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ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Hoarders, price manipulators to face jail : PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned the hoarders of essential commodities and market manipulators of stern action.

"If anyone hoards any goods out of ill motives, we'll have to take instant action against them through mobile courts. If needed, they will be sent to jail," she said at a meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee at the Gono Bhaban in the evening.

Mentioning that the sudden price hike of essentials immediately after the January 7 polls was very much abnormal, Hasina said, "Finding out the people behind this is inevitable."

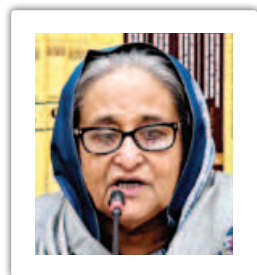
She added, "It is not only necessary to find them but also take instant action against them. We'll do it in future."

The premier urged the people to remain vigilant so none can increase prices of food items by hoarding and black marketeering.

Criticising those who raise questions about the January 7 polls, the AL president said whether any political party contests polls depends on that particular party.

She said people spontaneously cast ballots in the national polls despite a campaign asking the voters not to vote.

Mentioning that attempts are being made to



This photograph taken yesterday on the southern outskirts of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip, shows Palestinian families fleeing the city on the coastal road leading to Rafah, amid Israeli ground operation in the Palestinian enclave.

BGB soldier killed in BSF firing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A soldier of Border Guard Bangladesh was shot dead by India's Border Security Force in the Benapole border area in Jashore early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Roisuddin, a BGB sepoy.

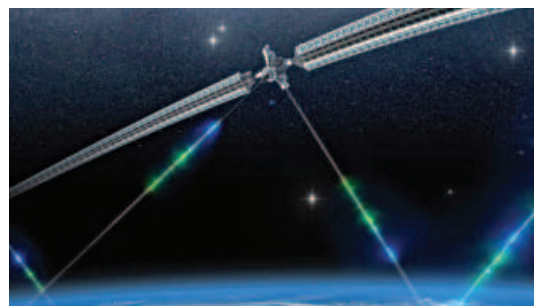
A BGB patrol team of BGB 49 Battalion intercepted a group of cattle smugglers, who crossed into Bangladesh near Dhanyakhola Border Outpost (BOP) from India around 5:30am yesterday, said a press release issued of the battalion early today.

"Chased by the BGB team, the smugglers tried to flee towards India. At one stage, Roisuddin got detached from his team in the dense fog," it added.

"He could not be found but later in the day it was learnt from different sources that the BGB soldier was undergoing treatment at a hospital in India after being injured

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First ever space-to-Earth solar power mission succeeds



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A landmark test of beaming solar power to Earth from a satellite has concluded successfully after a year-long mission.

The Space Solar Power Demonstrator (SSPD-1) project launched on January 3 last year with the goal of demonstrating the feasibility of one day harvesting the Sun's energy and transmitting it wirelessly back to Earth on a commercial scale.

Led by scientists at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the US, the mission completed all three of its primary experiments to test key technology for such an endeavour. They included a new origami-inspired solar panel structure, different cell designs, and a microwave transmitter.

Caltech said the success of the mission would "help chart the future of space solar power", though warned that a lot more research needs to be done before it becomes a reality.

"Solar power beamed from space at commercial rates, lighting the globe, is still a future prospect," said Caltech president and professor of physics Thomas Rosenbaum.

"But this critical mission demonstrated that it should be an achievable future," Rosenbaum added.

Israeli tanks cut off two hospitals in Gaza

Ambulances unable to reach wounded, dead

AGENCIES

Israeli tanks storming southern Gaza's main city reached the gates of two hospitals yesterday, cutting residents off from trauma care as the bloodiest fighting of the new year tore through areas sheltering hundreds of thousands of displaced.

Residents said bombardment from air, land and sea was the most intense in southern Gaza since the Israeli offensive began in October, as Israeli tanks surged across Khan Younis from the east into the western areas close to the Mediterranean coast.

Gaza health ministry spokesperson Ashraf Al-Qidra said in a statement that dozens of dead and wounded were trapped in areas targeted by Israeli troops.

