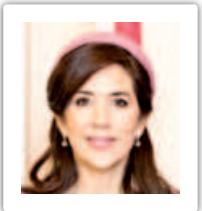


## Danish crown princess due on April 25

Copenhagen, Dhaka to deepen co-op in renewable energy, fight against climate change

PORIMOL PALMA

Crown Princess Mary of Denmark will make a three-day visit to Bangladesh beginning April 25 as the two countries seek to deepen cooperation on climate change, especially regarding renewable energy, and blue economy.



Upon her arrival in Dhaka in the morning, the crown princess will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhavan.

She will also hold a meeting with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at the state guesthouse Padma. The two countries will sign an expression of interest for a green partnership.

She will fly out to Cox's Bazar later in the day.

The next day, she will visit Rohingya camps, where she will interact with the

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Vehicles parked on Abdul Gani Road right next to the Secretariat shrinks the space of the busy street. The illegal parking leads to traffic jam almost every day. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Govt may discontinue PEC exams

Hint officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is yet to decide whether the Primary Education Completion Examination would be held this year.

There is a strong possibility of not holding the exam, said a top official of the primary and mass education ministry yesterday.

Because of the coronavirus situation, the exams for grade-V students were not held in the last two years.

Zakir Hossain, state minister for primary and mass education, said, "The decision has not been made yet on this issue."

He made this comment at a press conference at his secretariat office yesterday while he was also talking about the recruitment tests for appointing 45,000 assistant teachers at the government primary schools.

About the PECE, he also said, "There was a learning loss in the last two years. We want to fill this gap and then think about the test."

Responding to another question, he said, "We'll notify everyone two to three months ahead of the exams. Let the students study."

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## THREE ONLINE SHOPS BFIU finds evidence of money laundering

Submits report to HC, CID

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit has found evidence of money laundering by e-commerce platforms -- Boom Boom Ltd, Qcoom Ltd, and Sirajganj Shop.

The BFIU, a government agency responsible for enquiring into suspicious transactions, sent its findings to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police for further probe and legal action.

The agency, in its 672-page compliance report submitted before the HC yesterday, said there was a reasonable cause for suspecting that money generated by fraudulence was deposited in 30 bank accounts of Qcoom Ltd.

It said Qcoom's transactions have been frozen on October 13, 2021, following a request from the CID.

The BFIU also said it stayed transactions of four bank accounts of Boom Boom Ltd and seven accounts of Sirajganj Shop on September 14, 2021, on the similar grounds.

According to the BFIU report, the

agency has identified 50 e-commerce companies to probe into, but has been able to investigate 17 so far.

Evaly, E-orange, Qcoom, Dhamaka, Boom Boom, Ring ID, Asthar Pratik, Sreshtha, Nirapad, Sirajganj Shop, Needs Com, Dot Lines Bangladesh Ltd, and Foster Corporation Ltd are among the ones probed.

The 17 companies have conducted

**There was a reasonable cause for suspecting that money generated by fraudulence was deposited to 30 bank accounts of Qcoom Ltd.**

transactions of around Tk 10,500 crore between 2019 and 2021.

Of the the amount, Evaly alone has conducted transactions of Tk 6296.56 crore, E-orange and Oraange Bangladesh at least Tk 2148.20 crore, and Qcoom around Tk 2092.33 crore during the same period, the BFIU said.

Meanwhile, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) submitted a separate

compliance report to the HC yesterday saying it has fined 13 online businesses Tk 139 crore for not paying taxes.

The NBR collected Tk 33 crore and Tk 12 crore as revenue from 196 registered online platforms in fiscal 2020-2021 and in fiscal 2021-22 respectively, according to the report.

After receiving the reports, the HC bench ordered the BFIU to submit a complete compliance report and set May 22 for hearing and delivering further orders.

During yesterday's hearing, BFIU's lawyer Shamim Ahmed Khaled told the HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Khizir Hayat that the BFIU report was not complete and that it needed more time to prepare a comprehensive report.

Lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir, who filed one of the three writ petitions that had led to the HC asking the BFIU to probe, told the court that the BFIU report failed to mention the destination of the money.

He urged the HC to issue an order for refunding the victims.

## GAS FOR INDUSTRIES Govt backtracks on decision to suspend supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has stepped back from suspending commercial gas supply for fixed hours after facing tremendous pressure from businesspersons.

On April 12, the government decided to cut off gas supply from 5:00pm to 9:00pm in the industries every day till April 26.

The decision came as the households across the country started facing acute gas shortage due to technical faults at Bibiyana Gas Field.

On Wednesday, BGMEA President Faruque Hassan met Engr Md Haronur Rashid Mullah, managing director of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited (IGTDCL), and urged the government to keep the uninterrupted gas supply to facilitate smooth production in factories.

Earlier, the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged the authorities to postpone the decision for stopping the supply of gas to industrial customers.

The government started gas rationing from the CNG [compressed natural gas] stations in September last year to meet the national demand.

## Loved ones lost, trust in justice too

FROM PAGE 1

"There is no justice in the country. Who will give us justice?" Morsalin's wailing brother Nur Mohammad told reporters while waiting for the body at the morgue.

Why do the families not want justice for their loved ones' violent deaths? Do they assume there is no point seeking justice? Or do they fear the lengthy and expensive legal process?

Whatever the reasons may be, such sentiments should ring alarm bells. It manifests a lack of trust in the criminal justice system. And this did not happen overnight.

Long delays in trials, including in some sensational cases; inability to pay for legal services; harassment surrounding giving testimonies; and insecurity of witnesses and complainants discourage people from seeking justice.

Take the cases of Taqi

and Tonu murders as examples.

Narayanganj teenager Tanvir Muhammad Taqi went missing after he left home for a local library on March 6, 2013. His body was found floating on the Shitalakkhya two days later.

A case was filed on March 8, 2013. Nine years have passed but the wait for justice continues. The investigation into the killing stalled for reasons unflathomable to people.

Sohagi Jahan Tonu, a student of Cumilla Victoria Government College, was found murdered in Cumilla Cantonment area on March 20, 2016. She was also raped. The incident caused national outrage.

Six years on, the killers are still at large as the police probe is yet to make any headway.

Another example is the double murder of Sagar and Runi.

The journalist couple

were slain on February 11, 2012. Over the last 10 years, the investigation officer was changed six times. Rab and other law enforcement agencies have taken 85 time extensions from court to complete the probe.

But they have not been able to submit an investigation report.

As of December 31, 2020, over 39 lakh cases are pending with courts across the country. Between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, only 7.39 lakh cases could be disposed of.

At the High Court, around 4.5 lakh cases are pending as of December 31, 2020.

The delays brew scepticism. Litigants face various obstacles in getting justice, beginning from the investigation stage and continuing until the verdict is delivered and executed.

Even though verdicts have been executed in

some sensational cases, those were apparently not enough to restore the confidence in the legal system of Jamal, Nargis, Nur and others.

They fear they would not get justice if the accused are influential or belong to political parties. They feel helpless.

"We don't want justice" is not just an expression. This offers glimpses into the people's pent-up resentment, frustration and crisis of confidence in the criminal justice system. We must not ignore the fact that when families of such three victims say they do not want justice, it points to something seriously wrong in the criminal justice system.

It is therefore the responsibility of the state to restore the trust. And it can only be restored by the quick arrest of the perpetrators and their patrons and fast trials.

## CAB seeks removal

FROM PAGE 1

arbitrary increase in water tariff is a serious violation of the relevant law.

"We also request you [notice recipients] to refrain from giving incentives to the employees of the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority illegally," said the notice.

"The MD had been using his position in the Authority and the Board as a cash cow and manifestly failed to discharge his

duties and obligations," it added.

The CAB warned that it will take legal action if steps are not taken as per the notice.

In February, the Dhaka Water board proposed that water tariff be increased by 40 percent.

Also, Chattogram Water MD AKM Fazlullah had proposed that his monthly basic salary be hiked from Tk 1.80 lakh to Tk 4.50 lakh.

## Rab trying

FROM PAGE 12

Ilias, then organising secretary of Sylhet division unit of BNP, and his driver Ansar went missing from Dhaka's Banani area on the night of April 17, 2012.

Since then, their families have been anxiously waiting for their return.

On many occasions, the families and the BNP alleged involvement of members of law enforcement in their disappearances.

Recently, Sweden-based news portal Netra News ran a story claiming that Rab was behind the incident.

## Another life cut short by violence

FROM PAGE 1

an unconscious state from the road in front of Chandrima market and brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 2:00pm. He died at dawn while receiving treatment in the ICU.

Morgue sources said he was hit on the head with a blunt object. There were no other injuries.

"Whom will I seek justice from? Only Allah will give us justice," she wailed, while her four-year-old son Hamim stared blankly at her. With a tender hand, he

wiped her tears. Beside her sat her seven-year-old daughter Humayra, heaving sobs with a confused look on her face.

"He had promised this little girl cosmetics, a bag and hairclips for Eid. Who will fulfill my baby girl's wishes?" she cried.

Humayra's small wishes, however, were a tall order for Morsalin, who could barely keep his family afloat with the Tk 9,000 he brought home every month by working as a salesperson in a market

adjacent to New Market.

