





Роиsн 24, 1426 BS

Your Right to Know

Jamadiul Awal 11, 1441 Hijri

# Anti-graft drive to Iran promises continue: PM US 'nightmare'

Addressing the nation on first anniversary of her govt, she also says no destructive activities to be tolerated

Pledging to keep up ongoing anti-graft campaign, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Anti-Corruption Commission to intensify its drives to bring all those involved in acquiring illegal wealth to justice.

"The ongoing drive against the corrupt elements will continue... I would like to warn everybody again that the corrupt, whoever they may be and however powerful they are, will not be spared," she said.

The PM was addressing the nation,

marking the first anniversary of her government.

She said the anti-graft campaign was required so that none could snatch the people's rights. She asked the corrupt to rectify themselves immediately for their own

"I work for the people and I won't hesitate to take any step to protect their interests.

State-run BTV and other TV channels and Bangladesh Betar broadcast her address simultaneously.

The premier said that her government SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

# US 'nightmare'

Readies 13 scenarios to avenge top general's killing; stampede at his funeral kills 50, injures 213

Iran is considering 13 scenarios to avenge the killing of a top military commander in Iraq by a US strike, a senior Tehran official said yesterday, as stampede at the funeral of the slain general killed at least 50 people.

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said 13 "revenge scenarios" were being considered, Fars news agency reported. Even the weakest option would prove "a historic nightmare for the Americans," he said.

In Washington, the US defense secretary denied reports the US military was preparing to withdraw from Iraq, where Tehran has vied with Washington for influence over nearly two decades of war and unrest.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SEVEN RINGS

CEMENT

Chattogram

Fifties from Imrul Kayes

Chattogram Challengers

romp to a seven-wicket

victory against Rajshahi

Royals and regain their top

Bangladesh Premier League

(BBPL) under lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National

Considering Chris

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Stadium in Mirpur

yesterday.

spot in the Bangabandhu

and Lendl Simmons helped

regain top

spot

SPORTS REPORTER



Protesters burn an effigy of the rapist of a Dhaka University student during a demonstration near the Raju Sculpture on the campus yesterday. They demanded exemplary punishment for the culprit for committing the crime in the city's Kurmitola area on Sunday night. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DU STUDENT RAPE

# Protests rage on

Victim describes the rapist; suspect identified, under watch, say media reports; law enforcers working to arrest him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aged between 25 and 30; height around five and a half feet; tan complexion; short hair; and clad in an old pair of jeans and a dirty black jacket.

This is how the second-year Dhaka University student, who was raped near the capital's Kurmitola General Hospital on Sunday night, described the rapist in her statement to a law enforcement agency.

Based on the statement, the law enforcers made a sketch of the culprit and were trying to identify and arrest him. They were also analysing the

and Rab sources.

In the latest development, several media outlets early today reported that a suspect was identified and kept under watch by a law enforcement agency. No other details were provided immediately.

Yesterday, students continued demonstrations for the second straight day, demanding the rapist be arrested immediately. They demonstrated at DU and many other educational institutions in others

The Detective Branch of police is investigating the case. Several footage of the CCTVs installed in the other police units were assisting

area near the crime scene, said police with the investigation, said Sudip Chakraborty, deputy commissioner (Gulshan Division) of the Dhaka

Metropolitan Police. Talking to The Daily Star, Lt Col Sarwar Bin Quashem, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said arresting the rapist was their top priority. "Several of our teams are working," he said.

National Human Rights Commission Chairperson Nasima Begum yesterday visited the victim, 21, at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital's One-stop Crisis Centre, where she was undergoing treatment.

Talking to reporters later, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

An elderly man sorting onion after buying the cooking ingredient from a truck of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh in the capital's Khamarbari area yesterday. Like many others, he had to wait in a long queue for about an hour to buy three kgs of onion for Tk 100. Buyers complained that about 1kg of each 3-kg packet of onion was rotten.

## কেউ আমাদের দাবাতে পারবেনা

≶tar MOTTO ON MUJIB BORSHO



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the London press conference after his release from a Pakistani prison (January 8, 1972).

The words were magical, the news was electrifying and the effect euphoric --Bangabandhu has been released and he, along with Dr Kamal Hossain, were on their way to London after a torturous nine months in Pakistani prison with the threat of execution hanging over his every breath. The wave of joy was universal

and the happiness complete knowing that our leader was safe and would soon be amongst us -- the people he loved so dearly and risked his life to free. For those who did not live through those moments it will be difficult, perhaps impossible, to understand the almost hypnotising impact of this man who had so captivated our hearts and minds that our independence felt incomplete without

him. Thus his return was central to our dream of a Sonar Bangla.

The Daily Star, through its own observance of "Mujib Borsho", the centenary of his birth, will attempt to tell the story as to why Mujib is so important for us to build a democratic, secular, freedom ensuring prosperous Bangladesh.

## Bangabandhu speaks to the world

WASIM BIN HABIB

"Sir, we had been praying for you."

With tears in his eyes, an on duty British police officer outside the VIP lounge of London's Heathrow airport addressed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as he along with Dr Kamal Hossain and his family were escorted from the special Pakistan International Airlines aircraft to the

Earlier, Pakistan's new President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto bade farewell to

Bangladesh at Chaklala airport in Rawalpindi. Bhutto took over power from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 Star INITIATIVE ON MUJIB BORSHO

the newly freed founding father of

IN COLLABORATION WITH





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From 1 February 2020, we offer daily flights to Singapore on the

BANGABANDHU'S BIRTH CENTENARY

## World leaders to take part in programmes

City

Modi, Mahathir, Trudeau among them

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

World leaders and other eminent personalities will visit Bangladesh to attend various programmes to be held marking Bangabandhu's birth centenary throughout the year.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday told this to reporters after a Bangabandhu Birth Centennial Celebration Sub-committee on International Affairs' meeting held at the capital's International Mother Language Institute.

The expected guests are Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Bhutan King Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, former Indian president Pranab Mukherjee, former UN Secretary

General Ban Ki-moon, President of Indian National Congress Sonia Gandhi, and OIC Secretary General Dr Yousef Al-Othaimeen.

"They will attend different programmes to be held through the year. The schedule is yet to be finalised," said Momen.

The countdown of Mujib Borsho, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary, will start on January 10. The celebration will begin on March

To celebrate the year, Bangladesh missions across the globe will also arrange seminars, art exhibitions and other programmes, said the minister.

Murals of the Father of the Nation will also be set up at some of the missions, he added.

"Bangabandhu was a friend of the deprived people of the world. By following the path shown by him,



in the river three days a week and earns about Tk 1,000 a day by selling fish. Locals said there was hardly any fish in this part of the river for about one and a half years till June last year. But things have changed for the last six months.

## Bangabandhu speaks to the world

IN COLLABORATION WITH



President Yahya Khan a few days after Pakistan army's defeat in the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 and announced Bangabandhu's release in the face of tremendous pressure from the world

As the special aircraft carrying Bangabandhu took off in the deepening night, Bhutto said to no one in particular, "The nightingale has flown."

The plane landed in the Heathrow airport in a chilly frosty morning on January 8, 1972. Bangabandhu stepped out of the plane as a free man after having spent over nine agonising months in Pakistani jail.

Entering the VIP lounge, an announcement of a telephone call for "Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" was heard. Bangabandhu asked Dr Kamal to take

At the other end of the phone was lan Sutherland of the British Foreign Office, who told Dr Kamal that the British government had received a message regarding their arrival only an hour ago. He had, however, taken immediate steps to receive Bangabandhu.

Alerted by the British Foreign Office about the development, MM Rezaul Karim, who was then acting as head of the unofficial Bangladesh Mission in London, started driving down to Heathrow.

While waiting at the lounge, the Pakistan High Commissioner, Nasim Ahmed, a former journalist, came and told Bangabandhu, "Sir, I am here to welcome you. Please let me know what we can do for you?"

"You have done enough, thank you very much," Bangabandhu replied.

. Within a few minutes, Ian Sutherland had arrived and conveyed the British government's warm welcome to him.

He said that arrangements had been made for accommodation at Claridge's Hotel, where heads of state were normally accommodated.

Bangabandhu thanked him but asked if it would be possible to arrange his stay at a modest hotel in Russell Square, where he had stayed on earlier visits to London.

Sutherland replied, "Sir, this is the only thing I cannot arrange, because heads of state's security can only be provided at Claridge's Hotel. But we will see that any number of people who want to see you can do so, subject to security measures.

In the meantime, Rezaul Karim had

On his arrival, the Pakistani officials flying with Mujib saluted the undisputed leader of independence of Bangladesh and left the room, their job

Bangabandhu, as Rezaul Karim was to relate years later, declined to use the official limousine placed at his disposal by the British government and instead rode with Karim in his car.

Karim, who was driving through the cold winter morning, was both excited and alarmed. Excited because in an incredible way he had become the first Bangalee to have met his nation's leader for the first time since March 1971; alarmed because Bangabandhu kept asking him questions about the war and how Bangladesh had been liberated and Karim was afraid lest his car meet with

an accident and cause fresh new tragedy. On their arrival at Claridge's Hotel,

Bangabandhu spoke to his family, Syed Nazrul Islam and Tajuddin Ahmad in

Syed Nazrul and Tajuddin informed that an aircraft to fly for London from Dhaka could be arranged but it would take at least two days for it to reach

They had also been informed that the people of India were extremely keen for a short stopover in Delhi and Kolkata, on the way to Dhaka.

At the hotel, a problem arose about how to accommodate requests of thousands of people to see Bangabandhu. It was then decided that groups of five persons will be allowed to sit him at a time.

Later, Bangabandhu addressed a crowded press conference at the hotel.

"Today, I am free to share the unbounded joy of freedom with my fellow countrymen. We have won the freedom in an epic liberation struggle,"

"The ultimate achievement of this struggle is the creation of an independent, sovereign, People's Republic of Bangladesh of which my people declared me as the President while I was a prisoner in a condemned cell awaiting the execution of a sentence of hanging.

He went on: "No people has had to pay as high a price in human life and suffering for the freedom that has been exerted from the people of Bangladesh. I cannot wait a single moment to return to my people.'

His speech followed questions from journalists.

One of the journalists asked about how he felt after being held by West Pakistan and at any time were they considering executing him, Bangabandhu replied, "I was mentally

ready for that. A man who is ready to die, nobody can kill him, remember

Another newsman queried as to when he was aware that Bangladesh had been liberated, Bangabandhu said, "I am doing politics for about 35 years. The day I went to jail, I know whether I will be alive or not, my people of Bangladesh will be liberated; nobody can stop it."

In the evening, Bangabandhu met the then British Prime Minister, Edward Heath, at 10 Downing Street.

At the meeting, Bangabandhu raised the question of the British recognising Bangladesh as a sovereign country.

According to a declassified document of the US Department of State, Heath told the then US President, Richard Nixon, in a message on January 13, 1972, that "...he [Mujib] spoke with confidence and assurance. He was anxious to reach Dacca as soon as

"Mujib told me that there can now be no question of a formal link between Bangladesh and West Pakistan. He had said the same to Bhutto prior to his release. In this he has confirmed the position of the Bangladesh authorities in Dacca and our own assessment of the state of affairs in the East."

"However, although he spoke with understandable bitterness of the actions of the previous Pakistan regime, he showed no rancour towards Bhutto, and said that he wished to establish good relations with West Pakistan," reads the British Prime Minister's message for

"The new partition should be, in his words, "a parting as of brothers", but Bhutto had to acknowledge the division of Pakistan. Relations between the new Bangladesh and India would of course

be much closer," it said.

The declassified document also showed Bangabandhu spoke of his hope of Commonwealth membership and the British Premier assured him of their goodwill, but at the same time explained the reasons why they could not recognise Bangladesh at once.

"He shared our wish for harmonious relations between Britain and the three countries of the Indian sub-continent and he hoped that we would help to persuade Bhutto to accept the realities of the situation," it said.

When Heath asked Bangabandhu what else they could do for him, Bangabandhu's prompt reply was, "Yes, you can do one more favour, if you could kindly help us with a plane to take us to Bangladesh as soon as possible."

Bangabandhu returned to the hotel after the meeting. Calculations were made for the time it would take to reach Dhaka as Bangabandhu intended to reach Dhaka while there was still daylight.

And it was figured out that only one stopover was possible in India, if they were to arrive in Dhaka by 3:00pm. It was then decided that it would only be possible to stop over in Delhi. The British Royal Air Force comet

jet war ready to carry Bangabandhu home via Delhi. In the early morning of January 9, Bangabandhu was whisked away for the airport.

At about 6:00am, the British comet took off for Nicosia, for refuelling, en route to New Delhi for its final destination of Dhaka.

[The report is based on the autobiography of Dr Kamal Hossain titled "Bangladesh: Quest for Freedom and Justice"; an article of MM Rezaul Karim published in The Daily Star; and declassified documents of the US State Department]

## No proof of electoral code violation

EC says after probing allegations against DNCC mayoral candidate Atiqul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission did not find any proof of violation of the electoral code of conduct by Awami League's Dhaka North City Corporation

mayoral candidate Atiqul Islam.

DNCC Returning Officer Abul
Kashem told The Daily Star yesterday that their investigation team did not find any authenticity of conducting election campaigns by Atiqul.

On Saturday, BNP's mayoral candidate Tabith Awal lodged a written complaint with the returning officer against him.

Meanwhile, the EC on Monday ssued a show-cause notice to Atiqul over Tabith's allegation that the incumbent mayor opened an election camp in his electoral area.

The notice said Atiqul, along with lawmaker, inaugurated the camp at Uttara on Sunday, which is a clear violation of the Election Code of Conduct Rules-2016.

The RO also asked Atiqul to come up with a written answer within the next two working days to explain why legal action would not be taken against him for violating the electoral code.

No candidates will be able to carry out electioneering before the allocation of electoral symbols, and no lawmakers and ministers are eligible to take part in the electioneering.

The elections to Dhaka south and north city corporations will be held on January 30. The last day for

## withdrawing candidacy is tomorrow. 3 schoolboys held for raping

classmate STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday detained three boys including son of a municipal ward councillor for allegedly raping a girl in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila on

of a school in the upazila, said police. Khairul Islam, officer-in-charge of Godagari Police Station, said the accused and the victim used to go to

On Monday afternoon, the councillor's son with the other two took the girl to visit his home, said the OC, adding that no one was present at

the house during that time. While they were gossiping in the nouse, one of the boys locked the room they were in, and allegedly

The other two including the councillor's son helped him with the

OC Khairul. The accused will be sent to correction centre through court, he said.

# US will send some

United States could be deported to Guatemala, part of a controversial migration deal between the Central American nation and Washington, the US Department of Homeland Security

Guatemala a "safe third country" -allowing US authorities to deport some El Salvadoran and Honduran asylum seekers there -- and was condemned by international human rights groups.

## Protests rage on

NHRC chief said the victim would be able to identify her rapist, if she saw him again.

Nasima demanded the culprit's

immediate arrest and exemplary

punishment. She also praised the victim for showing intelligence by not removing any evidence and added that it should

through DNA matching. Asked about the victim, DMCH Director Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin said her condition improved yesterday. He also said she was being treated by a seven-member medical board.

not be difficult to identify the rapist

The rape took place while the victim was walking from Kurmitola bus stop to a friend's house in nearby Sheora area around 7:30pm on Sunday. She had just got off a

university bus. The rapist grabbed her from behind, gagged her and took her to an isolated place nearby. She was raped and tortured there, said some

of her friends, quoting her. Her friends took her to the DMCH

in the early hours of Monday. As the day progressed, the DU erupted in protest. Hundreds of students, irrespective of their political affiliations, demonstrated throughout the day, demanding justice for the

The victim's father filed a rape case with Cantonment Police Station. The case statements say the rapist also snatched the victim's cell phone and Tk 2,000. THE PROTESTS

The protests continued yesterday. Students formed human chains, held protest rallies, and paint graffiti on roads to press home their demand. Covering faces with black cloth,

around 50 DU Bangla department students formed a human chain in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture on the campus around 10:30am.

demanded capital They punishment for the rapist and urged the university administration to ensure security for all its students.

Later around noon, students of the university's political science department formed a human chain

The demonstrators also burned an effigy of the rapist.

At another human chain nearby, members of different cultural organisations demanded immediate steps to ensure women's safety in the capital and elsewhere. Fine Arts students painted graffiti

on the street from near the gate of Ruqayyah Hall to Raju Memorial Sculpture in the TSC area. During the protests, DU Chhatra

League General Secretary Saddam Hussain, also assistant general secretary of Ducsu, said they submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on Monday night, demanding that the culprit be identified in 24 hours.

He warned that they would march towards the home ministry if the rapist was not arrested soon.

Yesterday, hundreds of other students gathered near the Ruqayyah Hall. Many of them held placards demanding punishment for the culprit.

Meanwhile, four DU students, who went on a hunger strike on Monday demanding the rapist's arrest, withdrew the strike last night after DU Vice Chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman assured them of immediate steps.

"If justice is not done, I myself will start a hunger strike," he told the students near the Raju Memorial Sculpture around 10:30pm.

Jahangirnagar University, members of Chhatra League, leftleaning student organisations and quota reformists brought out separate processions on the campus, demanding justice for the DU student.

In Barishal, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Samajtantrik Mahila Forum formed a human chain in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall in the city.

Students in Narayanganj also formed human chain in several places of the city.

## **WHY DO RAPISTS GO SCOT-FREE?**



SARA HOSSAIN Supreme Court Lawvei

Despite so many decades

of women's organisations pointing out that there is an impunity for rapists, there are still cover-ups not only by police but also the authorities concerned. It is very depressing to see that, yet again, people have to take to the streets just to ensure there is a response from the authorities concerned. That should be something that we can take for granted.

It's not enough to say that there are laws and there are institutions if we repeatedly see that the laws are not implemented and the institutions don't function when these incidents of extreme sexual violence occur.

I think that there is a lack of response from the authorities to exercise their responsibilities to ensure that the laws and institutions work. That's why citizens keep on taking to the streets to demand justice because without that loud voice. without the pressure for accountability, national institutions are simply not accountable to the people and as a result those who are responsible for sexual violence escape justice time and again.



#### **SAMINA LUTHFA** Associate Professor of Sociology

Law enforcement agencies must ensure the safety of the citizens so that everyone has a sense of security instead of fear while on the streets.

The victim is a young

student. However, against all odds, she was brave enough to file a complaint with the police, whereas many a time such crimes go unreported due to the social stigma attached to sexual violence and the harassment that follows it. She knew that staying silent was not the answer. We demand the criminal in question be brought to book immediately and served an exemplary punishment so as to discourage such heinous acts in the future. At the same time, we would urge the government to help eradicate what has become a culture of rape through education and intensive

awareness programmes

to ensure a society that

prioritises gender equality.

As rape is about the exertion

of power, we need to abolish

the mindset of domination

and control in perpetrators

first and foremost. Perhaps

then, a sense of safety and

security will prevail.



TAHSEEN NOWER PRACHI DU student and anti-rape demonstrator

The bus route where this incident occurred is one that I, and other students, regularly use. The issue is not that this incident would not have happened had the bus stop been in a different place. The issue is that a girl was raped.

Everyone seems to be involved in blaming each other, getting distracted from blaming the person actually responsible -- the rapist. What I have seen in the protests is that everyone is invested in ensuring the girl gets justice; however, we seem to be getting side-tracked. Seventy-two hours have passed but we still haven't gotten the name of the rapist.

We are not organising this protest because the victim was a DU student, we are doing it for all the girls out there. This is no specific institution's problem, because rape is rape, no matter where, no matter against whom

The protest we are organising consists of ordinary students. We want the students' voices to raise the question,"Whose fault is it really?

We want people to know that we want this to stop.

## Chattogram

Gayle's past records in the BPL, the crowd would have hoped for a blistering innings from the West Indian, who was playing his first match of the edition for Chattogram vesterday. However, it was his fellow West Indian Simmons who hit a brilliant 43-ball 51 to help Chattogram get a flying start in chase of a challenging 166 for eight posted

Gayle did spark a few chants and cheers from the crowd as he struck three sixes and a solitary four before being dismissed for a 10-ball 23 in the fifth over. After that, it was Simmons and inform batsman Imrul who strung together a 77-run second-wicket stand to help Chattogram assert their dominance. Even though Simmons was dismissed in the 13th over, Imrul remained unbeaten for a blazing 41-ball 67 to help Chattogram coast to victory with nine balls to spare. Earlier, Rajshahi Royals opener

Liton Das, who has been in a good form, picked up his second fifty as the right-hander helped Rajshahi get off to a decent start. Liton looked exquisite for his 45-ball 56 as he strung together a crucial 41-run third-wicket stand with all-rounder Shoaib Malik after Rajshahi had lost two for 53 inside eight overs. The 25-year-old saw his innings,

which included five boundaries and two maximums, end when he miscued a Ziaur Rahman delivery and was caught by Nurul Hasan in the 13th over. However, Malik's 24-ball 28 and a quickfire eightball 21-run cameo from all-rounder Forhad Reza ensured Rajshahi finish with a challenging score on the board. For Chattogram, pacer Rubel Hossain remained the pick of their bowlers, returning impressive figures of three for 20 while Ziaur also impressed with three for 18 in three overs.

# The accused are class-IX students

the same coaching centre.

raped the girl, said police.

crime, police added. Police detained the three after midnight following a case filed by the victim's mother in the night, said

## Mexican asylum seekers to Guatemala

AFP, Washington Mexicans seeking asylum in the

told AFP Monday. designated The agreement

CITY POLLS

## Don't arrest candidates without previous warrants: EC to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday instructed Dhaka Metropolitan Police not to arrest candidates -- or their supporters -- of Dhaka city corporation polls without previous warrant against them.

"I have talked to the DMP commissioner in this regard and specifically asked them not to arrest any candidate or their supporters if no arrest warrant was issued against them earlier," EC Senior Secretary Md Alamgir said yesterday.

"If a candidate and their supporters commit any offence or court gives any direction against them, the state can take action to protect the lives of people and their properties," Alamgir said while talking to reporters at his EC office.

The EC secretary spoke with the DMP commissioner in line with the Election Commission direction to do so.

BNP leaders on Monday in a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda informed the CEC that police were arresting and harassing their

Till that day, a party-backed councillor candidate was arrested, while another was abducted and found in Munshiganj. The house of a party-backed female ward councillor candidate was also vandalised.

"We will give further direction to law enforcement agencies in a meeting scheduled to be held on January 22," Alamgir added.

Journalists will be allowed to enter voting centres, except secret room at voting booths, he said, adding that election officials can only bar journalists if they find any issue against them.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad in separate letters to the CEC demanded for changing the voting date of DNCC and DSCC elections -- slated for January 30 -- as Saraswati Puja will be observed the same day.

Oikya Parishad presidium members Kajal Debnath, Nim Chandra Bhowmik and Puja Udjapan Parishad president Milan Dutta and general secretary Nirmal Chhaterjee handed over the letters to the commission senior secretary Alamgir.

"Saraswati Puja is traditionally celebrated at schools, colleges and universities across the country. It is unfortunate that the two Dhaka city polls will be held on that day," said the Oikya Parishad letter.

"Earlier, we urged the EC to reschedule Rangpur-3 by-polls, held on October 5, which was the second day of Dugra Puja but the commission did not pay heed to



No barrier high enough when it comes to petting cute puppies, as proven by this child who extends his arm through a metal grille to make a new friend. This photo was taken yesterday from Dhaka University's TSC area.

## Two remanded over attack on Sarwar Ali

Eminent citizens, organisations demand immediate action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two arrestees -- in a case filed over Sunday's attack on Liberation War Museum Trustee Dr Sarwar Ali and his family members -- were sent to two-day remand by a court yesterday. Abul Kalam, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Uttara Pashchim Police Station confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.

The arrestees are Hasan and Hafizul -- security guard of the building and a driver, he said.

During interrogation, Hasan told police that Nazmul, a driver who previously worked in the building, came to the house on the day with the backpack that was later recovered with weapons in it. He entered the building with the excuse of going to the toilet, according to investigators. Another man accompanied him.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Nazmul used to visit the building from time to time

## 39 killed in train accidents last year: railways minister

Number much lower than non-government data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 129 railway-related accidents killed 39 people and injured 155 across the country last year, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said vesterday.

Of them, 10 happened on level crossings, leaving 18 people dead; 21 others were killed in 119 accidents caused by signal violations and derailments, he added.

The minister was briefing reporters at Rail Bhaban on the occasion of the first anniversary of the incumbent

However, the figure presented by

the minister is significantly lower than that of non-government organisations.

According to Nirapad Sarak Chai, at least 198 people were killed and 347 injured in 162 railway-related accidents last year.

Shipping and Communication Reporters Forum (SCRF) said at least 421 people were killed and 366 injured in 393 railway-related accidents in 2019.

Three major train accidents occurred in 2019, the minister said.

On June 23, four people were killed and 64 injured in a rail accident in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar. He said two railway staffers were

suspended over the accident and further action against them is pending.

At least 17 people were killed and 54 injured in Brahmanbaria on November 12. The driver, his assistant and guard of Turna Express were suspended and further division action is pending, he added.

The third accident occurred in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj, which damaged huge railway properties. Punitive action has been taken against three railway staff in this regard, the minister said.

"We are working to remove negligence of railway staff so that such

## **DHAKA TODAY**

**REPORT LAUNCH** Child Rights Situation in

Bangladesh Organiser: Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum

Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity Time: 10:30am

**RALLY** 

Protesting rape of DU student Organiser: Bangladesh Students'

Venue: Raju Memorial Sculpture Time: 3:30pm

**LECTURE** 

Flow Generation by Economist Nicolo Andreula

Organiser: Centre for Governance **Studies** 

Venue: BIIS, Eskaton Garden Road Time: 9:30am

**CHARITY CONCERT** 

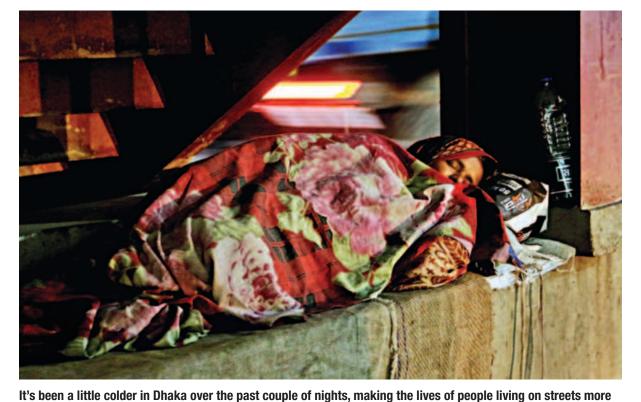
**Concert for Usnota** Organiser: Bangladesh Student Council

Venue: TSC, University of Dhaka Time: 12pm

**EXHIBITION** 

Unveiling The Truth by Kazi Habib

Venue: Dwip Gallery Lalmatia Time: 3pm



difficult. This woman was sleeping under a footbridge at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue on Monday, trying her best to stay warm. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

## HC to deliver order on foreign ministry

The High Court will deliver its order today on a petition filed by a former foreign ministry official challenging the legality of her termination from government service. She was sacked soon after the HC sought a probe report from the ministry's sexual harassment prevention committee over the accusation she made against three ministry

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman set the date vesterday after holding a hearing on the petition.

The foreign ministry on January 5 sacked the woman, who was working at the ministry's research wing.

The ministry in a statement said the female official has been sacked as allegation of her misbehaviour was proven in its probe.

Earlier in the day, the same bench

## Car, SUV, microbus to get fitness clearance for 2yrs

official's termination Renewal can be done at any BRTA office

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

From now on, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will issue fitness clearance to cars, SUVs and microbuses for two years, instead of one -- much to the relief of owners.

Road Transport and Highway Division issued a circular in this regard on Sunday and BRTA is now updating their software to start providing the services within a few days, officials said. "The decision has been taken to reduce hassles of vehicle owners while

getting fitness clearance," Lokman Hossain Mollah, director (engineering) of BRTA, told The Daily Star yesterday. However, other vehicles will have to go through the annual fitness

checkup, he added. Lokman said owners of all types of vehicles can now renew fitness certificates from any BRTA office across the country. Earlier, a vehicle owner had to get clearance from the office the vehicle was registered with, he said.

Lokman said they started the facility from last month. Vehicle owners have to face hassles as they have to wait for a long time at BRTA offices to have their vehicles tested. Shortage of inspectors and

vehicle inspection centres puts huge pressure on BRTA staff members, which often causes mismanagement. Taking benefit of this situation, brokers become active in and around

BRTA offices and they in many cases create problems resulting in further harassment of vehicle owners.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CORRUPTION CASES

## Former AL lawmaker Awal, wife get anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

khas land

The High Court yesterday granted eight weeks' anticipatory bail to former Awami League lawmaker of Pirojpur, AKMA Awal, and his wife Laila Parvin in three separate corruption cases filed for misappropriating khas (government) land.

The HC, however, ordered Awal and his wife to surrender before the trial court concerned in eight weeks in connection with the cases. The bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice AKM Zahirul Huq came up with the orders following three separate petitions filed by the

accused seeking anticipatory bail. They also appeared before the HC bench during the hearing yesterday. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the cases with its integrated district office in Barishal against Awal for misappropriating

According to one case statement, the former lawmaker took lease of a khas land using fake documents and constructed a three-storey building on it. The building was rented out to Pirojpur Rural Electricity Cooperative at the rate of Tk 17,250 per month from October 1, 2017, for about three

Awal's wife Laila Parvin was also made accused in the case. land near Swarupkathi upazila bungalow and building another bungalow

pond known as "Rajar Pukur" in Pirojpur town and erected a boundary wall to keep it in his possession.

In the second case, Awal was accused of illegally grabbing a government there. He also constructed Awal Foundation and Library on it. According to the statement of the third case, Awal grabbed a 44 decimal

Advocate Awasafur Rahman appeared for the accused while Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan represented the ACC.

## Bail of rape accused officer rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail of Abdur Rakib Khan Bappi, subinspector (SI) of Mirpur Police Station, in connection with a case filed against him for raping a woman.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sufian Md Noman passed the order after the officer's lawyer moved a bail petition.

During yesterday's hearing, the complainant was present at the court and opposed the bail petition, saying that the SI raped her. The defence claimed that the SI and the

complainant had an affair. On Friday, another Dhaka court sent Bappi to jail after he was produced before

it, with a forwarding report where the investigation officer appealed to keep him in jail until the investigation is completed. The court, however, set yesterday for

hearing the bail petition submitted by Bappi's lawyer.

On Thursday, a woman filed a case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, alleging that Bappi raped her by making false promises of marriage, said police.

SI Bappi, hailing from Kishoreganj's Tarail, was arrested from the capital's Agargaon area the same day.

# সার্জারীর উপর ডকুমেন্টারী



বিশ্বখ্যাত কলোরেষ্ট্রাল সার্জন অধ্যাপক ভাঃ এবে 🎮 🌠 প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবঃ) বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কলোরেক্টাল সাজারী বিভাগ এর কলোরেক্টাল সাজিরীর দক্ষতা ও নৈপূন্য (Expertise) বিশ্ববাপী ছড়িয়ে দেয়ার জন্য বিশ্ববিখ্যাত ব্রিটিশ ভার্চুয়াল রিয়্যালেটি কোম্পানি "দ্য মেডিকেল রিয়্যালেটিজ লিমিটেড" অধ্যাপক ভাঃ হক্তের রোগী দেখার আধুনিক কলাকৌশল ও অপারেশনের পদ্ধতির উপর ডকুমেন্টারী ফিলা তৈরীর জুন্য তিন সদস্য বিশিষ্ট উচ্চ ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন একটি টিম ০৭/১২/২০১৯ ইং থেকে ১১/১২/২০১৯ ইং পর্যন্ত ঢাকার ইডেন মান্টি-কেয়ার হাসপাতালে অস্থাপক ভাঃ হকে বিভিন্ন ধরনের অপারেশন অত্যাধুনিক ৩৬০০ ভিডিও রেকর্ড করেন। ধারণকৃত ভিডিও রেকর্ড থেকে ফিলা ও ডকুমেন্টারী

তৈরী করে সারা বিশ্বের মেডিকেল ছাত্র, শিক্ষক ও সার্জনদের শিক্ষার জন্য অত্যাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির (Virtual Reality) মাধ্যমে বিশ্ব্যপী প্রচার করা হবে। কলোরেক্টার্ল সার্জারীতে নিয়োজিত চিকিৎসকবৃন্দ পৃথিবীর যেকোন প্রান্তে পাইলস, ফিস্টুর্লা, ফিশার, পাইলোনিডাল সাইনাস, রেকটাল প্রোলাপস, কোলন ও রেক্টাম ক্যান্সারের লেপারোস্কোপিক সাজরীসূহ অত্যাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির অপারেশনসমূহ শিখতে পারবেন। লেপারোস্কোপিক, কোলন ও রেক্টাম ক্যান্সার অপারেশনে **ডাঃ আসিফ আলমাস ইক,** এফসিপিএস, এফআরসিএস (ইংল্যান্ড ও গ্লাসগো), স্বধাশক ভাঃ ইককে সহায়তা করেন।

এ উপলক্ষ্যে ০৮/১২/২০১৯ ইং তারিখে এক সংবাদ সম্মেলনে স্বধাপক জাঃ হক ও সফররত মেডিকেল রিয়্যালেটিজ কোম্পানির মি. মেথিউ লেদারবারো (প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা), মি. জেইমস পেনৃদ্ধি (প্রধান অপারেটিং কর্মকর্তা), মি. সিয়ারন ক্যারিক (প্রধান টেকনিক্যাল কর্মকর্তা) বক্তব্য রাখেন। এ সংক্রান্ত খবর বিভিন্ন টেলিভিশন ও সংবাদপত্রে বিশেষ গুরুত্বের সাথে প্রচারিত হয়।

মোবাইলঃ ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৩, ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৪, ০১৭৫৫-৬৯৭১৭৫-৬

2nd Edition

Upazila FROM PAGE 5

claimed.

staffers

next day.

After

FROM PAGE 5

Meanwhile,

making Karim fall on the ground. The chairman also

tried to strangle him, Karim

Hearing his screams,

of departments rushed to the

The chairman left the

Karim filed a case with

interrogation,

Hafiz's

Gouripur Police Station the

Antor was produced before

yesterday which sent him to

No bar to try

He said Hafiz filed the

petition to delay the trial

lawyer Advocate Sabbir Hamza Chowdhury told

this correspondent that

his client will move an

appeal before the Appellate

Division challenging the

HC order, as the case was

not filed in accordance with

Barrister M Amir-Ul

Islam argued for Hafiz.

proceedings purposefully.

jail, the OC informed.

Mymensingh court

scene immediately, added

spot and rescued Karim.

the police official.

## DU IBA launches service marketing module

CITY DESK

Dhaka University's Institute of Business Administration (IBA) recently launched a two-week certificate module on Services Marketing for Competitive Growth (SMCG), said a press release.

This module aims to help service marketing practitioners understand practical implications of the innate characteristics of professional services, and to enable them to cope with the challenges of an increasingly globalised service economy.

Prospective candidates must hold a bachelor's degree in any discipline, and have minimum two years of work experience with reputed organisation(s). The latter criteria may be relaxed for exceptional candidates, said the press release.

Brochures with detailed information about the course along with the application form are available on www.iba-

Completed applications must be submitted by January 18 at IBA, DU, or via email.

#### 605 cops get

FROM PAGE 5

FROM PAGE 3

the first day of Police Week-2020.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Patwary said legal and departmental action will be taken against officers involved in drug-related activities.

He also urged the officers-in-charge (OCs) to turn their police stations into model ones. "We want to build every police station as symbols of confidence and dependence for people," the IGP added.

39 killed in train accidents

accident does not happen," he said, adding

that they will also introduce modern

The minister said they introduced four

intercity trains and extended route of one

train last year, and are going to extend

of rail track, 37 rail bridges, five station

buildings and 26 level crossing gates were

Works for construction of 39-kilometres

Besides, 23km rail tracks and 40 bridges

The minister said 259.57 acres of railway

Another 3,213 acres -- 2,731 acres in west

He, however, said they are working to

formulate a land use policy and form a

were reconstructed in 2019, he said, adding

that a total of 1,144 staff were recruited in

land was recovered from illegal occupation

zone and 482 in east zone -- remain under

illegal occupation, according to railway's

technology to prevent accidents.

**DEVELOPMENT WORKS** 

routes of two others shortly.

completed last year.

estate department.



Shoppers busy going through winter clothes at makeshift shops on a footpath beside Zila Parishad Pukur Par in Barishal city. With cold wave sweeping through the country, sale of warm clothes has shot up. This photo was taken yesterday afternoon. PHOTO: TITU DAS

## 37 bird species spotted

During the survey, a total of 4,025 birds of 37 species

She said the Padma has become compartmentalised by the development of charlands, which are generally a seasonal natural process of the riverine ecology and have a complex ecosystem.

The survey was conducted with focus on the char lands of the river basin. Such riverine habitats support a wide variety of bird species, many of which nest on sandbars

the Padma char lands, and some people hunt these birds to earn money. Nur-E-Soud, a member of Rajshahi Bird Club, demanded declaration of the Padma riverbeds as a

our demands," stated the letter. Leaders of Oikya Parishad in the letter warned that they will not take any responsibility if any kind of untoward incident takes place on the day centring Saraswati Puja coinciding with Dhaka city polls. When asked, Alamgir said that he would forward the letter to the commission for review.

Char, and part of Charghat.

were counted, 27 of which were migratory, said Dipu.

and others forage along or in the water channel. During winter, a number of migratory birds fly in to

sanctuary for birds.

#### Don't arrest

board to monitor railway land.

As per the railway master-plan (2016-

This fiscal year, the government body

2045), Bangladesh Railway will implement

is implementing 36 projects involving Tk 12,130 crore and once completed, it

would add 1,162.97km rail track, 140

locomotives, 700 carriages, 1,000 wagons,

rate of Annul Development Programme,

Sujan said physical works of some major

project could not be continued during

allocated money but also seek further

funds at the end of this fiscal year," he said.

make railway "corruption free", and has

already taken steps against ticket scalping

and stopped reserving of tickets by railway

Md Shamsuzzaman was also present at the

Bangladesh Railway Director General

"However, we will not only use the

The minister said he was working to

Asked about the poor implementation

and 125 luggage vans to railways.

rainy session.

briefing.

230 projects involving Tk 5,53,662 crore.

WARMING UP WITH PITHA. Winter and pitha are synonymous in Bangladesh. From homes to street corners, the delicious steam wafting from plates of pitha never fails to bring smile to faces. This photo was taken from Sylhet Government Women's College, where students organised a daylong "Pitha Utsab" yesterday. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

#### **UCEP** receives

FROM PAGE 5

During construction of a new hotel by Ahyan Hotel & Resort Ltd, the adjoining UCEP Regional Office and UCEP Technical School building were severely damaged.

The buildings developed cracks and had to be evacuated upon recommendation of experts.

Two departments had to be relocated, hampering the studies and training of students.

The company agreed to pay Tk 1 crore as compensation following discussions with UCEP Bangladesh, the press release noted.

In this regard, The Daily Star had published a report headlined "Hotel construction puts trade school buildings at risk" on October 2 last year.

## Two remanded

since he was sacked last year. A phone that was recovered by police also belonged to Nazmul, sources added. Counter Terrorism and Transnational

Crime unit of police sources said they were also investigating into the incident, but have not found any militant links yet.

CONDEMNATION ALL AROUND different Eminent personalities and

organisations yesterday strongly condemned the attack on Dr Sarwar Ali and his family members, and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Committee in a statement said, "We are deeply concerned by the attack on one of the leaders of the human rights movement in Bangladesh, Liberation War Museum trustee, and valiant Freedom Fighter Dr Sarwar Ali and his family members," said a statement by the committee.

More than 80 distinguished personalities, including judges, educationists, artistes, writers, journalists, social workers, cultural activists and lawyers, signed the statement.

Among the signatories are Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani; writer and journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury; Barrister Shafique Ahmed; Justice Syed Amirul Islam; Justice Shamsul Huda; Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik; Colonel (retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury; Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir; Prof Anupam Sen; writer Hasan Azizul Huq; artists Hashem Khan and Rafiqun Nabi; Prof Panna Kaiser; Prof Mahfuza Khanam; freedom fighter Capt (retd) Sahabuddin Ahmed Bir Uttam; Capt

(retd) Akram Ahmed Bir Uttam; Maj Gen (retd) Mohammad Abdur Rashid; Dr Amzad Hossain; Nurjahan Bose; Dr Nurun Nabi; writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir; Prof Muntassir Mamoon; Liberation War martyrs' widows Shyamali Nasreen Chowdhury and Salma Haque; columnist Syed Mahbubur Rashid; educationist Mamtaz Latif; and journalist, and filmmaker Shamim Akhter.

the law.

In another statement, 24 eminent personalities condemned and expressed their concern over the attack. Their statement demanded that the

government find out the local and international perpetrators behind the attack and bring them to book. The signatories also said they will hold

citizen's protest rally in front of the National Museum at 3pm on January 13. Among others, National Professor Dr

Anisuzzaman, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Oikya Nap President Pankaj Bhattacharya, Prof MM Akash, and Prof Rubaiyat Ferdous were signatories of the joint statement. Ain O Salish Kendra expressed grave concern over the attack on Dr Sarwar Ali

and his family members. It demanded immediate identification of the culprits and urged authorities to bring them to book. Sector Commanders' Forum -- in a statement condemned the attack on Dr Ali,

a member of the forum's advisory board. It demanded swift identification and punishment of the attackers.

Among others, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Manobadhikar Sanskriti Foundation and Chhayanaut also issued

## 19.5 lakh people

He said BPDB signed an agreement with Shenzhen Star Instrument on May 26 last year, for procurement and installation of 1,50,575 prepaid meters in Cumilla and Mymensingh zones. "KfW Germany has financed the project. On the basis of turnkey, the contractor has started the project work," he said.

According to BPDB, 54,000 smart prepaid meters have already collected for its four zones, financed by BPDB themselves.

Besides, it signed a contract on

November 28 with a supplier firm for procuring 55,000 smart prepaid meters for its four zones.

The state-run company has floated tenders to procure and install 1,05,000 smart prepaid meters.

Under Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) with upgradation of unified prepaid system, BPDB will implement the project with its own finance.

A plan will be taken to procure and install another 6,00,000 smart prepaid meters under the BPDB's four distribution zones, sources said.

#### APARTMENT FOR RENT AMARANTHA APT NO. 5-E (2,458SQFT) HOUSE NO. 24 BLOCK: H ROAD NO. 7 BANANI (OPP TO HOTEL GOLDEN TULIP).

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#### 44<sup>th</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MOHAMMAD SIRAJUDDIN



44th death anniversary of ate Mohammad Sirajuddin founder Chairman 8 Managing Director Modhumita Group, Sirco Soap & Chemical Industries Kohinoor Jute Mills Ltd founder Director of Standard Bank of Pakistan also the founder Director of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Today the 8th January is the

Though he is not in this world, he lives in our hearts, in ou minds, in our memory. Entrepreneurs like him are rare who left behind foot prints for generations to follow.

All friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

All Members of Modhumita Family

### Car, SUV, microbus to get

FROM PAGE 3

Currently, 109 vehicle inspectors are struggling to deal with checking fitness of around seven lakh vehicles in the country. BRTA has only one vehicle inspection centre (VIC) at its Mirpur office to check some elements digitally.

Some 100 commercial vehicles (buses and trucks) are tested there every day. Rest of the vehicles are inspected manually.

According to the circular, like the existing system, a brand-new car or SUV or microbus need not take fitness clearance for the first five years.

Afterwards, such vehicles have to renew their fitness for two years. Owners, however, have to pay fitness fees for two years at once, reads the circular. Currently, a car or SUV or microbus

owner has to pay Tk 450 and 15 percent

tax online, he added. Till last year, a total of 43.01 lakh vehicles had registered with BRTA since independence. Of those vehicles, 5.34 lakh

fitness fee annually.

are cars, SUVs and microbuses. Asked whether this decision can pose any safety risk, Kazi Md Shifun Newaz, assistant professor of Accident Research Institute of Buet, said, "Private cars usually get proper maintenance. I think fitness test after two years will not cause any safety

as inspection fee and the same amount as

once in two years, and two years' fitness fee

at one time, Lokman said. Owners can now

pay all fees, tax token and advance income

Now, they have to pay the inspection fee

Newaz, however, said after a certain time -- may be 15 or 20 years -- such vehicles VAT and 10 percent supplementary duty should go through fitness tests annually.

#### HC to deliver order on

FROM PAGE 3

HC bench sought a probe report from the ministry's sexual harassment prevention committee over the alleged sexual and mental harassment of the woman.

The director general of foreign ministry's research wing, who is also the head of sexual harassment prevention committee, was asked to submit the report to the HC

within 30 days. The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why their inaction against three foreign ministry officials for mentally and sexually harassing

her at home and abroad should not be declared illegal.

The bench passed the order and issued the rule following a writ petition filed by the woman seeking necessary order.

The woman filed another petition on January 6 as a supplementary to the earlier one, seeking stay on the termination order.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star on January 5 that three foreign ministry officials had harassed his client sexually and mentally at their offices in Tokyo, Mumbai and Dhaka in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

#### Vacancy Announcement

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, (BRAC JPGSPH) invites applications for the position of Research Associate for the project named "BRAC HNPP IMPACT STUDY". Besides experience in conflict country & managing surveys and field staff in developing countries is strongly

Education: Master's degree in public policy, or other quantitative social science disciplines (Master of Public Health degree's preferred)

A minimum of 1-year of work experience as a survey expert is required.

Salary: Negotiable | Job Location: BRAC JPGSPH, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 Suitable Individuals are interested in applying for this consultancy must submit their CV along with a

cover letter to HR, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University through email: recruitment.sph@bracu.ac.bd by Wednesday, January 15th, 2020.



Ministry/ Division

GD-54

BRAC PUBLIC

Sylhet City Corporation

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

**Executive Engineer** 

Nagar Bhaban, Sylhet www.scc.gov.bd

Date: 07/01/2020

Memo No. 46.07.0000.018.99.025.19.1829 e-Tender Notice-17/2019-20

Ministry of the Local Government, Rural Development & Co-

2.	Ageno	у		Sylhet Ci	ity Corporation.		
3.	Budge	t and	d source of funds Construction of Infrastructure in Sylhet City C		Corporation.		
Te	Tender ID No.			Name of the work		Last date of tender submission	
40	409749 (OTM)		Construction of RCC Bo	x Drain at	Rallway Station (Extension Part).	23/01/2020	
40	09910 (LT	M)	Development of RCC Ro	oad at Ka	damtali Barabari Road.	23/01/2020	
40	09933 (LT	M)	Development of Road by	y CC at K	odomtoli, Varthokhola, Jhalopara.	23/01/2020	
4.	4.		Budget and source of fu	funds ADP/ADP(Special)/Rever		fund of SCC.	
409	409956 (OTM)		Installation of Deep Tube well at Chorarpar.		23/01/2020		
410	0033 (OT	M)	Installation of 3 Nos. Deep Tube Well at Ward No. 25.		23/01/2020		
410	0074 (OT	M)	Installation of 3 Nos. Deep Tube Well at Ward No. 24.		23/01/2020		
5.				of Engr. Md. Ali Akbar, Executive Engineer, Sylhet City Corporation, 0821-714036.			
6.		This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal ar offline/hard copies will not be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the websit www.eprocure.gov.bd					
7.		The fees for downloading the e-T deposited online through any regis			ocuments from the National e-GP anks branches.	System Portal have to be	
8.		Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-G				em Portal and from e-GP	

Money Laundering Case

DAMAGE TO SCHOOL

**UCEP** receives

compensation

Ahyan Hotel & Resort Ltd

authorities have given Tk 1

crore to UCEP Bangladesh

technical school due to

construction of the hotel in

Khulna, says a press release.

Bhuiyan, general manager

of Ahyan Hotel & Resort Ltd,

handed a cheque to Parveen

of UCEP Bangladesh, at

the conference room of

Vasstukalpa Architects Ltd

Bhowmik, vice chairperson

of UCEP Bangladesh, its

executive director Tahsinah

Ahmed, AQ Siddiqui and

others,

in Khulna yesterday.

Among

chairperson

Muhammad

Mahmud,

compensation for damages caused to a

Tk 1 crore in

CITY DESK

## No bar to try ex-MP Hafiz Ibrahim: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court concerned to continue the trial proceedings of a money laundering case against former BNP lawmaker Hafiz

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Gulshan Police Station on August 16, 2011 against Hafiz and his wife Mafruza Sultana for laundering USD 175 thousand to Singapore. According to the case statement, the money was

paid allegedly by Siemens Bangladesh Ltd to the duo's account to help the company win a deal of supplying core telecommunications equipment to Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL).

The amount was sent to a bank account in Singapore between 2005 and 2006.

Yesterday, the HC summarily rejected a petition filed by Hafiz, challenging the case's trial proceedings and seeking

The bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice AKM Zahirul Huq came up with the order after hearing arguments from the ACC and petitioner's counsels.

ACC lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the Special Court-3 of Dhaka to continue the trial proceedings against Hafiz and Mafruza and other accused following the HC order.

Architect Mobashsher Hossain, were present on the occasion.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Outgoing Australian High Commissioner Julia Niblett paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban yesterday. Niblett was appointed high commissioner to Bangladesh in July 2016.

#### 37 bird species spotted in char areas of Padma

Bss, Rajshahi

A research team has spotted 37 bird species in different char (riverbed) areas of Padma river in Rajshahi this week.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) under its Bangladesh Wild Bird Monitoring Programme conducted the survey across a 39-kilometre part of the Padma.

Bangladesh Birds Club, Rajshahi Bird Club and Department of Forests

jointly supported the survey IUCN bird researcher Simanta Dipu told local journalists that majority of the species were spotted in Char Khanpur, Char Khidirpur, 10 Number

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Upazila Parishad chairman held for 'assaulting' govt staff

Police arrested a union parishad chairman early yesterday for allegedly physically assaulting an office assistant of the upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) on

The arrestee is Shahidul Islam Antor (41), chairman of Achintopur Union Parishad in Mymensingh's Gouripui upazila.

He is also the secretary of Achintopur union unit of

A police team arrested Antor from Mymensingh city's Narun Bazar area around 2am, said Officer-in-Charge Md Borhan Uddin Khan of Gouripur Police Station.

According to the allegations, Antor went to the PIO office on Thursday afternoon and demanded more blankets for distribution to office assistant Abdul Karim when there was no one else in the room, the OC said.

When Karim denied to do so without permission from his superior, the chairman locked into an altercation with

At one stage, Antor started slapping him indiscriminately, SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Air Quality Index

## Dhaka air second worst yet again

Dhaka once again ranked second worst in Air Quality Index (AQI) yesterday morning.

The air quality of the capital was classified as "very unhealthy" as it had an AQI score of 211 at 7:52am.

Mongolia's Ulaanbaatar and Pakistanan's Lahore were the worst and third worst cities on the list, with scores of 238 and 182 respectively. When the AQI value is between 201 and 300, the entire

population is likely to be affected. Active children and adults, and people with respiratory diseases are advised to avoid all outdoor exertion in this situation.

AQI tells how clean or polluted the air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for public. The AQI focuses on health effects that one might experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air.

In Bangladesh, the AQI is based on five kinds of pollutants: Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5), NO2, CO, SO2 and Ozone (O3). The Department of Environment has also set national ambient air quality standards for these pollutants.

These standards aim to protect against adverse human health impacts.

## Premature harvest of onions behind price hike

Agriculture minister says

UNB, Gazipur

Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque on Monday said the price of onion is not coming down, as there is shortage of the bulb after farmers harvested them prematurely for more profit.

The minister said this while addressing a seminar in Gazipur.

National Agriculture Training Academy (NATA) organised the meeting.

The minister said farmers could not get expected yield of onions last year due to unusual rain.

This rainfall also led to an onion crisis in the country, he added.

Abdur Razzaque also underscored the need for mechanising and commercialising the agriculture sector so that farmers can be benefitted.

Traders have hiked the price of the bulb, citing a supply crunch following drizzles

in many parts of the country for a few days

The local variety of the essential kitchen item was selling at Tk 180-200 per kilogramme at the retail market on

At the same time, the imported ones were selling at Tk 100-120 a kilogramme

One month ago, the local onion sold at Tk 240-250 per kg while the imported one at Tk 90-210, according to data from the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB). The sudden price hike caused outrage among consumers.

The price came down as low as Tk 100 and Tk 50 for the two varieties respectively after the local bulb and imported one hit

But it started soaring again after light rain hit the country from Thursday and

Police Week 2020

## 605 cops get IGP badges

A total of 605 police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

members were awarded "IGP's Exemplary Good Service Badge" yesterday, in recognition of their performance in the last one

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Javed Patwary handed over the award to members of 19 units -- including police, Rab and Detective Branch on the third day of Police Week.

The IGP also handed over certificate and Tk 20,000 to each awardee during the programme, held at Rajarbagh Police Lines grounds in the capital.

On January 5, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the six-day Police Week-2020 at the police lines

IGP Javed Patwary also provided Tk 10,000 each to 1,000 members of different units of police, who performed parade on SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## 19.5 lakh people to avail prepaid electricity meters

Says state minister Nasrul

Bss, Dhaka

With an aim to reducing system loss, pilferage and bill arrears, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has undertaken an initiative to bring 19,58,325 consumers under smart prepaid metering for electricity

"We will bring all consumers under smart prepaid meter system," State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid told the news agency yesterday.

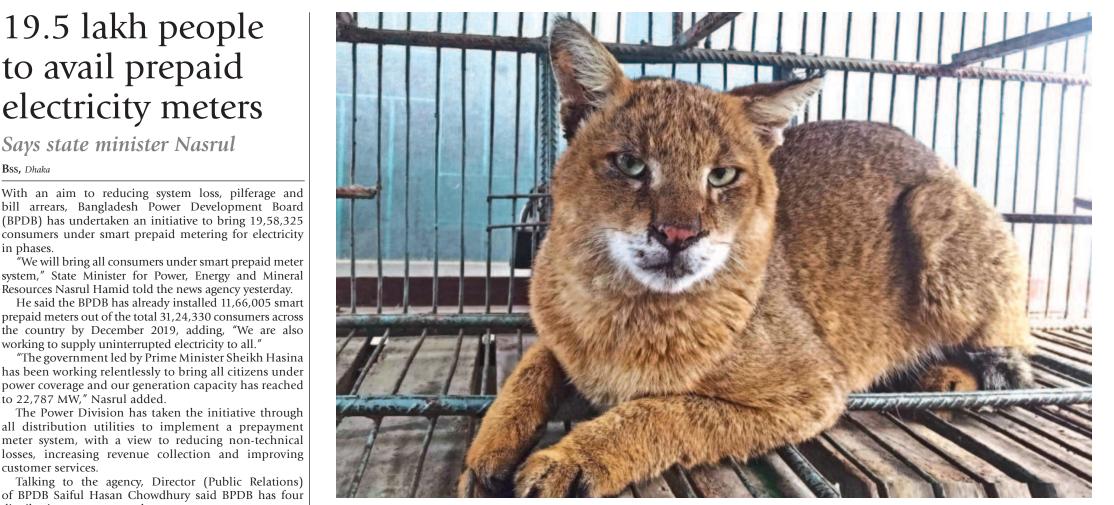
He said the BPDB has already installed 11,66,005 smart prepaid meters out of the total 31,24,330 consumers across the country by December 2019, adding, "We are also working to supply uninterrupted electricity to all."

"The government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working relentlessly to bring all citizens under power coverage and our generation capacity has reached to 22,787 MW," Nasrul added. The Power Division has taken the initiative through

losses, increasing revenue collection and improving customer services. Talking to the agency, Director (Public Relations) of BPDB Saiful Hasan Chowdhury said BPDB has four

distribution zones across the country. "We will bring all consumers including residential, industrial, commercial and offices under smart prepaid meter system in phases," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Officials of the Wildlife Crime Control Unit of Forest Department yesterday rescued a wildcat from Panchabati area in Narayanganj's Fatullah. The animal was rescued from the warehouse of a garment factory. Employees of the company on Sunday found the feline hiding in a pile of rubbish. Sensing their presence, it jumped at them, which prompted them to capture it. Upon searching the internet, the staff realised the cat belonged to an endangered species and informed the forest department. PHOTO: STAR

SUST's 3rd Convocation

## A 12-year wait ends today

Our Correspondent, Sylhet

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology's third convocation is today, 12 vears after its last convocation.

Marking the auspicious event, the university authority has made grand preparations. President Abdul Hamid, also chancellor

of the university, will preside over the convocation while eminent scholar and writer Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam will address the graduates as convocation

A total of 6,750 students, who earned their honours, masters, MBBS, nursing, MS, MD and PhD degrees between the academic sessions of 2001-02 and 2010-11 from the university, have signed up for the convocation.

So far there are 4,617 students who earned their honours, 1,127 masters, 878 MBBS, 120 nursing, 6 MS and MD, and 2

At the convocation, 20 students will receive President's Gold Medal, while 89 students will receive Vice Chancellor's Award

The main event will be held at the university's central field. The whole campus is decorated beautifully with lights, banners and festoons.

Shah Md Ashraf Siddiky, a student of sociology from 2000-2001 batch who is about to receive his masters degree, said, "It's another opportunity to rejuvenate old memories of the campus after a very long period of waiting for the convocation."

After starting academic activities in 1991, the university's first convocation was arranged on April 29, 1998. The second convocation was held on December 6, 2007.

For last 12 years, it was a challenge for the university to organise the third convocation. Several attempts failed due to various reasons.

Vice Chancellor Professor Farid Uddin Ahmed said, "It was a great challenge to organise the convocation by overcoming a lot of hurdles and it's a relief to arrange it after 12 years."

"[I] hope the convocation is a huge success. We are now determined to organise convocations regularly, by arranging the 4th convocation within December this year," he said.

## Two die in road accidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirha

Two people died in separate road accidents across two districts yesterday.

In Lalmonirhat, a bicyclist was killed in an accident on the Lalmonirhat-Burimari Highway at Filling Station area of Aditmari upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Dinesh Chandha Barmon, hailing from Chawratari Joradevi village of the upazila, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent.

The accident occurred after Dinesh's bicycle was hit by a bus while he was crossing the road to go to a filling station

in the area. Law enforcers have arrested the bus driver and seized

the vehicle. Meanwhile in Mymensingh, a college student died yesterday from injuries sustained in a motorbike accident

upazila's Rowarchar Bazar area, reports our Mymensingh correspondent. Deceased Ikramul Hasan Limon (17) was a first-year HSC student, said officer-in-charge of Muktagacha Police

on Friday morning. The accident occurred at Muktagacha

Station Mohammad Ali Mahmud. Limon, hailing from Muktagacha's Laxmikhola Supari Bagan area, was initially taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital from where he was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for better treatment.

He died at DMCH yesterday morning.



Smiling graduates were roaming around SUST yesterday, fixing each other's gowns and hats. It's been 12 years since the campus has experienced this celebration, so the pictures better turn out alright. PHOTO: SHETKH NASTR

6 | The Baily Star

# The Paily Star

LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8, 2020, POUSH 24, 1426 BS

## How many rape cases are too many?

Time to put patriarchy on trial

**7** E are outraged at yet another deplorable incident of rape of a university student near what is one of the busiest thoroughfares in Dhaka, reinforcing just how unsafe the city, and indeed the whole country, has become for women and girls. In fact, we are outraged at how often we have to express our outrage at such incidents of violence against women, without seeing any changes in our behaviours, norms and policies. Each day, each week, each month—the numbers simply keep piling up. Just last year, 1,413 women and girls were raped or gang-raped, 76 were killed after rape, and 10 died by suicide. And let's remember, these are only the reported cases, meaning they denote only a fraction of the actual number of such incidents that take place in the country. There's no denying that only a handful of atrocious acts of violence capture the headlines and the public imagination—and even fewer of these ever see the light of justice.

We join the protesters in Dhaka University and around the country in demanding exemplary punishment and an end to the culture of impunity that emboldens rapists. A gender sensitive and responsive legal framework is the need of the hour—we need to challenge discrimination and inequality in rape law, address procedural barriers to accessing justice for survivors, and redress rape by ensuring punishment, deterrence, and reparation. But beyond, we must put an end to the victim-blaming attitude that pervades throughout society as well as our justice system which puts the onus on the victim rather than the perpetrator and insists on framing rape within the context of morality, honour and modesty of a woman. We categorically say, rape has nothing to do with what a woman was wearing, where she was, who she was with, at what time of the day, whether or not she was in a relationship and so on. It has everything to do with a patriarchal society that believes in the subjugation, control and exploitation of women and girls, by laws, norms and customs and by force, when necessary. If we are truly serious about putting an end to violence against women, we must change the way we think about women and their rights; we must challenge the institutions, including our families, education and legal systems, which perpetuate women's subjugated status.

## No more single-use plastics

Develop biodegradable alternatives

**7** E welcome the High Court's directive to the authorities to ban single-use plastic products in coastal areas, hotels, motels and restaurants across the country within a year. The directive also called for the ban on polythene or throwaway plastic bags to be strictly enforced by the government.

Unfortunately, despite the various health and environmental hazards posed by plastic products, and the existing ban on the use of polythene and throwaway plastic bags, we have hardly seen any difference as these products continue to be used widely. And the government must take a large portion of the blame for this, as it has not done enough to discourage the use of plastic products, nor incentivised enough the use of other alternatives. Under these circumstances, it is a seminal

At the end of the day, the use of plastic poses a massive long-term threat to the environment. Scientists have been warning governments for decades to cut back on their use, and to find alternatives so that plastic products can be replaced altogether. And numerous governments have responded positively to their calls—but then, why can't we?

The government has to play a proactive role if the use of plastic is to be eradicated, which is an absolute necessity. It is high time we used substitutes such as jute, which, in fact, simultaneously provides us with the perfect opportunity to revive the development of our jute products.

We have seen good examples being set by certain mega-shops in this regard. And the government should incentivise others to do the same.

### **LETTERS** TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

#### A sad start to the New Year

Just one week into the oh-so-full-of-hope New Year, and we already have a long list of incidents that took place around the world and within Bangladesh which are enough to fill us with sorrow. The raging bushfire in Australia was a tragedy that marked the beginning of the year. It was soon followed by the US embassy attack and the unrest between the US army and the Iraqi supporters of pro-Iranian factions. The killing of a top Iranian general by the US now had us all on the edge of our seat, triggering fear if it will lead to a new war which could eventually lead to a world war. Also, the severe attack by masked men on Jawaharlal Nehru University students and teachers has escalated tensions surrounding India's controversial new citizenship law and National Register of Citizens (NRC). Not to mention the ongoing protests in Hong Kong, Chile and elsewhere.

Then there is all the local news of horror and tragedy. Recently, six people including four members of a family were killed as a microbus collided head-on with a bus in Faridpur Sadar upazila. An eighth grader who was allegedly raped by three men in Lohagara upazila tried to commit suicide and later died in hospital while undergoing treatment. Another incident saw a sixth grader die by suicide in Panchagarh Sadar upazila, hours after she was allegedly raped by her neighbour. Not to mention the rape of a Dhaka University student on Sunday night near Kurmitola General Hospital. It saddens me to even write about all this, but the reality is harsh. The aforementioned incidents, among many other reported and unreported ones, make me scared of what lies in our future.

Zeenat Alam, by email

# A DU student's trauma

## And our collective failure to stop rape



Mehreen Amin

**¬** VEN before we can catch our breath as we enter a new year, a new decade, rape continues to haunt us, reminding us of its presence, its insidious entry into every lonely corner, street, open area, swamp

abandoned building or roadside bush. An ordinary Sunday evening turns out to be a terrifying nightmare for a Dhaka University student who gets off at the wrong bus stop. Instead of getting down at Sheora (near the airport), she gets off at Kurmitola. It is while she is walking down the footpath, possibly trying to figure out how she will go to Sheora where her friend lives and where she is supposed to go to study, that her attacker pounces on her, drags her into a bush, rapes her and leaves her unconscious. Marks on her body and other evidence indicate that her attacker tried to strangle

Now she lies in a hospital, injured and traumatised. Students are protesting loudly, parents are paralysed with fear for their daughters, the minister promises to catch the culprits and seminars are being arranged to talk about this epidemic of rape. It is a re-run of the same story. Over and over again.

The most mindboggling part in this ongoing catastrophe is that we already know most of the reasons why rape has become such an "easy" crime to get away with. It is being called a "social disease" that has been allowed to spread and intensify—the number of rapes doubled in 2019—because the system protects the rapists, not the victims. There is full-scale impunity when it comes to the rapists. They are the ones who can use the loopholes in the system because they are men and hence supremely entitled to enjoy the elevated status given to them by birth from society. The comments under social media posts after a rape incident, including the one involving the DU student, reflect the misogyny that stems from various offshoots of patriarchy, including chauvinistic misinterpretations of religion. But these misguided, bigoted men conveniently ignore the reality of small children, girls and boys being raped inside their homes by relatives or neighbours or even inside the madrasa by teachers assigned to teach their wards about morality and religion. They also ignore the young women who follow religious dress codes and abide by religious conventions and who still become victims of sexual assault, rape and even murder. The names of Tonu and Nusrat keep coming to mind but there are many others whose names we will never know.

Rape, moreover, is being normalised as if a female is always susceptible to this disease as long as certain X, Y, Z factors are present—a lonely path, being alone at home, stepping outside the house, daring to want to get an education or earning a living. Just the day after the news of the DU student's rape, there was another report of a sixth grader, only 13 years old, being raped by a 20-yearold neighbour and found hanging from a tree; the assumption being that she committed suicide. The rapist in this case has been arrested. Does the arrest guarantee justice for the child? Will

get immediate medical treatment and necessary tests done. Every public hospital all over the country must be fully equipped to conduct the required DNA test to identify the rapists. This is easier said than done, as many district hospitals do not have the facilities to conduct the tests, which means the evidence has to be sent to labs in other places leading to time delays causing the samples to be denatured. Although the so-called "two-finger" test, a highly unscientific, intrusive and humiliating procedure, to determine whether a female has been raped was banned by the

the need to conduct immediate medical examination of rape victims. But it has still retained the outdated definition of rape and section 155 (4) of the Evidence Act which gives the defence lawyers the opportunity to establish that the victim is of "loose character" based on arbitrary observations that could include the clothes she wears or her lifestyle. Such archaic elements have to be removed from the law if it is to have any significant impact in this bleak scenario.

A Dhaka University student being raped and left unconscious in a busy area speaks volumes of just how far this social



Students under the banner of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) hold a candlelight vigil on the Central Shaheed Minar premises, demanding justice for a fellow student who was raped in the capital's Kurmitola area on Sunday night.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

his punishment, even if it is the death penalty, bring solace to the parents? Will one or two death sentences really reduce the number of rapes in this country?

These are not easy questions to answer But while the legal system is not helping bring down the number of rapes, it is perhaps the best bet to deter future rapists. For this, a major overhaul within the system is required. Law enforcers must be instructed to deal with victims with sensitivity and respect; women police should handle cases of rape and sexual assault (this is already happening in some police stations). Police must make sure evidence is not destroyed by taking the victim to a hospital to

High Court following a writ petition by human rights organisations in 2018, in the absence of proper laboratories, this medieval practice continues in most parts of the country as the first test to establish that a rape has indeed taken place.

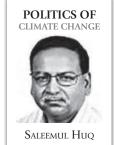
The law(s) on rape also have to be reformed to be tailored to our present reality. The Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000 (Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act) metes out the harshest punishment to rapists, and has introduced minimum victim protection measures such as the prohibition on disclosing a rape victim's identity, closed door examination of rape victims in court, and emphasised

disease has reached. It is an indicator of the failure of the state to protect the country's women and children. Better equipped laboratories, a gender-sensitive police force and a pro-victim legal system can make a huge difference in providing victims with the right legal support and identifying and punishing the rapists. But this will only be ensured if there is no scope for the legal system and its members to be manipulated by the rapists through money and influence. Only those at the helm of power can ensure this.

Aasha Mehreen Amin is Senior Deputy Editor, Editorial and Opinion, *The Daily Star*.

## CLIMATE VULNERABLE FORUM

# Time for a new direction as Bangladesh moves to take the helm



Vulnerable (CVF) currently consists of 48 vulnerable developing countries from all the different groups of vulnerable countries under the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The CVF was formed by then President Nasheed of the Maldives in 2009 in the run up to the fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP15) held in December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark, where we expected a new climate change agreement to emerge.

What President Nasheed did was to invite heads of government from around 20 key developing countries selected from each of the negotiating groups to a three-day meeting in Male, Maldives to strategise on one or two high-level advocacy demands on behalf of all the vulnerable developing countries. At the end of the meeting, the leaders decided to form the CVF with President Nasheed as its chair for the first two years. They also decided to focus on a single highlevel advocacy message: to change the global long-term temperature goal from 2 degrees Centigrade to 1.5 degrees.

During COP15 in Copenhagen, Nasheed spearheaded the CVF leaders to press for this demand. Unfortunately, he was not successful in getting others to agree to the demand as both the developed and big developing countries failed to support us (it's interesting to note that this was the only point in which the presidents of both the US and China agreed with each other!).

However, Nasheed managed to insert a small paragraph at the end of the Copenhagen Agreement that said there would be a review of the long-term

temperature goal between 2013 and 2015. November 2020, under the presidency This paragraph allowed the UNFCCC Secretariat to set up a scientific group to examine the difference of impacts between 2 degrees Centigrade warming and 1.5 degrees, and the expert report was published in 2015 which showed that while 2 degrees was good enough to protect most of the world's countries and people, it would still affect many millions of people living in the poorest countries. Hence, 1.5 degrees was essential if the

of the United Kingdom, the CVF will again have an opportunity to play an important role in galvanising ambition by all countries to enhance their mitigation plans to make them compatible with the 1.5-degree-Centigrade temperature goal. Unfortunately, at the current levels of national plans, we are still headed for 3

degrees, let alone even 2 degrees! At the beginning of COP25 in Madrid, the next two years, there are a number of things that should be taken into consideration.

The first thing is to bring this role under the direct command of the prime minister's own office, with all the other relevant ministries such as environment, foreign affairs, finance, and planning playing a supportive role.

The second thing is for the prime minister to consider appointing a Special Envoy for Climate Change, as some countries have already done. For example, President Hilda Heine appointed her own daughter to the post in the Marshall Islands. The Special Envoy's role is not just to attend the annual COPs but rather to undertake high-level political diplomacy with all the major countries on behalf of the prime minister. He or she should have experience in international diplomacy and have the confidence of the prime minister herself. Expertise in climate change is not essential as that can be provided by the ministry of environment as well as the Expert Advisory Group of the CVF.

The third priority should be to immediately chalk out a twoyear programme for Bangladesh's chairmanship of the CVF so that we can hit the ground running as soon as the responsibility of the chair is officially handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in mid-2020.

Finally, it is important to remember that once that happens, we must become the spokesperson for all the vulnerable countries and not just promote Bangladesh alone. We should also change the narrative of the CVF by to our resilience. Perhaps we can also weigh the possibility of changing the name of the group from Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) to Climate

shifting our focus from our vulnerability Resilient Forum (CRF)? Saleemul Huq is Director, International Centre for



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh holds a meeting with her Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte on the sidelines of the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25), in Madrid, Spain.

global leaders wished to protect all people

This report then allowed the CVF, then under the leadership of President Aquino of the Philippines, to galvanise support at the beginning of COP21 in Paris, in December 2015, where we managed to get the long-term temperature goal down to 1.5 degrees Centigrade. This was a big achievement for the CVF.

As we move towards COP26, which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland in

CVF where President Hilda Heine of the Marshall Islands, the current chair who will serve until mid-2020, announced that she had invited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh to become the next CVF chair from mid-2020 onwards. Thus, during COP26 in Glasgow, Sheikh Hasina will be responsible for galvanising support for raising the ambition to meet the 1.5 degrees Centigrade goal.

So as Bangladesh prepares to take up the challenge of chairing the CVF for

Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh.

## KILLING QASSEM SOLEIMANI

# Rule of law or rule of the jungle?



IAMES M DORSEY

NTERNATIONAL law may not be a major consideration in debates about the US killing of Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani, yet the legality of the assassination could prove to have long-

term consequences for whether the rule of law or the law of the jungle dominates a new world order.

The Trump administration has asserted that killing Mr Soleimani was necessary to avert an imminent attack on US targets that allegedly was being planned by Mr Soleimani and Abdul Mahdi al-Muhandis, the leader of an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia, who also died in the attack. The assertion, yet to be backed up by evidence, served to justify the attack and fend off allegations that the targeted killing violated both US and international

The implication was that Mr Soleimani's death would thwart an unspecified imminent attack and stop the Iranians in their tracks, an assumption that has little foundation in reality given Iran's track record, most recently its refusal to buckle under following the imposition in 2018 of harsh US economic sanctions, some of the harshest ever imposed.

The notion that the killing of Mr Soleimani amounted to rule of the jungle rather than rule of law was reinforced by assertions by Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi that he had been asked by Mr Trump to mediate with Iran and that the Iranian military leader had been carrying Iran's response to a Saudi initiative to defuse tension when he was assassinated.

Mr Abdul Mahdi's claim that Mr Soleimani was involved in efforts to dial down tensions

came in a debate in parliament in which lawmakers called in a resolution for the removal from Iraq of foreign forces, the bulk of which are American. His assertion that Iran was responding to a Saudi initiative was all the more noteworthy given that the kingdom had reportedly recently put its indirect outreach to Iran on hold as anti-government protesters in Iraq and Lebanon targeted Iranian influence in their countries.

"Americans, once the most prominent proponents of international law as the regulator of relations between nations, have now fully validated the law of the jungle. We are now likely to experience it," said Chas W Freeman Jr, a former career US State Department official, in an email to a private mailing list.

Conservative commentator Robert Kagan warned in a book published last year, bemoaning America's withdrawal as an enforcer of international law, a notion challenged by an array of critics, that chaos was the world's historical norm. "The jungle will grow back, if we let it," Mr Kagan argued.

The sense that Mr Trump, like many of the world's civilisational leaders, has no regard for international law was evident, particularly to Iranians, in his threat to attack Iranian cultural sites if Iran retaliates for the killing of Mr Soleimani. Mr Trump did not specify what he meant by "cultural". Some analysts suggested the president may have been referring to symbols like the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of Iran's Islamic republic.

Legal experts nonetheless warned that attacks on cultural sites amount to a war

With millions in the streets welcoming the return of Mr Soleimani's body, Iranians used the hashtag #IranianCulturalSites to respond to the threat by posting online pictures of mosques, museums, monuments, archaeological sites, and other Iranian



PHOTO: NAZANIN TABATABAEE/WANA VIA REUTERS

Iranian people attend a funeral procession for Major-General Qassem Soleimani, head of the elite Quds Force, in Tehran, Iran on January 6, 2020.

architectural marvels. Similarly, with Iraq perceiving the US strikes as a violation of the country's sovereignty, Iraqis may, alongside Iranians, be one of the few who, perhaps selfservingly, factor adherence to international law in their debates.

In line with the comments of Messrs. Freeman and Kagan, the legal aspects of Mr Soleimani's killing take on a significance that goes far beyond the Middle East in an environment in which civilisational leaders like India's Narendra Modi, China's Xi Jinping, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Myanmar's Win Myint flout international law with impunity.

Violations of international law grounded in propagation of concepts of a civilisational

rather than a nation state that defines its borders not in terms of internationally recognised frontiers, but blurry lines of civilisational reach, have occurred in recent years fast and furious.

For example, Iraqi assertions of a US violation of sovereignty echo Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and intervention in eastern Ukraine. Mr Trump has ignored United Nations Security Council resolutions by unilaterally recognising Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Mr Mynt stands accused of ethnic cleansing by the United Nations that has prompted hundreds of thousands of Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh. Massive evidence documents Mr Jinping's authorisation of the brutal

repression of Turkic Muslims in the troubled north-western Chinese province of Xinjiang, while Mr Modi appears to be progressively disenfranchising his country's Muslim

For his part, Mr Soleimani is believed to have been responsible for numerous incidents of political violence, including a 2012 attack on tourists in Bulgaria executed by a Lebanese suicide bomber. Five of the six casualties were Israelis.

But the civilisational leaders' abandonment of international law, including guarantees of basic and minority rights, risks creating a global jungle in which wars, political violence, marginalisation of ethnic and religious groups, and destabilising mass migration contribute to rule of the jungle rather than rule of law.

So do Western approaches adopted almost two decades ago in the wake of the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington.

One may recall that at that time, Robert Cooper, a British diplomat, former advisor to Prime Minister Tony Blair, current advisor to the European Commission on Myanmar, and a proponent of the doctrine of a new liberal imperialism, had said: if the world has a civilised core that deserves lawful conduct, there also is a barbarous periphery that warrants "rougher methods of an earlier era... Postmodern states operate on the basis of laws and open co-operative security" but "in the jungle, one must use the laws of the

Some two decades after Mr Cooper wrote those words, the jungle rather than the rule of law threatens to become the norm, putting the global community on a dangerous and slippery slope.

Dr James M Dorsey is a senior fellow at Nanyang Technological University's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, an adjunct senior research fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute and co-director of the University of Wuerzburg's Institute of Fan Culture

# 2010s: The Decade of Protests

FAHMIDA ZAMAN

S 2020 begins with news of escalating tensions between the United States **1** and Iran, it is important that we reflect on the defining features of the 2010s for a better understanding of the times we're going through. Among the most striking political stories of the last decade were, of course, Brexit in the UK and President Donald Trump's win in the US. However, if one is to decide what really defined the decade across continents, it certainly is the rise of civil rights movements and protests by the ordinary people. In 2010s, millions of people took to the street to demand freedom, justice, and democratic rights from Europe to Asia to

The list of countries hit by major protests since 2010 is remarkably long and covers almost every region of the world. Just in 2019, significant protests erupted or continued in Egypt, Hong Kong, Sudan, Indonesia, France, Iraq, Iran, Spain, Chile, Lebanon, Colombia, Venezuela, Ünited States, India, Algeria, Haiti, Brazil, and Peru, among others. It's not surprising that 2019 is being called "the year of protests". However, do these protests with diverse political, social, and cultural contexts have anything in common? What do they tell us about the current state of politics around

#### Protests led by tech-savvy youth

Protests in 2010s, from Africa to Europe, have been led primarily by the youth with the help of Internet. Some have tied Facebook and other social media platforms to the creation of a "disconnected" and "selfcentred" new generation. Yet, it is these tech-savvy teenagers and young adults that have been at the forefront of large-scale protests around the world. The road-safety protests in Bangladesh, organised by schoolgoing children, challenged the authoritarian nature of the political sphere. In Sudan, students, particularly young women, took a leading role in protests that ousted a 30-year-old regime in 2019. The young's concern for political and economic future along with their skills in using social media have characterised the nature of the protests.

Facebook, Twitters, WhatsApp and YouTube have played a significant role in galvanising

These technological developments have made it easier to spread outrage, facilitate information dissemination, and create informal networks among large numbers of people. Besides, videos of protests shared online have also inspired further participation. As such, these platforms

with a series of pro-democracy protests that spread rapidly across the Middle East and North African regions. Known as the Arab Spring, these protests demanded a fundamental transformation of the political landscape and more political participation of the people. Similarly, the 2014 Umbrella Revolution in Hong Kong came about to protest a proposed electoral reform which, the protesters believed, restricted their rights



Protesters demonstrate against then Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali in Tunis, Tunisia, on January 14, 2011.

have fundamentally changed how protests are organised in the Twenty First Century. However, the reliance on social media is also the reason behind these protests being less organised and less enduring and why disinformation and government-imposed restrictions such as shutting down the Internet proved to be major impediments.

For freedom and democracy One of the key features of the mass protests is that many of these emerged with the demand for greater freedom and democratic rights. The decade began FILE PHOTO: REUTERS/ZOHRA BENSEMRA

to choose their government. The Umbrella Revolution also formed the background of 2019 protests in Hong Kong against an unpopular extradition bill, which would have permitted extradition to mainland China. The protests forced the government to back down and the bill was withdrawn in September 2019. Protesters in other countries, for example, in Algeria, led by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and Sudan led by President Omar al-Bashir, also ousted authoritarian governments last year.

However, it is important to note that as the number of pro-democracy protests

increased in the 2010s, democratic norms and values have deteriorated at the same time. This erosion in democracy, or democratic backsliding, has been evident in the declining freedom of press and freedom of expression as well as the rise of extreme nationalist ideology across North America, Europe, and Asia. Despite the democratic backsliding, or perhaps because of it, millions of people hit the street with the demand for more democratic rights, greater political participation, and accountability from their governments in the 2010s.

#### Longstanding grievances Although many of the recent protests around

the world including the 2018 road safety movement in Bangladesh emerged suddenly, longstanding grievances over economic and political issues have been the driving orce behind these protests. In Tunisia, the birthplace of Arab Spring, street protests began after a 26-year-old vendor set himself on fire protesting police corruption amidst high unemployment, poor living conditions, and corruption in the country. The Arab Spring protests in the neighbouring countries had a similar background of economic and political grievances. More recently, the Yellow Vests protest in France in November 2018 was also caused by an increase in fuel taxes, eventually leading to a call for actions to address inequality. Similarly, in Venezuela, tens of thousands of people took to the streets to protest against everyday hardship. Severe food and medicine shortages and an extremely high inflation led some 4.5 million people to flee the country. Of course, most of these protests have been responses to local politics with specific demands and goals. Yet, people's ongoing dissatisfaction and frustration over poor governance, corruption, lack of economic opportunities as well as governments' failure to provide goods and services are some of the grievances shared by demonstrators across countries.

#### The aftermath

Across continents, many of the political protests in 2010s have been antigovernment in nature and called for

reforms in the political and economic arenas. Admittedly, these protests were met with mixed results. For example, while the Arab Spring led to positive changes in Tunisia, similar protests led to civil wars in Libya, Syria, and Yemen. In other cases, authoritarian politics remained intact or re-emerged crashing all hopes for democratic changes. The anti-government nature and democratic demands of the protests provoked harsh reactions from the governments. In Hong Kong, hundreds of protesters were injured while thousands were arrested as of December 2019. Violence against the protesters intensified as their demands grew from revoking the extradition bill to establishing full democracy. In Iran, demonstrations against a 300 percent fuel hike in December 2019 was met with an Internet shutdown and brutal crackdown on the protests. In India, the Modi government's responses to protests against the controversial new citizenship law included attacks on students, mass arrests, shutting down of the Internet. Despite such violent responses by governments, the protesters have time and again challenged the status quo and the undemocratic concentration of power.

From Asia to Africa to Europe, the world has witnessed an overwhelming number of protests over the last ten years. Despite having distinct characteristics, these protests illustrated the greater struggle for various forms of freedom. In particular, demands for more democratic rights, accountability of governments, and a better future for all citizens have been the fundamental reasons for the protests. One can debate the success or failures of these protests to bring about desired changes. Yet, millions of protesters across continents have demonstrated that large numbers of ordinary citizens do not feel represented and are willing to fight for more social, economic, and political freedom. The 2010s should thus be remembered as the "decade of protests" by the ordinary people.

Fahmida Zaman is the co-editor of "Political Violence in South Asia" and a PhD student in political science

## QUOTABLE Ouote



**EDITH WHARTON** (1862-1937)American author.

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it,

#### **CROSSWORD** BY THOMAS JOSEPH

1 Cavalry weapon 6"Republic" writer 11 Dodge 12 Pago Pago setting 13 Showed nervousness 14 So far 15 Rings 19 Objective 20 Drill part 23 "The Iceman

**ACROSS** 

17 Flying mammal Cometh" author 25 Desert sight 26 Two ten-spots 28 Alley prowlers 29 Bundle 30 Letters of royalty 31 Pickle buy 32 Sardonic 33 Salad bar veggie

35 Move borders, perhaps 38 Valentino role 41"My Fair Lady " role 42 Pageant topper 43 One of Santa's

10 Cereal bit

17 Foul up

16 Frog's perch

18 Egypt's Sadat

20 Cereal grain

21 Comic strip

24 Powerful people

25 French nobleman

27 Coffee shop

worker

worker

22 Peevish

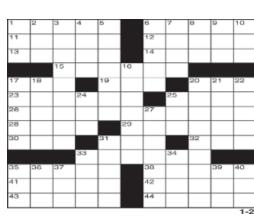
DOWN 1 Fall mo. 2 As done by 3 Orthodontist's challenge 4 Serpent's spot 5 Gave out new hands

team

44 Nervous

31 Osaka setting 33 Tear down 34 Tibia's place 35 Gun, as a motor 36 Yale rooter 6 Sacred song 37 Blend 7 Highlands girl 39 Auditing org. 8 Writer Tan 40 Arthur's 9 Low digit step-brother

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.



#### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

_	Z	Т	R	0			В	Α	Т	S
R	0	V	Α	Z		M	0	D	Е	L
0	М	-	Т	S		Α	Z	D	R	Е
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**BABY BLUES** by Kirkman & Scott SO MY IDEA IS TO SKATEBOARD OFF THE ROOF, DO A BACKSIDE ONE-EIGHTY IN THE AIR AND IT HAS A REALLY STUPID I'M TELLING MOM. LAND IN THE POOL

## AFTERMATH OF SOLEIMANI'S ASSASSINATION

## WHO IS SAYING WHAT

"We are living in dangerous times. ... This cauldron of tensions is leading more and more countries to take unpredicted decisions with unpredictable consequences and a profound risk of miscalculation. . . . Let us not forget the terrible human suffering caused by war. As always,

ordinary people pay the highest price.

It is our common duty to avoid it."



City

**Un Secretary General Antonio Guterres** 



**China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun after US** slams Moscow, Beijing at UN for failure to condemn embassy attack in Baghdad.

**UNSCIMPASSE OVER US EMBASSY ATTACK** 

"China does not accept the US accusation. China firmly supports the protection of the safety of foreign missions in accordance with international law. [But] The US unilateral military action has led to drastic changes in (the) regional situation."

#### **BID TO LIMIT TRUMP'S WAR POWERS**

"This action (attack on Iranian general) endangered our servicemembers, diplomats and others by risking a serious escalation of tensions with Iran. As members of Congress, our first responsibility is to keep the American people safe. For this reason, we are concerned that the administration took this action without the consultation of Congress and without respect for Congress's war powers granted to it by the Constitution."





**'TERRORIST ASSASSINATION'** 

"What the US has accomplished in its terrorist assassination of anti-ISIS heroes is to unleash global anti-US fury and a worldwide rancor—on a scale not seen in recent memory. End of malign US presence in West Asia



**US Defense Secretary** Mark Esper **NO DECISION TO LEAVE IRAQ** 

"There is no decision whatsoever to leave Iraq... There has been no decision made to leave Iraq. Period. That letter is inconsistent with where we are right now."

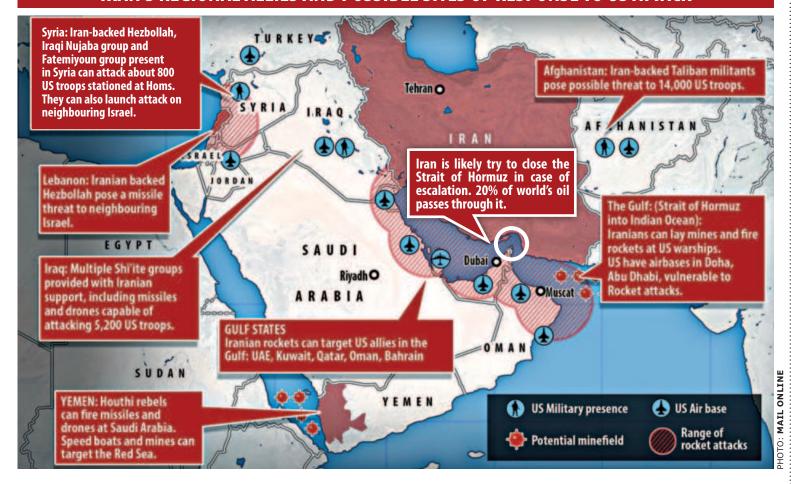
#### 'MUSLIMS SHOULD UNITE'

'The time is right for Muslim countries to come together. We are no longer safe now. If anybody insults or says something that somebody doesn't like, it is all right for that person from another country to send a drone and perhaps have a shot at me.



Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad

#### IRAN'S REGIONAL ALLIES AND POSSIBLE SITES OF RESPONSE TO US ATTACK



## Trump's gamble in Middle East backfires

The US killing of general Qasem Soleimani was meant to cripple Tehran's clout in the Middle East, but analysts see the allies of Iran closing rank instead.

The deadly US drone strike in Baghdad has also rocked America's ties with allies on the ground, left diplomats scrambling to contain the fallout and Iraqi officials outraged at the airspace violation.

The strike on the outskirts of Baghdad's airport early Friday killed Iranian General Qasem Soleimani and top Iraqi commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, among others.

The US has hailed it as a win for "peace and stability" in the region, in contrast to Western diplomats and US military officials in Baghdad. None had received prior warning of the pre-dawn strike and learned of it when they woke up, sending them into crisis talks to salvage ties with Iraqi officials.

"The strike was such a surprise to all of us," one Western diplomat said, speaking on condition of

"Speaking to the Americans now resurgence of IS. is extremely complex. We're talking a lot together as the European Union problems now," the diplomat said.

Even at the military level, the strike strained ties between the

> take hit after drone strike

Meant to cripple Iran's clout, US strike unites its allies

State jihadist group.

"As for our Western allies, in the grand scheme of things, it appears we screwed them over," a top US defence official deployed in Iraq told AFP.

support local troops preventing a uniting pro-Iran factions under an

On Sunday, in reaction to the strike, Irag's parliament voted in but the Americans have their own favour of rescinding that invitation and ousting all foreign troops.

As the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' United States and its other partners Force, Soleimani oversaw Tehran's in the coalition fighting the Islamic interventions in regional power

US ties with Iraq, allies

struggles from Lebanon and Iraq to

Syria and Yemen. Washington had hoped his killing in a Baghdad drone strike Friday would deal a blow to Iran Some 5,200 US soldiers are and its network of proxies -- but the stationed across Iraqi bases to plan appears to have backfired by

"axis of resistance".

"The strike unified the resistance forces and made combatting the United States a priority," said Qassem Qassir, a Lebanese expert in Islamic movements.

Indeed, pro-Iran factions in Iraq have seized on the strike to secure a political and popular revival. The strike gave Shia factions led

by Kataeb Hezbollah, Iraqi populist cleric Moqtada Sadr and Qais al-Khazali to unify call againt the US. Further afield in Lebanon, Iran-

backed Hezbollah said the strike represented a threat to "all the movements, leaders and countries of the axis of resistance".

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, meanwhile, called for "direct and swift reprisals" to the strike. Palestinian movement Hamas slammed it as an "American rampage.

Soon enough, this decision by US President) Donald Trump will be seen as counter-productive," predicted Karim Bitar of the Parisbased Institute for International and Strategic Affairs.

#### Philippines readies for evacuation

REUTERS, Manila

The Philippines is preparing to evacuate thousands of Filipinos working in the Middle East as regional tensions rise following the killing of a top Iranian commander by United States. About 2.3 million people from the Philippines are working in the Middle East as domestic helpers, construction workers, engineers and nurses. President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the armed forces to prepare air and naval assets for the evacuation of Filipinos in Iraq, Iran and nearby Arab countries, his spokesman Salvador Panelo said on Tuesday.

#### Germany to withdraw some troops from Iraq

AFP, Berlin

Germany will withdraw some of its troops deployed as part of the anti-IS coalition in Iraq, the defence ministry said vesterday, in the latest fallout over the US drone strike that killed a top Iranian general. About 30 soldiers stationed Baghdad and Taji will be moved to Jordan Kuwait. Germany has deployed about 415 soldiers as part of the anti-IS coalition, with about 120 of its troops stationed in

#### Zarif denied visa for UN summit

REUTERS, Washington

United has denied a visa to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif that would have allowed him to attend a United Nations Security Council meeting in New York on Thursday, a US official said. Under the 1947 UN "headquarters agreement," the United States is generally required to allow access to the United Nations for foreign diplomats. But Washington says it can deny visas for "security, terrorism and foreign policy" reasons.

#### **LIBYA CHAOS**

## Haftar forces seize control of Sirte

AFP, Benghazi

Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar's forces Monday seized the coastal city of Sirte from factions loyal to the Tripoli government, raising tensions as Turkey said it was deploying troops in the North African country.

Sirte, some 450 kilometres (280 miles) east of the capital Tripoli, had been held since 2016 by forces allied with the UNrecognised Government of National Accord (GNA).

But on Monday, a spokesman for Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) said the city had fallen to his fighters within hours.

"Sirte has been totally liberated," Ahmad al-Mesmari announced on television.

"The operation was quick and lasted only three hours," Mesmari said, although preparations had started months earlier with air strikes on positions of pro-GNA forces.

He said Haftar loyalists struck from five land and sea positions and had air cover. He did not give further details.

The GNA did not immediately confirm the fall of Sirte, but a pro-GNA military commander in the city, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged the loss.

The oil-rich North African country has been plunged into chaos since the 2011 NATObacked uprising that killed longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

It is now divided between the GNA based in the capital Tripoli and Haftar's forces in the east and which also control most of the country's south.

On Sunday, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that his soldiers had begun deploying in Libya.

# Wildlife death toll soars to over 1b

The number of wildlife estimated to have died in Australia's wildfire catastrophe has skyrocketed to more than 1 billion, according to wildlife

The report came as firefighters raced to quell massive bushfires in southeastern Australia yesterday, taking advantage of a brief drop in temperatures and some much-needed rainfall before another heatwave strikes later this week.

Chris Dickman, an ecologist at the

University of Sydney, told HuffPost that his original estimate of 480 million animals was not only conservative, it was also exclusive to the state of New South Wales and excluded significant groups of wildlife for which they had no population data. The original figure of 480 million

was based on mammals, birds and reptiles for which we do have densities, and that figure now is a little bit out of date. It's over 800 million given the extent of the fires now in New South Wales alone," he said.

"If 800 million sounds a lot, it's not all the animals in the firing line," he added.

figure excluded animals That



including bats, frogs and invertebrates. With these numbers included, Dickman said, it was "without any doubt at all" that the losses exceeded 1 billion. "Over a billion would be a very conservative figure," he said.

An environmental scientist at the World Wildlife Fund Australia, Stuart Blanch, confirmed these estimates, reiterating that, given the expansion of the fires since the last calculations, 1 billion was a modest guess.

"It's our climate impact and our

obsession with coal that is helping wage war on our own country," Blanch

Critically endangered species, including the southern corroboree frog and mountain pygmy-possum, could be wiped out as fires ravage crucial habitat in Victoria's Alpine National Park and New South Wales's neighboring Kosciuszko National

Koalas have lost more than 30% of their key habitat in New South

## **AUSTRALIA BUSHFIRES**

- Active fires: More than 200, many of them out of control
- O Burnt areas: More than 10.3 million hectares O Death toll: 25 people and some 1
- billion wildlife
- O Homes destroyed: Over 2,000 Firefighters: Thousands of volunteers, 3000 reservists
- National recovery fund: \$1.4 billion

Wales and may have lost a third of their population in that region, said government source last month.

The University of Sydney's animal loss estimates also exclude livestock, which federal agriculture minister Bridget McKenzie expects will exceed 100,000 animals.

The fires across Australia have killed 25 people, destroyed or damaged more than 2,000 homes and burned nearly 31,000 square miles -- an area about the size of Austria.

## We are in 'desperate need' for ways to improve ties

Says South Korea leader, seeks talks with North's leader

There is a "desperate need" for practical ways to improve ties with North Korea, the South's President Moon Jae-in said yesterday, adding that he was ready to meet with the reclusive

Moon, sidelined from his leading role in the diplomatic effort with North Korea in 2018, said he regretted the past year's lack of progress in negotiations.

leader in Pyongyang repeatedly if

In an annual New Year's speech in Seoul, Moon called for new talks with Kim Jong Un, and vowed to keep up work to facilitate US-North Korea communication.

"In a time of deadlock in US-North Korea talks and where we are even concerned about a step backward in inter-Korean relations - we are in desperate need of practical ways to improve inter-Korean cooperation," he said.

He also said he would continue to push for restarting the Kaesong Industrial Complex and tours to Mt Kumgang, and mentioned border cooperation without elaborating. He added the

joint 2032 Olympics bid would be a unifying event, as would completing the inter-Korean railroad.

no longer a roadblock for peace and prosperity for South and North Korea," he said. North Korea has been unresponsive to other recent overtures from Seoul,

"We want to make an era where separation is

and cooperation projects between the neighbours have stalled in the face of international sanctions that bar most business with the North. Pyongyang has expressed frustration

at what it calls Washington's lack of flexibility, while US officials say it must take more concrete steps to dismantle its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes before sanctions are eased.

"The momentum for U.S.-North Korea talks

must continue," Moon said. "Provocations and threats are not helpful for anyone." Over the New Year, Kim said he planned to further develop nuclear programmes and introduce a "new strategic weapon" in the near future, though he signalled there was still room for dialogue with

the United States.

## TRUMP IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

## Bolton 'to testify'

Former White House national security advisor John Bolton, in a surprise announcement, said Monday that he is willing to testify if subpoenaed in the Senate impeachment trial of President Donald Trump.

Democrats believe Bolton has direct knowledge supporting charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress by the president. But Bolton, a veteran Washington insider who was

fired by Trump in September, has not publicly disclosed whether his testimony would be damaging or helpful to Republican Senate chief Mitch McConnell said Monday that a decision to call witnesses in the trial,

expected to begin this month, should be made only after it has begun. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives, has declined to send the articles of impeachment passed by the House to the Senate until the

ground rules have been established for the trial. "Based on careful consideration and study," Bolton said in a statement, "I have concluded that, if the Senate issues a subpoena for my testimony, I am prepared to

The House of Representatives has accused Trump of using military aid and other incentives as leverage to get Ukraine to investigate Democrat Joe Biden, his potential November presidential opponent.

#### **US warns citizens in** China over mystery virus

Americans travelling in China should avoid animals and contact with sick people as the country grapples with a mystery pneumonia outbreak, the US embassy in China said yesterday. The viral illness was first reported last week in Wuhan, a central Chinese city with a population of over 11 million, and has since grown to at least 59 cases. Chinese health officials have ruled out a resurgence of the highly contagious SARS virus, which killed hundreds more than a decade ago, after fears spread online that it had made a comeback. The mystery disease has has prompted concerns in Taiwan, Hong Kong. So far, none of the 59 patients infected with pneumonia have died though seven are seriously ill, according to Wuhan's health

#### India suffers hottest decade on record

The last decade was India's hottest on record with the national weather office calling the impact of global warming "unmistakable" and extreme weather killing more than 1,500 people last year. India, home to 1.3 billion people, is at the forefront of climate change suffering devastating floods, dire water shortages and baking temperatures. The southern city of Chennai last year declared "day zero" as taps ran dry. Temperatures between 2010 and 2019 were 0.36 degrees Celsius (0.65 degrees Fahrenheit) above the long-term average, the hottest decade since records began in 1901, the Indian Meteorological Department said on Monday. India's five warmest years on record all fell in the last decade, with 2016 the hottest.

#### **Harvey Weinstein hit with** new sex crimes charges



Harvey Weinstein was hit with new sex crimes charges in Los Angeles on Monday just as his high-profile trial in a separate case opened in New York, kicking off proceedings key to the #MeToo movement. The case in California stems from a two-year investigation into allegations from several women that the disgraced Hollywood mogul assaulted them in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills. According to the charge sheet, Weinstein allegedly went to a Los Angeles area hotel on February 18, 2013 and raped a woman after pushing his way into her room. The woman alleges she did not immediately disclose the assault as Weinstein threatened her life if she did so. The next day, he allegedly assaulted a woman at a hotel suite in Beverly Hills after she unwittingly followed him into the bathroom. Neither woman has been identified.



Workshop Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur Date: January 25, 2020

You have won the National Film Award

Receiving the National Award, that too

for my first film, was truly an honour for

me as an artiste. Two of my films, Haldaa

day. Chitkini won the Meril Prothom Alo

and Chitkini, was released on the same

Critic's Choice Award for Best Actress

and Haldaa as brought me a National

Ahmed, and all my co-stars and crew.

Award. I thank my director Tauquir

Where do you see your acting career

As an actor, acting is my prime focus

and I just want to be consistent in my

acting- whether it be in films, theatre, or

for the first time, that too for your first

film. How are you feeling after this

achievement?

heading?

television.



**Cultural Festival** Utshab 2020 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Date: January 3- 23, 2020



Musical Evening itle: Plugged Out IV - One enue: Counter Culture Club. Date: January 31, 2020 ime: 5 pm onwards



**Group Art Exhibition** Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall, Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi Time: 1 pm — 8 pm (Except Sundays)

# 'I just want to be consistent in my acting'

## — RUNA KHAN

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Renowned television star Runa Khan has enthralled the audience with her remarkable performance for years. Alongside her successful career in theatre and television industry, she has also been well received not only by the audience but also the experts. After the success of Shaap Ludo, Chitkini and Gohin Baluchor, her role as Shamima in the film Haldaa has won her a National Film Award (2017) as the Best Supporting Actor. In a candid chat with The Daily Star, the actor talks about her journey, upcoming projects, and more.