The newest phase of the offensive has brought fighting deep into the last corners of the enclave now packed with those who fled bombardment that has killed at least 25,295 people since October 7, Gaza health authorities said in an update yesterday. The toll includes 190 people killed and 340 wounded in the past 24 hours, the ministry added.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said it had lost all contact with its staff at its Al-Amal Hospital in Khan Younis, main base for the rescue agency, where Israeli tanks were parked outside.

Further west, advancing Israeli tanks had reached the al-Mawasi district near the Mediterranean Coast for the first time, cutting off its Al-Khair hospital and stationing themselves around nearby Al-Aqsa university, heaving with thousands of displaced civilians, reports Reuters.

At Nasser Hospital, the only major hospital still accessible in Khan Younis and the largest still functioning in Gaza, witnesses said the trauma ward was overwhelmed with wounded being treated on the floor and in hallways.

- Red Crescent lost all contact with its staff at Al-Amal Hospital
- Gaza death toll rises to 25,295
- Israeli troops arrest 23 people in raids across West Bank

Ansarullah Bangla Team chief out of prison

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Mufti Jashimuddin Rahmani, chief of the Ansarullah Bangla Team, an Al-Qaeda inspired militant outfit now known as Ansar al Islam, was released from the Kashipur High Security Central Jail in Gazipur on Sunday.

Counterterrorism officials and prosecution lawyers expressed concerns over the release of the prominent militant leader. They believe it would elevate the militancy threat and impede trials of cases filed against him under the Anti-Terrorism Act.



Rahmani

"We released Rahmani around 1:15pm on Sunday as he obtained bail in all cases filed against him," Subrata Kumar Bala, senior jail superintendent of Kashipur jail, told The Daily Star last night.

Rahmani was arrested on August 12, 2013, in Barguna, along with 30 members of his outfit, in connection with inciting people to commit violence.

He had been in jail since then. Six cases were filed against him,

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Modi opens Ram temple in Ayodhya



REUTERS, Ayodhya

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday led the consecration of a grand temple to the Hindu god Lord Ram on a site believed to be Ram's birthplace, in a celebratory event for the Hindu majority of the world's most populous nation.

Hindu groups, Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its affiliates have portrayed the temple opening as part of a Hindu renaissance.

The temple in the city of Ayodhya has been a contentious issue that helped catapult BJP to prominence and power, and delivers on its 35-year-old promise, which analysts say should help Modi as he seeks a rare third term in elections due by May.

Most opposition parties, including the main opposition Congress, skipped the inauguration saying it had been converted into a political event.

For decades, the temple site was bitterly contested by Hindus and minority Muslims, leading to nationwide riots in 1992 that killed 2,000 people, mainly Muslims, police say, after a Hindu mob destroyed a 16th century mosque that had stood there.

India's Hindus say the site is the birthplace of Lord Ram, and was holy to them long before Muslim Mughals razed a temple at the spot to build the Babri Masjid, or mosque, in 1528.

In 2019, the Supreme Court handed over the land to Hindus and ordered allotment of a separate plot to Muslims where construction of a new mosque is yet to begin.

Fortune Barishal captain Tamim Iqbal hits a copybook straight drive during his 33-ball 40 against Khulna Tigers in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, in the process becoming the first batter to reach the 3000-run mark in the tournament's history. Tamim, however, ended up on the losing side as Khulna eventually won the match by eight wickets.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Khulna go top of BPL standings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khulna Tigers went top of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) standings with an emphatic eight-wicket win over Fortune Barishal, thanks to an unbeaten fifty from Anamul Haque and a destructive knock from Evin Lewis at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Khulna won both of their contests so far.

Powered by an unbeaten fifty from Mushfiqur Rahim and two other solid knocks from skipper Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad, Barishal had posted a commendable total of 187 for four.

However, Khulna's Caribbean star Evin Lewis had other ideas about the big chase as he thrashed around the Barishal

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বাঙ্গলা



নাইজা ইমলান
(১৯৭২-২০২৩)

আজ ২৩ জানুয়ারী ২০২৪ ইং দেশের শিল্পায়নের অগ্রদূত মরহুম জহুরুল ইসলাম এর তৃতীয় কন্যা (চতুর্থ সন্তান) নাইজা ইসলাম এর প্রথম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী। বিয়োগ ব্যথার আজকের দিনে আমরা তাকে শ্রদ্ধাচিহ্নে স্মরণ এবং তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।



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