

UN deputy secretary general meets Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations Deputy Secretary General Amina J Mohammed yesterday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban.

In the meeting, various issues including SDG, climate change, Rohingya, impacts of the Covid-19 and Russia-Ukraine war on the global economy came up for discussion.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed newsmen after the meeting.

The prime minister said her government has been taking various timely measures to ensure food security amid the international food crisis.

She said her government has been working to bring all the fallow land

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BOTCHED C-SECTION Central Hospital refutes Sangjukta's allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Central Hospital authorities yesterday denied the allegations brought by physician Sangjukta Saha who claimed the hospital admitted pregnant Mahbuba Rahman Akhi in her absence and received a commission from her for every childbirth.

In a press release regarding the death of Akhi and her baby, they claimed that Sangjukta had a group of on-call doctors who she used to assign on a roster to take care of her patients.

On June 18, Akhi died seven days after the death of her newborn following the alleged botched C-section on June 10 at the Central Hospital. After the tragic incident, Sangjukta and the hospital authorities traded blames.

In yesterday's press release, the hospital authorities said Shahzadi, one of Sangjukta's on-call doctors, was at the hospital until 11:00pm as instructed by Sangjukta, though Shahzadi did not have duty on that night at the hospital.

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Militants using jails to recruit operatives

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young men were reported missing in Cumilla last year.

Echoing the two officers, a Rab officer has said recruitment by Ansar Al Islam, formerly known as Ansar Ullah Bangla Team, on Facebook, Twitter, and Telegram is now a matter of concern.

The recruiters identify potential targets on social media and contact them through encrypted messaging apps that make it difficult for law enforcers to monitor their activities.

The group has "sleeper cells" in which the members do not know each other's real identity and their leaders operate anonymously.

They use unique codes for their identity, said a CTTC officer. "Even if one of them gets arrested, law enforcers cannot track down the others."

Besides, militants use VPN that prevent law enforcers from intercepting the communications.

"Ansar Al Islam wants to make a terrorist attack. It is gaining strength by recruiting new members. They may become a major headache in

future," said an officer.

AFM Al Kibria, deputy commissioner (Cyber Crime Investigation Division) at the CTTC, has said his team is trying to get timely information in the coming days through the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) between Bangladesh and other countries.

The recruiters identify potential targets on social media and contact them through encrypted messaging apps that make it difficult for law enforcers to monitor activities.

Contacted on June 27, CTTC chief Asaduzzaman said, "Although it appears that militancy is under control, the militants are attempting

Basic info on extraction

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whether the government publicly disclosed key budget documents, including expenditures broken down by ministry and revenues broken down by source and type.

The review process also evaluated whether the government had a supreme audit institution that meets international standards of independence and audits the government's annual financial statements and whether such audits are made publicly available.

It also assessed whether the process for awarding licences and contracts for natural resource extraction is outlined in law or regulation and followed in practice and whether basic information on such awards is publicly available.

While the Bangladesh government made its executive budget proposal publicly available, it did not make its end-of-year report publicly available within a reasonable period, it said.

The budget documents were not prepared according to the internationally accepted principles but provided a reasonably complete picture of the government's planned expenditures and revenue, including natural resource revenues.

However, the government did not break down expenditures to support executive offices.

The publicly available budget documents included financial allocations to and earnings from state-owned enterprises.

Although the government's supreme audit institution reviews the

to reorganise."

Deradicalisation procedures will be launched in prisons soon, he added.

CTTC Deputy Commissioner SM Nazmul Haque said officers are engaged in "cyber patrolling" to monitor online activities of militants and prevent recruitments.

Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman, security analyst and president of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), said police alone cannot combat militancy.

Militancy will never be controlled until the means of radicalisation are eradicated, but Bangladesh does not have any counter-radicalisation strategy, he said.

When something happens somewhere, militants get killed or end up in prisons through an operation. But their activities in the prisons are not properly monitored, he said.

