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Make efforts so country never faces famine

PM urges people

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the countrymen to make all-out efforts so Bangladesh never has to face any situation like famine and food insufficiency for prolonged Russia-Ukraine war and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.



"We have soil and manpower. So, we must take initiative from now on so that Bangladesh never has to face famine and food insufficiency. We will have to grow our food," she said.

The premier was virtually addressing a programme organised to hand over Bangabandhu Jatiya Krishi Puroshkar-1425 and 1426 (Bangla year), the highest state recognition in the agriculture sector, to 44 individuals and organisations in 10 categories, from the Gono Bhaban.

The agriculture ministry organised the function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday morning.

The prime minister referred to her talks with the heads of the government and state of the different countries mostly developed ones in the United Nations General assembly in New York and in the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in London.

She said the world leaders apprehended that a famine

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Locals in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila crossing the Shoalmari river on foot during low tide. They claimed that the river was around 150 metres wide and had strong current until the Rupsha Railway Bridge was constructed in the region. In recent time, the river reduced to a three to four-metre-wide stream.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Ghorashal unit-5 stops production yet again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Ghorashal Power Plant's unit-5 will not be supplying electricity for the next seven days, the plant's officials said.

Some technical problems found in the 210MW unit forced the production to stop at 2:30pm yesterday, they added.

This was the third time since the national power grid failure on October 4 that this unit faced problems.

"It will take another seven days to repair the machine and resume production," said Abu Bakar Siddique, the acting chief engineer of the plant.

On October 4, unit-5 tripped after a safety bulb had burst due to temperature rise in its turbine, sources at the power plant had said. Unit-4 had also tripped, but was operational within an hour, they added.

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AL man stabbed to death after feud over Tk 1,000

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A leader of the ruling Awami League was stabbed to death, allegedly by his rivals, following a feud over Tk 1,000 in Cox's Bazar.

The incident took place at Boro Chowdhurypara in Varuakhali union under the Sadar upazila around 11:00pm on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Nawab Miah, 45, forest and environment affairs secretary of Varuakhali union unit AL.

According to Shawkat Belal, the victim's younger brother, Nawab and local trader Didar Miah bought a fishing net around two weeks ago.

Regarding the purchase of the net, Nawab and Didar got into a disagreement over Tk 1,000.

On Tuesday night, local influential people called an arbitration to resolve the matter. However, it went in vain.

After the arbitration, Nawab was returning home alone when his rivals ambushed him and stabbed him indiscriminately.

Later, locals rescued him and rushed him to the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Didar could not be contacted over the phone as he has been on the run since the incident.

When contacted, Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Rafiqul

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16 days' ordeal on route of trafficking

A Rohingya man narrates his journey from Cox's Bazar to Malaysia

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, back from Cox's Bazar

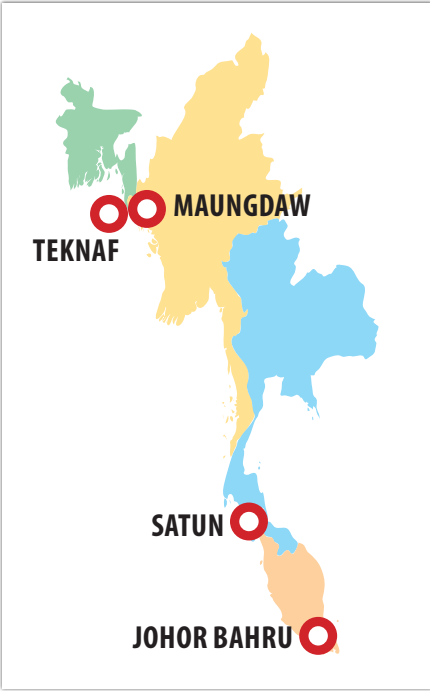
A transnational syndicate is using a new land route through Myanmar to traffic people, mostly Rohingyas from refugee camps in Bangladesh, to Thailand and Malaysia.

Previously, Rohingyas used to be trafficked to those countries by sea, but traffickers started using the new route as law enforcers increased vigilance in Cox's Bazar and in the Bay of Bengal.

