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DATA PROTECTION ACT Everyone dealing with citizens' data must register

ZYMA ISLAM

The government will maintain a publicly available register of all organisations and persons collecting and processing data, and the purpose for which data is being processed.

This is as per the latest draft of the data protection act dated yesterday. The draft states that an entity called a Data Protection Agency will maintain this register, and will make the information contained in the data protection register available for inspection by any persons.

Organisations collecting or processing personal data vary from government entities, law enforcement agencies, research organisations, banks, embassies, NGOs, marketplaces, trade bodies and others.

"Every person who wishes to perform the functions of controller and processor under this Act must be enrolled in the agency. The procedure for enrollment, terms of enrollment, renewal and suspension of enrollment [...] shall be determined by rules," states the new draft.

Although stakeholders have been recommending that an independent commission be created to implement the data protection law and protect the rights of citizens, this law still maintains that a government agency will be in control.

The agency called the Data Protection Agency will be headed by a Director General and four directors appointed by the government.

This government body can "access to the data processing

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A truck carries away soil dug out from Nurpur canal in Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila. A contractor of Bangladesh Water Development Board is re-excavating the canal, but a huge amount of soil, supposed to be piled up along the banks, is being illegally sold allegedly by some local Awami League leaders. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYO

DHAKA CITY Form expert committee to monitor buildings

HC asks authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to form a committee comprising relevant experts from every ward in the Dhaka city corporations to monitor structures and buildings, along with their sewage and gas lines, in order to ensure the safety of the citizens.

The chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripokkho (Rajuk); managing director of Titas Gas Limited; managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA), and the chief executive officers of Dhaka north and south city corporations have been ordered to form the committee in seven days of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

No exams, model tests for class-VI, VII students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on, students of classes six and seven will no longer have to sit for the conventional exams or model tests as per the new curriculum.

Issuing a directive on Monday, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) said teaching-learning and evaluation activities of the students of the two classes would be carried out as per the new curriculum and the teacher's guide prepared by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

Prof Md Moshuazzaman, a member (curriculum) of NCTB, said there would be no traditional marking system for the two classes either.

Students' performance will be assessed in two phases -- one will be continuous assessment and another overall evaluation, said an NCTB official.

For Bangla, English, mathematics, social science, and science, 60 percent of the evaluation will be over continuous

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

SHIPWRECK IN MED 17 Bangladeshis rescued, brought ashore in Italy

REUTERS, Rome

Seventeen Bangladeshis rescued after the latest deadly shipwreck in the Mediterranean were brought ashore by the Italian authorities on Monday as Italy faced criticism for its response to the crisis.

Those rescued were taken to the Sicilian town of Pozzallo, Italian news wire ANSA reported yesterday. Thirty people were feared drowned after the boat they were travelling in from Libya capsized in bad weather on Sunday, Italy's coastguard said.



The tragedy follows a February 26 shipwreck near the southern region of Calabria, in which at least 79 people died.

Alarm Phone, a charity that picks up calls from migrant vessels in distress, blamed Italy for not sending its coastguard earlier despite being repeatedly alerted on Saturday that the boat was in trouble.

"Clearly, the Italian authorities were trying to avoid that the people would be brought to Italy, delaying intervention so that the so-called Libyan coastguard would arrive and forcibly return people to Libya," it said in a statement late on Sunday.

Italy's coastguard said the capsizing occurred

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

IRREGULAR MIGRATION OF BANGLADESHIS

Mediterranean route dangerous yet popular

JAMIL MAHMUD

Irregular migration of Bangladeshis to Italy by sea has almost doubled in a year, shows UN data.

A total of 15,228 Bangladeshis reached Italy by sea last year, with 98 percent departing from Libya, up from 7,838 in 2021, according to the UNHCR.

Over the last two years, the overwhelming majority of the irregular Bangladeshi migrants travelling to the European country went from Libya via the Central Mediterranean Sea route, shows UN data.

Intensified online campaign by traffickers and poor rate of their conviction still remain among the key reasons for the rise in irregular migration, say experts.

They say that traffickers campaign vigorously on virtual platforms to lure migrants into taking the perilous journey, often highlighting in video clips the stories of people reaching their destinations.

Irregular migration to Italy rose despite the county reopening its door to Bangladeshi workers in 2020 after an eight-year ban over violation of recruitment conditions.

