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Children to be raised as global citizens

Says prime minister

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government is going to introduce a fresh national curriculum from next year, aimed at raising Bangladeshi children as global citizens.

She said this in a pre-recorded video clip containing Bangladesh's national statement, played at the UN Secretary General's Transforming Education Summit on Monday in New York.

In higher education, Hasina said, "We are giving priority to research and development. For technical education, we aim to have better industry linkages."

She said Bangladeshi children should have skills that they can use anywhere in the world.

"We need international cooperation for mutual recognition of qualifications. We are committed to improving access to foundational and lifelong learning."

To promote multilingual education, the PM said they have

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Bangladesh Ambassador in Washington Muhammad Imran welcoming Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with a bouquet at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York. The PM and her entourage reached the US yesterday to attend the 77th session of UNGA.

PHOTO: BSS

7 DB men jailed for abduction of businessman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Seven members of the Detective Branch of police were sentenced to 12 years imprisonment yesterday for kidnapping a businessman and taking ransom.

Judge Mohammad Ismail, of Cox's Bazar District Sessions and Judge's Court, handed down the sentence in presence of all seven accused, said Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam.

The court also fined Tk 3 lakh each, in default of which, they would have to serve two more years in jail.

Suspended sub-inspectors Abul Kalam Azad and Moniruzzaman; assistant sub-inspectors Golam Mostafa, Mohammad Firoz and Alauddin; and constables Mostafa Azam and Al Amin were sent to jail after the sentence.

On October 24, 2017, they picked up Abdul Gofur, 32, a businessman in Cox's Bazar town, in plain clothes. They took him in a microbus to Teknaf.

They severely beat him and threaten to kill him in a "crossfire", unless he gives Tk 1 crore ransom.

On the next day, he was released, as his relatives agreed and handed over Tk 17 lakh to a group of DB men.

While negotiating with the abductors, Gafur's relatives disclosed the whole matter to Army personnel at Teknaf's Lomboripara check post in the marine drive area.

The personnel stopped the microbus carrying the DB team at a check post in Lambori area, searched the vehicle, and found Tk 17 lakh.

Following the incident, Abdul Gafur filed a case with Teknaf Police Station. They were later suspended from

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Russian oil not refinable here

Eastern Refinery says after testing sample

MD NAZRUL ISLAM

Russian crude oil cannot be refined in Bangladesh as the country's lone refinery does not have the equipment to refine it.

The Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) authorities submitted a report in this regard to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Chairman ABM Azad yesterday after a technical committee of the ERL tested samples of Russian crude oil.

Azad told The Daily Star that the opinion section of the 20-page report said refining Russian crude oil was not possible with ERL's current machinery. The report also contains technical details, he said.

On September 1, Russian state-owned oil supplier Zarubezhneft JSC sent crude oil samples to ERL through their Bangladeshi agent National Electric BD Limited.

BPC will inform the Russian company of its decision in two or three days after scrutinising the report, Azad said.

Contacted, Mohammad Lokman, managing director of ERL, said, "We have submitted the report to the chairman of BPC after testing Russian crude oil samples."

Raihan Ahmad, ERL general manager (operation and planning), was the head of the technical committee while it's member secretary was Samiul Islam, manager (quality control) at the ERL.

Some BPC officials told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity that the 50-year-old ERL mainly refines Arabian light crude oil, and the refinery's yield pattern was designed accordingly. No other crude oil can be refined in this pattern, they added.

BPC officials said Russian crude is heavier than Arabian crude and so it was not possible to refine Russian crude in an old facility like the ERL.

They said several Russian private oil suppliers have sent proposals to the BPC to supply fuel at low prices. The matter is being considered by the authorities.

After the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, the price of crude oil increased in the global market by the end of February. At one point, the price of fuel broke all previous records, reaching up to \$178 per barrel.

When BPC decided to buy fuel from alternative sources, different Russian oil suppliers showed interest in supplying fuel at low prices. Currently, India and China are buying fuel from Russia at cheap prices.

Law enforces looking for Cumilla imam

He was 'linked' with 7 youths who went missing earlier

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Law enforcers are looking for the imam of a Cumilla mosque because of his "links" with the seven youths who went missing from the district last month.