The family of four lived in a one-bedroom home in Kamrangirchar's Rasulpur. That too was shared with Mitu's younger siblings.

Farhad Hossain Munna, brother-in-law of Morsalin, used to work in the same shop, which sold shirts and was located on the third floor of a market behind the New Market compound.

"We came around 11:00am only to find that the electricity lines were cut. We called the owner

and he asked us to shut the shop and leave."

They, however, hung around for a while longer. Around the time of afternoon prayers, Morsalin said he was heading to mosque.

That was the last time Munna heard from him before learning he was lying injured on the street.

Yamin Kabir, inspector (investigation) of New Market Police Station, said they will analyse the CCTV footages in the area to find out what happened and how Morsalin was injured.

## A murder most foul

FROM PAGE 1

soon facing resistance. While coming out of the market, they found the youth in the dark blue T-shirt near the stairs.

They beat him indiscriminately and left.

"One of the youths wearing a black helmet then walked back to him and started hacking him discriminately," said the journalist.

Abdullah Al Mamun, owner of a shop at the market, said most youths on the students' side were wearing helmets. Many shopkeepers were in helmets

too.

"As the injured youth was bleeding profusely from his head, two youths from the shopkeepers' side rescued him after the attack. He was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital by the shopkeepers," he said.

Some Dhaka College students gave a similar description. One of them, who took part in the clashes, said the attackers were from the college.

He did not name anyone. The Daily Star could not verify the authenticity of this claim.

Shopkeepers claimed

## Accused dies hours after arrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A man died in a Laxmipur hospital on Wednesday night, hours after he was arrested by police in a cheque forgery case.

The dead, Abdul Quddus, 45, a resident of Meghna Road area in Laxmipur town, owned a pharmacy. Doctors said he died of a heart attack.

According to police and family members, cops arrested Quddus at his pharmacy on Wednesday evening. On information, his wife Nigar Sultana along with local Ward Councillor Al-Amin rushed to Laxmipur Sadar Police Station to free him.

While they were discussing the issue with police, Quddus became sick.

Police took him to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital and got him admitted to the medical facility at 10:10pm. He breathed his last about 30 minutes later.

## Evaly CEO secures bail in 9 cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Evaly CEO Mohammad Rassel was granted bail by several Dhaka courts yesterday in nine cases filed over the embezzlement of customers' money.

Ahsan Habib, a defence lawyer, confirmed this to The Daily Star.

The lawyer, however, said Rassel cannot walk out of jail as he is yet to get bail in some other cases.

On April 6, Evaly Chairman Shamima Nasrin walked out of Kashimpur Women's Central Jail in Gazipur on bail after spending six months behind bars in six cases filed over the same allegation.

## bKash trader hacked to death in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A bKash trader was hacked to death by unidentified criminals in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila on Wednesday night.

The deceased is Ayub Ali, 40, a resident of Harishwar area in the same upazila.

Police said Ayub was returning home on a motorcycle with money in a bag after closing his shop at Chaparhat market. Criminals intercepted him at Batrish Hazari village around 11:30pm and hacked him with a machete, leaving him dead on the spot.

The assailants left the spot with the bag of money, but forgot the machete. Police later seized the machete from the crime scene.

## Neighbour killed by father, son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A man was killed in an attack by his two neighbours over a trivial matter in Bagerhat's Rampal upazila on Wednesday night.

The dead is Didarul Alam, 50, a resident of Kumlai village in the same upazila.

Citing locals, police said Didarul advised his neighbour Abu Bakkar Mallick to get his widowed father Sattar Mallick, 63, married.

Enraged by the advice, the father and his son attacked Didarul in front of the latter's home in Kumlai village around 9:45pm. The two beat up and hacked Didarul with a sharp weapon, leaving him critically injured.

He was taken to Rampal Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead.

Police on Wednesday night picked up Sattar from Kumlai village. However, his son Abu Bakkar was on the run.

## Xi proposes 'global security initiative'

REUTERS, Beao

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday proposed a "global security initiative" that upholds the principle of "indivisible security", a concept also endorsed by Russia, although he gave no details of how it would be implemented.

During a video speech to the annual Boao Asia Forum, Xi said that the world should respect the sovereignty of all countries.

those who ransacked three shops near Gate-2 of New Market on Monday night were also wearing helmets.

Asked about an allegation that Chhatra League led the mob that attacked Nahid, Fuad Hasan, joint convener of the Dhaka College BCL committee formed in 2016, said, "It's still not clear who was behind the murder.

"It's the job of the police to find them."

The law enforcers were yet to arrest anyone over the incident. The Detective Branch of police was tasked with the investigation yesterday.