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WORKERS FAILING TO GO TO KL People responsible will face the music PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government will investigate why workers could not go to Malaysia before a deadline expired and will take action against those responsible.

The premier was responding to a supplementary question from Opposition Chief Whip Mujibul Haque Chunu in parliament yesterday.

Earlier, the House went into budget session around 5:00pm, with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

In the supplementary question, Chunu enquired whether any action would be taken for the failure to send workers to Malaysia by the June 30 deadline.

In reply, the leader of the House said the government operated special flights to send workers to Malaysia.

"Workers were sent [to Malaysia] on special and regular flights. But many were left out. An investigation will be conducted to identify the reason [for not being able to send all workers to Malaysia]."

"Whenever we discuss and decide how many people will go abroad, we see a group of people in our country, who deals with manpower export, try to send workers abroad in a hurry," she said.

Highlighting various steps taken by her government to send workers abroad, Hasina said that those who want to



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India's Rishabh Pant and Shivam Dube celebrate their eight-wicket win over Ireland in their Twenty20 World Cup Group A match at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York yesterday. India bowled out Ireland for 96 runs in 16 overs before racing to the victory target with 46 balls to spare.

PHOTO: AFP

Not much surprise left for Tigers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh travelled to the United States for a bilateral series with the hosts in the early hours of May 16 before beginning preparations for the T20 World Cup. Consequently, Bangladesh have had enough time to acclimatise to the conditions offered in Dallas and New York, the venues for their first two matches in the marquee event.

The Tigers have played four matches since then, with their game against USA in Dallas abandoned due to extreme weather conditions, which may have hindered a few subsequent training sessions. By and large, Bangladesh will not have an excuse in terms of adjustment to the conditions.

The wickets in question have been under scrutiny, with international media and experts calling out the subpar nature of the wickets. However, the

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Ansar Al Islam raised Tk 18 lakh through crowdfunding

Say CTTC officials; three operatives arrested

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and
EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Ansar Al Islam, a militant group inspired by al-Qaeda, has raised Tk 18 lakh through crowdfunding within a few months.

In the name of sending aid to the victims in Palestine, the outfit made Facebook posts mentioning mobile financial service accounts.

In the last two months, Ansar Al Islam raised the money after launching a platform called "Deen Islam Foundation" on Facebook.

This move was made after al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) late last year called upon the Bangladeshi citizens to provide assistance to Palestinian people.

Officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit disclosed this to The Daily Star recently.

The government banned Ansar Al Islam in March 2017.

On Saturday, the CTTC unit claimed to

have arrested three operatives of Ansar Al Islam for collecting money under the banner of Deen Islam Foundation.

A team of the CTTC's counterterrorism investigation wing picked up Shakil Ahmed, 21, Fardin Ahmed Mirdul, 22, and Rayhan Hosain, 26, from the capital's Wari.

On the same day, the CTTC unit filed a case with Wari Police Station against the three under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Speaking to this newspaper, Jahidul Hoque Talukder, deputy commissioner of the DMP at the CTTC unit, said the arrestees had been involved in raising funds for the outfit. They gave false information like sending aid to Palestine, or Rohingya community, he added.

The CTTC unit later produced the arrestees before a Dhaka court seeking 10-day remand for each. The court, however, granted three-day demand.

Yesterday, a Dhaka court sent the three arrestees to jail.

According to the primary investigation

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AZIM MURDER Amanullah led the killing He confesses before court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Amanullah, a Bangladesh-born US citizen, gave him the contract to kill Azim, Amanullah said in his confessional statement yesterday.



Aktaruzzaman, known in his hometown Jhenidah as Shaheen Mia, and Azim used to syphon money out of the country through hundi and were involved in gold smuggling, said Amanullah.

After the two had a disagreement over the illegal racket, Aktaruzzaman met Amanullah and told him to kill Azim.

