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Go for digital publications to promote Bangla globally

PM tells publishers at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for digital publication of books and their translations to promote Bangla language, literature, and culture throughout the world.

"If we want to spread our language, literature and culture massively, we should keep up with the times. So, I would like to request the publishers to publish digital books also," she said.

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PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

MONEY IN THE AIR ... A couple of oriental dollarbirds perched on a dead tree in Satchari National Park in Habiganj. This species of roller birds is found mainly in the regions of Asia, Australia and some islands in Oceania. Interestingly, these two are seen together because it's breeding season. Otherwise, oriental dollarbirds prefer solitude. Found in many different ecosystem and habitat types, both natural and artificial, these birds are more prone to select open wooded areas, lowland forests, farmlands or even gardens and parks. The most striking feature of these birds is the white "dollar" circle on their under-wings, hence the name "dollarbird". They feed mostly on flying insects, which they skillfully capture while in air, before returning to the same perch – mainly dead trees. Due to its vast range, the oriental dollarbird is listed as a "Least Concern" species in the IUCN Red List.

India regrets death of BGB soldier

Says foreign ministry

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India's Border Security Force (BSF) has officially regretted the death of a Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) soldier and expressed willingness to work together to prevent any such incident in the future, said the foreign ministry.

"The BSF formally regretted the death of Sepoy Mohammad Roisuddin on 22 January and the BGB and BSF expressed hope that they will work together to prevent a repeat of this incident," said Seheri Sabrin, foreign affairs ministry's spokeswoman, at the weekly briefing yesterday.

On January 22, a patrol team of BGB 49 Battalion intercepted a group of cattle smugglers after they crossed into Bangladesh near Dhanyakhola Border Outpost from India, according to BGB.

The smugglers tried to flee towards India as they were chased by the BGB team.

At one stage, Roisuddin got detached from his team in the dense fog. He could not be found immediately. It was learnt later in the day that the BGB soldier was undergoing treatment at an Indian hospital after being injured in BSF firing.

Immediately after the incident, a battalion commander-level flag meeting was held and it was known that the soldier died while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

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An Aussie ready to rain sixes in BPL with self-made bats

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from sylhet

"I've just found my new favourite player. I love him!" said Adam Gilchrist, one of Australia's most destructive batters ever, after watching Big Bash League (BBL) sensation Josh Brown in action.

Josh was just playing his second ever BBL game when Gilchrist saw him bat last year. The right hander carved out an even bigger reputation in this year's tournament by hitting a blistering ton in the semifinal and a half-century in the final to help Brisbane Heat to the title.

Josh helped Brisbane end an 11-year title drought but said that meeting Gilchrist, his childhood hero, for the first time was more nerve wrecking than batting in the final.

"I met him last year and I was more nervous meeting him than I was playing the Big Bash final," Josh recalls while speaking with The Daily Star.

Josh took part in the BBL final on January 24 and arrived in Bangladesh on the 27th for the BPL on a very short notice.

Chattogram Challengers were on the lookout for a player to replace Pakistan's Mohammad Harris and Josh's knock in the BBL semifinal, where he hit 12 sixes, caught their attention.

"I think they [Chattogram] just messaged my manager a day after that big score in the semifinal and I said 'Hey, just let me focus on trying to win the final and we can talk about it after'."

"He [manager] just said sorry, you just have to sign this and you are going to Bangladesh," Josh said about the quick turn of events.

Josh left the BBL commentators awestruck with his hitting ability last year, and left everyone pondering the same question, where had he been all this time?

The 30-year-old only got into cricket in

There are many batters going around in world cricket with similar destructive powers, however, Josh is perhaps the only one who also makes his own weapon of destruction.



PHOTO: COLLECTED/FIROZ AHMED

his mid 20s, claiming he was not taking the game seriously before.

Standing at well over six feet, Josh does not try to premeditate his shots, rather he banks on his ability to pick the length of the ball very quickly and create absolute carnage.

"When I am watching the ball really well and I am just reacting, it's like I am hitting the ball where it needs to go. I am not sort of thinking a reverse sweep here or try sweeping. Like if he bowls in there, I will just hit it where the ball is going to go," he said.