Prisons are becoming militant-making factories partly because they are at double the capacity, he said, adding that militants must be separated and deradicalised.

OIL TANKER BLAST Same vessel sank 6 months ago in the Meghna One body found; search on for missing three

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

The oil tanker that exploded in Jhalakathi on Saturday afternoon, was involved in another accident just 6 months ago as it sank in the Meghna river after colliding with a bulkhead.

An investigation report after the incident found that the tanker's safety equipment, especially the radar system, was not working properly. It recommended fixing the issues before putting it in service again.

Just months after that, the tanker, Sagar Nandini-2, exploded on the Sugandha river seriously injuring five people out of 9 on board. They are taking treatment in the burn unit at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Of the missing 4 people, rescuers today recovered the body of Ridoy, a crew of the oil tanker, at 2:00pm from the engine room, said Mohammad Salim, a joint director of BIWTA, yesterday.

He said a rescue operation was continuing for the missing three: the tanker's supervisor Masud Rahman Belal, driver Sarwar and staff Ruhul Amin Khan.

Two divers have been deployed, he added.

The tanker, with seven lakh litres of diesel and four lakh litres of petrol, was anchored near the ferry terminal of the town. It was set to unload its cargo, sources said.

The cargo brought from Chattagram belonged to Padma Oil Company.

One of the injured crew said the explosion was so powerful that it sent the bridge of the tanker flying into the river.

A probe committee has been formed to find out the cause of the explosion.

The BIWTA official said the unloading of cargo from the tanker was ongoing since morning.

The vessel is not likely to capsize, he said.

For Sagar Nandini-2, it was the second major accident in 6 months.

On December 25, last year, it capsized in the Meghna river in Bhola with 1.1 million litres of oil after colliding with a bulkhead on its way to the Padma Oil Company depot in Chandpur.

Salvaging after seven days, it was then repaired in a dock and put back in service, said Salim.

In January, an investigation report said that the tanker lacked adequate safety measures. It recommended that the ship must fix those issues before it can be put in service again," said BIWTA Additional Director of the Department of Naval Conservation and Management Abdur Rahim.

Asked whether the recommendations of the report were carried out, Salim, BIWTA joint director, said, "We couldn't check as the bridge of the tanker was blown away in the explosion."

It couldn't be confirmed whether the tanker got a clearance certificate after the repair work.

21,000 Wagner mercenaries killed in Ukraine: Zelensky

CNN ONLINE

At least 21,000 Wagner mercenaries have been killed fighting in Ukraine, according to President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The Ukrainian leader said the private military company had suffered "enormous losses," particularly in eastern Ukraine where its "most powerful group" was fighting.

"Our troops killed 21,000 Wagnerites in eastern Ukraine alone," Zelensky told reporters in Kyiv on Saturday, adding that another 80,000 Wagner fighters had been wounded.

"These were enormous losses for the Wagner PMC," said Zelensky, who characterised its fighters as a "motivated staff of the Russian army" and mostly convicts who "had nothing to lose."

CNN could not independently verify the claim by Zelensky, made during a press conference with Spanish media to coincide with a visit to Kyiv by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

The trip by Sanchez is his third visit to Ukraine. It comes as Spain takes over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union and follows news that CIA Director William Burns also recently traveled to Ukraine to meet with Zelensky and Ukrainian intelligence officials.

Zelensky's claims about Wagner's losses comes just a week after the private military company's boss Yevgeny Prigozhin led his men in an abortive rebellion against Moscow.

The future of the Wagner Group is now unclear, with the deal brokered by Lukashenko requiring Prigozhin to move to Belarus and his fighters given the option of either signing up to the Russian military or enforcement agencies, returning to their families and friends, or also going to Belarus.

4 struck dead by lightning

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and several injured after they were struck by lightning in three districts yesterday.

In Jamalpur, two died and two sustained injuries after being struck by lightning in Sadar upazila.