The Central Mediterranean route is

the most common one used by irregular migrants to travel to Europe, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The route poses multiple risks for migrants -- from exploitation and possible death at the hands of traffickers to possible drowning from shipwreck.

According to an IOM estimate, over 20,000 people have died or disappeared while crossing the Central Mediterranean between 2014 and 2022.

In May 2019, around 60 migrants, mostly from Bangladesh, died in a boat capsized in the Mediterranean on their way to Italy from Libya, AFP reported.

In January last year, seven Bangladeshi migrants who were on a boat from Libya heading for Lampedusa in Italy died of hypothermia, according to media reports.

In 2020, traffickers killed 26 Bangladeshi migrants in Libya following an altercation.

Migration experts said although economic needs could be associated with people's irregular migration, youths from solvent families were also found taking such dangerous journeys.

They blamed presence of trafficking networks in Bangladesh for such

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Scientists create 'miracle material'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have created a superconducting material that works at both a temperature and a pressure low enough to actually use it in practical situations.

It reaches a breakthrough that scientists have been chasing for more than a century, in making a material that is able to transmit electricity without resistance, and pass magnetic fields around the material.

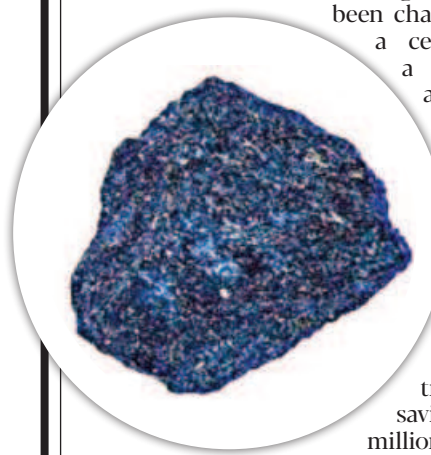
Its discovery could lead to power grids that are able to seamlessly transmit energy, saving up to 200 million megawatt hours that is currently lost to resistance. It could also contribute to nuclear fusion, a long-awaited process that could create unlimited power.

Other applications include high speed, hovering trains and new kinds of medical equipment, they suggest.

A team led by the same scientist, Ranga Dias, previously reported the creation of two slightly less breakthrough but similarly superconducting materials in papers that were published in Nature and Physical Review Letters. The Nature paper was eventually retracted by the journal's editors, amid questions over the scientists' approach.

This time around, Professor Dias and his team say they took extra steps to avoid similar criticism.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Outrage over MP's remark about judge

Lawyers in Cox's Bazar stage demo in protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers in Cox's Bazar yesterday formed a human chain in protest of an MP's tirade against a judge.

Over 100 lawyers participated in the demonstration in front of the Cox's Bazar District Bar Association building.

Saimum Sarwar Komol, member of parliament from Cox's Bazar-3, at an event of secondary schoolteachers in Ramu on Saturday said, "A case has been filed against a teacher named Jashim Uddin in Ramu... I talked to the judge. I told him it was false. No violence took place over land disputes..."

"But a bench assistant managed the judge and the case was registered. As long as I am alive, I will not let the teacher land in jail... If the teacher has to go to jail, I will not let him [the judge] eat. I will not let him do his job."

At yesterday's demonstration, lawyer Abdur Rahim said the MP will be sued unless he apologises and withdraws his statement.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Trying to skirt around heavy traffic on the road, motorcyclists occupy an entire footpath in the capital's Banglamotor area yesterday, barring pedestrians from using it at all. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

TK 11.25CR HEIST Ex-employee of Money Plant among plotters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former driver of Money Plant Link Private Ltd was one of the masterminds behind the recent robbery of Tk 11.25 crore from a microbus of the company, detectives said yesterday.

Sohel Rana, the former driver, knows that the company does not hire gunmen and takes inadequate security measures while transporting enormous amounts of cash, said Harun Or Rashid, chief of the Detective Branch at Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He had the vehicle's spare key with which the robbers opened the door and snatched away the money, he told reporters at the DMP Media Centre.

"Sohel is on the run... We are trying to arrest him," Harun said.

The DB arrested another mastermind named Akash, and suspects Milon Mia, and Ridoy in Dhaka, Netrakona and Khulna over the last two days.

The DB officers recovered Tk 58 lakh from the three suspects, he added.

Law enforcers have so far arrested 11 and recovered Tk 7.01 crore of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2