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PM reaches Rome to attend UN food summit

UNB, Rome

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Rome yesterday to attend the UN Food Systems Summit at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General.

The three-day summit will open at Italy's capital city today.

The premier and her entourage flew from Dhaka by a regular flight of Qatar Airways. It landed at Rome Fiumicino Airport at 1:40pm local time (5:40pm BST).

The flight earlier departed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 5:05am.

The summit titled "United Nations Food Systems +2 Stocktaking Moment" (UNFSS+2) will be held at the Headquarters of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with the theme, "Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity."

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being received by Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy Md Shameem Ahsan at Fiumicino Airport in Rome yesterday. The premier went to Italy to attend the UN Food Systems Summit at the invitation of the UN secretary-general.

PHOTO: PID

'Feud over money led to the murder'

10 held for killing JL leader in Shahjahanpur

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Nibir, Md Shahjalal, and former Shahjahanpur thana Chhatra League leader Oliullah Rubel were known to be close friends and notorious for extorting hawkers on footpaths, and operating goat markets in Malibagh.

However, their friendship deteriorated when Nibir and Shahjalal discovered that Rubel had been operating a goat market without their involvement and withheld the profits during the occasion of Eid ul Azha.

Enraged by this "betrayal", they devised a plan to murder Rubel.

Nibir and Shahjalal then hired a killer, Habib Ahsan. They paid him Tk 5,000 to buy two machetes.

Nibir then left for the US before Eid and remained in contact with Habib as they set the plan in motion.

On July 21, Habib and another person attacked Rubel with the purchased machetes, and he succumbed to the injuries soon after.

Habib revealed the details of the crime in a court hearing before a metropolitan magistrate in Dhaka yesterday.

"Nibir contacted me an hour before the attack, while Shahjalal met me in person an hour after," he added.

Meanwhile, law enforcers have arrested 10 persons in

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Oliullah Rubel

Their feats have been forgotten

Prof Serajul Islam tells memorial lecture on Haider Anwar Khan Juno

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Chattogram Youth Revolution of 1930 stands as a shining example of communal harmony between Hindus and Muslims, surpassing other anti-British movements of its time, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

They were speaking at the first "Haider Anwar Khan Juno Memorial Lecture", held at Dhaka University's RC Majumdar Auditorium.

The 1930 Youth Revolution was the topic of the discussion.

During the event, Dhaka

University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said, "The secular ideology embraced by Master Da Surja Sen, the leader of the movement, united people from both communities in their pursuit of shared goals"

"Figures like Surja Sen and Pritilata have made our past glorious. Their remarkable feats have largely been forgotten in history," he added.

Speaking on Haider Anwar Khan Juno, a noted freedom fighter, cultural activist and one of the most prominent communist leaders, he said, "We

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'We're left with no choice'

Secondary school teachers continue sit-in for nationalisation

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Hundreds of secondary school teachers have been protesting in front of Jatiya Press Club for the past two weeks, demanding nationalisation of secondary educational institutions.

Two meetings -- one with Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education and another with Education Minister Dipu Moni -- have also been held to resolve the matter.

However, the issue is yet to be solved.

Termining the meeting with Dipu Moni "unfruitful", teachers continue to protest over the "discrimination" in salaries among those appointed in government schools and those registered under the monthly pay order (PMO) who are currently serving in privately-run institutions.

"We joined with the same qualification as the teachers in government schools. But they receive higher salaries and



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

more financial benefits," said Bhabesh Chandra Dhali from Khulna's Koyra upazila.

Entry-level teachers in private schools receive a basic salary of Tk 12,500 with an additional Tk 1,000 as rent, Tk 500 as medical allowance, and 25 percent of their basic salary as festival bonuses, informed Obaidur Rahman, headteacher of Damukdia Durgapur Abdul Aziz High School.

However, teachers at government schools get 16,000

as basic, 45 percent of this as house rent and a medical allowance of Tk 1,500 per month. They also get full basic salary as festival allowances, he said.

"We have been pressing this demand for a long time but to no avail. We won't leave the road until our demand is met," he asserted.

This discrimination has compelled many to resort to a secondary profession,

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114 hajj pilgrims die this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 114 Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims died in Saudi Arabia so far this year.

Of the deceased, 25 were female and 89 male, according to the religious affairs ministry.

Age of most of the deceased was between 50 and 71. This is the highest number of deaths of Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia during the hajj, according to Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh. Hajj pilgrims who die in Saudi Arabia are usually buried in the kingdom, said HAAB President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim.

This year's hajj was observed in Saudi Arabia amid intense heat in July 27. Around 1.22 lakh Bangladeshis went to Saudi Arabia to perform hajj.

HARASSMENT OF PASSENGER Biman forms probe committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has formed a probe body to investigate the alleged incident of harassment of a female passenger by a member of cabin crew on board its UAE-bound flight on July 11.

The one-member committee headed by General Manager (Cargo) Md Rashedul Karim was asked to submit its report within two weeks, Md Naoshad Hossain, chief financial officer (deputy secretary) of Biman, told The Daily Star.

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Shadowy secrets of a footbridge

Without rehabilitation, street children find themselves caught in a cycle of drug addiction

DIPAN NANDY

A young boy sits on a footbridge with a worn-out polythene bag clutched tightly in his hands. His eyes reflect a haunting emptiness instead of being filled with curiosity. Soon his vision gets blurred as he starts sniffing the pack.

His footsteps uneven, skin tanned and shrunk. His body craves food while his mind is full of agony and uncertainty.

His name is Asad (pseudonym). He is 10 years old.

Asad has been living on the streets of Dhaka since his mother abandoned him. But he does not remember when exactly that happened.

"I have never seen my father, and my mother left me on the streets after she remarried," he told this correspondent.

He said he visits this footbridge every evening, where many kids of his age gather.

The Tejuri Para footbridge and the space surrounding it have transformed into a den of drug



abuse, particularly for street children. Among these destitute youngsters, glue-sniffing has emerged as a prevalent and alarming practice.

Commonly referred to as "dandy," the adhesive glue used by shoe repairers contains toluene, a sweet-smelling and intoxicating hydrocarbon. This solvent, while

temporarily providing a respite from their harsh realities, inflicts severe damage on their developing minds.

For children like Asad, the sinister allure of the footbridge has become a daily refuge from their relentless sorrows. They flock to this location after the hawkers, who occupy the space during the day, leave in the

evening.

However, some of the children can also be seen sleeping over the bridge during the day.

Trapped between the perils of addiction and the absence of a stable home, these young addicts often resort to criminal activities such as theft and robbery to secure funds

needed to sustain their drug habits, according to experts.

The majority of these children are minors, meaning they can't be arrested or detained by the law enforcers. With limited resources available to support their rehabilitation and reintegration into

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CHHATRA ODHIKAR All leaders of DU unit resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The entire 21-member committee of the Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Odhikar Parishad resigned yesterday alleging violation of the organisation's constitution by its central leaders and for their alleged involvement in sycophancy (excessive obedience to someone or something important for gaining additional advantage).

Asif Mahmud, president, DU parishad, made the announcement at a press conference at the office of Dhaka University Journalists' Association.

Other top leaders of the DU unit were present at this time.

In a written statement signed by all the resigning members, Asif alleged that President of Chhatra

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