhari Police Station.

Their cousin Maria Islam, a college student, also drowned in the river. Locals rescued her and took her to a hospital soon after she was swept away, but doctors pronounced her dead, the officer added.

The three and seven others of the family from Narayanganj's Fatulla went there to see the waterfall, said the inspector.

Most powerful telescope launched



AFP, Kourou

The world's most powerful space telescope yesterday blasted off into orbit, headed to an outpost 1.5 million kilometres (930,000 miles) from Earth, after several delays caused by technical hitches.

The James Webb Space Telescope, some three decades and billions of dollars in the making, left Earth enclosed in its Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou Space Centre in French Guiana.

It is expected to take a month to reach its remote destination.

It is expected to beam back new clues that will help scientists understand more about the origins of the Universe and Earth-like planets beyond our solar system.

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Daily Covid infections drop below 300

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person died from Covid-19 in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, said a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of Covid-19 deaths in the country now stands at 28,056 and the death rate stands at 1.77 percent.

At least 275 new infections were recorded during the period, taking

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:27 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:30 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SERVING WITHOUT SAFETY

With very little safety gear on, staffers of DPDC working on an electric line in the capital's Karwan Bazar area. They are not even wearing protective helmets. Such carelessness could cause serious injuries. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PREP FOR OMICRON Israel orders 100,000 Pfizer's new Covid pill

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel has ordered 100,000 units of Pfizer Inc's anti-viral COVID 19 pill Paxlovid for people aged 12 and older at risk of severe illness, an Israeli official said on Saturday, confirming a television report.

Channel 12 TV said Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett agreed the deal in a phone conversation with Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla. There was no immediate confirmation from the company.

The first oral and at home treatment for COVID-19, Paxlovid was nearly 90% effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths in patients at high risk of severe illness, according to data from Pfizer's clinical trial. Recent lab data suggests the drug retains effectiveness against the Omicron variant, it said.

এনআরবিসি ব্যাংক NRBC BANK

স্বপ্ন পূরণে এনআরবিসি ব্যাংক আপনার পাশে

দেশজুড়ে আরও ১০টি শাখা

গাম বাংলার উন্নয়ন এনআরবিসির অঙ্গীকার