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## NBR official suspended for leaking ‘state secrets’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday suspended an official of the National Board of Revenue on allegations of breaching service discipline by ‘disclosing a highly confidential state document’.

Mokitul Hasan, who was serving as the second secretary of customs policy at the NBR, has also been made an officer on special duty, according to a government notification.

Hasan’s actions violated the service conduct rules, prompting the authorities to initiate departmental proceedings against him following a preliminary investigation, the notification said.

As per the government rules, Hasan has been temporarily suspended from his duties.

Hasan was involved in leaking a document related to the tariff negotiation between Bangladesh and

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Bangladesh players and team officials celebrate with the trophy after beating Sri Lanka 2-1 in a three-match T20I series in Colombo yesterday. This was the Tigers’ maiden T20I series victory over Sri Lanka, which came after they won the final match by eight wickets with 21 balls to spare at the R Premadasa Stadium.

PHOTO: AFP

## 20 crushed to death at Gaza aid site

GHF blames ‘armed agitators’ in crowd; 17 more killed in Israeli strikes across enclave

REUTERS, Jerusalem

At least 20 Palestinians were killed yesterday at an aid distribution site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), in what the US-backed group said was a crowd surge instigated by “armed agitators”.

The GHF, which is supported by Israel, said 19 people were trampled and one fatally stabbed during the crush at one of its centres in Khan Younis in southern Gaza.

“We have credible reason to believe that elements within the crowd – armed and affiliated with Hamas – deliberately fomented the unrest,” GHF said in a statement. There has been no immediate comment from Hamas.

Palestinian health officials told Reuters 21 people had died of suffocation at the site. One medic said lots of people had been crammed into a small space and had been crushed.

Gaza local health authorities said Israeli military strikes

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» UN criticises GHF’s aid distribution model as unsafe

» Israel completes road to disrupt Hamas operations

## PUSH-INS India ignoring established protocol Says foreign adviser

STAR REPORT

No border guard force has the right to shoot and kill someone who violates the law along the border, said Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain.

“It is illegal – we have been protesting about this regularly,” he said while talking to reporters yesterday at the Foreign Service Academy, reports UNB.

Asked whether the interim government has become softer in its stance of protesting the border killings by the Indian Border Security Force, he said: “Not at all.”

He went on to stress that those who shoot and kill along the border should be tried under the Indian law.

Regarding push-ins from India to Bangladesh, he said there is a prescribed process between the two countries to identify and take back citizens through exchange of lists.

But push-ins are being carried out without following the process.

“It is a clear violation of the rules.”

Since May, India pushed about 2,000 people into Bangladesh.

India has recently taken back several of its citizens through the existing arrangement.

“We insist that they maintain this procedure. This is our expectation.”

Asked on the arrest of some Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia on alleged links to militancy, he said there is an indication that more Bangladeshis are likely to be arrested as Malaysia is looking across the country to see whether

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## PUBLIC SERVICE RECRUITMENT Govt to scrap political vetting

BAHARAM KHAN

The practice of vetting a candidate’s political affiliation through intelligence agencies before recruitment and promotion in public service is set to be scrapped following the recommendation of the Public Administration Reform Commission.

The decision came in a meeting held on Monday at the Chief Adviser’s Office and chaired by his Principal Secretary M Siraj Uddin Miah, according to the meeting minutes.

The move comes as part of the efforts to de-politicise the civil administration.

However, the commission’s recommendation that “no police verification be carried out before written and viva results are published” was not mentioned in the meeting minutes.

The recommendation of background check for criminal record after a candidate passes the BCS exams was accommodated.

If necessary, the authorities can seek relevant information from the Anti-Corruption Commission before final appointment.

Also at the meeting, the Public Security Division was instructed to move forward with amending the

Official Secrets Act-1973.

The commission proposed amending both the Official Secrets Act of 1923 and the Right to Information Act of 2009.