The Israeli military said jets were hitting Hamas targets in central Gaza while ground forces were operating "in a focused manner with guidance

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Israel launches new incursion into central Gaza

Mediators to resume talks on truce deal

REUTERS, Cairo

Israel yesterday announced a new military campaign against Hamas in central Gaza where Palestinian medics said dozens of people had been killed in airstrikes, complicating expected

talks between mediators to try to finalise a ceasefire deal.

At least 44 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military strikes in central Gaza Strip areas since Tuesday, health officials in the enclave said. "The sounds of bombardment didn't stop all night," said Aya, 30, a displaced woman in Deir Al-Balah.

The Israeli military said jets were hitting Hamas targets in central Gaza while ground forces were operating

from intelligence" in the area of Al-Bureij - one of Gaza's long established refugee settlements.

Residents said Israeli forces had sent tanks into Bureij and planes and tanks pounded the nearby settlements of Al-Maghazi and Al-Nuseirat as well as Deir Al-Balah city, where tanks have not invaded.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 36,586 people have been killed in the territory during more than seven months of offensive. The toll includes at least 36 deaths over the zpast 24 hours, a

ministry statement said.

Meanwhile, Slovenia became the latest European Union country to recognise an independent Palestinian state after its parliament approved the

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- 44 Palestinians killed in Deir Al-Balah
- Israeli ground forces move into Al-Bureij refugee camp
- Slovenia becomes latest EU country to recognise Palestinian state

CUSTODIAL DEATH Identify those responsible, take action NHRC writes to home ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission has asked the home ministry to conduct a proper investigation into the death of a woman in police custody in Abhaynagar, Jashore, and identify those involved in torturing her.

The commission asked the secretary of the Public Security Division of the ministry to come up with a report on the investigation by July 30, according to a statement issued by the NHRC yesterday.

A letter from NHRC Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed said there were allegations that the woman's hair was tied to the ceiling fan while she

was in custody. The commission also asked the ministry to identify those responsible and take action against them.

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Afroza

4TH PHASE UZ POLLS Trend of low voter turnout continues

STAR REPORT

The fourth and last phase of upazila parishad elections was held by and large peacefully yesterday and the turnout was low like the previous phases.

In this phase, 60 upazilas went to polls.

Talking to reporters at the Election Commission after voting ended, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal said the turnout in the fourth phase would be 34.33 percent.

He said the EC made the estimation based on information provided by the election officials of 5,144 polling centres.

The CEC did not respond to a query about the reason for the low turnout.

He said the polls were held peacefully and without any major violence.

He said 28 people were arrested over election-related offences, adding that voting at a polling station in Kishoreganj's Bhariab upazila was suspended as a ballot box was taken away.

The CEC said a presiding officer was arrested as he was found stamping ballot papers in Netrakona's Kendua upazila.

If the CEC's estimate is proven to be correct, this would be the lowest turnout

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Tree lovers observing the various trees and plants at the Jatiyo Brikkho Mela-2024, or national tree plantation drive and fair, at the old trade fair ground in the capital's Sher-E-Bangla Nagar. Organised by Bangladesh Forest Research Institute and inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday on the occasion of World Environment Day, the fair will continue till June 13.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Boeing Starliner launches first crew on third try

AFP, Cape Canaveral

Boeing yesterday launched its very first astronauts bound for the International Space Station aboard a Starliner capsule, which joins a select club of spacecraft to carry humans beyond Earth.

The third time turned out to be the charm for the aerospace giant, after two previous bids to fly with crew were aborted late into the countdown, for technical reasons.

Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, both of whom have two previous spaceflights under their belts, blasted off at 10:52 am (1452 GMT) from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, for a roughly one-week stay at the station.

"Suni and I are honored to share this dream of spaceflight with each and every one of you," Wilmore, who is commander of the test flight, said just before liftoff. "Let's put some fire in this rocket, and let's push it to the heavens."

Starliner becomes just the sixth type of US-built spaceship to fly Nasa astronauts, following the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs in the 1960s and 1970s, the Space Shuttle from 1981 to 2011, and SpaceX's Crew Dragon from 2020.

