

AL to continue dev journey if voted to power, says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also president of Awami League yesterday said if her party is voted to power in the next election, it will continue the country's development journey and serve the people.

The premier said this while Vice Minister of the International Department of the central committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Chen Zhou, called on her at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PM's speechwriter M Nazrul Islam briefed reporters after the meeting.

In the last 14 years, Bangladesh has transformed socioeconomically and people are enjoying the benefits of that, said Hasina.

While talking about the Russia-Ukraine war, sanctions and counter-sanctions, she reiterated that Bangladesh does not want conflict and that this war needs to be stopped.

Hasina welcomed the Chinese cooperation in Bangladesh's journey towards advancement and hoped that China would extend its assistance towards a developed and prosperous Bangladesh by 2041. In this connection, she recalled the Chinese cooperation in building various mega-projects such as the Padma Bridge, and the Karnaphuli Tunnel – the first of its kind in South Asia.

Hasina sought Chinese investment in Bangladesh, particularly in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpanagar in Chattogram's Mirsharai.

The visiting Chinese vice minister said his country will provide all required assistance to Bangladesh to materialise its aspiration of becoming a developed country by 2041.



These two, engrossed in their little game with grains of sand, have found a way to escape from the daily struggle, as their mothers stay frozen in the long line behind to get essentials from a TCB truck. Every day, many bring their children and wait for hours in front of these vehicles, because they have no other option. But the little ones always seem to find the bright side of life. This photo was taken yesterday in Bosila of the capital's Mohammadpur.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Student dies after being hit by train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 19-year-old college student died after being hit by a train in Dhaka's Tejgaon yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Saeed Abdullah who sat for the HSC exam from Tejgaon Science College.

Saeed died on the spot after a train hit him as he was walking on the rail tracks around 11:00am, said Kamrul Islam, a sub-inspector of Dhaka Railway Police Station. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for an autopsy.

Woman dies as bus runs her over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly woman died after a bus ran her over on Dhaka's Elephant Road yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Rokia Begum, 60, who worked as a househelp in the area.

A Malancha Paribahan bus ran the woman over when she was crossing the road around 2:00pm, said Murad Khan, a sub-inspector of New Market Police Station.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

Police seized the bus and detained its driver after the incident, said the SI.

Alauddin, a relative of the deceased, said Rokia was going to her daughter's house at Demra when the accident took place.

40 inspectors promoted to ASP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty inspectors have been promoted to the post of assistant superintendent of police (ASP).

The home ministry issued four separate notifications signed by Deputy Secretary Sirajam Munira in this regard yesterday.

The promoted members will get BCS (Police) cadre status.

Their goal: build an arsenal for militants

Says CTTC after foiling plan of a newly-formed outfit

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Counterterrorism officials have claimed that the newly-formed militant outfit "Jamatul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya" were planning to create an arsenal in the remote hilly areas.

For this, the outfit even received several dozens of firearms in three separate consignments, and 7.62 mm bullets, mainly used by law enforcers. What's more, the firearms are factory-made and were manufactured in 2019, said officials.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit made the claims after conducting a special drive in Bandarban and Dhaka's Kadamtoli area on January 8.

During the drive, CTTC reportedly seized three locally made firearms, six single-barrel rifles, 11 rounds of the 7.62 mm bullets, 140 rounds of other kinds of bullets, lead, acid, gunpowder, octane, and other chemicals from Bandarban.

These firearms and bullets were put inside a big plastic drum, which was then buried, according to officials.

CTTC said it is now looking into from where and how the special bullets were sourced.

The militants would use the chemicals to train outfit members on making bombs, officials said.

SK Imran Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of CTTC, told The Daily Star yesterday that by conducting multiple drives and arresting suppliers, they have successfully managed to foil the outfit's

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plans of creating an arsenal.

"We have got some information centring the arms supply and are now investigating to take action against the perpetrators," added Imran.

On January 8, CTTC also arrested Kabir Ahmed, an arms supplier, and two members of the outfit – Yeasin and Abdur Rahman Imran – according to officials.

Both of them are aides of Shamin Mahfuz, one of the planners of the militant group, they said.

A high-official involved with the investigation said the firearm consignments reached the militants' den from arms factories in Naikhongchhari of Bandarban and Moheshkhali of Cox's Bazar.

"The consignments were sent to the militant outfit three times, in November 2021, and March and July of 2022," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Arms manufacturers sent the consignments by hiding them inside big drums, he said.

Citing the findings, officials said each of the drums can keep six to seven rifles and three to four small firearms. For each consignment, the suppliers sent two to three drums.

Based on estimates, at least 60 locally-made firearms were sent to the outfit in three consignments, and drives are underway to seize those, said sources in CTTC.

Regarding the firearms' value, another CTTC official said that they have primarily come to know that the small arms and rifles cost between Tk 40,000 to 1 lakh.

Investigators said the arms factories have been built

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DNCC DRIVE

Woman dies 'jumping off' building in Gulshan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman died and another sustained critical injuries after "jumping off" a building in Dhaka's Gulshan area yesterday, during a DNCC drive against residential buildings being used for commercial purposes, according to police.

The deceased was identified as Farzana Akter, 19, an employee of a spa centre that was being run in the building, said police. Another woman, aged around 22, whose identity could not be known immediately, is receiving treatment at DMCH.

Sheikh Sahnur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Gulshan Police Station, said they came to know that the two jumped off during a drive at the building by a team of DNCC.

Mukbul Hossain, public relations officer of DNCC, said a mobile-court team led by executive magistrate Mahmudul Hasan was conducting a drive at the area to clear footpaths and check whether residential buildings were being used commercially.

When the team went into the building, the two jumped off the rooftop. The officials then informed the local police station immediately, he said.

Alamgir Hossain, a sub-

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DENGUE FEVER

21 more hospitalised in 24hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 21 dengue patients were hospitalised in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Among the cases, nine patients are from outside of Dhaka.

With the new cases, the total number of dengue patients rose to 342, of whom, 176 are from outside of the capital, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

One dengue patient, so far, died this year.

Some 168 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment, of whom, 113 are from outside of Dhaka.

The total number of deaths due to dengue was 281 last year, while the total number of cases was 62,382, of whom, 23,162 were from outside of Dhaka.



COURT CORNER

Fardin denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday denied bail to Fardin Iftekhar Dihan, the lone accused in the case filed over the rape and murder of an O-level student in Dhaka's Kalabagan in January 2021.

The HC, however, asked the lower court concerned to finish the trial proceedings of the case expeditiously, saying that the tenure of stipulated 180 days for completing the trial has already expired.

The bench of Justice SM Emdadul Hoque and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol passed the order after holding hearing for nine phases on the bail petition filed by Fardin, said Deputy Attorney General Sujit Chatterjee Bappi.

TIPU, PRITY MURDERS

Investigators get 9th date to finish probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Detective Branch of police to submit the probe report of Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and college student Samia Afran Jamal Prity murders by February 27. Investigators have now taken nine dates to complete the investigation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order after DB Inspector Yasin Sikder failed to submit any report. On March 24 last year, Tipu, 55, former general secretary of AL's Motijheel unit, was returning home in a microbus in Motijheel AGB Colony. His vehicle got stuck at traffic in Shahjahanpur when attackers arrived at the scene on a motorcycle and opened fire indiscriminately.

A college student, Prity, 22, who happened to be in a rickshaw next to the vehicle, was also shot.

POSSESSING COCAINE

Peruvian national gets life term

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a Peruvian national to life imprisonment for possessing 2.3kg of cocaine. Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Farhana Ferdous handed down the sentence in presence of convict Jaime Bardales Gomez, 52.

Police filed a case against him with Bimanbandar Police Station in September 2015.

According to the case statement, Customs House and Department of Narcotics Control seized cocaine, worth around Tk 50 crore, from him at Dhaka airport on September 1, 2015.

Piyasha indicted in drug case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against model and former television presenter Faria Mahbub Piyasha in a narcotic case.

Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Morshed Alam read out the charges and set April 17 for starting the trial.

The accused, now on bail, was sued under Narcotics Control Act with Gulshan Police Station in August 2021 after police arrested her from her home in the capital's Baridhara area on August 1, 2021. Some 780 yaba pills, eight bottles of foreign liquor, and four cans of beer were seized from her house.

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 12

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:30	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:00

JAMAAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:40 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Although the authorities put up clearly visible "no parking" signs on both sides of Abdul Gani road, owners and drivers park their vehicles illegally there, creating a mess. The road is extremely important as it leads to the Secretariat.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN