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4 officials off to Netherlands for dog selection, evaluation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four officials from the home ministry and police are scheduled to visit the Netherlands from November 15 to 19 to attend a five-day programme on dog selection and evaluation.

According to an order issued by the home ministry on Tuesday, the officials are Mirza Mohammad Ali Reza, joint secretary at the ministry; Md Bashir Ahmed, additional deputy inspector general of police at the 13 Armed Police Battalion in Uttara; Md Shamim Hossain, deputy commissioner of the Special Response Unit of Chattogram Metropolitan Police; and Md Gias Uddin Ibne Rahman, veterinary officer at Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The visit may also take place over five days from the nearest possible date, excluding travel and transit time, the order said.

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Just days after an eviction drive cleared footpaths in the capital's New Market area, traders have occupied them again, forcing pedestrians onto the road and worsening traffic congestion. This photo, taken yesterday, shows pedestrians, rickshaws and other vehicles jostling for space as roadside stalls crowd the footpaths.

PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

FROM JS GALLERY

316 killed in armed attacks in CHT in five years

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 316 people, including civilians and security personnel, were killed and 490 injured in attacks by armed groups in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) over the past five years, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed told parliament yesterday.

Of those killed, 308 were civilians and eight were security personnel, while the injured included 435 civilians and 55 security personnel, he said in response to a query from BNP lawmaker SA Jinnah Kabir.

The minister said armed groups carried out 194 attacks on the Bangalee community, 81 on ethnic minority communities and 97 on law enforcers and Bangladesh Army personnel in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban during the period.

Government records also showed 197 abductions, 471 incidents of extortion and 377 incidents involving illegal firearms.

Salahuddin said the government had taken legal, administrative and security measures to maintain law and order in the three hill districts.

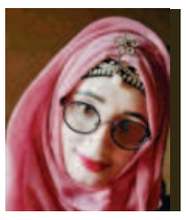
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Family outing ends in tragedy

Parents, eight-year-old son killed in Gazipur crash



ASHRAFUL



SHIMU



ARAFAT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

Eight-year-old Arafat Hossain was excited as he set off on a motorcycle trip with his parents yesterday, looking forward to spending some time together.

But the family outing ended in tragedy when all three were killed in a road accident on the Shafipur flyover of the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Kaliakair, Gazipur.

The deceased were Mamun Hossain Ashraful, 30, of Dewaliabari area in Gazipur city; his wife Shimu Akhter, 30; and their son Arafat Hossain, 8.

Police said the accident occurred around 2:30pm on the Konabari-to-Chandra-bound lane of the flyover.

Mamun lost control of his motorcycle, causing all three to fall onto the road. An unidentified vehicle then ran them over, killing them on the spot.

Manzur Morshed, officer-in-charge of Naojor Highway Police Station, said police recovered the bodies and later

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Primary education set for more hands-on learning

Over 420 educational games designed for pupils in 2028 curriculum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 420 educational games have been designed for primary schoolchildren as the government prepares to introduce toys and hands-on learning activities under a revised curriculum planned for 2028.

Developed by the National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE) for classes I to V, the games are linked to classroom lessons. Authorities are also working to integrate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) into primary education.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj disclosed the plans at a discussion on STEM education at Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Bhaban in Agargaon yesterday, jointly organised by the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and NETZ Bangladesh.

"NAPE has already designed more than 420 games," Bobby said, adding that activities had been developed for each class to make learning enjoyable.

"Toys could help class I pupils learn addition and subtraction and class III pupils understand perimeter and area," he said. "We want to see the reformed curriculum in 2028. We are trying, but it is a major task."

- Toys, workbooks, videos to support classroom learning
- Govt exploring rooftop playgrounds for schools
- 36,500 primary schools lack headteachers
- Basic teacher training to increase to 12 months

Besides textbooks, the proposed learning materials would include workbooks, video lessons, games and toys. The government is also exploring rooftop playgrounds for schools with limited land.

"Keeping children's natural curiosity alive is extremely important."

He said around 36,500 primary schools lacked headteachers, but legal disputes delaying appointments had ended, and the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) was taking steps to fill the vacancies.

Nearly 12,000 newly recruited teachers have joined, while basic teacher training is being extended from 10 to 12 months. Teachers also have 37 additional responsibilities beyond classroom teaching, he said.

Presenting study findings, Skills Inspire lead consultant Ataul Gani Osmani proposed setting up low-cost STEM corners with reusable materials costing Tk 10,000 per school. He suggested testing the approach in 300 to 500 schools before revising the curriculum.

DPE Director General Shahina Ferdousi said teacher training and mentoring were being strengthened but cautioned against drawing broad

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

Heated exchanges in JS over fertiliser dealerships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Heated exchanges erupted in parliament yesterday after National Citizen Party lawmaker Hasnat Abdullah alleged irregularities in the appointment of fertiliser dealers, accusing ruling party MPs of securing dealerships for relatives through political influence and financial dealings.

When will this culture end in our country that whenever I become an MP, my son becomes a businessman, my wife becomes a businesswoman and my nephew becomes a businessman? I want a clear answer from the honourable minister.

HASNAT ABDULLAH, NCP lawmaker

The confrontation began during the question-answer session as Agriculture Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid responded to the allegations, repeatedly facing interruptions from opposition lawmakers.

Citing media reports, Hasnat alleged that 28

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RMG unrest continues in Savar, Ashulia

50 factories remain shut

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Savar*

Garment workers clashed with police in Savar and Ashulia again yesterday morning, forcing at least 50 factories to suspend operations for the day.

Police fired tear gas shells and sound grenades to disperse the protesting workers as clashes broke out in Jamgora of Ashulia around 8:30am and Hemayetpur of Savar around 9:00am.

Police and witnesses said workers from several factories in Jamgora, Nischintapur, Narsinghpur and Zirabo tried to take to the streets, leading to chases and counter-chases with law enforcers.

In Hemayetpur, workers from factories near Padmar Mor tried to block the Hemayetpur-Singair road and hurled brickbats at police, prompting them to fire tear gas shells and sound grenades.

Dhaka Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime, Operations and Traffic-North) Md Jahangir Alam alleged that outsiders were trying to create unrest despite the formation of a wage board.

"At one point, outsiders tried to create unrest at one or two garment factories in Hemayetpur. We have no information about whether they were actually workers. However, we dispersed them quite easily. The situation is now normal," he said.

Mohammad Mominul Islam Bhuiyan, superintendent of Ashulia Industrial Police-1, said the situation had returned to normal by noon following the morning clashes.

He confirmed that around 50 factories across Savar and Ashulia remained closed for the day.



Rejecting allegations of third-party involvement, Khairul Mamun Mintu, legal affairs secretary of the Bangladesh Garments and Sweaters Workers Trade Union Centre, questioned how outsiders could enter the industrial areas amid heavy security.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



A city corporation worker uses a fogger to spray insecticide around the Dhaka University campus yesterday as part of government efforts to curb dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases.

PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**