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FIRING INTO BANGLADESH Dhaka summons Myanmar envoy 3rd time in week

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday reiterated its "deep concern" over the recent incidents of Myanmar's mortar shelling, indiscriminate aerial firing in the bordering areas, and air space violations.

The foreign ministry summoned Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh Aung Kyaw Moe and lodged a strong protest over the recent incidents along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

This was the third time the ministry summoned the envoy in a week to convey such concern.

"We summoned their ambassador today [yesterday] again. We protested it," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told reporters at the ministry.

Momen said there are internal conflicts inside Myanmar and they do not see anything provocative and Bangladesh shared its concerns with Myanmar.

A diplomatic note was handed over to the Myanmar envoy.

The foreign minister said the government has alerted the Border Guard Bangladesh and other law enforcement agencies so that no new Myanmar national can enter Bangladesh.

According to the latest report, on September 3, two mortar shells fell inside

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Old CNG cylinders being repainted for sale at a workshop on Mirpur's Mazar Road. The demand for such cylinders has increased as CNG conversion of vehicles picked up due to high prices of petrol and diesel, say the workshop workers. But old cylinders can be risky as they may not be fit for use. This photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ACC probing graft allegations against Jahangir

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The Anti-Corruption Commission has received complaints of irregularities involving Tk 7,800 crore against M o h m m a d Jahangir Alam, suspended mayor of Gazipur City Corporation.



As per the complaints, the irregularities took place during his tenure of over three years as the mayor, Ashiqur Rahman, assistant director of the ACC, told reporters yesterday.

He said this while visiting the city corporation as a member of a probe team formed to investigate the allegations against the suspended mayor.

ACC Deputy Director Ali Akbar is at the helm of the team.

Ashiqur further said the probe team will investigate the to find out whether there were any discrepancies between the actual expense of the Biswa Ijtema arrangements and what is written in the expenditure voucher.

"We will also probe the 'road widening' works by the GCC under Jahangir's direction."

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SHAON KILLING Court bins BNP's case against cops

STAR REPORT

A Narayanganj court yesterday refused to take a case by Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of the BNP, in connection with the death of Jubo Dal activist Shaon Ahmed in Narayanganj.

Shaon was killed in a clash between BNP activists and the local police at the party's 44th founding anniversary on September 1.

Asaduzzaman, police inspector of Narayanganj Court Police, said Senior Judicial Magistrate Imran Mollah's court rejected BNP's plea under section 203 of the Criminal Code of Procedure, saying there is "no sufficient grounds" for proceedings.

Forty-two police officers, including Golam Mostafa Russel, superintendent of Narayanganj police, were named in the case statement. Mahfuzur Rahman Kanak, sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of police, who was seen holding a gun in photos published in the newspapers, was made the prime accused. Another 150 unnamed policemen were also made accused.

The case statement claimed Shaon collapsed after SI Mahfuzur fired at him.

The plaintiff's lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder said, "We have attached newspaper reports with the petition and submitted them to the court as evidence. Dismissing this appeal is contrary to law."

Earlier, BNP leader Rizvi said, "The right to rally is enshrined in the constitution. However, they [the government] have snatched that right too. The September 1 incident reflects the state of one party rule."



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Mother sues cops for trying to murder son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The mother of a Jubo Dal leader, who suffered gunshot wounds last year in what police said was a gunfight, yesterday filed a case accusing eight police officials and an informant of trying to kill her son after failing to extort money from him.

Saiful Islam Saif, former assistant general secretary of Chattogram city unit Jubo Dal, had his left leg amputated after being shot.

His mother Senowara Begum, 50 lodged the case with the court of Metropolitan Magistrate M Oli Ullah.

The accused are: Baizid Bostami Police Station's former officer-in-charge (OC) Md Kamruzzaman, Sub-Inspectors (SIs) Meher Asim Das, Md Saiful Islam, Md Robiul Islam, KM Nazibul Islam Tanvir, Nur Nabi, and police informant Md Shahajahan alias Akash. Two unnamed SIs were also sued.

Taking the complaint into cognisance, the

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UK PM RACE Truss tipped to beat Sunak

AGENCIES

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said yesterday she would set out immediate action in her first week in power to tackle rising energy bills and increase energy supplies if she is, as expected, appointed prime minister.

