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Kyiv keeps pressure on West for more sanctions against Moscow as battle looms in Ukraine’s east

AGENCIES

Ukraine said yesterday it was seeking another round of European Union sanctions against Moscow and more military aid from its allies as it braces for a major Russian offensive in the east of the country.

Russia has failed to take any major cities since it launched its invasion on February 24 but Ukraine says it has been gathering its forces in the east for a major assault and has urged people to flee.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Twitter he had spoken on the phone with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz about additional sanctions as well as more defence and financial support for his country. Zelensky also discussed with Ukrainian officials Kyiv’s proposals for a new package of EU sanctions, his office said.

In a video address late on Saturday, Zelensky renewed his appeal for a total ban on Russian energy products and more weapons for Ukraine.

The EU on Friday banned Russian coal imports among other products, but has yet to touch oil and gas imports from Russia.

Mounting civilian casualties have triggered widespread international condemnation and new sanctions, in particular over hundreds of deaths in the town of Bucha, to the northwest of Kyiv that until just over a week ago was occupied by Russian forces, reports Reuters.

A grave with at least two civilian bodies has been found in Buzova village near Kyiv, a Ukrainian official said, the latest such reported discovery since the Russian withdrawal from areas north of the capital.



A woman collecting water from a line that has fallen into the storm-water drain near Pangu Hospital yesterday. Residents of sweeper colony in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar are suffering from water crisis as Wasa supply lines to the colony have been severed due to the work on widening the drain. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Teacher ‘framed to cover up graft’
Sources say section of corrupt teachers does not want her to be headmistress

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The controversy surrounding a Hindu teacher in Naogaon was an attempt to cover up a long-running corruption by a small section of the school authorities, according to staffers.

Amodini Paul, the assistant headmistress of Daul Barbakpur High School in Naogaon’s Mohadevpur, was framed to look contentious by the section to prevent her from taking over from the school’s outgoing headmaster, The Daily Star learnt after speaking with a host of staffers.

The section wanted one of their own to succeed Dharani Kanta Barman as the school’s headteacher but Paul was chosen on the recommendation of Mohd. Salim Uddin Tarafder, a lawmaker from Naogaon-3 constituency.

Since taking over as the school’s headmaster in 2011, Barman has indulged in corruption, according to the school’s staffers The Daily Star spoke with.

He misappropriated the student fees and interest income on stipend funds and traded on recruitment.

In three village arbitrations held until last month, the headmaster and the previous governing committee president were found responsible for misappropriating Tk 35 lakh in donations against the recruitment of three teachers.

They were asked to provide Tk 5 lakh and Tk 2.5 lakh each, for the school’s development.

The committee president paid his share of the fine, but the headmaster was yet to pay.

Contacted, Barman refuted the allegations against him.

FOOD PRICE HIKE IN RAMADAN

Slap down on syndicates

Experts urge govt at webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts yesterday called for cracking down on syndicates of traders who hike the prices of essentials during Ramadan like clockwork every year by manufacturing a crisis.

There should be valid reasons behind the price hike, which is not the case in Bangladesh, said SM Zulfikar Ali, a senior research fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

“It’s natural that if the supply increases the price decreases, but in our country, it doesn’t happen sometimes.”

The government could not take any authoritarian step as the businessmen are influencing the government, he said at a webinar styled “Poverty situation in cities-villages and food price hike” organised by Right to Food Bangladesh.

To buck the trend, it is necessary to stop the business syndicates, extortion in transportation and corruption, said speakers at the webinar.

It is not possible to control such a big market by only enacting laws and rules, said Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, chairman of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation.

“On one hand, we want a free market economy, on the other hand, we want to control the market. We need to decide what we want to control and what not,” he added.

A middle-income country cannot have weak market management, said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

“A competitive market or a competitive price structure is absent here,” he said.

A well-planned, transparent and accountable supply chain is needed as well as an empowered competition commission, consumers’ rights commission and safe food authorities to address the weak market management symptoms.

“We do not have the factual inflation data. If we don’t reduce the data inconsistency, it will not be

» What was Tk 100 in 2017 cost Tk 131.4 in 2021

» People use 48% of income on food

» Poor, ultra-poor use about 70% income on food

» Essentials’ price soared 50% in 5 years

SOURCE: BBS, CAAB

possible to take proper steps,” said Sayema Haque Bidisha, a professor at the University of Dhaka’s economics department.

The price level has increased 28.07 percent in the last five years, said Mohosin Ali, general secretary of Right to Food Bangladesh, while presenting the keynote paper.

