

PM seeks Saudi oil with delayed payments



BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Saudi Arabia to accept delayed payments for oil shipments.

She made the request during a meeting with Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Nasser bin Abdul Aziz Al-Dawood at the Gono Bhavan.

The premier also sought Saudi Arabia's support in resolving the Rohingya crisis, said Ihsanul Karim, PM's

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Vehicles waiting in long queues to cross the Padma Bridge at the Zanjira end toll plaza yesterday. Maintenance work led to some of the tollbooths being taken out of service, which caused the queues. The photo was taken around 1:00am.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

AFTER FARDIN MURDER Crime den for long, Chonpara now hogs limelight

SHAHEEN MOLLAH, back from N'ganj

An uneasy calm has gripped the Chonpara slum, a haven for drug dealers, which is now under the radar of law enforcement agencies following the killing of Buet student Fardin Noor Parash.

In the last three days, at least five to six alleged drug dealers were picked up from the slum for their suspected involvement in the murder, said sources.

Since then, drug trade in the slum has cooled down.

This reporter visited at least four well-known drug hotspots in the slum yesterday and found it to be eerily quiet, even though according to locals, these spots used to bustle all day long.

Wishing anonymity, a local, said drug dealing has been going on there since the 1980s and it grew significantly over the last decade.

He claimed, "Neither police nor local leaders ever took any steps to stop the illegal trade in the slum."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



'Square Mata' Anita Chowdhury no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anita Chowdhury, wife of Square Group founder late Samson H Chowdhury, died of old-age complications yesterday afternoon.

She breathed her last while undergoing treatment at Square Hospital in the capital.

She was 90.

Widely known as "Square Mata (the Mother of Square Group)", Anita

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Democrats retain control of Senate

Crush Republican 'red wave' hopes in US midterms; Biden 'incredibly pleased'

AGENCIES

Democrats yesterday celebrated a stunning victory to hold the US Senate, leaving Republicans in disarray and providing a critical base of political and legislative support for the remainder of Joe Biden's presidency.

Midterms traditionally deliver a rejection of the party in power, and with inflation surging and Biden's popularity in the doldrums, Republicans had been expecting to ride a mighty "red wave" and capture the Senate and the House of Representatives.

But the wave never got much beyond a ripple, and on Saturday US networks called the key Senate race in Nevada for Democrat incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto, giving the party the 50 seats it needs for an effective majority.

The win clinches Democratic control in the Senate as Vice President Kamala Harris can cast the tie-breaking vote if the upper chamber is evenly split 50-50.

President Joe Biden said yesterday he was "not surprised" but "incredibly pleased" with the turnout

in the US midterm elections after Democrats clinched control of the Senate, reports Reuters.

"I feel good and I'm looking forward to the next couple years," Biden said of the result, speaking at a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders in Phnom Penh.

Biden, due to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 summit today, said control of the Senate would bolster his position in the talks. "I know I'm coming in stronger," he said of the midterms' impact.

One Senate race remains up in the air -- a runoff in Georgia set for December 6, in which the Democrats could add to their majority.

Maintaining control of the Senate means Biden and the Democrats will retain key leverage in legislative debates, particularly in domestic and foreign spending policy, reports AFP.

The result in the House of Representatives still hangs in the balance, and while Republicans are slightly favoured to take control, it would be with a far smaller majority than they had envisaged going into Tuesday's election.



'PLOT TO KILL' Joy gives deposition in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, ICT affairs adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, narrated before a Dhaka court yesterday "how journalist Shafik Rehman and four others plotted to abduct and kill him".

Details of the statement could not be known as reporters were not allowed in the courtroom.

The four other accused are: Mahmudur Rahman, former acting editor of now defunct daily Amar Desh; Mohammad Ullah Mamun, vice-president of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (Jasas); and his son Rizvi Ahmed Caesar; and Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, a businessman living in the United States.

The prime minister's son

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Rats have an innate sense of rhythm

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Rats instinctively move in time to music and can dance in time to Mozart, scientists have found.

Bopping along in time to beats was previously thought to be a uniquely human ability but Japanese scientists have now found that rats love a boogie as much as the next person.

Rats were played a Mozart piano sonata at four different tempos during an experiment. Researchers at the University of Tokyo fitted the rats with equipment that could detect even the slightest head movements.

They found that rats managed to move their heads in time with the music.

"Rats displayed innate - that is, without any training or prior exposure to music - beat synchronisation," Dr Hirokazu Takahashi of the University of Tokyo told The Guardian.

"Music exerts a strong appeal to the brain and has profound effects on emotion and cognition."

Rats were also played Lady Gaga's Born This Way, Another One Bites the Dust by Queen, Beat It by Michael Jackson and Sugar by Maroon 5.



Farmers busy harvesting Aman on a field in Sylhet Sadar upazila. Bumper production of this crop is expected this year as there was favourable weather. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

COMPLIANCE WITH REGISTRATION CONDITIONS

EC starts reviewing political parties

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission has started reviewing political parties to check if they are complying with their registration conditions.

The EC sent letters to all registered political parties and the EC asked them to respond by November 30, mentioning how the parties were complying with the conditions.

Regarding collecting information

on the parties' compliance with the Representation of the People Order (RPO), the EC fell behind for at least two months.

While unveiling its work plan for the 12th national polls, on September 14, the EC set a deadline to collect information on political parties by September.

The process of reviewing the political parties is taking place centring the next national election which is likely to be held in late

December 2023 or early January 2024.

"We have sent letters to all registered political parties," said Ashok Kumar Debnath, additional secretary to the EC.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir said the political parties will need to provide information to the EC by November 30.

While asked about the delay, Alamgir said after collecting

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

6 DAYS TO GO

Southgate wants to make it England's best

REUTERS

England manager Gareth Southgate called on his players to shut out the noise ahead of this month's World Cup, and focus instead on the opportunity they have to become the greatest team in the country's history with victory in Qatar.

Southgate's side reached the semi-finals of the 2018 World Cup and the final of last year's European Championship, but England have failed to win a major trophy since lifting the World Cup on home soil in 1966.

England begin their group campaign against Iran on November 21 and also face the United States and Wales in Group B.

"We understand the need to comment on the off-field things that surround this tournament, but we want the players to feel that enthusiasm that they've had since kids. We want to fuel that," Southgate said.

"We want them to transition from a hectic club schedule to thinking

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

DESERT FEST HITS THE STAND

TODAY

Are you ready for the greatest show on the earth?

Ask your hawker for your guide to the World Cup football 2022