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RECRUITMENT AT RU

Ex-Jamaat MP's referral surfaces on pro-VC's Facebook story

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

Criticism has surfaced over claims that a former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker recommended a candidate in the teacher recruitment process at Rajshahi University (RU).

The controversy unfolded after the admit card of Azmira Afrin, an applicant for the post of lecturer in the crop science and technology department, was posted to the Facebook story of RU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Farid Uddin Khan around 12:30am yesterday.

Afrin is scheduled to sit for the viva voce today.

The admit card carried a handwritten recommendation from Md Latifur Rahman, a former Chapainawabganj-3 MP and nominated candidate of Jamaat-e-Islami.

He is also a life member of the RU Alumni Association.

Although the story was deleted shortly after being uploaded, screenshots of the admit card quickly spread on social media, drawing criticism and raising concerns over political influence and transparency

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Students who returned to Milestone School and College yesterday identify their peers on the photo montage of those who lost their lives when a fighter jet crashed into one of their school buildings just 12 days ago. The institution reopened on a limited scale to provide emotional support and a space for students to process the loss of their classmates.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Gaza aid site shootings continue

Israeli gunfire, air strikes kill 22 Palestinians, including 16 aid seekers

AGENCIES

Israeli attacks across Gaza killed at least 22 people yesterday, including 16 aid seekers, according to medical sources, as shootings at aid sites continue to rise across the territory.

Six more Palestinians have died of forced starvation and malnutrition, bringing the total number to 175 people, including 93 children, the sources added.

Egypt's state-affiliated Al Qahera News TV said yesterday that two fuel trucks carrying 107 tonnes of diesel were set to enter Gaza.

Gaza's health ministry has said fuel shortages have severely impaired hospital services, forcing doctors to focus on treating only critically ill or injured patients. There was no immediate confirmation whether the fuel trucks had indeed entered Gaza, reports Reuters.

Fuel shipments have been rare since March, when Israel restricted the flow of aid and goods into the enclave in what it said was pressure on Hamas to free the remaining hostages they took in their

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Baby born from embryo frozen over 30 years ago

CNN ONLINE

A baby boy born last week to an Ohio couple developed from an embryo that had been frozen for more than 30 years in what is believed to be a record length of storage time before a birth.

In what's known as embryo adoption, Lindsey and Tim Pierce used a handful of embryos donated in 1994 in their pursuit of having a child after fighting infertility for years. Their son was born Saturday from an embryo that had been in storage for 11,148 days, which the Pierces' doctor says sets a record.

It's a concept that has been around since the 1990s but is gaining attraction as some fertility clinics and advocates, often Christian-centered, oppose discarding leftover embryos because of their belief that life begins at or around conception and that all embryos deserve to be treated like children who need a home.

"I felt all along that these three little hopes, these little embryos, deserved to live just like my daughter did," said Linda Archerd, 62, who donated her embryos to the Pierces.

Just about 2 percent of births in the US are the result of in vitro fertilisation, and an even smaller fraction involve donated embryos.

However, medical experts estimate about 1.5 million frozen embryos are currently being stored throughout the country, with many of those in limbo as parents wrestle with what to do with their leftover embryos created in IVF labs.



Trump tariff rates unlikely to change

Says US trade adviser

AFP, Washington

New US tariff rates are "pretty much set" with little immediate room for negotiation, Donald Trump's trade adviser said in remarks aired yesterday.

Trump, who has wielded tariffs as a tool of American economic might, has set tariff rates for dozens of economies, including the European Union, at between 10 and 41 percent come August 7, his new hard deadline for the duties.

In a pre-taped interview broadcast on CBS's "Face the Nation," US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said "the coming days" are not likely to see changes in the tariff rates.

"A lot of these are set rates pursuant to deals. Some of these deals are announced, some are not, others depend on the level of the trade deficit or surplus we may have with the country," Greer said.

"These tariff rates are pretty much set." Undoubtedly, some trade ministers "want to talk more and see how they can work in a different way with the United States," he added.

But "we're seeing truly the contours of the president's tariff plan right now with these rates."

Last Thursday, the former real estate developer announced hiked tariff rates on dozens of US trade partners.

They will kick in on August 7 instead of August 1, which had previously been touted as a hard deadline.

Among the countries facing steep new levies is Brazil. South America's largest

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

US retailers lean on suppliers to absorb tariffs

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

American clothing brands and retailers are pressing their Bangladeshi suppliers to absorb a portion of new tariffs levied by the Trump administration, squeezing the already thin margins of garment exporters.