It would be possible to reduce poverty by reducing the income gap between the cities and villages as well as the regional inequality.

Fishermen, police clash over catching jatka

One killed, 16 hurt

STAR REPORT

A fisherman was shot dead in a clash between police and fishermen over catching jatka (hilsa fry) in the Meghna in Laxmipur on Saturday night.

Sixteen others, including six river policemen suffered injuries.

Deceased Amir Hossain, 40, was from Bhola.

Ignoring the ban, some fishermen were netting hilsa fry near Maju Chowdhury ghat area. As a patrol team of river police asked them to stop fishing around 11:00pm, they attacked the law enforcers with oars of boat and sticks, said Mohammad Kamruzzaman, superintendent (Chandpur and Laxmipur region) of river police.

Police fired shots to bring the situation under control, he said, adding that he, however, did not know how the fisherman died.

“We would be able to say after getting the autopsy report.”

Bullet-hit Amir was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 6:00am yesterday and he died there around 8:30am, said Bachchu Mia, inspector of DMCH police outpost.

Shotgun pellets were found in his head and back, said DMC morgue source.

Of the injured, two policemen were undergoing treatment at Laxmipur Sadar Hospital, reports our Noakhali correspondent.

Anowar Hossain, resident medical officer of the hospital, told this newspaper that they treated 16 people, including six policemen.

As Amir’s condition was worsening, he was referred to DMCH, he added.

River police and locals said there has been a government ban on catching the hilsa fry in the



Rickshaws clog Dhanmondi Road-1 yesterday afternoon. Rickshaw-pullers from across the country through the city every Ramadan to earn some extra money. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

আইনগত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আমার মক্কেল “এ্যাসুরেল ডেভেলপমেন্টস লিমিটেড”, একটি যৌথ মূলধনী বিশিষ্ট সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত স্বনামধন্য রিয়েল এস্টেট কোম্পানি যার রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- সি-৪৯৫৩৯(১৫২৩)/২০০৩, ঠিকানাঃ ৬৫/বি, কামাল আতাতুর্ক এভিনিউ, বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১৩, আমার মক্কেল বিগত ২০০৩ সাল থেকে সুনামের সাথে ঢাকা শহরে বিভিন্ন এলাকায় যৌথভাবে / জমি ক্রয়ের মাধ্যমে বহুতল ভবন নির্মাণ করে আসছে। উল্লেখ্য আমার মক্কেল এর বাংলাদেশে কোথাও কোন শাখা অফিস নাই। বর্তমানে কিছু ব্যক্তিবর্গ মোঃ রবিন শেখ, ফাহিম ইসলাম এবং আমজাদ হোসেন আমার মক্কেলের নামে অফিস ভাড়া নিয়ে ঢাকার বিভিন্ন স্থানে ঋণ ব্যবসা শুরু করে যার সাথে আমার মক্কেলের কোন সম্পর্ক নাই। বিভিন্ন সূত্রের মাধ্যমে খবর পেলাম যে উক্ত ব্যক্তিগণ ই-মেইলঃ assurancedevelopment666@gmail.com এবং ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.assurancedevelopmentltd.com তৈরী করে অসাধু পন্থা অবলম্বনে ঋণ দেওয়ার নামে অর্থ সংগ্রহ করছে এবং আমার মক্কেলের বিভিন্ন গ্রাহকদের বিভ্রান্ত করছে। এতে একদিকে আমার মক্কেল/কোম্পানির সুনাম নষ্ট হচ্ছে এবং অন্যদিকে আমার মক্কেল/কোম্পানির সাধারণ গ্রাহকদের আস্থা নষ্ট করছে। এমতাবস্থায় “এ্যাসুরেল ডেভেলপমেন্টস লিমিটেড” কোম্পানির নাম ব্যবহার করে কেহ প্রচারিত হলে বা করলে এর দায়ভার আমার মক্কেলের উপর বর্তাবে না এবং আমার মক্কেল দায়ী হবে না। এ ব্যাপারে ইতোমধ্যে আইনগত পদক্ষেপ নেওয়া হয়েছে এবং বনানী থানায় একটি সাধারণ ডায়েরী করা হয়েছে যার স্বারক নম্বর- ৬৭৩ তাং- ১১/০৩/২২ইং।

আনিচুর রহমান, এডভোকেট, বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট। ঠিকানাঃ চেম্বার নাথার: ৪০২১(এনক্স বিল্ডিং), সুপ্রীম কোর্ট বার অ্যাসোসিয়েশন, ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ। ফোন-০১৯৩৭১৪৪৬১০