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Ray of Sara shines on

Recipients of her corneas regain complete eyesight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two blind people, who received corneas from Sara Islam through cadaveric transplantation in Dhaka recently, have regained their complete eyesight.

As result of the country's first successful organ transplantation from a brain-dead patient, Mohammad Suzon, 30, and Ferdous Akter, 56, received the corneas.

On January 19, surgeons at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University performed the cadaveric transplantation and the recipients had surgeries at BSMU and Sandhani Eye Hospital.

"Both of them have regained their eyesight," Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, a renowned eye specialist and vice-chancellor of BSMU, told journalists at his office.

The conditions of Shamima Akter and Hasina Akter, recipients of Sara's kidneys, were also improving gradually, according to Prof Sharfuddin.

"Four people have started dreaming to live a new life because of the sacrifice of Sara. This is a milestone in the history of medical treatment in the country."

Sara, a rare tumour patient, was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at BSMU on January 16 as her health deteriorated after undergoing a surgery on her brain

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Bilkis Begum, 70, winnowing Atap rice at her front yard in Badalpara village of Barishal's Bakerganj upazila. Following harvest every year, she hand-grinds the rice after having it husked by millers and uses it to make traditional winter delicacies, such as rice pudding and pithas, for her family. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

2 jailed over digging lake in reserve forest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday jailed two people, including an official of Halda Valley Tea Estate, over digging a lake in a reserve forest in Chattogram's Fatikchhari upazila.

Mohsin Hossain, 30, an assistant manager of the tea estate, was sentenced to a year in prison, and Goutam Das, 48, an excavator operator, to a month in prison.

Sabbir Rahman Sunny, executive magistrate and upazila nirbahi officer of Fatikchhari, who led the mobile court, told The Daily Star that he conducted the drive in the tea estate following a directive from the district administration and found that the estate authorities had dug a lake by cutting the hill and trees without permission.

"We jailed the two as they

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Lawyer tortured in custody

Family alleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lawyer who had been missing for a week was brought to a Dhaka court by police, shown arrested, and sent to jail yesterday.

Abu Hossain Rajon was picked up on the morning of January 22, and taken to Hatirjheel Police Station, said his family members.

When the family members met Rajon on the court premises yesterday, he told them that he had been beaten up and tortured in police custody.

"He was battered from the feet up. They beat him everywhere, all over his legs and back. He said that he was taken from the Hatirjheel Police Station to the DB headquarters every day to be tortured," said Rajon's younger brother Mohiuddin Khan.

Rajon was not taken in front of a magistrate at the court, his family alleged. He was brought to the premises, kept in the court's prison cell and taken directly to jail.

"One of our relatives had stood watch over the Hatirjheel police station the

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Israel moves to punish 'families of terrorists'

Blinken arrives in Middle East amid escalation fears

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israeli forces yesterday prepared to demolish the family home of a Palestinian man who killed seven people near a synagogue, as fears grew of further escalation in the deadliest unrest for years in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The Israeli cabinet earlier agreed to a slew of steps, including rescinding the rights to social security benefits of "the families of terrorists that support terrorism".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken yesterday arrived in Egypt at the start of a Middle East trip on which he will look to notch down Israeli-Palestinian tensions after an eruption of violence.

The Israeli cabinet said the east Jerusalem home of Khayri Alqam, 21 -- who was shot dead by police following Friday's attack -- "will be sealed immediately ahead of its demolition".

An AFP correspondent saw Israeli forces on the property after they shuttered its entrances, with Palestinians clearing out their belongings.

Israel already routinely demolishes the homes of Palestinians who kill Israelis, although the process requires prior notice to families and allows for an appeals process.

Dani Shenhar, a legal expert at Israeli rights group HaMoked, said sealing off the home overnight demonstrated the government's desire for "revenge against the families".

The measure was carried out "in complete disregard for the rule of law", he charged, adding that HaMoked would launch a protest with Israel's attorney general.

Netanyahu yesterday said that revoking Israeli identity cards of the relatives of attackers was on the agenda of the weekly cabinet meeting.

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BERC amendment bill passed

Opposition MP fears it may allow power prices to rise even further

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill 2023 was passed in parliament yesterday, paving the way for the government to adjust gas and electricity prices without holding a public hearing.

Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy, and mineral resources, placed the bill, which was unanimously passed by a voice vote with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

At the time, the state minister said the proposed law was being enacted by amending the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act 2003.

"The system loss in electricity generation is now less than 6-7 percent, down from 41 percent previously," he added.

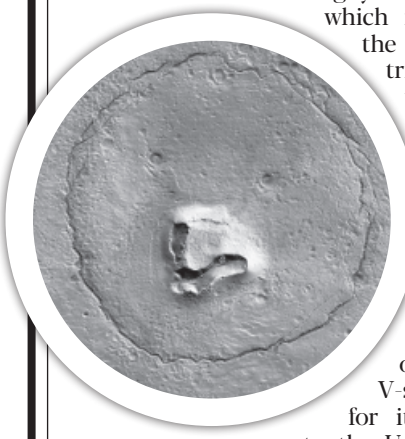
Meanwhile, Gonoforum MP Mokabbir

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Nasa finds strange 'bear face' rock formation on Mars

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa astronomers have discovered a strange structure on Mars resembling a bear's face, marking yet another instance in which rock formations on the Red Planet have triggered the human tendency to see familiar features in random objects.



The weird geological formation on Mars consists of two craters that appear to make up the eyes of the "bear," and a V-shaped collapsed hill for its snout, according to the University of Arizona, which runs a high resolution camera on-board Nasa's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

"There's a hill with a V-shaped collapse structure (the nose), two craters (the eyes), and a circular fracture pattern (the head)." The

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'KNF man' found shot dead in CHT

STAR REPORT

Police recovered the bullet-ridden body of a man believed to be a member of the Kuki-Chin National Front in Ruma upazila of Bandarban yesterday.

Police said the man was in KNF uniform, but his identity could not be confirmed.

Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ruma Police Station, said a KNF gang attacked a security forces team at Artha Para and Bachlang Para in Ruma around noon on Saturday.

In retaliation, the security forces opened fire and at one stage, the KNF gang fled the scene, he said.

"The body of a KNF member was recovered from the area on [Sunday] morning. A firearm was also recovered from the spot," said the OC.

Contacted, Mohammad Mamun Shiblee, upazila nirbahi officer in Ruma, said the security forces conducted drives against KNF in the last two days.

The KNF criminals then took shelter at Munaam Para, Mualpi Para, Bachlang para, Artha para and some other adjacent neighbourhoods where the indigenous Bawm and Marma communities live.

The criminals tried to

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Djokovic equals Nadal's record



AFP, Melbourne

An emotional Novak Djokovic called it "the biggest victory in my life" after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas to win a 10th Australian Open title and equal Rafael Nadal's 22 Grand Slam crowns on Sunday.

The Serb will return to world number one as he overcame a hamstring injury and off-court drama to sweep past the Greek third seed 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/5) on Rod Laver Arena.

The 35-year-old climbed to his player's box afterwards to embrace his mother and broke down in uncontrollable tears, collapsing to the ground sobbing.

His father Srdjan was again missing after he sparked controversy by posing with a fan carrying a Russian flag featuring Vladimir Putin's face following his son's quarter-final win.

The emphatic victory over Tsitsipas capped a remarkable return for Djokovic to Melbourne Park, having missed last year's tournament when he was deported over his Covid vaccination stance.

"I have to say this has been one of the most challenging tournaments I've ever played considering the circumstances, not playing last year, coming back this year," he said at the presentation, wearing a jacket with 22 emblazoned on it.

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AB Bank disbursed agricultural loans through Smart Card at Barishal



AB Bank Limited Rab Serniabat Mr. Swapan Kumar of Agricultural Senior
disbursed agricultural Stadium, Barishal. Das, Executive Extension were
loans to small and Mr. Serniabat Director, Bangladesh present as special officials of AB Bank
marginal farmers Sadiq Abdullah, Bank, Barishal Office, guests with and local dignitaries
through smart cards at honorable Mayor of Barishal City and Mr. Harun President and also attended the
Barishal district. Corporation was Ur-Rashid, Additional Managing Director of AB Bank Limited
The program was organized at Abdur present as chief guest. Directors, Department