



CYBER SECURITY ACT

Make bail  
for accused  
pending trial  
the norm  
Urges Amnesty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly drafted Cyber Security Act retains all but one offence from the Digital Security Act, said Amnesty International in a letter to the ICT ministry.

“The only changes the CSA makes are related to sentencing, which can be summarised as follows: lowering the maximum applicable prison sentence for eight offences, removing a sentence of imprisonment for two offences, increasing the maximum applicable fine for three offences and removing the higher applicable penalty for all repeat offences,” said the letter.

While the right to freedom of expression is subject to permissible restrictions, the restrictions proposed by the draft CSA are not permissible under international law, said the letter.

The CSA leaves offences under sections 25, 29 and 31 unchanged and only reduces the applicable penalties and removes provisions mandating higher penalties for repeat offenders, it added.

These sections criminalise the

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Railway officials use a special car to inspect the Akhaura-Agartala line which will be opened soon. Project officials hope that they would be able to run tests with locomotives this month.

PHOTO: MASHUK HRIDOV

BCL activists  
assault journo  
over report

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A group of Patuakhali district BCL activists on Monday attacked a journalist for publishing a report allegedly against the unit’s president Md Saiful Islam.

The victim Md Nayan Mridha, Patuakhali correspondent of the daily Ajker Darpan and Barta-Bazar, is currently undergoing treatment at Patuakhali Medical College Hospital.

The attack took place around 7:30pm in the town’s Gymnasium area, said Nayan, adding that he filed a general diary with Patuakhali Police Station the same night.

“My house is in Hetalia Bandhghat area. I was on my way to Natun Bazar, where the Patuakhali Press Club is, on my motorcycle. When I was crossing the Diabetic Hospital, some BCL activists, including the district unit’s President Md Saiful Islam, blocked my path. They said, ‘You have become such a big journalist that you dare to report against the district Chhatra League president? We will teach you a lesson.’ They then began verbally abusing me.

“At one point, some of them, including Saiful’s cousins Sabbir Hossain and Al-Amin, started kicking and slapping me. Al-Amin even tried to injure my eye. Later, locals nearby rescued me and

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MURDER OF TEACHER

They tried to  
make it look  
like militants  
did it  
Says Rab after  
arresting 3 suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former school teacher Golam Kibria was murdered and robbed in Savar and he was not killed for ethical transgression as claimed by a note found near his body, said Rab after an investigation.

The killers tried to mislead investigators with the note, which gave the impression that the killing was carried out by Islamist militants, said Rab’s Legal and Media Wing Director Khandaker Al Moin during a briefing yesterday.

Rab has arrested 3 suspects – Emon Khan, 23, Md Sagar, 22, and Sadek Gazi, 22 – and the suspects knew the victim, claimed the official.

On August 20, Kibria’s body was found at his home in Bhatpara, Savar.

According to Rab, Emon and Sagar used to visit the victim’s house regularly. Then they devised a plan to murder Kibria after learning that he has a good amount of cash at home.

They later included Sadek in their plan.

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BLACK SEA GAS FACILITIES

Russian jet destroys  
Ukrainian vessel

Three hurt; two drones shot down over Moscow region, flights briefly disrupted

REUTERS, Moscow

A Russian warplane destroyed a Ukrainian reconnaissance vessel in an area in the Black Sea where Russian gas extraction facilities are located, the Russian Defence Ministry said yesterday.

The ministry said in a short statement that the Ukrainian vessel had been destroyed by an SU-30 aircraft from Russia’s Black Sea Fleet.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine, which rarely comments publicly on its operations inside Russia or on Russian-controlled territory but which Moscow has accused of stepping up attacks on Russian interests using uncrewed naval drones.

Russian-backed officials in Crimea, which Russia seized and annexed from Ukraine in 2014, said in June last year that Ukrainian forces had attacked drilling platforms in the Black Sea owned by Chernomorneftegaz, an oil and gas company.

At least three people were wounded in one incident and work on three drilling platforms was suspended, they said at the time.

