

## 16 more released in Oman after MP Sony

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Oman authorities have released all the 17 Bangladeshis, including Khadizatul Awar Sony MP, a day after detaining them for holding a meeting at a Muscat hotel without permission.

The MP elected for the reserved women seat from Chattogram-19 went to Oman on Tuesday and held a meeting with the expatriate Bangladeshis at Halfa House Muscat Hotel around 10:00pm.

Some expatriate Bangladeshis from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also went there.

“So far we got to know that they held the meeting without permission of the local authorities. Therefore, the Oman police conducted a raid and detained them,” Foreign Ministry Public Diplomacy wing Director General Seheli Sabrin told

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## DMP again denies Jamaat permission for rally

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Dhaka Metropolitan Police again denied Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami permission to hold a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan today.

Jamaat was not given permission to hold a rally, Syed Mamun Mostafa, special assistant to DMP Commissioner, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On July 24, Jamaat announced that it would hold a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque to press home its three-point demand including holding the next national election under a caretaker government.

But DMP denied Jamaat permission to hold the rally. The party later announced that it will hold a rally in the capital on August 4 at Suhrawardy Udyan.

On June 10, Dhaka (south) city unit Jamaat held a rally in the capital's Institution of Engineers in Dhaka after 10 years with police permission.

## PETITIONS AGAINST JAMAAT Apex court may hold hearing on Aug 10

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court may hold a hearing on August 10 on two petitions against Jamaat-e-Islami.

One of the petitions was filed seeking the apex court's order of injunction restraining Jamaat from carrying out any political activities.

Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of Tariqat Federation, and two other petitioners submitted the petition on June 26 requesting the SC to issue an injunction on Jamaat.

The same day, they filed a contempt of court petition with the SC against five Jamaat leaders for holding public meetings as a political party.

Yesterday, the petitioners' lawyers prayed to the six-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER  
TIMING

AUGUST 4

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:20	12:30	5:00	6:47	8:15
JAMAAT 4:55	1:15	5:15	6:50	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



**It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt... Grabbing the bumper of a CNG-run three-wheeler, three boys on roller-skates take to the streets without any safety gear. Though there is a lack of proper recreational spaces for children in Dhaka, such careless actions should be prohibited as they may lead to accidents. This photo was taken in the capital's Sher-E-Bangla Nagar area yesterday.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Amend tobacco control act, save lives

Speakers urge govt

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government should amend the tobacco control act as soon as possible to reduce premature deaths linked to the consumption of tobacco products, Prof Dr ABM Abdullah, personal physician of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said at a roundtable yesterday.

He made the remarks at “The Current Status of Tobacco Control Act and Tasks to Do”, jointly organised by Bangladesh Health Reporters’ Forum and the National Heart Foundation at the health directorate headquarters in the capital’s Mohakhali.

“There is no benefit to using tobacco. Rather, it causes different types of disease, which kill around 450 people every day in the country. So, the act needs to be amended,” said Abdullah, who is also a University Grant Commission professor.

Stressing the necessity to prevent smoking, Abdullah directed the authorities to pass an act to “ban” tobacco products, such as jarda and gul.

The tobacco business groups always consider their profit, said the professor. “But a larger sum of money is being spent on the treatment of tobacco-related diseases than the revenue the government earns from this sector,” he added.

Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of health directorate, highlighted the health impact of tobacco.

**The tobacco business groups always consider their profit. But a larger sum of money is being spent on the treatment of tobacco-related diseases than the revenue the government earns from this sector.**

DR ABM ABDULLAH  
Personal physician of PM

**Tax should be increased on tobacco products. If the tax amount is doubled, around Tk 8-10 crore collected as taxes can be added to the health sector budget.**

PROF DR AHMEDUL KABIR  
Additional DG at health directorate

“A smoker needs to quit smoking for at least a week before any surgery as the use of anaesthesia risks their lives. However, we do not have any choice in case of emergency surgeries,” he said.

Emphasising the importance of mass awareness in this regard, he proposed integrating the message

into government campaigns and advertisements.

Prof Dr Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general (planning and development) at the health directorate, proposed increased taxation on tobacco products.