The new tariffs, effective from August 7, come on top of existing duties, creating a complex and costly environment for exporters and importers. For many common apparel items, the effective tariff rate will now surge to 36.5 percent, combining the new 20 percent levy with an existing 16.5 percent duty.

President Donald Trump's tariff regime, officially the responsibility of the American importing companies, has triggered a fierce, behind-the-scenes struggle over who will ultimately bear the financial burden.

Rather than absorbing the cost or immediately passing it on to consumers, many US apparel retailers and brands have turned to their suppliers in Bangladesh, demanding they share the pain. This pressure campaign, unfolding in private negotiations, has placed Bangladeshi exporters in a tight spot.

The requests from US buyers are not subtle. Across the industry, Bangladeshi garment manufacturers are systematically asked to

absorb a portion of the new tariff costs by reducing their prices, according to several leading exporters. Some retailers asked for adjustments equivalent to a quarter of the new cost.

This move mirrors the strategy employed by buyers when a preliminary 10 percent baseline tariff was introduced on April 9. That levy, now replaced by the new 20 percent rate, also saw retailers successfully push suppliers to share the cost.

- US tariff on Bangladeshi apparels rises to 36.5%
- Buyers asking exporters to absorb up to a quarter of 20% additional tariff
- Some buyers are also demanding price reductions

"We have little to say and many of us have been accepting the buyers' demand, although the profit is squeezed to 3 to 4 percent. We are against the wall," said AK Azad, chairman of Ha-Meem Group, a major apparel supplier to the US. He said some buyers are demanding both a share of the tariff cost and a general price reduction.

The situation places exporters in a precarious position, forcing them to choose between eroding their profitability and risking long-term business relationships. "My buyers are requesting me to bear up to 5 percentage points of the additional tariff," said Sharif Zahir, managing director of Ananta Group. "I also responded to the buyers' call as we have long-term business relations."

The impact varies by product. For woven shirts, the existing tariff was 19.5 percent. The

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Staffers at Janakantha call owners 'unwanted'

Sue them, form board for running paper; editor alleges takeover plot

STAR REPORT

A group of journalists and staffers at the Dainik Janakantha declared the editor and owners "unwanted" at the daily and formed a six-member editorial board on Saturday night.

The journalists and staffers, who were appointed at various times after the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 last year, also filed a case with Hattirheel Police Station in Dhaka against the owners on charges of wrongful termination. They also branded the owners as "allies of fascists".

The case was filed hours after the newspaper owners fired eight employees.

DMP's Tejgaon Division Deputy Commissioner Md Ibne Mizan confirmed the filing of the case.

Meanwhile, Janakantha's Editor and Publisher Shamima A Khan alleged that a "mob" forcibly occupied the Janakantha Bhaban in the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

WE MOURN

With deep sorrow, Partex Star Group mourns the passing of **Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed**, former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, North South University and a lifelong contributor to the Nation's education and business sectors. His visionary leadership and lasting legacy will always be remembered with great respect.

PARTEX STAR GROUP

Election Commission a 'spineless' institution

Says NCP's Nasiruddin Patwari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari yesterday said the Election Commission is a "spineless" institution.

Speaking to reporters at the EC headquarters in the afternoon, Patwari said his party is giving the commission a chance to make corrections.

Around noon, a four-member NCP delegation met Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, after which Patwari told reporters, "In the situation we are headed towards, if anyone, apart from [those of] a particular party, tries to get votes in a democratic process, they

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Our Deepest Condolences

We mourn the demise of the Founder Vice-Chancellor of Southeast University, Professor Dr. M. Shamsher Ali (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajiun). His life was full of extraordinary achievements, dedicated to the advancement of science, education, and human understanding.

Dr. Ali was a respected scholar who made significant contributions to the field of nuclear physics, with a large body of published research in international journals. His academic career was marked by distinction, including being awarded the Hari Prasanna Roy Gold Medal and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Gold Medal. As Founder Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University and Southeast University, He played a pivotal role in shaping the institutions and the higher education landscape of Bangladesh. He was a passionate advocate for the popularization of science, a theme he explored through numerous talks on radio and television, and through his writings on the synthesis of science and culture. His commitment to understanding the relationship between science and religion and his work on interfaith harmony demonstrated his deep concern for global peace and harmony.

His legacy continues through the countless students, faculty, and alumni whose lives were touched by his vision and commitment to excellence in education. The Southeast University community, including members of the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, students, and alumni, extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prays for the 'Magfirah' of departed soul. His contributions to the university will be remembered, and his legacy will live on long after his passing.

SOUTHEAST UNIVERSITY
Meeting the Challenges of Time