The governing Conservative Party is widely expected to name Truss its new leader, and Britain's new prime minister, today at a time when the country faces what is forecast to be a long recession, double digit inflation and industrial unrest.

Her rival, former finance minister Rishi Sunak, also sought to burnish his credentials to tackle rising energy bills, saying he would offer all Britons some financial support, with additional help to those on the lowest incomes and pensioners.

Online and postal polls of Tory members closed at 5:00 pm on Friday, after a two-month contest that saw the two final contenders tour the country taking part in hustings and televised debates.

Truss, 47, has consistently enjoyed overwhelming support over Sunak in polling of the members.

It is a long and costly to-do list for the incoming leader who will replace Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Truss said she would be bold in tackling the flagging economy, repeating her pledge to spur growth to fix its long list of ills.

Writing in the Sunday Telegraph, she said she understood how challenging the cost of living crisis was for Britons and she would take "decisive action to ensure families and businesses can get through this winter and the next".

"If elected, I plan within the first week of my new administration to set out our immediate action on energy bills and energy supply," she said.

"A fiscal event would follow later this month from my Chancellor, with a broader package of action on the economy."

The Sunday Times newspaper cited insiders at the finance ministry as saying the cost of Truss's plan would easily exceed 100 billion pounds (\$115 billion), most of which would be added to government borrowing.



Lost Nile branch helped build Egypt's pyramids



CNN ONLINE

New evidence about the Nile bolsters a long-standing theory of how ancient Egyptians managed to build the massive pyramids of Giza thousands of years ago.

Researchers led by geographer Hader Sheisha at Aix-Marseille University in France used paleoecological clues to help reconstruct what Egypt's Nile river might have looked like over the past 8,000 years.

They determined the pyramid builders likely took advantage of a "now-defunct" arm of the river to move construction materials, according to a study published August 24 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Their findings show "that the former waterscapes and higher river levels around 4,500 years ago facilitated the construction of the Giza Pyramid Complex," the study said.

The Great Pyramid stands about 455 feet high and was commissioned by Pharaoh Khufu in the 26th century BC. Comprised of 2.3 million stone blocks with a combined mass of 5.75 million

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Buses taking passengers before entering the ramp of Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital's Gulistan, creating a huge gridlock in the area yesterday. This is almost a common scenario here.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Audit questions Tk 193cr Covid expenditure

RASHIDUL HASAN

The office of the Comptroller and Auditor General has raised objections about Tk 193 crore spent by the Covid-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness Project in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The objections have been sent to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament (PAC) as they were not disposed of after the CAG audited the project's accounts. The objections were discussed in a PAC meeting yesterday.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) is implementing the three-year project financed by the World Bank on an emergency basis.

According to meeting sources, 12 of the unresolved audit objections were tabled at the PAC meeting.

It is said in the audit objections that the government lost Tk 1.24 crore due to supply of KN95 masks not worthy of use. Besides, the government incurred a loss of Tk 10.4 lakh due to supply of fewer KN95 masks than contracted.

Irregularities were found in receipt of Tk 32.85 crore regarding the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE), KN95 masks and infrared thermometers.

PPE, masks and gloves were bought by inking a Tk 59.4 crore contract with incompetent and inexperienced suppliers.

According to the objections, medical supplies worth Tk 47.26 crore purchased under the project were left unused.

Due to purchase of similar medical supplies at different rates in the same period, the government suffered a loss of Tk 17.10 crore.

Non-deduction and under-deduction of VAT and income tax from suppliers cost the government Tk 1.13 crore.

Due to a failure to deposit VAT and income tax on time in the government's treasury, the government's revenue loss including penalty interest was Tk 5.92 crore.

In violation of Public Procurement Rules-2008, work worth Tk 10.82 crore was contracted without taking security money.

Tk 6.18 crore were irregularly spent on mobile apps, software development, etc. through consultant firm.

Due to the failure of the suppliers to deliver the goods within the stipulated time, the government incurred a loss of Tk 4.19 crore as the project authorities paid the bill without imposing the delay penalty as per the terms of the contract.

The government has incurred a loss of Tk 7.70 crore due to the purchase of medical supplies at prices higher than those mentioned in the Development Project Proposal.

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