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Independent lawmakers get PM's invitation

Given SMS on mobiles to attend meeting at Gono Bhaban Jan 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited the independent lawmakers to a meeting at the Gono Bhaban on Sunday.

AL Office Secretary Biplab Barua yesterday texted the independents in this regard.

"Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited all independent MPs of the 12th Jatiya Sangsad to her official residence Gono Bhaban at 6:30pm on Sunday," reads the text message.

Tahmina Begum, an independent MP from Madaripur-3, confirmed getting the invitation to The Daily Star.

Another invitee independent said he was not aware of the meeting agenda.

The ruling AL candidates won 223 out of 299 seats, which were up for grabs in the January 7 national polls. Independents secured 62 seats, according to the Election Commission.

All but four of the independents

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Local influential traders have dug out soil from the bank of the Arial Kha river in Char Commissioner area of Barishal's Muladi upazila, leaving the nearby villages at risk of erosion. The soil is used in brick kilns. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Diamond Egg, CP Bangladesh fined Tk 3.5cr for price fixing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Competition Commission (BCC) has fined Diamond Egg and CP Bangladesh a total of Tk 3.5 crore for their alleged collusive practices in artificially increasing the prices of eggs in August 2022.

Diamond Egg will have to pay Tk 2.5 crore and CP Bangladesh Tk 1 crore in 30 days from the day the order was issued. BCC issued separate notices to the two poultry companies on January 22.

The two were fined because the charges against them were proven, said Hafizur Rahman, a member of the BCC, the commerce ministry agency responsible for preventing anti-competitive practices in the market.

The directive comes more than three months after the competition watchdog slapped a Tk 5 crore fine on Kazi Farms and a Tk 3.44 crore fine on Suguna Food and Feeds Bangladesh. Both the firms went to the higher court challenging the orders.

Diamond Egg and CP Bangladesh in collusion with similar firms hiked the

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UN experts urge rights reforms in Bangladesh

AFP, Geneva

UN experts yesterday urged Bangladesh to carry out major human rights reforms to reverse "repressive trends" following the controversial election, which was boycotted by the opposition.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was sworn in for a fifth term on January 11. Her ruling Awami League party won nearly three-quarters of seats in parliament, with allied parties and friendly independents making up nearly all the remainder.

Hasina has presided over breakneck economic growth in a country once beset by grinding poverty, but her government has been accused of rampant human rights abuses and a ruthless crackdown on dissent.

UN experts said they were "alarmed" at reports of "widespread attacks, harassment and intimidation of civil society, human rights defenders, journalists and political activists, which marred the recent elections".

The experts included the special rapporteurs on freedom of assembly, on the independence of judges, on human rights defenders and on

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Israel hits Khan Younis amid talks on truce

Hamas-run health ministry official accuses Israel of targeting Nasser Hospital

AGENCIES

Israel and Hamas have made some progress toward agreement on a 30 day ceasefire in Gaza when Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners would be released, sources told Reuters, as Israel pressed ahead with its assault on Khan Younis, the main city in southern Gaza, yesterday.

Qatar, the US and Egypt have for weeks shuttled between Israel and the Palestinian group trying to broker terms for a break in fighting, which would also allow in more food and medical supplies.

But the two sides remain at odds over how to permanently end the Gaza offensive, and Hamas has refused to move forward until this is resolved, the sources said.

At least 210 Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes in the previous 24 hours, raising the documented toll to 25,700, according to Palestinian health officials yesterday.

In their biggest operation in a month, Israeli forces pressed on with their capture of the city of Khan Younis, where hundreds of thousands

of displaced Palestinians are sheltering after leaving the north.

Israeli tanks on Tuesday shut the road from Khan Younis towards the Mediterranean coast, blocking the escape route for civilians trying to reach Rafah on Gaza's southern edge bordering Egypt -- now crammed with more than half the enclave's 2.3 million people.

The military said yesterday it had killed "numerous" squads of gunmen "with sniper, tank and aerial fire" in western Khan Younis, a new focus of its operations, close to the city's two main hospitals.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said that three displaced individuals had been killed and two others injured at the gate of its headquarters in Khan Younis.

Gaza health ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra accused Israel of targeting the Nasser Hospital, the largest medical facility still operating, saying attacks were blocking access for medics and patients and threatening to put it out of action.

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- 24 people killed in Israeli strikes on aid warehouse: UN
- Death toll in Gaza rises to 25,700
- 35 Palestinians arrested in occupied West Bank

Two UPDF members shot dead in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two members of United People's Democratic Front were shot dead by criminals at Durrhahi in Khagrachhari yesterday morning.

The victims, Robi Kumar Chakma, 64, and Bimol Chakma, 55, were UPDF activists, said UPDF spokesperson Anogya Marma.

UPDF accused its rival group UPDF (Democratic) of the killings.

A press release, signed by Niron Chakma, information and publicity affairs secretary of UPDF, said another member Rahintha Chakma, 32, went missing after the incident.

However, The Daily Star could not contact the UPDF (Democratic) for comments.

Md Nasir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Mohalchhari Police Station, said the bodies were sent to Khagrachhari General Hospital morgue for autopsies.

No case was filed in this connection, he said.

Scientists find 85 planets that could be home to alien life

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Astronomers have found 85 possible planets that could be home to alien life.

The distant worlds -- which themselves are not yet confirmed -- are thought to have temperatures that would make them cool enough to sustain life, the scientists who find them say.

The exoplanets are similar in size to Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune. They were spotted by Nasa's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS.

TESS enables scientists to observe dips in the brightness of stars, known as transits, caused by objects passing in front of them.

Typically, at least three transits need to be seen to discover an exoplanet in this way, in order to determine how long they take to orbit their star.

However, in the new study, researchers looked at systems that only transit twice, which results in planets that have longer periods of orbit, enabling the discovery of exoplanets at cooler temperatures.

The 85 candidate exoplanets take between 20 and 700 days to orbit their host stars, whereas most exoplanets observed by TESS have orbital periods of 3-10 days.



Palestinians wait at a hospital to collect the bodies of their relatives killed in Israeli bombardment in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Inset, Israeli soldiers patrol a street in the Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: AFP

DEATH IN FIRING BSF returns BGB man's body after two days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India's Border Security Force yesterday handed over the body of Border Guard Bangladesh member Mohammad Rais Uddin to the BGB, two days after he was killed in BSF firing at Benapole's Dhanyakhola border.

Commander of BGB 49 Battalion Lt Col Ahmed Hasan Jamil and BGB's Assistant Director Masud Rana formally received the body near Main Pillar 285 of Shikdarpur around 11:00am.

On Monday morning, BGB issued a letter protesting the killing to BSF, which BGB authorities informed that there will be thorough investigation into the death of Rais Uddin.

Lt Col Jamil said the first namaz-e-janaza of the deceased was held at the 49 BGB battalion after Zuhr prayers and the body was later flown by helicopter

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পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ
মিরপুর-১৪, ঢাকা-১২১৬

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Post Graduate Diploma in Security Management (PGDSM)

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