The deceased are Mofajjol Ali, 55, of Jamalpur municipality, and Abdul Khalek, of Sadar upazila, reports our district correspondent.

The injured are Shahjahan and Dulu Sheikh of Baniabazar area.

In Mymensingh, an elderly farmer was killed in a lightning strike in Haluaghat upazila.

The victim was identified as Md Intaz Ali, 70, of Beeldora village, reports our local correspondent.

In Natore, a youth was killed after being struck by lightning while playing football at Misripara Adarsh High School ground in Bagatipara.

The deceased is Borhan Uddin, of Abdulpur village of Lalpur upazila.

Woman killed under train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A train ran over a woman near the Boral Bridge Railway Station in Bhangura upazila of Pabna last morning.

Salma Begum, 26 of Moshjidpara village, was sitting on the rail line near the Boral bridge station at about 8:30am when Dhaka-bound Bonolota Express ran over her, said Sub-Inspector of Sirajganj GRP Police Station Md Abdul Mazed.

GRP police recovered the body from the spot and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy, he added.

Locals however claimed that the victim might have died by suicide.

Asked about the matter, the GRP SI however said police are investigating the incident.

"According to the information from the locals, we come to know that the victim was sitting on a rail line when the train was crossing the track. We are investigating, whether she committed suicide or was unmindful when the train approached."

3 siblings die in boat capsized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Maulvibazar

Three siblings died in a boat capsized in Gobindpur village in Sunamganj Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased are Farzana 13, Marzana, 8, and Robin, 4, said police.

Suhel Mia, a day labourer of Gobindpur village, sent away his four children on a small boat as flood water entered the house, but it sank on the way.

The elder son managed to swim ashore but his siblings drowned, said Local Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Wadud.

Later villagers and fire service personnel recovered the bodies, said Sunamganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ikhtiar Uddin Chowdhury.

Dhaka University is revered as the highest educational institution in Bangladesh. The place is deemed magical and its students often long for the campus even after completing their graduation. On 1 July 2023, it was DU's 102nd birthday. With her birthday in mind, here is a call back to my days at Dhaka University and everything it has taught me other than my major.



SK ENAMUL HAQ

What DU taught me

ASHIF AHMED RUDRO

THE POWER OF THOUGHT

It is often said that true education is not memorising information but learning how to use that information. True education is learning how to think. That is what I learned from Dhaka University. The place inspired me to think.

The things that I learned in classes, I spent less time memorising them and more time thinking about them and their application. Most students here debate about relevant issues over their breakfast or a cup of tea.

ADAPT TO DHAKA

When I came to Dhaka, I was still in my teen years and the place was completely new to me. I was having a really difficult time adjusting to the city because as they say, I was a little boy from a village and I knew nothing. If you are in a city where you will be living for the next few years, it is imperative to adapt to that city. But being an introvert, it was challenging.

But this place, the campus, and the people here; there was something in them.

They accepted me, and they taught me

how to survive. They taught me to live in a city like Dhaka and for that, I am forever grateful.

KINDNESS

My university taught me that kindness is not a flaw but a virtue. Here I saw people being kind to each other as often as possible.

The kindness to stray animals is something that can be seen on the

campus regularly. Every part of the campus has stray dogs and cats and they are not afraid of people because the students feed them, pet them, and even provide treatment when needed. As a result, the animals are not afraid of people. My tendency to reach out to stray animals was elevated here.

REPEL PREJUDICE

Prejudice is something that spreads toxicity and learning to repel prejudice is a virtue. One must never judge a book by its cover and one should not judge a person based on his appearance and outfit.

Dhaka University taught me there are so many talented people all around me that making any assumption about anyone without knowing for certain is a vice, one I learned to overcome.

The place also introduced me to people from different ethnicity and once I came to know them, we became good friends. I know for a fact that had I not been present at this campus for this experience, I would have held prejudice against some of them. I'm glad that this campus taught me how to overcome prejudice and I am a better person for it.