The human trafficking syndicate comprises of Bangladeshis, Rohingyas, people of the Burmese Mog tribe, and Thai and Malaysian nationals and it has been using this land route for around eight months, said sources in law enforcement agencies, Rohingya leaders, and a trafficked youth.

Luring Rohingyas with promises of a better life in Malaysia or Thailand, members of the syndicate first take them from camps in Cox's Bazar, to a village in near Myanmar border, and then send them to the destinations via Rakhine State, they said.

Bangladesh Coast Guard officials said they learnt about the new route and were working to track the syndicate.



They do not know the exact number of Rohingyas who have been trafficked through this route.

"We are preparing a list of traffickers

and collecting details whenever we detain any of their members. We have got some names and phone numbers of Rohingyas on the Myanmar side who are aiding these traffickers," Lieutenant Kazi Al-Ameen of the Bangladesh Coast Guard in Cox's Bazar told The Daily Star.

Once prepared, he said, they would send the list to the relevant authorities in Myanmar through the foreign ministry, requesting them to take action against the traffickers.

"We have information that another group recently trafficked Rohingyas to Thailand through Myanmar. They first went to Rakhine by a fishing boat [across the Naf river] and then to Thailand," said a senior Coast Guard official, requesting anonymity.

Amin Whing, a leader of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace & Human Rights (ARSPH), also said they have learnt about the change in trafficking routes.

He said there was a tendency to blame Rohingyas for any kind of crime, but only a small number were involved in this racket.

Human traffickers based in Teknaf have long been using the sea route

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At least 33 killed in Nepal flooding, landslides

More than 22 missing, hundreds injured

AGENCIES

Floods and landslides killed at least 33 people in western Nepal over the past week, Nepali news agencies reported. Karnali province in the north-west was heavily hit as rains forced thousands of residents to evacuate.

Flooding and avalanches have damaged hundreds of homes. More than 22 people are missing across the province and hundreds have been injured.

Six people went missing after a landslide buried a house in Pyuthan. In Kathmandu's outskirts, Deurali, three of the same family died due to a landslide.

More than 200 houses were inundated in Nawalparasi while close to 175 houses in Binayi Tribeni Rural Municipality, Gaidakot and Madhyabindu were inundated due to the heavy rains. The Narayani river has swelled due to the incessant rains leading to floods there.

"We have mobilised police officers on the ground. We have arranged a helicopter for air rescue from Surkhet," the Annapurna Post and BBC said in a report.

But they also face hindrances due to the inclement weather. Most reports of people missing were reported from the low-lying Kalikot district. People have been evacuated from their homes since the past week as the weather department continues to issue warnings of intense downpour.

BUSINESS

Local RMG exporters get up to 83pc lower price than rivals

International buyers are consistently paying lower than the global average price to apparel suppliers in Bangladesh but higher to some of the country's competitors, according to the International Trade Centre (ITC). In fact, local garment manufacturers receive rates that are 32 per cent to 83 per cent lower than the highest prices paid to the suppliers in other countries.

STORY ON B1



The demand for hand fans is rising as the situation of load-shedding is worsening amid hot and humid weather. Each of these fans was being sold at Tk 75. The photo was taken in Manikganj's Singair upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TEST TO SAVE EARTH

Nasa probe kicked asteroid off course



AFP, Washington

Nasa on Tuesday celebrated exceeding expectations during a mission to deflect a distant asteroid, in a sci-fi like test of humanity's ability to stop an incoming cosmic object from devastating life on Earth.

The fridge-sized Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) impactor deliberately smashed into the moonlet asteroid Dimorphos on September 26, pushing it into a smaller, faster orbit around its big brother Didymos, Nasa chief Bill Nelson announced.

That changed its orbital period by four percent, or 32 minutes – from 11 hour 55 minutes to 11 hours 23 minutes, bettering an expectation of 10 minutes.

"At some point in the future, if we find an asteroid that is threatening to hit Earth, and would be large enough to really do some damage, thank goodness that we will have had this successful test," Nelson told AFP.

The asteroid pair loop together around our Sun every 2.1 years, and pose no threat to our planet.

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