



FIRE AT HASHEM FOODS

Factory owner, his sons not charged

SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM, Narayanganj

The Criminal Investigation Department of police has submitted the charge sheet in the murder case filed over the July 2021 fire at Hashem Foods Ltd in Narayanganj, which killed 54 people, dropping the names of the company owner and his four sons.

Abul Hashem, the owner of the food processing company, and his sons were not named in the charge sheet as the investigating officer did not find any evidence of their involvement in the incident, according to the charge sheet.

Hashem was the prime accused in the case.

Inspector Moksedur Rahman, the investigating officer of the case, filed the 13-page charge sheet before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court around 5:00pm Sunday, more than two years after the blaze.

Hashem's four sons are Hasib bin Hashem, Tarek Ibrahim, Tawsheef Ibrahim, and Tanjeem Ibrahim.

Contacted, Moksedur said three other IOs had probed the case before him and that he prepared the charge sheet based on their findings.

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People of the low-income group queued up in front of an OMS truck in Mohammadpur's Ring Road area. Come rain or shine, they wait for hours on end for their turn to get food essentials at subsidised rates in the face of soaring shelf prices.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ROHINGYA RETURN

Myanmar to allow int'l volunteers

Bangladesh delegation holds talks in Naypyidaw

PORIMOL PALMA

Myanmar will allow international volunteers, including those from the UN, China and ASEAN countries, to take part in the humanitarian assistance programmes during the repatriation of the Rohingyas.

The country agreed to this during a meeting between Bangladesh and Myanmar in Naypyidaw yesterday, a member of the Bangladesh delegation told The Daily Star.

The four-member Bangladesh delegation was led by Miah Md Mainul Kabir, director general of the foreign ministry's Myanmar wing. The meeting was part of a tripartite initiative mediated by China.

Bangladesh had asked Myanmar to ensure the involvement of international volunteers in the humanitarian assistance programmes after the Rohingyas voiced concern over security.

Yesterday, Myanmar also agreed that the Rohingyas will be repatriated to

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LETTER ON YUNUS

DAG declines to sign AG office's statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Attorney General Imran Ahmed Bhuiyan yesterday said he refrained from signing a statement, prepared by the attorney general's office, protesting the recent letter from global figures to the prime minister over trial proceedings against Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

"I have decided not to sign the statement as I support the letter issued by the Nobel laureates and world leaders about the trial proceedings against Muhammad Yunus. I think Dr Yunus is an honourable person. His prestige is being damaged and he is being subjected to judicial harassment," Imran told reporters at a briefing on the Supreme Court premises.

Contacted, Imran told The Daily Star that the attorney general's office was getting a statement, protesting the letter issued by many Nobel laureates and other global figures,

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Injured monkey seeks help at health complex

Doctor takes notice and saves its life



ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

An injured monkey showed up at a hospital three days in a row till yesterday all by itself to get treatment for wounds in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila.

According to locals, the monkey wandered into the locality from a nearby forest to search for food.

On Saturday, they said, it appeared at the main gate of Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex, covered in wounds.

Dr Nur Uddin, the health and family welfare officer at the complex, noticed the injured monkey while he was leaving his office and rushed it to the emergency room for primary treatment.

He then informed the officials of the

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Govt to buy 340 buses from S Korea

Tk 1,133cr project to be placed at Ecneec meeting today for approval

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation is going to take up a project to import 340 buses and other equipment from South Korea.

The Tk 1,133 crore project will be placed today before the Executive Committee on National Economic Council (Ecneec) meeting for approval.

Of the amount, the Korean government will provide Tk 829 crore in loan while the rest will be financed by the Bangladesh government.

The project deadline is December next year.

A planning ministry official, however, said the target is to get the buses on roads by June next year so that people, especially in Dhaka city, have sufficient public transport.

The BRTC currently has a fleet of 1,350 buses -- 1,250 in operation and the rest under repairs. It offers

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Gourmati offers new hope for mango growers

Good yield, higher profits make it potential export item, say agri experts

MOSTAFA SHABUJ

A new variety of mango, Gourmati or BARI Mango 12, is winning farmers over as it promises them higher profits, being the last of the varieties to arrive at the market during the coveted mango season.

It has also gained popularity among consumers, who are now able to get the summer fruit till the end of September without having to opt for imported ones. The other varieties usually run out by the first week of the month.

Farmers have been growing Gourmati for the past four to five years, and selling it at higher prices due to its good quality. The variety is developed naturally as a mutation of Langra and Ashwina mangoes in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila since 2012.

Imports of the fruit to Bangladesh have dropped largely over the years due

to the success of this variety.

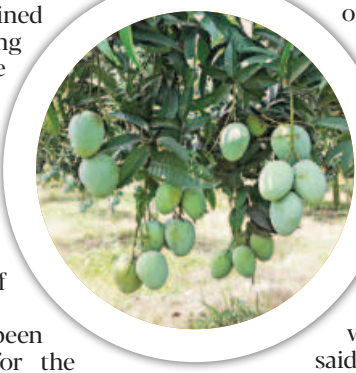
Serazul Islam, president of Bangladesh Fresh Fruits Importers Association, said, "Mango import has almost stopped for the last three-four years due to the good production of late variety mangoes in Bangladesh.

Now, the markets are full of homegrown good mangoes for six months at a stretch."

Earlier, during August-September, some mangoes would be imported from Thailand, but with high import duty. They cannot compete with our good quality late varieties any longer, he said.

Expressing satisfaction, Palash Sarkar, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Chapainawabganj, one of the largest mango-producing districts, said the orchards dedicated to growing the variety have been expanding and

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India ease into Super Fours



AFP, Kandy

India skipper Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill remained unbeaten as the seven-time champions hammered minnows Nepal by 10 wickets in yesterday's rain-hit match to enter the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup.

Chasing a DLS (Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method) revised target of 145 in 23 overs after a rain interruption, India reached home with 17 balls to spare in Pallekele.

Rohit, on 74, and Gill, on 67, stood strong. Nepal were bowled out for 230 after Aasif Sheikh top-scored with 58.

The 50-over tournament is seen as a tune-up for the upcoming ODI World Cup in India but rain has played spoilsport, forcing organisers to discuss a venue change for upcoming matches in Colombo.

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Khaleda Zia's health worsens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's health has further deteriorated, with no signs of improvement even 26 days into her hospitalisation at Evercare Hospital.

Some of her organ-related complications have increased and her mineral levels are also deficient, the hospital's medical board said yesterday.

Dr Rafiqul Islam, health secretary of BNP, said, "Doctors are keeping Khaleda Zia under constant observation."

"When admitted to the hospital on August 9, her calcium, potassium, and haemoglobin counts were very low. Meanwhile, the conditions of her liver, kidney and some other organs seem to be worsening suddenly," a board member said.

Doctors performed further tests on her

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Impounded vehicles are left on the road next to Shahbagh Police Station in the capital, which eventually destroys them. This also causes waterlogging as the drains cannot be cleaned properly. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Black Sea grain deal can be restored soon

Says Erdogan as Putin demands West must stop blocking Russian exports

REUTERS, Moscow

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said after talks with Russia's Vladimir Putin yesterday that it would soon be possible to revive the grain deal that the United Nations says helped to ease a food crisis by getting Ukrainian grain to market.

Russia quit the deal in July - a year after it was brokered by the United Nations and Turkey - complaining that its own food and fertiliser exports faced serious obstacles.

Erdogan, who previously played a significant role in convincing Putin to stick with the deal, and the United Nations are both trying to get Putin to return to the deal.

"As Turkey, we believe that we will reach a solution that will meet the expectations in a short time," Erdogan said in the Black Sea resort of Sochi after his first face to face meeting with Putin since 2022.

