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Packs of sweets, Tk 1cr and fake ACC officials

Four including PA of the commission's money laundering wing DG held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A broker syndicate attempted to deceive Md Ashiquzzaman, a businessman in the Baitul Mukarram area of Dhaka, by posing as officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Their plan involved a forged letter, purportedly from the ACC, claiming that a case had been filed against Ashiq and summoning him for a hearing on July 10.

The brokers, using the ACC's name, contacted Ashiq and offered to help him avoid the case in exchange for Tk 5 crore. Eventually, they settled for Tk 1 crore to resolve the issue.

According to the agreement, Ashiq was instructed to pay Tk 20 lakh before the Friday prayers on June 23, with the remainder to be paid during banking hours on Sunday. As part of the arrangement, Ashiq concealed Tk 1.5 lakh in four packets of sweets and proceeded to a restaurant in Motijheel.

Prior to his visit to the restaurant, Ashiq reported the incident to the Lalbagh division of the Detective Branch (DB) of police. The police then took position around the designated spot.

When the brokers arrived to collect the

money, police arrested four individuals.

The arrestees are Goutam Chakraborty, 42, the personal assistant to the director general of the ACC money laundering wing; Esken Ali Khan, 57, a suspended police constable, and their associates Habibur Rahman, 42, and Poritosh Mondol, 63.

During the arrest, police confiscated Tk 1.5 lakh in cash, four packets of sweets, four cell phones, and the forged ACC notice from the possession of the suspects.

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Harun Ur Rashid, additional commissioner of DB, revealed the details of the arrest yesterday.

Harun said the victim, Ashiq, is a trader involved in the supply of imported carpets and prayer rugs to a carpet shop in the vicinity of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

On June 20, individuals claiming to be

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

LOST IN DARKNESS... Drivers of different vehicles were blinded by a cloud of carbon monoxide emitted from a bus in the capital's Farmgate. Such unfit buses continue to ply the city streets as authorities turn a blind eye to the situation. The photo was taken yesterday.

Address climate change impact on migrant workers

Speakers tell RMMRU event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to collect evidence in light of a new report that suggests migrant workers including Bangladeshis are exposed to extreme temperature-related health challenges in the Gulf, said the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit yesterday.

The migrant rights advocacy group said the United Arab Emirates would host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in November this year which will be an opportunity for Bangladesh to place such evidence.

In the upcoming COP28, a day has been dedicated to discuss on health issues, said Prof CR Abrar, executive director of the RMMRU, while sharing the report "Killer Heat: The Impact of Extreme Temperatures and Climate Change on Migrant Workers in the Gulf" during a programme at a city hotel.

"It [COP28] provided us with an important opportunity to place the evidence and raise question before the rich migrant-hosting nations that what are they doing in this regard," he said.

The report is produced by Vital Signs Partnership (VSP), a coalition of migrant rights groups in Asia and the UK. RMMRU is the partner organisation in Bangladesh.

The report is the third and final of a series of works on migrant workers in the Gulf states.

It [COP28] provided us with an important opportunity to place the evidence and raise question before the rich migrant-hosting nations that what are they doing in this regard.

PROF CR ABRAR
Executive director of RMMRU

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2 more dengue patients die

500 hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Two more deaths were reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 42 this year.

During the period, 500 more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Fifteen hundred and three patients are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

So far, the DGHS has



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Wooden benches are often stacked up illegally on a pillar base of the capital's Khilgaon Flyover. Nearby furniture shop owners do this to "save" warehouse expenses. This photo was taken near Shahjahanpur intersection yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GABTOLI MARKET

Small cattle in high demand

Financial hurdles force buyers to adjust budget

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

With Eid-ul-Azha just around the corner, Dhaka residents are flocking to cattle markets in search of sacrificial animals. With prevailing financial challenges, many individuals are opting for smaller and medium-sized cattle this year.

However, this escalating demand for these cattle has resulted in a notable increase in their prices.

The city is preparing to host a total of 21 cattle markets, encompassing both permanent and temporary locations. The selling of livestock in most of these markets is set to start today, heightening the anticipation among buyers and sellers alike.

These correspondents visited Gabtoli, the city's permanent cattle market, for the last two days, and observed that the shades designated for smaller and medium-sized cows were brimming with eager buyers, while the rows dedicated to larger ones stood largely unoccupied.

Rows upon rows of various livestock, including cows, goats, and sheep, were neatly lined up. Sellers, adorned in traditional attire,



skillfully showcased their prized animals, vying for the attention of potential buyers.

Every detail of the livestock, ranging from their health and size to their overall quality, was examined by the potential buyers.

Bargaining ensued, as buyers sought to secure the best possible deal for their sacrificial animal.

However, the surge in prices of smaller and medium-sized cows has posed challenges for many facing financial constraints, who

may now need to navigate their budgets more carefully to fulfill their sacrificial obligations.

Siraj Mia, a cattle trader from Rajbari, said he purchased seven small and medium-sized cows at prices ranging from Tk 80,000 to Tk 1,25,000.

He said customers often refer to last year's prices, overlooking the increased costs of cattle food and the higher prices of beef in the market. As a result, this year's

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Maritime ports asked to hoist cautionary signal three

UNB, Dhaka

The country's maritime ports have been advised to hoist the local cautionary signal 3 as deep convection is taking place over the North Bay due to active monsoon, said the weather department yesterday.

Squally weather is likely to affect the maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra, said the Met office.

All fishing boats and trawlers in the North Bay have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution until further notice, it reads.

The Met office forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers

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'They were planning an armed attack'

Says CTTC after arresting new militant platform chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya aimed to launched an armed attack in Bangladesh to disrupt the country's democratic system.

To receive weapons training, members of the outfit sought refuge at the hideout of the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF), an armed group in the Chattogram Hill Tracts.

When law enforcement agencies initiated a crackdown, the chief of KNF, Nathan Bom, suggested that they should surrender. However, the outfit's chief, Shamin Mahfuj, rejected the suggestion and instructed the members to resist and counter the law enforcement drive.

Consequently, the outfit made attempts to resist the operation on various occasions.

Following the arrest of Shamin and his wife Naznin Sultana on Friday night in the capital's Demra, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit disclosed these details yesterday.

The activities of the outfit came to light after reports of missing youths surfaced from Cumilla and different parts of the country last year.

Since then, law enforcers have arrested at least

During his time in jail, Shamin began devising plans to establish a new militant outfit. Upon his release from jail in 2018, he began recruiting members for the outfit.

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Minorities fear pre-polls violence

Speakers demand govt action at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of minority population has not reduced by half under the Awami League-led government, but the policies leading towards a decline in minority population continues under this government, said Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, yesterday.

He made the remark refuting the claim made by six Congressmembers in a letter to the US president that the Hindu population has been halved since Sheikh Hasina's rise to power.

While addressing a meeting at the Bangladesh Medical Association in Dhaka, he also expressed concern about a vested group's attempt to create instability by targeting minorities ahead of the national election.

"Their only goal is to make the country minority-free," he said.

He further shared their plans to inform foreign embassies in Bangladesh and all political parties about the situation.

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