

EVERYONE CAN MAKE ROOFS, BUT **THERE'S ONLY 1 EXPERT** SO CHOOSE BSRM TO BUILD SAFER HOMES

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM building a safer nation

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress using Shah Cement

SHAH CEMENT

83pc filed over social media posts

DSA CASES
Finds Article 19 analysing data of 11 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighty-three percent of the 225 Digital Security Act cases lodged between January and November this year were filed over social media posts and individuals' online expressions.

The platforms people were prosecuted for using include Facebook, YouTube, TikTok and Likee.

This is according to data by Article 19, a UK-based human rights body that focuses on freedom of expression.

Individuals affiliated with the ruling party filed 40 percent of these cases, making them a majority of the users of the law.

Similarly, 40 percent of the cases were filed against people for allegedly criticising the prime minister, ministers, members of parliament, and affiliates of the ruling party.

A third of the 225 cases were lodged by law enforcement agencies, said speakers of the organisation at a session titled "The Role of Media in Countering Threats to Internet Freedom in Bangladesh" arranged in conjunction with Bangladesh Internet Freedom Initiative Working Group.

As many as 166 people were arrested immediately, they added.

There are 68 journalists among those accused in the cases. The number is comparable to that of 2020 when

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Young shepherds spend their time enjoying a game of cricket while their cattle graze on an open paddy field in Barno union of Sylhet's Companiganj upazila. As it is the Bangla month of "poush" and all the paddy has already been harvested, the fields are cleared out, creating more room for both farming and play. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Sleeping couple killed as truck hits their house

STAR REPORT

A couple was killed when a truck slammed into their house in Jamalpur yesterday while crashes in Dhaka and Gopalganj killed five others, including a university student.

In Jamalpur, local farmer Joynal Abedin, 45, and his wife Hasina Begum, 36, were sleeping in their home in Garohari village of Dewanganj when a truck veered off Dhaka-Roumari Road around 3:00am and rammed into the house, killing them on the spot.

Mohammad Mohabbat Kabir, officer-in-charge of Dewanganj Police Station, said the couple's two children were sleeping on a separate bed and unhurt.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee, he said, adding that a case was lodged with the police station in this regard.

In Gopalganj, 22-year-old Raisul Islam Shuvo, a student of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, was killed and three others were injured when a bus rammed a rickshaw van on the Dhaka-Khulna Highway in Ghonapara area around 11:30am.

Students of the university blocked

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Zeesan running show here with condemned inmate

Says DB about godfather in exile

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hiding in Dubai, top criminal Zeesan Ahmed is running his extortion racket in Dhaka through regular communications with a death-row convict in Kashimpur jail.

DB officials said this based on information gleaned from several members of the racket arrested in the capital.

The arrests were made after a trader named Shahidul Islam Tutul filed a general dairy with Badda Police Station in which he said he was being threatened by the racket for extortion money, they said.

The officials also said Shahidul was targeted after Zeesan contacted convict Mamun over the phone and told him that he needed money. At this, Mamun instructed his goons to collect the money through extortion. The goons then picked Shahidul as their target and demanded Tk 5 lakh from him. They first called Shahidul over the phone on November 19 and told him that his family would be attacked if he did not pay them the money.

The Daily Star has obtained an audio clip allegedly with that conversation. "Your every step is being followed by our boys. Talk with us with the money in your hand, or else they know what they need to do," the caller is heard saying these chilling words.

Two days later, two to three youths stormed Shahidul's house, fired shots in the ceiling and fled.

Shahidul then filed the GD over the matter. While investigating the complaint, DB police (Gulshan Division) arrested seven people in Badda of the capital and Bandarban on Sunday over their involvement in the extortion attempt.

Detectives claimed that the arrestees are associates of top criminal

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Covid-19 booster dose trial starts in Dhaka today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will begin rolling out the booster dose of Covid-19 vaccine on a trial basis for people 60 and over in Dhaka today.

Frontline workers will also get the shot at several places in the capital, Lokman Hossain Miah, senior secretary of the health ministry, said yesterday.

Recipients will be notified via text, he told an event at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

After yesterday's event, Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general of the health directorate, said, "Only those who receive the SMS will come for booster dose to the facility where they got the previous shots."

He didn't go into further details about the facilities.

LAUNCH FIRE TRAGEDY

Abhijan-10 owner held

STAR REPORT

Rab yesterday arrested Hamjalal Sheikh, one of the owners of MV Abhijan-10, from Dhaka's Keraniganj.

ANM Imran Khan, assistant director of Rab's legal and media wing, confirmed this to The Daily Star.

Hamjalal was shown arrested in a case filed with the Marine Court in Dhaka on Sunday over the deadly fire in the launch.

According to the case statement, the launch did not have adequate fire extinguishers and life-saving buoys.

Besides, drums loaded with diesel, gas stoves and cylinders for cooking were kept outside the engine room without approval.

The charges also include operating the vessel by unauthorised personnel.

The Marine Court on Sunday issued arrest warrants against eight people, including Hamjalal and three other owners of the vessel, in the case.

Special Metropolitan Magistrate Joynab Begum of the Marine Court issued the arrest warrants in the case filed by Md Shafiqur Rahman, chief inspector of the Department of Shipping, said advocate Bellal Hossain, prosecuting officer at the court.

Early on Thursday, a massive fire broke out in the engine room of MV Abhijan-10 in the Sugandha river near Jhalakathi, leading to deaths of at least 41 people.

Meanwhile, confusion remains over the total number of people who went missing in the fire incident.

According to a list prepared by the Barguna district

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KHALEDÁ'S TREATMENT

Law minister sends opinion to home ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq has sent his opinion to the home ministry on the application seeking government permission to take BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia abroad for treatment.

"I have sent my legal opinion to the home ministry. The relevant file will be sent to the prime minister. Under the rules of business, I cannot disclose

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 28

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



A man, a child, and a woman holding a sleeping baby, along with their luggage on a motorcycle in Chattogram's Nandankanan area. Apart from the man, none is wearing a helmet. As commuters take such risks, the possibility of road accidents increase manifold. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Joynal Hazari passes away

STAR REPORT

Awami League leader Joynal Abedin Hazari died yesterday while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Dhaka.

He was 76. Hazari, an advisory council member of the ruling party and also a former lawmaker from Feni, breathed his last around 4:00pm at LabAid Hospital, Shakhawat Hossain, former joint convener of Feni district Jubo league, told The Daily Star.

Freedom fighter Hazari had been suffering from heart, kidney, and lung diseases.

The former lawmaker was general secretary of the Feni district for a long time. Hazari was elected member of parliament from Feni-2 constituency four times, winning the elections held in 1986, 1991, and 1996.

When the Awami League government was in power

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Star HEALTHLINE

Chia seeds: WHAT ARE THE HEALTH BENEFITS?

STAR HEALTH DESK

Chia seeds have become very popular of late for their nutritional properties. The widely used tiny black seeds come from the Salvia hispanica plants. They have been used by humans since ancient Aztec and Maya eras as an ingredient for preparing food items.

A handful of chia seeds (25g) contains approximately 4.1g protein, 2g carbohydrate, 8.6g fibre, 7g fat, 158mg calcium, 84mg magnesium, 93mg iron, 15mg zinc and

Hyginex instant hand sanitizer

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

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