**Abolishment of political vetting by intelligence agencies before the recruitment and promotion of public servants was one of the key recommendations of the Public Administration Reform Commission**

While draft amendments to the Right to Information Act were prepared by the information and broadcasting ministry, there was no update on amending the Official Secrets Act. At Monday’s meeting, the public security division was instructed to take prompt action in this regard.

The commission recommendation of bringing the land registration directorate under the land ministry

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## Man shot dead during arbitration in Adabar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was shot dead during an arbitration over a dispute in the capital’s Adabar area yesterday evening.

The victim, Md Ibrahim, 32, of Bhola’s Dularhat upazila, was a resident of the Nabodoy Housing Society area.

Abdul Malek, inspector (investigation) of Adabar Police Station, told The Daily Star that the arbitration was between Ibrahim and two others, Rubel, 35, and Sajib, 32, in front of Baitul Mamur Jame Mosque around 7:00pm.

At one stage, an altercation broke out, he said.

One of the two shot Ibrahim and attempted to flee the scene.

Locals caught the two and beat them up. A joint patrol team of the army and police, which was nearby, arrested them and sent Ibrahim to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

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## Oldest known domesticated dog breed discovered

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Centuries-old DNA has confirmed that Greenland’s sledge dog Qimmit is the oldest yet known domesticated dog breed, a discovery that sheds more light on their close relationship with the region’s indigenous Inuit people.

The findings, published in the journal Science, also reveal fresh insights into the history of Inuit migration and their Arctic adaptation.

Researchers, including those from the Ilisimatusarfik University in Nuuk, Greenland, assessed genomes from over 90 dogs across Greenland spanning the past 800 years, capturing data from both ancient and modern canines.

They then compared the genome data with those of over 1,900 published dog genomes.

Scientists discovered that the Qimmit breed forms a distinct clade with other ancient Arctic dogs, most notably a 3,700-year-old Alaskan dog. Sledge dogs have been a central part of Arctic life for over 9,500 years.

While many Arctic dog breeds have been replaced, mixed with other dogs, or shifted into a domestic role, Greenland’s Qimmit has uniquely preserved its traditional role as a working sledge dog, researchers found.



## ‘Not Satyajit Ray’s ancestral home’ Says Mymensingh DC; demolition of century-old house halted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The authorities yesterday halted the demolition of a century-old house in Mymensingh city following public outcry.

The demolition was stopped on instructions from the DC, Mymensingh District Children’s Affairs Officer Mehedi Zaman told journalists.

Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star last night, Deputy Commissioner Mofidul Alam said the house is not the ancestral home of legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray, as reported by different news outlets on Monday and Tuesday.

The media reports cited Sabina Yeasmin, field officer of the Department of Archaeology (Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions), who claimed the house was the ancestral home of the Ray family.

The DC said, “We have taken opinions from senior residents, archaeologists and researchers in the city. Based on their input, we have come to this conclusion that the house is not the ancestral home of Satyajit Ray.”

He added that Rai Bahadur Ranada Prasad Shaha, the eminent philanthropist, occasionally resided in that house, and that Ray’s ancestral home was a short distance away.

Earlier in the afternoon, the DC held a meeting with civil society members and researchers where representatives from different government bodies were also present.

The house, located on Harikishore Roy Road, was being demolished to make way for a new semi-concrete

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Despite it being illegal and dangerous to set up shops along rail lines, hawkers continue to do so near the Jurain rail gate area in Old Dhaka. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## ‘Prove they’re Rohingyas’ Mamata on arrest of ‘Bengali’ workers in BJP-ruled states

AGENCIES

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee yesterday expressed concerns over the alleged harassment of Bengali-speaking people in BJP-ruled states, challenging the BJP to prove they were Rohingyas.

Chief Minister (CM) Banerjee, accompanied by TMC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee and other party leaders, hit Kolkata streets against the detention and deportation of “Bengali migrant workers” to Bangladesh.

She has earlier accused the Election Commission of India of “acting like a stooge of the BJP” and wondered if the voter list revision was a “backdoor attempt to implement

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