



**WITH BSRM FASTBUILD
YOUR HOME WILL BE BUILT ON TIME
WITH THE BEST QUALITY RODS**



**COMPLETE
GUIDANCE APP FOR
HOME BUILDING**



**নির্মাণে
আসি**

BAT violating tobacco control law

The tobacco company running promotional campaigns in top restaurants, hotels

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

British American Tobacco Company (BAT) has been promoting sales of cigarette, a controlled product, in upscale restaurants and hotels in big cities in a clear violation of tobacco control laws, The Daily Star has found.

The largest tobacco company in Bangladesh has also been secretly partnering with luxury hotels and restaurants in major cities like Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar, supplying them with cigarettes and promotional materials.

In some cases, BAT, as part of the deal, hosts events at some of these restaurants, which leads to increased food and cigarette sales in those eateries. BAT also has financial arrangements with the restaurant owners to display the tobacco company's promotional materials, six restaurant owners in Dhaka and Chattogram told The Daily Star.

The Daily Star is not naming the restaurants and hotels as they all spoke on condition of anonymity.

The findings by this newspaper are consistent with a study report by an NGO, Voice Bangladesh, published last year.

Based on a survey of 102 restaurants in Dhaka,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Members of the fire service, army, and police working to recover the bodies of three members of a family who got buried under a mudslide in Sylhet city's Majortila area. The bodies were recovered around 7:00am yesterday, six hours after the incident. The mudslide was triggered by heavy rains over the last few days.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Three of a family killed as mudslide buries house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Tragedy struck Sylhet city yesterday morning when a mudslide in Majortila claimed the lives of a young family after their tin-roofed house caved in beneath the debris.

Aga Karim Uddin, 31, his wife Shammi Akhter Ruji, 25, and their two-year-old son Nafji Tanim lived at the foot of a hill in Majortila's Chamelibagh residential area under the city corporation's Ward 35.

Pounded by heavy downpours for the past several days, the saturated hillside gave way and collapsed onto a small cluster of houses at the foot of the hill, burying Karim's house completely, roof and walls, under a large chunk of mud around 7:00am.

Around six hours later, their bodies were recovered and sent to Sylhet

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

ACC not doing any favour to ex-IGP Benazir

Says anti-graft body chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission is not providing any special privilege to former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed, said ACC Chairman Moinuddin Abdullah.



Abdullah

He said the media reports, which suggested the ACC facilitated Benazir going abroad and withdrawing money from his bank accounts, were false.

Moinuddin said this yesterday at the award ceremony for the ACC Media Award 2020-2021, during a discussion with Reporters Against Corruption.

"On the day the news about Benazir Ahmed was published in a national newspaper, our commissioner [investigations] was abroad for medical treatment. During this time, allegations of corruption against Benazir Ahmed were submitted. Since one commissioner was out of the country, we couldn't hold a commission meeting. The commissioner returned on April 17 ... On April 18, we decided to initiate an investigation.

"We also formed an investigative team and sent letters to various departments to enquire about his bank accounts and properties. We need to gather all the information before proceeding to court,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Blinken in Middle East to push Gaza ceasefire

Hamas sticks to its conditions for accepting any proposal for truce; 40 more Palestinians killed

REUTERS, Cairo

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in the Middle East yesterday hoping to deliver the ceasefire that President Joe Biden proposed last month, in an all-out push by Washington to secure an end to the Gaza offensive.

Ahead of his arrival, both sides doubled down on headline positions that have scuppered all previous attempts to end the fighting, while Israel pressed on with assaults in central and southern Gaza, among the bloodiest of the offensive.

"We are committed to total victory," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement released by his office, quoting remarks he made on Sunday to relatives of Israelis killed in Gaza.

Hamas, for its part, said Washington must push its ally Israel to halt the fighting.

Speaking after meeting Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el Sisi in Cairo on the first stop on his trip yesterday, Blinken said Hamas was the only side that had yet to agree to Biden's ceasefire proposal, which Washington says Israel has already accepted.

"My message to governments throughout the region, to people throughout the region, is

if you want a ceasefire, press Hamas to say yes," Blinken told reporters before departing Egypt to visit Israel.

The Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, however, yesterday said that they were sticking to their conditions for accepting any proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council was scheduled to vote later yesterday on the US drafted resolution backing a proposal for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

The Israeli offensive in Gaza has now entered its ninth month. At least 37,124 Palestinians have been killed and 84,712 have been injured in Israel's military offensive on Gaza since October 7, the Gaza health ministry said in a statement yesterday. Some 40 Palestinians were killed and 218 injured in the previous 24 hours, the ministry added.

In Rafah, the city on the southern edge of Gaza where Israel launched an offensive last month in defiance of White House pleas, residents said yesterday tanks thrust deeper towards the north in the early hours of the morning. They were on the edge of Shaboura, one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods at the heart of the city, a Hamas stronghold.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

- » UNSC to vote on Biden's plan for ceasefire
- » Tanks thrust deeper towards the north in Rafah
- » Gaza death toll rises to 37,124

3 Rohingyas killed in Cox's Bazar camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three Rohingyas were killed over establishing supremacy at a refugee camp in Ukhiya upazila, Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The deceased are Md Ilias, 31, and Md Ishaq, 54, and Firoz Khan, 18.

The incident took place at Block F of Camp 4 Extension around 5:00am, said Additional Deputy Inspector General Md Iqbal, also the commander of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) 14.

"Rohingya criminals from the nearby hills swooped on the camp in small groups and attacked the victims. They locked into a gunfight and clashed with the Rohingyas in the camp, leaving the three killed and seven others injured."

The injured are now undergoing treatment at Cox's Bazar General Hospital.

Shamim Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station, said the bodies were sent to Cox's Bazar General Hospital for autopsy.

Another AL leader may be involved

Investigators say after interrogating Jhenaidah ruling party leader Babu

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

At least one other top leader of Jhenaidah Awami League may have been involved in the murder of MP Anwarul Azim Anar's at a New Town flat in Kolkata, investigators said.

They claimed to have gotten the clue while interrogating Kazi Kamal Ahmed Babu, relief and social welfare affairs secretary of Jhenaidah AL, who is now on a seven-day police remand.

Amanullah alias Shimul Bhuiyan, the coordinator of the killing, in his confession had also mentioned the involvement of a top ruling party leader of the district.

Sources in the Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

Ashraful Alam, mayor of the Kaliganj Municipality, admitted that rival ruling party men, who stood strongly against slain lawmaker Azim during the last election, might have links with the murder.

"Many already started internal campaigns to run for Jhenaidah-4 even though Azim's death has not been officially confirmed," he said.

A source in the investigating agency said they are already making a list of suspected AL leaders, who had communicated with Babu and were against Azim.

Speaking to reporters at the secretariat yesterday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said, "Let the investigation finish. Many may be arrested. We don't

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5



Compromise, hold dialogue on key issues

CEC to political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal has said dialogues between political parties and reaching an understanding are necessary to ensure free, fair, acceptable and inclusive elections.



Habibul Awal

"I earnestly request political parties to try to reach an understanding on some fundamental questions regarding elections by reducing hostilities," the CEC said at a meet-the-press programme yesterday.

Reporters Forum for Election and Democracy, an organisation of journalists responsible for covering news on EC, organised the event at the Election Commission Secretariat.

Habibul said five months have passed after the January 7 national election, but he has not seen any initiative to hold any dialogue between political parties.

"Everyone knows what are the fundamental questions regarding the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3



Cattle from different villages being brought into Dhaka via the Buriganga yesterday as markets in the capital gear up for Eid-ul-Azha, which is less than a week away.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

CHECKING GRAFT Finance, telecom ministers slated in JS for 'failure'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jatiya Party and two independent lawmakers in parliament yesterday came down heavily on the ministries of finance and information technology for widespread corruption.

Speaking on cut motion during passage of supplementary budget for fiscal year 2023-24, JP MP Mujibul Haque Chunnun and independent MPs Pankaj Nath (Barishal-4) and Hamidul Haque Khandker (Kurigram-2) blasted Finance Minister Abul Hasan Mahmood Ali and State Minister for Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

In the budget, 66 cut motions have been proposed on the demands for grants of 20 ministries and departments, but the discussion was held only on the finance and information technology ministries.

A cut motion is a veto used by members of a legislature against a specific allocation in budget proposals.

The rest of the proposals were put to the vote by Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury without discussion.

In protest of massive corruption in

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2