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SHAH CEMENT

## ACC asks UK to seize assets of 2 top Bashundhara Group executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has written to the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency (NCA), requesting it to seize the assets of Bashundhara Group Vice Chairman Shaliat Sobhan (Sanvir) and Co-Chairman Sadat Sobhan.

ACC Chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen confirmed the development at a press conference at the commission's headquarters in the capital's Segunbagicha yesterday.

"Recovering laundered money is a complex process. However, we are trying. If we can provide enough evidence to our courts and theirs, it will be possible to bring the assets back to Bangladesh," he said.

The ACC has also sought assistance from the NCA in seizing the assets of Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, brother of former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, and Mohammad Adnan Imam, former executive committee chairman of NRB Commercial Bank.

Momen said the commission is  
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Green sludge covers the Dholaiakhal reservoir, which was meant to be revitalised under the "Dholaiakhal Reservoir Greening and Aesthetic Environment Development" project by the DSCC by April last year. However, the project remains incomplete. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Inform EC of Yunus-Tarique talk outcome

BNP leader Salahuddin urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed urged the government to immediately inform the Election Commission of its decision to hold the national polls in February next year.

In a closed-door meeting with BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman in London on Friday, Chief Adviser M u h a m m a d Yunus agreed to hold the polls before the start of Ramadan in February next year.



"We hope that the decision taken in the London meeting will soon be communicated to the Election Commission through the appropriate channel so that they can publicly say they have received an advisory or directive message from the government," he said

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## Britain appoints first female head of MI6

REUTERS

Britain yesterday named Blaise Metreweli, a career intelligence officer, as the first female head of the Secret Intelligence Service, the foreign spy service known as MI6.

Metreweli, 47, who is currently MI6's head of technology, known as "Q", joined the Secret Intelligence Service in 1999, and has spent most of her career in operational roles in the Middle East and Europe, the government said in a statement.

Richard Moore, the current chief of MI6, will step down in the autumn after a five-year tenure.

"I am proud and honoured to be asked to lead my service," said Metreweli, who takes on one of the most powerful jobs in Western intelligence and will be known by the code name "C".

MI6, founded in 1909, joins the other main British spy agencies, the domestic spy service MI5, and the intelligence communications agency GCHQ, in having appointed a female head.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who is currently in Canada for the G7 summit, said Metreweli's appointment comes when Britain is "facing threats on an unprecedented scale".

"I know Blaise will continue to provide the excellent leadership needed to defend our country," he said.

Metreweli's biggest challenges are likely to be dealing with Russia, China and Iran.

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Metreweli

# Aging population, urban surge warrant healthcare overhaul

Says Health Sector Reform Commission

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With significant shifts in population distribution and demographics, Bangladesh's health sector must realign its focus on medical care for the fast-growing urban and ageing population, says a report of the Health Sector Reform Commission.

Citing data from multiple studies, the commission said the country saw a surge in urban population over the last few decades, highlighting the need for a fundamental transformation in planning, structure, management, and financing of healthcare services.

Though Bangladesh still has a predominantly young population, it is gradually transitioning into an ageing society, warranting a well-organised elderly care system, said the report submitted to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus early last month.

The commission identified non-communicable diseases such as respiratory and heart-related illness, tuberculosis, and cancer as major health risks in the country. It urged the government to spend

**Though mortality among older adults has decreased slightly, their quality of life is worsening due to chronic conditions and decline in their ability to perform everyday activities, says the Health Sector Reform Commission report.**

more on preventive measures, early detection, rehabilitation, and long-term medical care.

**SURGE IN URBAN POPULATION** Referring to the 2022 data of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the commission said that in 1974, around 9 percent of the population lived in urban areas, which rose to 32 percent by 2022.

The annual population growth rate in rural areas is only 1.2 percent, compared to 4.4 percent in urban

areas, it said.

The country's population density is over 1,200 people per square kilometre, while more than 1,750 people reside per square km in Dhaka city and its surrounding areas, which continue to expand.

"In light of this reality, it is time to reshape the country's healthcare system." The primary healthcare structure was developed with a focus on the rural population, but the situation has changed, the report pointed out.

Rapid urbanisation has created new demands and challenges such as overcrowding, lack of safe water and sanitation, severe air pollution, and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, said the commission, stressing the need for innovative solutions to make the urban healthcare system more inclusive and effective.

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE**

According to the 2021 Global Burden of Disease report, more than one-fourth of the population is below the age of 20, and a significant portion falls within the working age group (between 20 and 64).

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## Israeli gunfire kills 40 across Gaza

Half of them near an aid distribution site in Rafah; 200 others wounded

REUTERS, Gaza

Israeli fire killed at least 40 people, half of them near an aid distribution site operated by the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation yesterday, the territory's health ministry said, as UN officials denounced Israeli-backed aid delivery methods.

Medics said at least 20 people were killed and 200 others wounded near an aid distribution site in Rafah, the latest in daily mass shootings that have killed hundreds of Palestinians trying to reach food since Israel imposed a new distribution system after partly lifting a near three-month total blockade.

Israel has put responsibility for distributing much of the aid it allows into Gaza into the hands of a new US-backed group, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which operates three sites in areas guarded by Israeli troops. The United Nations has rejected the plan, saying GHF distribution is inadequate, dangerous and violates humanitarian impartiality principles.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military about yesterday's reports of shootings. In previous incidents it has occasionally acknowledged troops opening fire near aid sites, while blaming Hamas members for provoking the violence.

Relatives arrived at Nasser Hospital to mourn the dead.

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» Starving people killed by 'lethal distribution system': UN

» Aid distribution site 'turned out to be a trap': survivor

## 4 children raped in as many days

Woman raped on running bus; 4 accused sent to jail, one sued

STAR REPORT

At least five people, including four children and a woman, were raped in separate incidents in four districts between Friday and yesterday.

Four accused were sent to jail, while another was sued in connection with the attacks.

In Munshiganj, an 11-year-old girl was raped by two men on Friday.

Her father filed a case that night against Md Akash, 25, and Md Hossain Fakir, 28, said police.

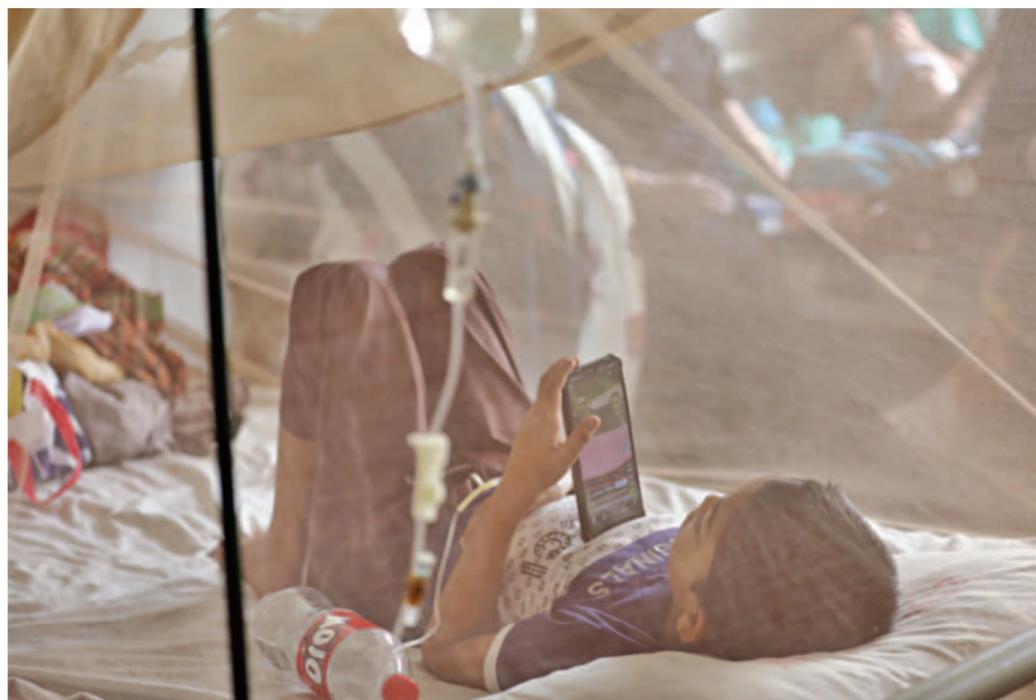
According to the complaint, the parents had left for work and the child was home alone with her four-year-old brother when the accused entered the house around noon and raped her.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested both men early yesterday, said Saiful Alam, officer-in-charge of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station. They were produced before court later in the day and sent to jail, added Kamrul Islam, in-charge of Munshiganj Court Police.

In Rajbari's Pangsha upazila, two teenagers, aged 14 and 15, were raped while returning home from private tuition around 11:00am on Sunday.

Police said Hasmat Ali, 22, and Shihab, 20, stopped the girls on the way, held them at knifepoint and took them to a nearby betel leaf orchard, where they raped them.

The victims informed their families, who filed  
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Tahamidul Islam, 10, watching videos on a phone while undergoing treatment for dengue at the Mugda Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was admitted three days ago after suffering from a fever for several days and testing positive for dengue. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## TK 1.08CR HEIST

Police yet to ID suspects, hint at inside job

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Police have yet to identify or arrest any of the suspects involved in Saturday's daring robbery in Dhaka's Uttara, where criminals disguised as Rab personnel snatched Tk 1.08 crore from a Nagad representative.

The heist took place around 8:00am near roads 12 and 13 in Uttara Sector 13. The suspects in a microbus intercepted two motorcycles transporting Nagad staff and fled with the cash.

When one of the motorcyclists was trying to escape, the criminals chased him down, forced him into the microbus, and made off with the cash.

Despite reviewing CCTV footage and deploying multiple intelligence and detective teams, police yesterday said that they were yet to trace the suspects or recover the money.

Md Mahidul Islam, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Uttara Division, told The Daily Star today, "We're following several leads, including possible

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