"Yeah, I am the maker of my own bats and we got a little store in Brisbane," he said, adding that they make custom bats in the shop.

"It's just been me and my boss but we got a couple of new guys since I've been away playing cricket. Started about four years ago and I love it," he added.

Josh is yet to make his BPL debut but knows what kind of impact he wants to make for the team.

"The impact I am hoping for is to continue my form from the backend of the BBL, just go out and hit a lot of sixes for the team."

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US sanctions Jewish settlers for attacking Palestinians

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden issued an executive order on Thursday that aims to punish Jewish settlers who attack Palestinians in the occupied West Bank following the October 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel.

Biden's order establishes a system for imposing financial sanctions and visa restrictions against individuals who are found to have attacked or intimidated Palestinians or seized their property. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in a statement.

"Today's actions seek to promote peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike," he said.

United Nations figures show that daily settler attacks have more than doubled in the nearly four months since the Hamas attack and Israel's ensuing assault on the Hamas-run Gaza Strip.

The order freezes any US assets of those targeted and generally bars Americans from dealing with them. The State Department on Thursday also planned to announce the first four individuals hit by the order, two senior Biden administration officials told reporters.

Biden and other senior US officials have warned repeatedly that Israel must act to stop violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the

ACC presses charges against Yunus, 13 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday submitted before a Dhaka court the charge sheet of a case filed against Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus and 13 others over the misappropriation of about Tk 25.22 crore of Grameen Telecom Workers' Profit Participation Fund.

The charge sheet was filed yesterday with the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka by the investigation officer Gulshan Anwar Prodhhan, a deputy director of the ACC.

The hearing on the acceptance of the charge sheet will be held on March 3, said court sources.

Nazmul Islam, the managing director of Grameen Telecom; Ashrafur Hassan, Naznin Sultana, Parvin Mahmud, M Shahjahan, Nurjahan Begum and SM Huzzatul Islam Latif, all directors of Grameen Telecom are also accused.

Kamruzzaman, president of Sramik Karmachari Union, Firoz Mahmud Hasan, its general secretary, and Mainul Islam, its representative, are co-accused along with Kamrul Hasan, office secretary of Jatiya Workers Federation, and lawyers Zafrul Hasan Sharif and Yusuf Ali.

All 14 accused have been shown as fugitives in the charge sheet, which was approved by the ACC on January 29 after Prodhhan filed the case with the ACC's integrated district office in Dhaka on May 30 last year.

The investigator also appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against the fugitives.

Only Parvin Mahmud, who is the wife of Jatiya Party lawmaker Anisul Islam Mahmud, is now on bail in the case.

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Robots created to assist elderly pass testing



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Robots created to help in healthcare environments have been tested successfully by experts.

The Spring (Socially Assistive Robots in Gerontological healthcare) units will be used to assist patients, alleviate their anxiety and relieve pressure on nursing staff as part of a trial conducted in Paris, France, by staff from the UK's National Robotarium.

The robots have artificial intelligence and are said to be capable of natural conversations, can understand patient needs, and assist with routine tasks.

The trials took place in three phases at Assistance Publique Hopitaux de Paris. The robots greeted patients, answered questions, provided directions, and were able to understand conversations involving multiple people at the same time.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Devotees heading towards the Biswa Ijtema ground on the banks of Turag in Tongi. The first phase of the congregation of the Muslims begins today and the second one will be from February 9-11. The photo was taken in Abdullahpur area yesterday afternoon.

Ukraine 'destroys' Russian warship off Crimea

Claims it was worth up to \$70m

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday it had destroyed a Russian warship in the Black Sea off the Crimean peninsula, which has come under increasing Ukrainian attacks.

Crimea, which was annexed by Moscow in 2014 and is home to Russia's Black Sea Fleet, has been extensively targeted by Ukrainian drones and missiles, putting Russia on the defensive.

"An enemy missile corvette was destroyed" during the night, Ukraine's military intelligence agency said in a statement online. Russia made no immediate comment.

The Ukraine agency named the vessel as the Ivanovets and claimed the ship was worth up to \$70 million.

In a night-vision video it published purporting to show the attack, a small vessel is seen approaching the Russian ship, followed by a large explosion and the warship then appearing to start rolling over and sinking.