“If the tax amount is doubled, around Tk 8-10 crore collected as taxes can be added to the health sector budget,” he said.

Prof Sohel Reza Chowdhury, head of epidemiology and research division at National Heart Foundation and Research Institute, presented a keynote at the event.

In his keynote, he stated that tobacco kills 1.61 lakh people in the country every year, which is around 19 percent of all deaths.

“Tobacco consumption, in most cases, leads to cardiovascular diseases,” he said.

He also explained the necessity for a stricter amendment of different sections of the existing Smoking and Using of Tobacco Products (Control) Act, 2005, amended in 2013.

Smoking is now prohibited in selected public places and on public transport. A ban on the advertisement of tobacco products was also imposed, and a mandate was issued to ensure health warnings on product packages.

Moderated by Rashed Rabbi, president of Bangladesh Health Reporters Forum, health reporters from different media houses attended the event.

## YUNUS CASE Dispose of charge framing order in 2 weeks SC directs HC

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court yesterday asked the High Court to dispose in two weeks the rule that questioned the labour court order framing charges against Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and three other officials of Grameen Telecom in a case filed over labour law violation.

The apex court said the HC bench led by Justice SM Kuddus Zaman will hold a hearing on the rule for its disposal.

A full bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order after disposing of two separate petitions filed by the state and the Inspection for Factories and Establishments Department challenging the HC rule.

Following a petition filed by Yunus, an HC bench led by Justice Md Ruhul Quddus on July 23 issued the rule asking the state to explain why the labour court order that framed charges against him and three others of Grameen Telecom in the case should not be scrapped.

Sheikh Merina Sultana,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# Skilled manpower key to Smart Bangladesh: PM

**UNB, Dhaka**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the Smart Bangladesh Task Force to work on building skilled and tech-savvy manpower in a bid to turn the country into a Smart Bangladesh by 2041.

She said this at the first meeting of the task force held at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka.

The premier said digital devices are opening new doors before the people. “That’s why we have to develop suitable skilled manpower,” she said.

“The new generation has to be developed with education and technology. They will have to be prepared for Smart Bangladesh,” she added.

Hasina said people have to be prepared for Smart Bangladesh so that all people can know how to use digital devices and artificial intelligence.

She put emphasis on proper planning alongside motivating the people of the country towards materialising the vision of Smart Bangladesh.

“We should create the opportunities to flourish the creativity of people, their thinking, and the idea of moving forward,” she said. Outgoing Dutch envoy calls on PM

Outgoing Netherlands Ambassador to Bangladesh Anne Van Leeuwen paid a courtesy call on the premier yesterday.

At the meeting, Hasina offered lands to the Netherlands

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



## BNP leader Salahuddin held in Jatrabari

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Detectives arrested BNP's business affairs secretary and former lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed from the capital's Jatrabari area yesterday.

Confirming Salahuddin's arrest, a top DB official, wishing anonymity, said DB arrested Salahuddin as he is a named FIR accused in four cases.

He said they arrested total seven BNP leaders and activists.

Salahuddin's son Tanveer Ahmed Robin, also acting member secretary of Dhaka city south BNP, said the driver of his father informed their lawyer over the phone that Salahuddin and three other local BNP leaders were taken to the Minto Road office of the Detective Branch.

“Law enforcers picked up my father and the three local BNP leaders from Hanif Flyover in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



## 41ST BCS 2,520 recommended for recruitment

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The final result of the 41st Bangladesh Civil Service examinations under the Public Service Commission was published yesterday.

Some 2,520 candidates have been recommended provisionally for appointment to different cadres, said a press release issued by the PSC.

All successful candidates cannot be recommended for cadre posts due to a lack of vacant posts.

The number of such candidates is 9,821, the PSC press release added.

The results are now available at: [www.bpsc.gov.bd](http://www.bpsc.gov.bd)



**As the white clouds glide over the serene waters of Piya in Sylhet's Jaflong, a fisher throws his nets in the river before wrapping up for the day, moments after the sun sets upon blue blemishes. The photo was taken recently.**

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR