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## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

### Cancel passports of 10 Rab, seven police officials

#### Inquiry commission asks home ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Commission for Inquiry on Enforced Disappearance recently wrote to the home ministry, seeking cancellation of the passports of 10 Rab and seven police officers for being involved with enforced disappearance.

The list includes two former directors general of Rab M Khurshid Hussain and Md Harun Or Rashid

After receiving the letter on March 4, the Security Services Division asked the department of immigration and passports to implement the commission's directive and impose a travel ban on the individuals.

The others named in the list are three additional directors general of Rab's operation division, Col Anwar Latif Khan, Col KM Azad, and Col Kamrul Hasan; four Rab intelligence officers, former directors, Lt Col Muhammad Khairul Islam, Lt Col Md Mashirur Rahman Jewel and Lt Col Saiful Islam Suman, and additional

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Construction of the bridge in Badurgacha area of Dumuria, Khulna, was completed eight years ago. But the only way to access the bridge is the rickety staircase made of bamboo and wood as the authorities could not build roads because they had not acquired land on either side of the structure.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## SURFACE WATER PLANT PROJECT

### Implementation delay irks Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has expressed dissatisfaction over the prolonged delay in implementing the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant (Phase-3) and the Meghna River Protection Master Plan.



At a meeting held yesterday at the state guesthouse Jamuna, he said, "It is alarming that such a crucial project has been stuck for almost 10 years. Excessive extraction of groundwater is endangering the environment, yet work on an available solution has not commenced," he said.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Local Government Division, Dhaka WASA, the Planning Commission's Physical Infrastructure Division, the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the Department of Environment. SDG Chief Coordinator Lamia Morshed and Chief Secretary Siraj Uddin Mia were also present.

Yunus instructed the relevant ministries and divisions to identify obstacles delaying the projects and explore cost-cutting measures.

Officials revealed that 70 percent of Dhaka's water supply comes from underground sources, causing

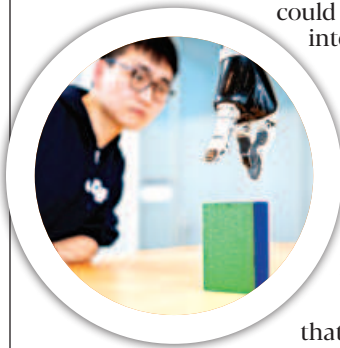
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## Paralysed man moves robotic arm with his thoughts

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have enabled a paralysed man to grasp, move and drop objects just by using his thoughts.

Researchers in San Francisco developed a robot arm that receives signals from the brain to a computer, allowing a man who could not speak or move to interact with objects.



The device, known as a brain-computer interface, worked for a record seven months without needing to be adjusted. Previous attempts of using such a device have only worked for a day or two.

It works by using AI that adjusts to the small changes that happen when a person repeats a movement — or in this case, simply imagines a movement — and then learns to do it in a more refined way.

"This blending of learning between humans and AI is the next phase for these brain-computer interfaces," said Professor of Neurology Karunesh Ganguly. "It's what we need to achieve sophisticated, life-like function," he added.

As part of the study published in the journal Cell, the participant had tiny sensors implanted on the surface of his brain that could pick up brain activity when he simply thought about moving.

Researchers Professor Ganguly and Neurology researcher Nikhilesh Natraj previously discovered that patterns of brain activity in animals represent specific movements, and saw these patterns changed day-to-day as the animal learned.

## Seize assets of ex-land minister Saifuzzaman

### Court also orders confiscation of Nassa Group chief's properties

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to freeze shares worth Tk 102.85 crore and confiscate 957 bighas of land worth Tk 46.56 crore owned by former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, individuals and organisations associated with him in connection with corruption allegations.

The immovable properties are situated in Anwara upazila of Chattogram.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after Md Mahfuz Iqbal, the head of the Anti-Corruption Commission's inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard, ACC deputy director Md Akhtarul Islam told The Daily Star.

ACC's Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir moved the application on behalf of the anti-graft body.

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## Russia hits Ukraine with 100 drones

### Damage reported in six regions; Russian soldiers creep through gas pipeline to strike Ukrainian forces in Kursk

AGENCIES

Ukraine said yesterday that Russia launched over one hundred drones overnight, targeting the capital and several regions at a crucial point in the war as Washington has frozen aid supplies.

The wave of attacks followed deadly strikes Friday and Saturday in eastern and northeastern Ukraine that killed at least 14 people.

Ukraine is set to hold negotiations with US officials in Saudi Arabia tomorrow, with Washington hoping to forge a deal on a ceasefire and a "framework" for a peace agreement after freezing arms shipments to Kyiv and blocking access to intelligence reports and satellite imagery.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said on X yesterday that Ukraine is "fully committed" to having a constructive dialogue with US representatives in Saudi Arabia next week, even as Donald Trump said he found it "easier" to deal with Russia than with Ukraine in efforts to end the war.

In Ukraine, its air force said Russia launched 119 drones overnight, of which 71 were downed in a dozen regions and in Kyiv, while 37 others went missing without causing harm.

It said drones caused damage in six regions,

without giving specifics, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, Russian special forces crept miles through a major gas pipeline near the town of Sudzha in an attempt to surprise Ukrainian forces as part of a major offensive to eject Ukrainian soldiers from the western Russian region of Kursk, pro-Russian war bloggers said.

Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers seized about 1,300 square km of Russia's Kursk region in August last year in what Kyiv said was an attempt to gain a bargaining chip in future negotiations and to force Russia to shift military forces from eastern Ukraine, reports Reuters.

In its daily update on the situation in Kursk, Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces had retaken the village of Lebedevka, as well as seizing Novenka, a hamlet across the border in Ukraine's neighbouring

Sumy region.

Yuri Podolyaka, a Ukrainian-born, pro-Russian military blogger, said Russian special forces had walked miles along the inside of the major gas pipeline and some had spent several days in the pipe before surprising Ukrainian forces from the rear near Sudzha.

Pro-Russian war blogger Two Majors said a major battle was under way for Sudzha and that Russian forces had surprised Ukrainian soldiers by entering the area via a major gas pipeline.

» Kyiv set to hold truce talks with US officials in KSA

» Russia claims capture of village in Ukraine's Sumy region

## Robbers hack gold trader dead, take 25 bhoris

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Robber hacked a gold trader to death in front of his wife and looted about 25 bhoiri of gold in Savar last night.

The deceased, Dilip Das, 47, owned the jewellery store Dilip Swarnalay.

The incident happened around 9:00pm at Nayarhat Bazaar Swarnapotti, known for its numerous gold jewellery shops.

According to witnesses, three armed men arrived in a white car and detonated crude bombs to create panic.

They then approached Dilip, who was about to close his shop, and stabbed him indiscriminately before snatching the bag of gold he was carrying. His wife was with him at the time.

The criminals detonated more crude bombs before fleeing the scene in their vehicle.

Dilip was rushed to Enam Medical College Hospital in critical condition, but he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

His wife, Saraswati Das, said, "The armed men hacked my husband to death and looted 20 to 25 bhoiri of gold in his bag right in front of me."

Dr Merajur Rayhan, emergency medical officer at Enam Medical College Hospital, told The Daily Star that Dilip had suffered severe injuries to his chest, face, and multiple parts of his body. "We started treatment immediately, but he died due to excessive bleeding," he said.

When contacted, Kamal Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Ashulia Police Station, said law enforcers were at the scene.

An investigation was underway, he added.

## Eid train tickets go on sale from March 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) will start selling train tickets in advance from March 14 to ensure a hassle-free journey for homegoers.

Similarly to previous years, all the tickets will be sold online.

On March 14, tickets for March 24 will be put on sale. BR will sell tickets for March 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 on March 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, respectively.

The railway will start selling the return tickets in advance from March 24. On that day, they will sell tickets for April 3.

BR will sell tickets for April 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 on March 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30, respectively.

This year, BR will operate a total of five pairs of special trains on different routes during the Eid rush.

Alfzal Hossain, director general of Bangladesh Railway, made the announcement after an Eid preparation meeting held at the capital's Bidyt Bhaban yesterday.

Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the railway and road transport and bridges ministries, presided over the meeting, while officials at various government agencies, police, and transport leaders were in attendance.

Meanwhile, a total of 159 spots on various highways have been identified as potential congestion points during the Eid rush.

Of those, 48 are on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway, 54 on the highways connected to the northern region, six

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A large crowd behind a mobile shop of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh. Most of the people in the queues came to the spot on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue hours before the truck with subsidised goods arrived around 2:00pm.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

In Focus: Farewell to a fellow traveler

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PRAYER TIMING		MARCH 10	
Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:57	12:45	4:30	6:06 7:30
JAMAAT 5:07	1:15	4:45	6:21 8:00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION			
SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING			
RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
9	10		6:06
10	11	4:55	6:06
11	12	4:54	6:07