Shah Mohammad Habibullah, imam of Koba Jame Masjid, has been missing since September 12, said Rab Commander Major Mohammad Sakib Hossain.

He has links to the seven youths, Sakib added.

Saiful Haque, general secretary of the mosque management committee, said, "Habibullah went on a two-day leave on September 10, but never returned."

Habibullah is from Laxmipur village of Cumilla. His brother Shah Mohammad Waliullah, lecturer of a madrasa, said, "My brother went missing on September 12. I filed a general diary with Cumilla Sadar South Police Station. We do not know whether he has connection to

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Five die from Covid in a day

614 new cases logged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people died of Covid while 614 more were infected with the virus in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

This is the highest number of single-day Covid fatalities in the country since July 21 when the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported six deaths from the virus.

The number of deaths from Covid had reached zero in the first week of August. But the number of new cases have been on the rise since early this month.

Yesterday, the daily positivity rate rose to 12.73 percent from the previous day's 11.06, according to a press release from the DGHS.

The new cases were logged after 4,825 samples were tested across the country during the 24-hour period.

With the latest numbers, the total number of Covid deaths rose to 29,345. The death rate now stands at 1.45 percent and the recovery rate is 97.15 percent.

Of the five dead, three were males and two females, all aged between 50 and 90.

A total of 154 deaths and 6,883 Covid cases have been recorded this month till date. Last month, the figures were 32 and 6,689 respectively.

Nasa records first sounds of meteorites hitting Mars

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa's Mars InSight lander has detected the first ever seismic and acoustic waves generated by meteorite strikes on another planet and located the impact crater sites.

In a new paper published Monday in the journal Nature Geoscience,

an international team of researchers details findings that are both first in

extra-terrestrial planetary science and represent a rare observation even on Earth where few meteorite impacts have been recorded

in the way InSight detected impacts on Mars.

While the seismic and acoustic waves from meteors bursting in Earth's atmosphere have been observed many times, the researchers write in the paper, "a hypervelocity impact with the ground was recorded only once."

The new findings can help researchers better understand the makeup and structure of the Martian crust, as well as provide insights into how meteorites shape the surface of Mars directly.

"Meteoroid impacts shape planetary surfaces and seed their atmospheres with exogenous volatiles," the researchers write. "The mechanical waves generated by impacts are used to infer the structure of the atmosphere and the planet's

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Police making lists of Ctg BNP leaders

CMP top brass deny; BNP says it's to weaken party ahead of polls

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Chattogram Metropolitan Police has been preparing detailed lists of leaders holding posts in committees of the BNP and associated bodies.

Following directives in a letter from the Police Headquarters, every police station in the port city has been working to that end, police officials said. The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the letter.

BNP leaders in the city alleged that police would lodge fake cases based on the list to arrest BNP men before the next national polls, slated for the end of next year or early 2024.

They said such actions would not deter them from toppling the Awami League government and bring about a caretaker government for a free and fair election.

CMP sources said that on July 17, a letter was sent to different police units from the headquarters asking them to gather details of leaders of the BNP and its wings including names, addresses, mobile numbers, NID numbers and their posts in various committees.

On July 21, the Special Branch of the CMP forwarded

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Anwara Begum is exhausted as she waits in the long line in front of the TCB truck. This is her only way to purchase essential commodities at a price cheaper than that charged by regular kitchen markets. The queues in front of TCB trucks have been getting longer amid multiple hikes in prices of essentials in the last few months.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Family of rape victim schoolboy fearing reprisals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The guardians of a 9-year-old boy, who was gang-raped on Friday allegedly by two madrasa students in Lalmonirhat's Aditumari, have said that they are being threatened by the family members of the accused.

Police arrested Shakil Mia, 22, hours after the gang rape while Anisur Rahman, 19, the other accused, is on the run.

They are both residents of Uttar Gondha village in Aditumari and students of Uttar Gondha Dakhil Madrasa.

According to the complaint, the victim, a fourth grader, was returning home after grazing his goat in a field near the madrasa, when Anisur and Shakil forced him to go to a bamboo grove and raped him.

Hearing his screams, locals rescued the boy and took him to a hospital.

The boy's parents and grandfather, who are farm workers, said Anisur's family members were influential people and they were asking them to withdraw the case filed with Aditumari Police Station.

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