Russia seized Chernomorneftegaz from

Ukraine’s national gas operator Naftogaz as part of Moscow’s 2014 annexation. The company is under US and European Union sanctions.

Meanwhile, Russia shot down two Ukrainian drones over the Moscow region with no casualties and brought down a further two drones over the Bryansk region that borders Ukraine, the Defence Ministry said yesterday.

A Reuters reporter in the town of Krasnogorsk in the Moscow region, seat of the Moscow regional government, saw minor damage to tiling on a high-rise residential building and shattered glass exterior window panes in a few of its apartments.

A further two Ukrainian drones were detected by air defence systems over the Bryansk region, which borders Ukraine, and crashed without hurting anyone after being brought down by jamming

systems, the defence ministry said in a statement. Air space over the Russian capital was briefly closed and three Moscow airports suspended flights, the TASS news agency reported.

Rosaviatsia, Russia’s aviation authority, said nine flights had been diverted at Moscow’s Vnukovo and Domodedovo airports, but that

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1 held over  
murder of  
Cox’s Bazar  
AL leader

Victim’s family  
reject police claim  
of the motive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Cox’s Bazar

Police claimed that an 18-year-old murdered Awami League leader Saif Uddin, 42, of Cox’s Bazar after the leader tried to blackmail him with footage of them in a hotel.

The victim’s family has rejected the police claim.

Suspect Ashrafur Islam, 18, a madrasa student, was arrested around 11:00pm on Monday at Whykong Police outpost from a bus heading for Teknaf, Superintendent of Police Md Mahfuzul Islam said in a press briefing at his office yesterday evening.

Police on Monday recovered the body of Saif, relief and social welfare secretary of AL’s Cox’s Bazar municipality unit, from a hotel in Cox’s Bazar town.

Quoting the arrestee, Mahfuzul said, “They [Saif

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Hitler’s birth house  
to be turned into  
police station



AFP, Vienna

The redesign of Adolf Hitler’s birth house will go ahead as planned, starting on October 2, Austria’s interior ministry said Monday, after a documentary aired new claims about the late Nazi dictator’s wishes for it.

Following years of legal wrangling, the government decided to turn the house in the northern Austrian town of Braunau, where Hitler was born in 1889, into a police station with a human rights training centre.

In a bid to prevent the building on the border with Germany from becoming a neo-Nazi shrine, the government took control of the dilapidated building in 2016. The expropriation ended a bitter saga between the state and the former owner.

“The construction (to convert the house) is scheduled to start on 2 October 2023,” an interior ministry spokesman confirmed to AFP. “Everything will go ahead as planned,” he added.

AL govt using  
militant issue  
to stay in power  
Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Innocent people were picked up from a neighbourhood in a forest and labelled as militants, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

“Because they [government] want to show that there are militants in Bangladesh ... and they are needed to suppress the militants. This is their main goal, and this is what they want to show the western countries and India,” said Fakhrul.

He made the remarks at an event commemorating the eighth death anniversary of Kazi Zafar Ahmed, former chairman of a faction of Jatiya Party. The event was held at Diploma Engineers Institute in the capital’s Kakrail.

“We know that they are the militants ... The Awami

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Parked motorbikes and cars completely block the pavement for pedestrians at Karwan Bazar. The photo was taken across the street from Hotel Sonargaon yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Property mogul  
Thavisin elected  
Thai PM

Ally Thaksin jailed on  
return from exile

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thai property mogul Srettha Thavisin was elected prime minister after a decisive win in a parliamentary vote yesterday as his party’s fugitive figurehead Thaksin Shinawatra made a historic homecoming after years in exile and was taken straight to jail.

The victory by 60-year-old Srettha paves the way for a new coalition government, ending weeks of uncertainty and stalemate in parliament after an election 100 days ago that threatened to weaken the political clout of the country’s powerful military.

Srettha, who was thrust into the spotlight just a few months ago by the populist heavyweight Pheu Thai, won the support from two thirds of parliament in a vote that followed hours of hysteria in Thailand over the long-awaited return of Thaksin from self-imposed exile.

“I will perform my duties to the best of my ability. I

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Srettha Thavisin