What are you busy with at the moment? I am busy with new television dramas. Two of my films, Shaap Ludo by Golam Sohrab Dodul and Mrittika Goon's Kalo Megher Vela, was released in 2018. I wish to work on films that inspire me, so I am looking forward to more such scripts when it comes to films.

What are your upcoming ventures? I have finished shooting for a new television drama directed by Sazzad Shumon. However, the name for this production has not been finalised yet. We hope to release it soon after the technical side has been taken care of. My other TV serials, Family Crisis, Priyo Protibeshi, and Shewli Mala is currently on air at NTV, Channel i, and Deepto TV,

## Minar's 'Jhoom' crosses 40 million

views

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Thoom was one of the breakthrough songs in 2016. With a heart-melting tune and masterful audio engineering, it soon became clear that its appeal would last long into the decade. Minar's most resounding creation has reached 40 million views on Gaanchill music's YouTube page.

"I am truly overwhelmed by the response to Jhoom," says Minar, who also wrote and composed the song, "it is quite humbling to see people from all over the world and different nationalities listening to, and even covering my song." The artiste hopes that 2020 will be a great year for himself and the music industry as a whole.



#### TV WATCH



Telefilm 'Kushole Theko', featuring Irfan Sazzad, Tasnia Farin and Bappa Shantanu, will be broadcast on Channel i on January 10 at 3:05 pm. It is directed by Amitabh

# **Rehan Rasul** makes his singing debut in the film 'GONDI'



PHOTO: COURTESY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Promising young singer Rehan Rasul made his film debut by lending his voice for Fakhrul Arefin Khan directorial Gondi, recently. The song, titled Bhuler Gaan, is written and composed by renowned music director Akash Chakraborty. Music director Deep-Loy, from West Bengal, is directing the music for the film. Renowned singers like Rupankar Bagchi and Debojyoti Mishra have also given their voices in Gondi.

The romantic-comedy film features Subarna Mustafa and Sabyasachi Chakraborty in the lead roles. The editing and dubbing of the film is about to end soon.

# Platform's 'Ek Kodom' underway at AJ Tower

Platform, an art, entertainment and media production company, has organised a contemporary art show, titled Ek Kodom, featuring artworks by three young artists, Azizee Fawmi Khan, Rakib Anwar, and Anisuzzaman Faroque. The exhibition is currently underway at AJ Tower, Kawran Bazar. State Minister for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid, MP, inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest on January 4.



Nasrul Hamid (4-L), with Habibullah Siraji (3-L), Monirul Islam (4-R), Abul Barq Alvi (3-R), and visitors at the exhibition.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Director General of Bangla Academy Habibullah Siraji, renowned artists, Monirul Islam, Professor Abul Barq Alvi, Wakilur Rahman, Professor Md Anisuzzaman, Firoz Mahmud and Bishwajit Goswami attended the art exhibition as distinguished guests, among others.

Dhaka, a mega city, has reached astonishing growth, from a population of

three million in 1980 to 21 million today the modern aspects of the city, the - creating hopes, dreams and challenges for the citizens, while accommodating urban and social changes, every day. The city teems with life and energy, yet, it is alienating, disorienting and in many cases, intimidating.

To that end, Ek Kodom is an attempt to present the diversity of Dhaka through a celebratory environment, full of artworks from diverse media, including paintings, sculptures, and installations. Portraying

artists, in a synchronal mutual interest, have worked on thoughtful material experimentations. Each of the artists has a distinguished style, in terms of their working process and media selection. Yet, all their artworks express a cohesive

From the pointed expressions of Azizee's paintings, the subtle drama of Rakib's drawings to the wit and charm of Anisuzzaman's sculptures, Ek Kodom PHOTO: COURTESY

based on Dhaka, initiated by Platform. Aside from exhibitions, Platform aims to create, produce and distribute different forms of entertainment for both local and international audiences. The initiative also includes artists' talks, curators' talks and a musical performances. The exhibition, open from 5 pm to 9 pm (from Monday to Saturday), will conclude on January 11.

explores a broad range of elements. It is

the first edition of a series of exhibitions,







#### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন দমন ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১ এর কার্যালয়

#### নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতধারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচেছ যে, নারী ও শিও নির্যাতন দমন ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১, রংপুর এর সিভান কার নং-ঢাকা মেট্রো-খ-১২-৯৮২২ নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিন্ত সীলমোহর যুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচছে। দরপত্র সিভিউল আগামী ১৪/০১/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন প্রতিটি সিভিউল ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) নগদমূল্যে অত্র ট্রাইব্যুনাল হতে ক্রয় করা যাবে। দরপত্র আগামী ১৬/০১/২০২০জ্বিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ০২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দাখিল করা যাবে। ঐ দিন বিকাল ০৪.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা হবে। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী ও যাবতীয় তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে জানা যাবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা

> মোঃ থাবিদ হোলেন অকেজো গাভি নিলাম বিক্রয় কমিটি বিচারক (জেলা জজ)

জিডি-৪৯

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Md. Zasim Uddin Arzu

**Executive Engineer** Patuakhali Pourashava



(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

GD-51

#### Patuakhali Pourashava

নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন দমন ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১

District: Patuakhali

Dated: 07/01/2020

#### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for Procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Tender notice publication date & time	Tender documents last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
402039	UIIP-BC/ PCO/W-111	A) Improvement of Road at Town Kalikapur Amtoly Main Sarok to West Side Gudigata Sarok (Via 93 No. Govt. Primary School) (Ch 0.00-450.0m), Ward No. 09, under Patuakhali Pourashava, B) Improvement of Road at Town Kalikapur 93 No. Govt. Primary School to North Side Md. Abu Bakor Munci, Goni Munci, and Ali Munci House (Ch 0.00-350.0m), Ward No. 09, under Patuakhali Pourashava. C) Construction of 5 Nos. 450m Dia UPVC Pipe wit Inlet Pit at Town Kalikapur 93 No. Govt. Primary School to North Side Md. Abu Bakor Munci, Goni Munci, and Ali Munci House (Ch 0.00-350.0m), Ward No. 09, under Patuakhali Pourashava.	08 January- 2020 10:00	05 February- 2020 16:00	06-February 2020 14:00
402069	UIIP-BG/ PCO/W-112	A) Improvement of Road at Chowrasta Mirzagong Sarak Mosque to South Side Polli Bidyut Main Highway (Ch 0.00-660.0m) under Patuakhali Pourashava.     B) Construction of 5 Nos. Cross Drain (1.00x1.25x8m) on Rigid Pavement at Chowrasta Mirzagong Sarak Mosque to South Side Polli Bidyut Main Highway, under Patuakhali Pourashava.	08 January-2020 10:00	05 February-2020 16:00	06-February 2020 14:00

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk

childe			mmunication Regulatory Com 6th & 7th Floor), Ramna, Dha		
3	and large	59 176	Web: www.btrc.gov.bd	- W. Chen	
	Reques	t for I	Expressions of Inf	terest (EOI)	
Fo	or Conducting Information S				
		ent of the	People's Republic of Bangla		
1	Ministry/Division		Posts, Telecommunication	ations Division, Ministry of s & Information Technology.	
2.	Agency		Autonomous bodies and ot		
3.	Name of procuring entity		Commission (BTRC).	nmunication Regulatory	
4.	Procuring entity code		Not applicable.		
5.	Procuring entity district		Dhaka.	000-000-10014 I	
6.	Expression of Interest for S of	election	Consulting/Audit Firm (Lun	# · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
7.	EOI Ref. No.		14.32.0000.900.01.037.18.	01	
8.	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)		06/01/2020		
	INFORMATION				
9.	Procurement method		Quality and Cost Based Se	election (QCBS).	
	DING INFORMATION				
10.	Budget and source of funds		Revenue budget and own t	unas.	
11.	Development partner (if app	olicable)	Not applicable.		
	TICULAR INFORMATION				
12.	Project/programme cod applicable)		Not applicable.		
13.	Project/programme nan applicable)	ne (if	Not applicable.		
14.	EOI closing date and time DRMATION FOR APPLICANT		04-02-2020 (2:00pm) Bang	ladesh Local Time (GMT+6).	
			Systems Audit of Bangla Limited. The scope inclu- tasks in the following categ 1) Regulatory and legal ma 2) Technical matters 3) Financial matters 4) Any other matters.	of work are mentioned in the	
16	Experience, resources & capacity required	delivery	The lead firm must be a competent institute of Charte Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) member with sufficient a high-scale auditing experience. Additionally, the lead find/or any of its Joint Venture, Consortium or Associat (JVCA) partners must have sufficient technical and informat system auditing experience in multinational telecom/IT find The lead firm is encouraged to associate with foreign at firm(s) with sufficient information system (technical) at experience in multinational environment. The details of experience, resource and delivery required are mentioned the TOR. Detailed TOR and other relevant information available at http://www.btrc.gov.bd/notice-board/tor-ibanglalink.		
17	Other details (if applicable)		The formation, operation a	and obligation of JVCA shal e-54 of Public Procuremen	
18.	Association with foreign firm	ns is	Encouraged.		
19 Ref Phasing of Location Indicative start date		Indicative completion			
	No. services		(month/year)	date (month/year)	
	- Not applicable	Dhak		11/2020	
20	Name of the official inviting		Mr. Subrata Roy Maitra.		
21	Designation of the official in EOI	viting	Vice-Chairman, BTRC.		
	A . C . C	10 mm and 10	ARREST MALE TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF	and the second s	

Bangladesh.

Tel: +88 02 9553944

Email: vice-chairman@btrc.gov.bd

IEB Bhaban (5th, 6th & 7th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000,

Subrata Roy Maitra

Vice-Chairman, BTRC Tel: +88 02 9553944

Fax: +88 02 9556677

Email: vice-chairman@btrc.gov.bd

Address of the official inviting EOI

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

Contact details of the official

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#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র

Office of the Upazila Engineer Dhamoirhat, Naogaon

www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মৃলমন্ত্র Date: 07/01/2020

Memo No. 46.02.6428.000.14.002.18-14 Invitation for Tender (Works) (NOTM) e-Tender Notice No. 02/2019-2020

E-Ten	Tender	Package	Name of work	Tender	Last	Closing	Tender/
No.	ID	No.	Name of work	security	selling date & time	date & time	proposal document price
01	405585	INF-2018- 19-506428- 01	Construction of Classroom and Wash block for Kazipur Govt Primary School under Dhamoirhat Upazila District Naogaon.	50000.00	10 Feb- 2020 16:00	11 Feb- 2020 15:00	1000.00
02	405586	INF-2018- 19-506428- 02	Construction of Classroom and Wash block for Chak-Elam Durgapur Govt Primary School under Dhamoirhat Upazila District Naogaon.	50000.00	10 Feb- 2020 16:00	11 Feb- 2020 15:00	1000.00
03	405587	INF-2018- 19-506428- 03	Installation of Solar Panel for Peoples use at different street-points under Dhamoirhat Upazila District Naogaon.	33000.00	10 Feb- 2020 16:00	11 Feb- 2020 15:00	1000.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a>) is required, The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 10 Feb 2020, 16.00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desi-(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Upazila Engineer Dhamoirhat, Naogaon Phone: 07424-56034



#### বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১ (রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং) প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা erecruitment.bb.org.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নংঃ ০৫/২০২০

২২ পৌষ ১৪২৬

#### বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে 'ফার্মাসিস্ট' পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের তালিকা

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে 'ফার্মাসিস্ট' পদে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে ১৫/০৫/২০১৯ তারিখে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৮/২০১৯ এর সূত্রে গত ২৬/১০/২০১৯ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত পরীক্ষায় নিম্নোক্ত ৪৭ (সাতচল্লিশ) জন প্রার্থী উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন।

#### লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর

100002, 100123, 100127, 100179, 100190, 100223, 100228, 100229, 100255, 100302, 100353, 100366, 100420, 100427, 100494, 100506, 100513, 100520, 100527, 100536, 100538, 100602, 100749, 100775, 100874, 100885, 100906, 101090, 101127, 101136, 101177, 101190, 101225, 101229, 101258, 101516, 101559, 101633, 101789, 101798, 101804, 101859, 101908, 101926, 101936, 101995, 102072 = ৪৭ (সাতচল্লিশ) জন

মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের সময়সূচি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞান্তি পরবর্তীতে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট ও পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ করা হবে।

ব্যাহকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন

ভিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২০-৭১ তারিখঃ ০৭-০১-২০২০ নিভি-৫৩

মোঃ ইকবাল হোসেন মহাব্যবস্থাপক (চলতি দায়িত)

Date: 07/01/2020

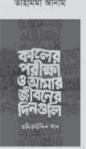




বিভ্ৰম ও বিশ্বাসহীনতা



ভাহমিয়া আনাম



কালের পরীক্ষা ও আমার জীবনের দিনগুলি



রকিব হাসান



2895



নিৰ্বাচিত গল্প আবুল হায়াত

GD-50

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Divisional Forest Officer** Sylhet Forest Division, Sylhet www.bforest.gov.bd

Memo No. 22.01.0000.672.02.033.20.073

## e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender Notice No. 08/2019-2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following work. Details are given below:

Tender ID	Tender package name	Online publication date & time	Online last selling date & time	Last date & time of tender security submission
406499	SFD/SUFAL/WD-01/ 2019-2020	07 Jan at 19:00	22 Jan at 17:00	23 Jan at 14:00

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) also from e-mail: dfosylhet@yahoo.com; Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

S.M. Sazzad Hossain GD-52 Divisional Forest Officer Sylhet Forest Division, Sylhet

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer

PWD Division, Barishal Tel: 0431-64801, Fax: 0431-2173232

e-mail: ee\_bari@pwd.gov.bd Memo.....

Dated:-

### Invitation for e-Tender

System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP procurement of following works given below:

procu	TOTTION OF IN	onowing works given be	iow.	
SI No.	Tender ID	Invitation reference No.	Name of works	Tender closing date & time
01	408926	bari/pwd/Renovation Modernization- 33/2019-2020	Renovation Works of Modernization & Extension of Barishal Medical College Hospital, Barishal under Retrofitting & Complete renovation, emergency repair, alteration and Maintenance work of all Specialized Hospital & Medical Colleges and Hospitals, District Hospitals, Nursing Institutes/Colleges, Chest Disease Hospitals and other Residential Facilities.	20-01-2020 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).





Illegal landing stations operate just beside President Zillur Rahman Railway Bridge, Shaheed Habildar Abdul Halim Railway Bridge and Syed Nazrul Islam **Highway Bridge over the Meghna river** at Ashuganj.



PHOTO: MASUKHRIDOY

# Illegal stations, sand trade threat to 3 Meghna bridges

The important structures include two rail bridges and a road bridge at Ashuganj

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

Some local influential people are running at least 10 illegal landing stations just beside two rail bridges and a highway bridge over the Meghna at Ashuganj in the district while a syndicate of illegal sand traders have set pipelines by cutting roads in the area.

The act poses serious threat to the three important state-owned structures -- President Zillur Rahman Railway Bridge, Shaheed Habildar Abdul Halim Railway Bridge and Syed Nazrul Islam Highway Bridge, but the authorities concerned, managed with 'monthly benefits', are yet to take any noticeable steps, alleged locals.

"Some ruling party leaders have built seven bamboo structures as landing stations beside the pillars of set by cutting river protection

money is daily exchanged for loading and unloading of barges and trawlers at the illegal stations," said an official of Ashuganj port, on condition of anonymity.

"Upazila parishad Chairman Hanif Munshi, also joint convener of Ashuganj upazila Awami League, runs four of the stations, also occupying lands of river protection embankment.

"Anchoring and movement of goods-laden boats beside pillars of the three bridges pose threat of serious damage anytime," the official said.

Visiting the area on Saturday and Sunday, this correspondent found seven bamboo-made structures built adjacent to the three bridges for using as landing stations while thick iron pipes have been the bridges. Handsome amounts of embankment and roads for



Only a little away, three other

landing stations have been built.

supplying sand to different villages. set up after cutting different roads including Station Road and Bazar Road, can be seen in over a three- the river area but they are remaining inquiry and take action if there is any "Thick pipes for carrying sand, kilometre stretch of area in the silent about the illegal landing illegal occupation."

upazila," said Nur Ali, an inhabitant of Alamnagar village.

Such pipes have also been taken by cutting the road in front of the office of the association, said the upazila of the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO).

Contacted, Hanif Munshi claimed that he is not involved with any unauthorised landing stations or illegal sand business although some of his relatives are engaged in the

Asked what action he has taken as the upazila parishad chairman, have collected names of some illegal he said it is the responsibility of the administration.

Ibrahim Mollah, president of Ashuganj Ferryghat Paribahan Thikadar Samity, said Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) is in charge of monitoring

stations, which are some 50 metres from the local BIWTA office.

Rumel Munshi, general secretary administration and BIWTA know very well who the illegal occupiers are and so, they are expected to take action in this regard.

Md Asaduzzaman, director of BIWTA, refuted the allegation of taking any 'monthly benefits' from anyone and said, "We station builders and a general diary has been filed with Ashuganj Police Station. Case will also be filed soon against the perpetrators."

Contacted, Ashuganj Nazimul Haider said, "I am not aware about the matter. I will conduct an

# Canal blocked for fish cultivation

Local UP chairman and some influential persons allegedly set up bamboo enclosures in Vuter Khal for pisciculture



A group of local influential persons in Barishal's Mehendiganj upazila set up illegal bamboo enclosures in the canal for fish cultivation. PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

To cultivate fish in Vuter Khal (canal), a group of local influential people have set up illegal bamboo enclosures halting natural flow of the canal in Barishal's Mehendiganj

Originated from the Maskata river, Tetulia river in nearby Alimabad and Chargopalpur unions of the upazila, said locals.

Thousands of fishermen and farmers depend on the canal for their the rainy season.

farming will hamper irrigation for Boro cultivation, said growers.

Gopalpur union parishad (UP) chairman and some local influential persons have been involved in the illegal act, alleged villagers.

Refuting the allegation, the three-km-long canal connects the Gopalpur UP chairman Shamsul Alam Bari said some villagers put bamboo fences and tree branches across the canal to save thousands of people from river erosion during

He further added such arrangement Blocking of the canal for fish will not halt the natural water flow of the canal.

Shuvankar Chakrabarty, secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Barishal unit, said it is totally illegal to hamper natural water flow of the canal.

He also urged the authorities concerned to free the canal immediately.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Pijush Chandra Dey said he has not heard about the incident but trying to get information on the matter.

## Jubo League man held for tree looting

Roadside tree felling rampant in Mahendranagar of Lalmonirhat

The roads in Mahendranagar union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila are gradually becoming barren, thanks to rampant tree looting allegedly by ruling party men.

Locals on Monday caught redhanded Badsha Miah, president of Mahendranagar union Jubo League, youth wing of Awami League, when he and his cohorts were felling trees beside Kashipur-Lalmonirhat road and handed him over to police.

Badsha, son of Akbar Mandol at Gobai village of Mahendranagar union, was produced before the court and the court sent him to jail the same dav, said Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station OC Mahfuz Alam.

Police lodged a case against Badsha Miah on charge of felling roadside trees, he added.

"Villagers made a strong protest when Badsha and his four or five men were felling roadside trees at the village. At one stage locals caught him while his cohorts managed to flee. Informed, police came to the spot party men has become a common continued tree looting," he said.



Police seize logs of illegally felled trees beside Kashipur-Lalmonirhat road at Gobai village in Mahendranagar union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on Monday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

and arrested Badsha and seized eight scene here. Often we dare not protest felled trees," said Ashraf Ali, 55, a local at Kashipur village.

Badsha and his men were involved in felling roadside trees for long, he

"Felling of roadside trees by ruling

in fear of harassment," said Mansur Ali, 48, at the same village.

"Only a few years ago, the roads in Mahendranagar union were adorned with various types of trees but now most of them look barren due to



Two men warm themselves up around burning wastes. The prevailing dense fog, coupled with the chill, has made regular life difficult for all. The photo was taken from Thakurgaon municipality area on Monday night.

PHOTO: STAR



A huge quantity of unbaked bricks lie damaged on the premises of a brickfield in Kotbahuria area of Tangail's Mirzapur upazila.

# Untimely rain damages huge unbaked bricks

## Affected brick kiln owners claim total extent of loss could go up to Tk 14 crore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Untimely rain for the last couple of days damaged huge quantities of unbaked bricks that were piled up in the open sky for drying at many brick kilns in different upazilas of the district.

The rain affected brick kiln owners claimed that the total extent of loss could go up to Tk 14 crore.

The non-stop rain since Thursday night damaged raw bricks at different brick kilns in 12 upazilas of the district.

Local brick kiln owners said there are 91 brickfields in operation in Mirzapur 12 lakh were either completely or partially for drying.

The rain damaged unbaked bricks in at

least 82 brickfields, they claimed.

While visiting a number of brickfields at different villages in Mirzapur this correspondent saw huge quantities of raw bricks piled up inside the kilns were damaged as the rain water entered the kilns premises.

Mohammad Mokhles, owner of NSMB Bricks at Bhaora Noyapara village, told this correspondent that raw bricks, which were kept for burning, worth around Tk

upazila in the current brick burning damaged by the untimely rain.

lakh to remove the damaged bricks from on an average bricks worth around Tk 10 kiln premises. Moreover, it will take at lakh to Tk 12 lakh were damaged in each of least 10 days to go for fresh production," Mokhles said, adding that if the weather condition does not improve soon the kiln owners will face severe shortage of raw

Mohammad Awlad Hossain, owner of Hakim Brick Kiln at Dherua village under Gorai union, said he incurred a loss of about Tk 14 lakh as the rain damaged most of the raw bricks which were piled

Mirzapur Brick Kiln Owners' Association "I will have to spend an additional Tk 3 President Firoz Haider Khan claimed that the rain affected brick kilns in the upazila.

> Moreover, they will have to bear additional labour cost to remove the damaged bricks, he added.

Meanwhile, thousands of unbaked bricks kept for drying in around 60 brickfields in different areas of Ghatail upazila were also badly damaged due to the untimely rain, Ghatail Brick Kiln Owners' Association General Secretary Faruk Hossain said.

## Boy burnt dead while warming by fire

A minor boy was burnt to death while warming himself near a fire at Char Khalilpur village in Pabna's Sujanagar

The deceased was Md Masud Rana, 7, son of Abdul Mazed of the village.

Masud along with some boys were keeping themselves warm by sitting beside a fire near the house around 7:00am, said Md Shahin Chowdhury, chairman of Sagarkandi

Suddenly, the fire caught on Masud's clothe. At the time, he sustained serious burn injuries.

Critically injured Masud later died on the way to Pabna General Hospital, said the chairman.

## Jewellery shop looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Robbers took away gold ornaments and cash from a jewellery shop at Sathi Road in Madhupur upazila headquarters on Monday night.

Durlov Karmakar, owner of the shop, said as soon as two men in guise of buyers entered the shop around 8:00pm, a crude bomb exploded in front of the shop. Soon after the blast, some criminals equipped with

lethal weapons swopped on the shop and beat him up with iron rod, said Durlov. Later, the gang took away all the gold ornaments and Tk 65,000 from the shop and fled the scene blasting several

On information, police visited the spot.

Tarek Kamal, officer-in-charge of Madhupur Police Station, said they were raiding different areas to arrest the

## Four to die for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A court here on Monday sentenced four men to death for killing a businessman in 2014.

The convicts are Nuru Mia, Ziaul Haque, Lokman Khan and Qadir Hossain of Brahmanbaria's Nabinagar upazila. Of them, Nuru, Lokman and Quadir were tried

According to the prosecution, Abdul Hannan Bahar, 45, used to run wholesale cosmetics business in Old Dhaka's Chawkbazar area. Retailers used to buy products from him on credit before Eid festivals.

Bangara area of Cumilla's Muradnagar upazila to collect Later, Lokman asked Hannan to come to the house

In 2014, Hannan went to convict Lokman's shop in

of his in-laws in Bramanbaria's Banchharampur upazila. Lokman and his accomplices then threw him into the Titas river and fled the scene. Two day after the incident, police recovered the body

from the river. The victim's brother later filed a murder case with

Banchharampur Model Police Station. After examining witnesses and evidence, District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Safiul Azam found the four guilty and pronounced the verdict.

## Cops for joint meet with judges, PPs

FROM PAGE 16

deals with 300 cases every day, which

is not humanly possible. Benazir also said that while the police bring the witnesses to court, there is then no one to take over the duties towards those witnesses, such as taking their statements, etc. He requested the home minister to take steps so that the police can hand over responsibilities of witnesses in a lawful manner.

He also said that public prosecutors are legally empowered to preserve all important documents relating to cases like case diaries and seizure lists. "They do not even have offices. Then where do they preserve such important documents?" he was said to have questioned.

The Rab DG added that as there are no storage facilities in courts, the evidence files of such a huge number of pending cases are exposed to

The home secretary was also critical of public prosecutors being authorized to keep case diaries, said a number of officials who attended the

"How are something so important like case documents kept by a private person? As a result of this an accused is going free by inserting an innocent's name in the case documents," Benazir was quoted as saying.

Discussion on review committees came up after Sylhet SP Md Fariduddin demanded the scrapping of the "District Law and Order Review Committee" during the meeting, saying the committee was unduly influencing and intervening in the investigation of criminal

Shah Alam, deputy inspector general of Criminal Investigation Department, demanded that the

He said that each judicial magistrate to ensure better coordination in the SP. criminal cases.

> He further urged that higherranked officers be appointed officersin-charge in metropolitan police

Another DIG said that while police submit charge sheets in all cases, the results are not satisfactory as witnesses do not turn up.

"It happens because witnesses do not get the money they are supposed to receive [for expenses incurred to appear in court]," said

Referring to a new customs law about to be enacted, the senior home secretary said if the law is enacted, the customs officials will be empowered to shoot a suspect during chase even at the risk of the suspect being killed.

He said he opposed the provision but his observation did not sustain.

Mostafa Kamal Uddin also said that a large number of people have been suffering, subjected to social humiliation and financial strife as they have to appear before courts for years in pending cases.

He said that currently only 82,000 people are in prison -- a number that is meagre in comparison to the number of pending cases, half of which are criminal cases. "Where have the rest of the accused in the cases gone. Are they on the run or have they been released on bail?" he asked.

A superintendent of police demanded that the SPs should be given the authority to chair the district officers will not be promoted to law and order committee in absence of the deputy commissioner.

officer of the district administration who is often found to be junior steps taken to provide operational to the SP, chairs the meeting in vehicles.

prosecution department be put the absence of the DC, who is the under the purview of the police president of the committee," said

On the subject of drug abuse, Cox's Bazar SP ABM Masud Hossain demanded special treatment facilities for drug addicts at all government hospitals in districts to curb the problem.

Chowdhury Abdullah-Al Mamun, additional inspector general of CID, demanded lockup facilities inside CID compounds to improve interrogation and investigation of

He also demanded the immediate approval of a special force with a manpower of 200 to ensure security at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's mausoleum in Tungipara, where a large number of visitors gather every day. The proposal is pending at the home ministry.

Mamun further demanded that additional [Addl] SPs working in districts and different units should be given sports utility vehicles (SUVs) as other officers of different government department at this level are given the

An SP now posted at the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) demanded appointment of police officers to the posts of ACC commissioner and director in order to utilise the investigation expertise of

Addl DIG of the Police Headquarters, Akhteruzzaman, urged for an increase in upper level posts, saying, "If the number of posts is not increased, 33 percent of the total

The home minister gave assurances "Although the SP is the vice- that the terms of reference of the president of the committee, an recently formed review committee would be made more consistent and

## Anti-graft drive to continue: PM

people's participation was a must to check graft. She said the social menace would automatically be reduced if people could be sensitised.

She said harsh drives were simultaneously underway to bring the corrupt to book. Initiatives have also been taken to widen the use of ICT to stamp out corruption in various sectors, she added.

Hasina said the ongoing drives against militancy, terrorism, and narcotics would continue, and the police and other law enforcement agencies achieved significant success in containing militancy.

In her 30-minute speech, she called upon the people to take a fresh vow to establish a noncommunal "Sonar Bangladesh" free from hunger, poverty and illiteracy in the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She said the government wanted to establish a peaceful society where there would be no hatred and conflict and the people of all religions, castes, and creeds would live in peace.

The PM's address also touched on issues ranging from militancy and drugs to foreign relations, particularly with neighbours, the Rohingya crisis, BNP-Jamaat politics, poverty and social safety net, and campus

"Religious leaders, along with the imams of mosques, have been imparted with training so that none can derail the youth through misinterpretation of the holy Islam,

Hasina said 650 model mosques were being built across the country under government initiative. She said being a democratic

political party, Awami League is always respectful to the constitution. "We believe in the rule of law

and we also believe that the people's mandate is the only way to bring about any change in state power," the PM said, adding that her government always welcomed any peaceful democratic movement.

She, however, said the government would not tolerate destructive activities over illogical demands and warned that recurrence of burning people to death and arson attacks carried out in the past by the BNP-Jamaat would never be allowed again on the soil of Bangladesh.

"We have taken every measures

and opposition benches makes the Jatiya Sangsad vibrant."

The premier said the government

activities were centered on the interests of the common people. She said she had full confidence in Hasina said the hard-working

common people of the country are always satisfied with little and the Father of the Nation sought throughout his life to establish their rights and bring a smile to their

"Being his daughter, my only aim is to bring a smile to their face . . . keep faith in me and I want to be one

She said one year has passed after the formation of her government following the 11th parliamentary election and the government tried its best to give the people the highest

"We don't claim cent percent success in all the sectors. But we can firmly say that there were no lapses in our endeavours. We will step forward learning from the previous mistakes and experiences."

She said her government was entrusted with the task of running the country for consecutive terms since 2009 and they were running the government with a specific target.

"The target is to ensure economic emancipation for the people and establish the basic rights of all alongside improving their living standards.

premier said The "undesirable incidents" took place in one or two educational institutions last year. "But we want to say firmly that we didn't spare anyone involved in the activities. Administrative and legal actions were taken against those involved in the incidents.

She said some quarters, however, tried to gain benefit by creating anarchy and spreading rumours, but the government had taken prompt remedial measures against the misdeeds.

The PM urged all to always remain alert to such rumours.

She said, "Some valuable lives were lost in the disease despite all kinds of measures. I express deep sympathy to the bereaved families.

The premier ordered the authorities concerned to take all-out measures to check spread of the aedes mosquitoes beforehand to prevent recurrence of the disease.

necessary to make parliament She also highlighted her was spearheading a motivational effective and the participation of the government's successes in different campaign against corruption as lawmakers from both the treasury sectors, including agriculture, health, education, communication, aviation, ICT, women empowerment, tourism, power, sanitation, and sports.

Mentioning that Bangladesh's economy was now on a strong foundation, she said small shocks could not be a barrier to the way of progress.

Hasina said Bangladesh has become one of the five countries in the world in the economic advancement

She said the government has formulated a 100-year "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100" to attain the desired goal of facing the adverse impact of climate change. The 7th five-year plan is being

implemented incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into it, while the work on formulating the 8th five-year plan has also started, the PM added. She said there is a huge difference between today's Bangladesh and

its position 10 years back. "The living standards of the people have improved significantly and their purchasing capacity has increased to a great extent. the relations

neighbouring countries, the PM said Bangladesh believes in moving ahead by maintaining good relations with its neghbouring countries and the world.

Hasina said Bangladesh wants to resolve bilateral disputes through dialogues. "This is not our weakness, rather a strategy. For that reason, we didn't step into the trap despite the provocation from the Myanmar side.

She said a case has been lodged with the International Court of Justice. "We hope that we will get a formula for permanently resolving the [Rohingya] issue".

Referring to the celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the PM said the grand opening of the year-long programme would be held on March 17.

"We have already declared 2020-2021 as the 'Mujib Borsho'. The programmes of the golden jubilee of the independence and birth centenary of the Father of the Nation will continue simultaneously.

She said the celebration was not only a formality, its target was to infuse new strength into the national life and advance another step forward on the way to materialise the dream of the Father of the Nation.

# If necessary, I will stand at court

that if anything unexpected happens to Khaleda Zia, the government will [have to] shoulder all the responsibilities," the jurist said.

Khaleda's lawyer to seek her bail, he said, "Of course. As a professional lawyer, I will do so."

Asked whether he will appear as

Replying to a question regarding

denied by the Supreme Court, Kamal said, "There is a chance. We can seek bail as many times as we want."

He said denying bail is a violation of the constitution. "The demands we are placing for Khaleda Zia's treatment taken by the government to ensure her are not being met and that is also a violation of the constitution."

her bail as she has already been be held responsible, the noted constitution expert said. Replying to a query, Kamal said, "We will continue our efforts to secure

proper treatment.

He demanded immediate steps be

The steering committee also No one is beyond the constitution condemned the recent rape incident whether there is any chance of seeking and if anyone violates it, they will of the Dhaka University student.

# e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8, 2020, *POUSH 24, 1426 BS*





## BCB seeks players' consent for Pakistan tour

SPORTS REPORTER



As uncertainty continues regarding Bangladesh's possible tour of Pakistan later this month, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has already started taking players'

consent regarding the tour that includes three T20Is and two Tests later this month. The BCB asked players to sign the Government Order (G.O) -- a standard procedure before any overseas series or tournaments -- and as per BCB sources it

has emerged that a number of cricketers

have already consented for the tour. BCB President Nazmul Hassan met with three senior cricketers of the team on Tuesday evening to get their final overview on the matter. However, the final decision regarding the tour will be taken in a BCB meeting scheduled for January 12.

"We are just sharing the information with the players, explaining the situation, briefing about the security advice and government's position," BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told reporters

"Different opinions came from the players, but nothing is formal. There is no final decision about the tour yet," added

It was also learned that the BCB approached the players for their consent

to play at least one Test in Pakistan despite previously mentioning that the board would only consider playing the three T20Is and that too depended on whether the board could form a good team for the tour as a number of players and coaching staff were unwilling to travel to Pakistan.

And while a number of players already consented for the tour, it was learned that Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfigur Rahim informed the board about his intentions of not touring with

According to the sources, the board was under pressure to agree for a complete tour as a number of Bangladeshi players had already registered for the upcoming fifth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) to be played from February 20 to March 22 and for which the players would have to stay in Pakistan for about a month.

However, a cricketer, requesting anonymity, clarified that the formalities regarding overseas and franchise-based tournaments are completed by their respective agents and sometimes without full knowledge of the players' availability.

"Firstly, the agreement is signed by our agent and they complete all the formalities on our behalf when it comes to making us available for any franchise-based tournament and then again we cannot play the PSL as we have home series against Zimbabwe at that time," said the player.

## Gibbs's language comments make no sense: Fletcher

SPORTS REPORTER

Sylhet Thunder captain Andre Fletcher has brushed off claims of communication problems made by coach Herschelle Gibbs, who had said that it was difficult communicating English in Bangladeshi cricketers.

Former South Africa batsman Gibbs said last Wednesday that local players do not understand English properly, which had been caused him problems while coaching a Sylhet team that ended the season with 11 losses out of 12 games.

"A lot of the local players don't understand English, so it is difficult for me to make points all the time. It is frustrating, Gibbs told reporters on January 1 in Sylhet.

After their season-ending loss to Cumilla Warriors in Mirpur yesterday, Fletcher was asked whether he faced similar communication issues.

"I am not the coach. I have had a very good rapport with the guys; they understand me very well. It's very surprising to hear that from him [Gibbs], being a coach. The players, as I said... we have to take responsibility for our game.

"We can't blame anyone. I believe the head coach of Bangladesh [South African Russell Domingo| speaks English, so I think all the Bangladeshi players understand English. So, to make a statement like that doesn't make any sense to me," Flecther

Sylhet concluded the seven-team BBPL yesterday on a record low, managing to win just one game in 12 matches. Sylhet Royals in 2012, Chittagong Vikings in 2015 and Khulna Titans in 2018-19 had two wins each and they were the worst results in a BPL season till now.

# Suspect Sylhet continue downturn

SPORTS REPORTER



While their on-field performance was not remarkable in the least, there was much else about Sylhet Thunder's ongoing Bangabandhu

Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) campaign that have set tongues wagging, and not in the good sense. Sylhet ended their campaign yesterday on a record low, becoming the only team in the tournament's history to win just one match in an entire season.

Instead of exploits on the field, discussions surrounding Sylhet were more about the chaos, suspicions of underhanded workings and differences between the core group of players and the management from the first day of the

At the end of a horrid season, Sylhet captain Andre Fletcher met Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury with the 'intention to report on happenings within the team' that the cricketer believed was not right.

It is understood that Fletcher, who took over as the captain following Mosaddek Hossain's injury, first contacted a few friends in the Bangladesh cricket fraternity and was looking for an opportunity to speak to BCB President Nazmul Hasan.

Nizamuddin confirmed meeting with the West Indian but claimed that it was for general

## **SCORES IN BRIEF**

SYLHET THUNDER: 141 for 5 in 20 overs (Fletcher 22, Mazid 45, Charles 26, Mendis 23; Al-Amin 2-30, Wiese 2-31)

CUMILLA WARRIORS: 142 for 5 in 19.1 overs (Malan 58, Soumya 53 not out; Nayeem 3-21) Result: Cumilla won by 5 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Dawid Malan.



Sylhet Thunder skipper Andre Fletcher (L) cut a frustrated figure at the end of a wretched BBPL season, and particularly after losing their last match from a winning position against Cumilla Warriors in Mirpur vesterday.

Krishmar Santokie bowled a gigantic wide and followed it with a huge no-ball against Chattogram Challengers, raising suspicions of untoward intentions. betterment of the tournament in the coming

Even Sylhet team director Tanjil Chowdhury, one of seven BCB directors appointed attached to each teams, was quoted in the media raising questions over suspicious activities and also

Fletcher met me and shared his observations of the tournament [BBPL] regarding facilities, organisation and his experiences for the betterment of the tournament

**NIZAMUDDIN CHOWDHURY** 

in the coming days

BCB CEO

revealed that he had an argument with the team sponsors over irrelevant player selection during the players' draft. Tanjil however later clarified in a social media post that there were

The BCB's Anti-Corruption Unit even interrogated Santokie over the no-ball, but the anti-corruption unit had not found evidence against the Windies seamer.

But things remained fishy for Sylhet throughout the tournament, whether their playing eleven selections or bowling changes that at times surprised the TV commentators.

One such instance took place yesterday as Sylhet went lost by five wickets against Cumilla as left- arm spinner Nazmul Islam bowled just one over -- his first over of the game in the 17th over of the innings - while part-timer Johnson Charles bowled 3.1 overs. Cumilla won with five balls to spare after at one point needing 87 off 48 balls.

Sylhet fielded three foreigners in their playing eleven, leaving out one from the quota of four foreign players in the playing eleven yesterday, which also raised questions over the quality of the team and their intent.

#### **SHORT CORNER**

#### **Under-19s' practice** match postponed

The practice match between Bangladesh Under-19 and their Afghan counterparts ahead of the upcoming ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup, scheduled to begin across South Africa from January 17, was postponed due to a wet outfield at Senwes Park, Potchefstroom yesterday.

Bangladesh team manager AEM Kawsar informed The Daily Star that both teams agreed to play the practice match today at the same venue. The Young Tigers, who arrived in Potchefstroom on January 4, are scheduled to play the last of their practice matches against the Potchefstroom Under-19 side --Sports Reporter

#### SA back ICC plan for **four-day Tests**

South Africa have come out in support of four-day Test matches, refuting reports that said they would oppose the plan.

The International Cricket Council is set to discuss the idea of making tests four-day games to ease a crammed international

calendar and reduce player workload. England have said they will support the idea after 2023 while Australia are to give serious consideration to the plan.

Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reported that South Africa would oppose the idea, despite the country becoming the first to host a four-day Test when they played Zimbabwe in 2017.

'In view of an unsourced and misleading report in the media this morning, please be advised that it is Cricket South Africa's official policy to support four-day Test match cricket," Cricket South Africa said in a statement. "We, in fact, hosted the first official fourday Test match between ourselves and Zimbabwe a couple of years ago."-- Reuters

#### Burns to miss SL tour

England opener Rory Burns will be out of action for up to four months after ankle surgery and will miss the two-Test tour of Sri Lanka in March, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Tuesday.

Burns was injured on Thursday while playing football to warm up for training ahead of the second Test against South Africa, and was ruled out of the rest of

"England opening batsman Rory Burns has undergone successful surgery on ruptured ligaments in his left ankle, the ECB said in a statement. -- REUTERS

#### Fahad misses out on GM norm

SPORTS REPORTER

yesterday.

IM Fahad Rahman narrowly missed out on a GM norm following a draw against Indonesian IM Taher Theolifus in the ninth and final round of 5th International Grandmaster Chess Tournament in Mumbai yesterday.

Fahad needed a victory over Theolifus in the final round to earn his first GM norm, but the draw meant he earned six points from nine matches, missing out on the norm by half a point. Fahad won five games. Drawing two and losing two.

The youngster finished 12th in tiebreaking system as 12 players secured six points each. GM Ziaur Rahman finished 22nd with the same number of points.

A total of as 152 players including 25 GMs took part in the tournament.

## A winning punt from beyond the grave

AFP, London

"Fletcher met me and shared his observations

of the tournament [BBPL] regarding facilities,

organisation and his experiences for the

days," Nizamuddin told The Daily Star

of the BBPL when Sylhet's West Indies seamer

It all started right from the opening game



Dom Sibley made his maiden Test century for England in the second Test against South Africa but he had already

(\$28,500) thanks to his late grandfather Kenneth MacKenzie's faith in his talent. MacKenzie died in 2011 four months after placing two bets on

scooped his family a record £21,600

150/1 then at 66/1 -- that he would one day play for his country. That talent-spotting bore fruit when the 24-year-old opening batsman made his Test debut against

his then-teenage grandson -- first at

New Zealand in November last year. His family had no idea they could benefit from a posthumous payout until MacKenzie's daughter Christine Sibley, Dom's mother, went to a William Hill betting shop

"He'd have been so proud of Dom's achievement, so watching him was tinged with sadness, but he'd also have been delighted at

in Surrey, south East of England.

pulling off the bet at massive odds," she told The Times. Mackenzie Although

something special in his grandson when he was just five he bided his time till he was 16 before placing the first bet "It was unreal that Dom's





Christine Sibley, England batsman Dom Sibley's mother, proudly displays two slips from winning bets made by her father, who died in 2011, that Dom would play for England. PHOTO: COLLECTED

by the time he

was seven or

eight he was

playing for

the under-

9s and that

grampi saw the potential and invested in the bet -- he was very, very keen and passionate about cricket," said Christine.

"Dom was five when he originally

said he could play for England --

enquiries were made at William Hill about the odds.

"He went back a few years later and told them he thought the odds were a bit skinny, but they honoured the bet," added the 57-year-old.

**Premier League** Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium, Dhaka Khulna v Cumilla Time: 1:30pm

Dhaka v Rangpur Time: 6:30pm

#### **CHELSEA FEEL** THE BLUES OVER LOSS

Chelsea made a loss of almost £100 million last year despite owner Roman Abramovich pouring nearly a quarter of a billion pounds into the Premier League club, their figures for 2018/19 released yesterday show. Amongst their expenditure was yet another payout to a sacked manager -- this time £26.6 million to Italian Antonio Conte. "Exceptional items in the current year of £26.6 million relate to changes in respect of the men's team management and coaching staff, together with associated legal costs," read Chelsea's latest set of published accounts, for the year ending June 30, 2019. The club has spent £90 million in compensation to Conte and his predecessors since Abramovich took over in 2004. The club also invested £280.6m in their playing squad during 2018-19, with the acquisitions of Kepa Arrizabalaga, Christian Pulisic, Mateo Kovacic and Jorginho all included in their latest figures. In all Abramovich, who has at times been rumoured to be disenchanted and looking to sell, put in £247 million of his own money over the course of the year -- ending in June 2019 -- with the club still ending £96.6m in the red.



# Quality foreigners make Fed Cup competitive



Ending the dominance of traditional powerhouses, the just-concluded Federation Cup produced a new champion, with big-budget Bashundhara Kings beating minnows Rahmatganj in an entertaining

final on Sunday. The season's curtain-raising tournament had its fair share of upsets, with three-time champions Sheikh Jamal and big-spenders Sheikh Russel KC eliminated from the group stage. The other big teams such as 11-time champions Abahani, 10-time champions Mohammedan, Saif SC and Chattogram Abahani fell victim to either minnows Rahmatganj or promoted Bangladesh

Those upsets reflected how competitive the 22-match tournament was, giving an indication of how competitive the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League could be.

The Federation Cup saw 51 goals scored, out of which 34 were by the foreign players. The number of goals was, however, 23 less than the season's Federation Cup, but that was mostly due to the presence of quality foreign defenders and compact defence of the teams.

Coaches of different clubs admitted that the tournament was very tough and the standard of play increased due to the presence of quality foreign players, even at small clubs.

"The federation cup was overall a good tournament. Teams like Rahmatganj, Bangladesh Police, Mohammedan surprised other teams. Bashundhara were very consistent and deserved to win but Abahani were disappointing as we lost in the quarterfinals. We should have done better," Abahani coach Mario Lemos said. "The League is going to be tougher. Every team got stronger, also this year we allowed to five foreigners. It's going to be more challenging this time."

"The Federation Cup was, as expected, competitive as the small teams played really well and did not any room to the big teams. The small teams are getting closer to the big teams in terms of strength," said Chattogram Abahani coach Maruful Haque. "The standard of play has improved as all



Throughout the recently concluded TVS Federation Cup, foreign recruits were vital to each team's success over the course of the competition as players like Bangladesh Police's American forward Sydney Rivera (2nd from L) proved their worth time and again.

teams played very calculative football."

"Every team, from small to big, tried to sign quality foreign players in centre-back, defensive midfield and attacking positions. Those players had good influence in maintaining tempo of the matches aside from the influence of coaches. That's why the Federation Cup turned more competitive than the last season," said Sheikh Russel KC coach Saiful Bari Titu.

However, Mohammedan coach Sean Lane was not prepared to judge the performance of the teams based on the Federation Cup only.

"I think it is difficult to judge the season just on the basis of the Federation cup performances. Many teams started training late and all teams were at different stages of fitness. I think the league will be closer than last season," Lane said. "Mohammedan is in a rebuilding phase. We want to get a good start in the league and we certainly

want to do better than last year.'

Lane, however, believes big-budget teams will eventually prevail. "Most of the new clubs performed well in the Fed Cup, but I still expect the big clubs with big budget to be on top of the

Maruful also believes the minnows will lose out in the long run while the big clubs will remain in the title race.

"Management is a big factor in the league because small teams are eager to complete the league within a short period while their players are focused on avoiding relegation, but players of big teams stay focused on the title race," explained the UEFA A licence holder.

Though Maruful believes new teams may emerge as title contenders, Titu feels the race will be confined to within the big teams who have previously won the title.

## India take 1-0 lead

AFP, Indore





Fast bowler Navdeep Saini led a disciplined Indian bowling performance to set up a sevenwicket win over Sri Lanka in the second Twenty20 international in

Saini returned impressive figures of 2-18 while fellow paceman Shardul Thakur claimed three wickets to help restrict Sri Lanka to 142 for nine, a total the hosts surpassed in 17.3 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The opening match was rained off.

KL Rahul, who top-scored with 45, and Shikhar Dhawan, who made 32, on his return from injury, put on 71 runs for the opening wicket to lay the platform for India's comfortable chase on a good batting pitch.

Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga sent back the two openers as he bowled Rahul with a googly and then dismissed Dhawan lbw after a successful Sri Lanka review.

Shreyas Iyer, who scored 34 before falling to paceman Lahiru Kumara, and skipper Virat Kohli, who made an unbeaten 30 and hit the winning six, put on a key 51-run stand for the third wicket.

But it was the Indian bowlers who set the platform for victory after Kohli won the toss and elected to field first. Sri Lanka kept losing wickets at regular intervals despite

a brisk start but it was wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav's two key strikes including Kusal Perera, for 28, that further put a lid on the islanders' scoring. Saini, who bowled opener Danushka Gunathilaka for

20, claimed Bhanuka Rajapaksa caught behind for nine as Sri Lanka slipped to 104 for five. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah also took a wicket on his

return from a four-month injury lay-off by bowling Dasun Shanaka with a slower ball. Thakur returned in his final over and the team's 19th to

rattle the lower-order with three strikes including two in successive deliveries. Hasaranga signed off the innings with three successive

fours off Bumrah but his effort was not enough.

The third and final match is on Friday in Pune. SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 142 for 9 in 20 overs (Gunathilaka 20, Fernando 22, Perera 34; Thakur 3-23, Saini 2-18, Yadav 2-38) INDIA: 144 for 3 in 17.3 overs (Rahul 45, Dhawan 32, Iyer 34, Kohli 30 not out; De Silva 2-30) Result: India won by 7 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Navdeep Saini.

BANGABANDHII GOLD CUP

#### Palestine up first for hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Bangladesh will square off against defending champions Palestine in the opening match of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup on January 15, according to the fixtures released yesterday.

Bangladesh will play their second and final group match on January 19 against Sri Lanka, who will play their first match against Palestine on January 17.

In Group B matches, Mauritius will take on Burundi on January 16 before playing their last group match on January 20 against Seychelles, who will square off against Burundi in their first match on January 18.

The first semifinal between Group A champions and Group B runners-up will take place on January 22 while Group B champions and Group A runners-up will play the second semifinal on the

following day. The final of the sixth edition of the tournament will take place on January 25. All matches will kick off at 5:00pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Meanwhile, the national team players, except for seven Bashundhara Kings and captain Jamal Bhuiyan, reported to manger Satyajit Das Rupu yesterday for training camp, which will start today at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium. Head coach Jamie Day is scheduled to return to Dhaka while Jamal is expected to join the camp tomorrow.

## **BSPA** sports awards on Jan 20

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricketer Shakib Al Hasan, archer Ruman Sana and footballer Jamal Bhuiyan have been nominated for the best sportsman of the year award by Bangladesh Sports Press Association (BSPA).

The announcement was made yesterday at a press conference regarding the Kool-BSPA Sports award ceremony, which will be held at a hotel in the capital on January 20.

BSPA also nominated Shakib, Ruman, Jamal, karateka Marzan Akter Priya, weightlifter Mabia Akter Simanta, fencer Fatema Mujib in popular category award as sports fans will choose one of them through online voting, which will start on January 10. Fans can also vote for any sports star

out of this list. BSPA general secretary Sudipta Ahmed Ananda informed that the association will award 16 sports personalities in 15 categories at the press conference where BSPA president Mustafa Mamun and sponsors Square Toiletries' senior manager of marketing Fazal Mahmud Rony were present.



Ben Stokes (2nd from R) collapses in excitement as his three-wicket spell helped England beat South Africa by 189 runs in their second Test in Cape Town yesterday.

## Stokes helps Eng level series



Ben Stokes produced an explosive spell of bowling as England beat South Africa by 189 runs inside the last hour of the fifth day of the second Test at Newlands yesterday.

The win levelled the four-match World Test championship series. South Africa were bowled out for 248,

with the last wicket falling when only 8.2 overs were left in the match. Stokes took the last three wickets in the

space of 14 balls to clinch the victory. Only three wickets fell before tea as South Africa defended grimly after starting the day on 126 for two after being set an improbable 438 to win.

Opening batsman Pieter Malan, making his debut, made 84 in 369 minutes and 288 balls before he fell to Sam Curran.

It meant England needed five wickets in the last session.

Stokes produced an inspired spell to have Dwaine Pretorius and Anrich Nortje caught in the slips before he took the final wicket when Vernon Philander was caught

**SCORES IN BRIEF** ENGLAND: First innings 269 & second

innings 391 for 8 decl. SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 223 & second innings 248 all out (Malan 84, De Kock 50; Stokes, 3-35, Anderson 2-23) **Result:** England won by 189 runs. Player-of-the-match: Ben Stokes

## Lukaku helps Inter back to top



Inter Milan forward Romelu Lukaku scored twice, the first from a run which started inside his own half, to lead his side to an entertaining 3-1 win at Napoli which kept them top of Serie SERIE A A on Monday.

Lautaro Martinez was also on target as Inter claimed their first away win against Napoli Inter lead the standings on goal difference from

Juventus, who beat Cagliari 4-0 earlier on Monday, with both teams on 45 points. The head-to-head record will be used once the two sides have met twice. Napoli, on the other hand, suffered their second defeat

Ancelotti as coach and stayed eighth with 24 points despite showing flashes of their old style. Napoli had chances before Lukaku put Inter ahead after 13 minutes. The Belgian, who now has 14 league goals this

term, intercepted a pass just inside his own half, charged forward and scored with a shot which went in off the post. His second in the 33rd minute came with a helping hand from Napoli goalkeeper Alex Meret, who seemed to have Lukaku's shot covered but allowed it to slip through

Napoli kept plugging away and Arkadiusz Milik tapped in Jose Callejon's low cross to pull one back in the 39th minute. The Pole should then have equalised when he had a free header just before halftime but directed his effort

well wide of the goal. Napoli continued to press after the break but, despite some flowing moves, they failed to find the final pass and Inter went further ahead just after the hour.

Matias Vecino floated over a cross from the right which Napoli defender Kostas Manolas managed to intercept but, in doing so, laid the ball off for Martinez to score his ninth league goal of the season.



Inter Milan striker Romelu Lukaku celebrates after scoring his second goal in a Serie A encounter with Napoli, which the Nerazzurri won 3-1, at the San Paolo stadium in Naples on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

Participants of the Mujib Borsho Cup Amateur Golf Championship pose for a photograph with the organisers at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. A total of 205 golfers from eight countries will take part in the championship, which will get underway today. PHOTO: COLLECTED

golf inaugurated

The Mujib Borsho Cup Amateur Golf Championship will get underway today at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka wit 205 golfers including 183 Bangladeshi golfers and 22 golfers from seven other countries taking part.

Mujib Borsho Cup

The event, named so to commemorate the 100th birth centenary of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was inaugurated at the KGC by the State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel.

Sponsored by the Orion Group for the fourth time, the tournament originally known as Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship, is being held at the KGC since 1982.

A press briefing in this regard was held at the KGC where details of the event were disclosed. Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal will give away prizes among the winners after the end of the fourth round on January 11.

## **Career Opportunity**

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**Human Resources Division** 



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## **Up against** the wall

Without wages, financial benefits, workers of staterun jute mills in Khulna living in abject poverty

MD Shahnawaz Khan Chandan

"Take our dead bodies, give us our money back", "We want to eat, we want to live", "Give us food or we shall eat the constitution" -- these are the slogans imprinted on banners hanging all over Khalishpur.

This part of Khulna city is host to nine state-run jute mills.

The banners were hoisted by workers of these jute mills during their recent weekslong protests demanding unpaid wages and other financial benefits. The protesting workers say they have not received wages for at least six weeks, and retired workers of the mills have not received gratuity and provident funds since 2013.

Jute workers protesting for unpaid wages is nothing new in Khalishpur area,









A family of five lives in this small dark room in the ramshackle quarters for workers of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills Limited in Khulna's Khalishpur area. The quarters have been left unrepaired for more than half a century. Top right, due to a lack of space, workers have occupied this half-ruined building which was previously used as an auditorium for screening films. Bottom right, large holes in the ceilings of this building mean its residents have to move between floors using bamboo ladders poking through the holes. The photos were taken last month.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON

## Alarming rise in violence against kids

902 raped, 342 killed last year, says Manusher **Jonno Foundation** STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Murder, rape, and other forms of violence against children increased significantly last year from the previous one, says a report by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

At last 342 children were killed in violent incidents involving torture, abduction, and rape last year, according to

Besides, some 902 children -- aged up to 18 -- fell victim to rape across the

In 2018, at least 272 children were killed in such incidents, and some 356 were raped, says the report.

The MJF, a non-government organisation, prepared the report based on news published in eight national dailies.

The findings were unveiled at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

According to the report, some 433 children were killed in road crashes and 252 drowned last year. In 2018, road

DISPOSAL OF 35 LAKH PENDING CASES

## Cops for joint meet with judges, PPs

Rab DG places proposal at closed-door confce with home boss on 3rd day of Police Week

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police yesterday suggested a joint meeting between lower court judges, public prosecutors and police to identify ways to dispose of around 35 lakh cases pending trial in the lower courts.

Director General of Rab, Benazir Ahmed, suggested this course of Referring to committees formed in December in all districts to review

the law and order situation, prevent various disruptive activities and review cases, he was quoted to have said, "You have made the committees, you m more such committees, but the problem will not l The five-member district committees are headed by a district deputy

commissioner or district magistrate. He was speaking at a closed-door meeting of senior police officers with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on the third day of the ongoing Police Week at Rajarbagh Police Lines. Senior Secretary to the home ministry's public security division, Mostafa Kamal Uddin, also attended the meeting

chaired by IGP Mohammad Javed Patwary. "At lower courts, 35 lakh cases have been pending. We have to find out why such a huge number of cases are pending trial for a long time? Who or which system is responsible? Why have the trials of those cases not been completed," queried Benazir, according to sources at the meeting.

The Rab chief requested the home boss and the senior secretary to call up all public prosecutors, judges and police to find ways to solve the

"Forming committees will not resolve the problem," Benazir was

### If necessary, I will stand at court for Khaleda Zia

Says Dr Kamal STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamal Hossain vesterday said the government will be held responsible if anything untoward happens to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who has been in jail since February 8, 2018.

Expressing concern over Khaleda's health, the convener of Jatiya Oikyafront demanded immediate release.

"From media reports, we came to know that the former prime minister has been in jail in critical condition. We, on behalf of Jatiya Oikyafront, are expressing concern as her physical condition has deteriorated," he told journalists after the Oikyafront's steering committee meeting at his Motijheel chamber.

> "We want to say clearly SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Nasa finds new Earth-size planet in habitable zone



AFP, Washington

Nasa said Monday that its planet hunter satellite TESS had discovered an Earth-sized world within the habitable range of its star, which could allow the presence of liquid water.

The planet, named "TOI 700 d", is relatively close to Earth -- only 100 light years away, Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory announced during the annual American Astronomical Society meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"TESS was designed and launched specifically to find Earth-sized planets orbiting nearby stars," said Paul Hertz, Nasa astrophysics division director.

TESS initially misclassified the star, which meant the planets appeared larger and hotter than they actually are. But several amateur astronomers,

### NIRBHAYA RAPE CASE 4 convicts to be hanged on Jan 22

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian court yesterday ordered the execution on January 22 of four men convicted of the infamous 2012 gang rape and murder of a Delhi university student.

people Six originally charged with taking part in the brutal attack aboard a city bus, but one was released after a brief detention as a juvenile, while another committed suicide while awaiting trial.

Delhi Court Judge Satish SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-30 7-00 JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-30

### Another cold wave grips the North

STAR REPORT

After around a week-long gap, the country is once again under the spell of a cold wave, which is causing people to suffer.

People, especially in the northern districts, are facing difficulties to get out of home for work amid biting cold coupled with thick fog.

In last week of December, the country witnessed a cold spell and on December 29, the mercury fell to 4.5 degrees Celsius in Tentulia of Panchagrah -- the lowest recorded temperature in

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Meteorological Department officials yesterday said the ongoing cold wave may continue for the next two or three days.

"Furthermore, light rain may occur in some parts of the country, especially in the northern region, on Thursday and Friday, said Abdul Hamid, a meteorologist of the office. Meanwhile, a Met



Defying a ban, CNG- and battery-run three-wheelers ply the Dhaka-Mawa highway in Keraniganj. Such violations of traffic rules often lead to road crashes. The photo was taken on Saturday.

ANISUR RAHMAN

## Occupied Palestinian Territories

## Israel approves 1,936 new settler homes: watchdog

Israel has approved the construction of 1,936 new settler homes on occupied Palestinian territories, watchdog Peace

The green light was given on Sunday and Monday, Peace Now said, adding that 89 percent of the new homes will be erected in "settlements that Israel may have to evacuate under a future peace agreement with the Palestinians".

The watchdog says settlement building has vastly increased under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ally US President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu has been fighting for his political survival faced with corruption charges and after failing to form a new coalition government following April and September

The premier, who was indicted in November on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust, is now facing a third general election in March.

"Despite lacking a clear mandate, for this caretaker government it's business as usual -- continue the massive promotion of harmful and unnecessary construction in occupied territory and in places that Israel will have to evacuate," said Peace Now in a statement.

"Netanyahu continues to sabotage the prospects of peace, dragging Israel into an anti-democratic one-state reality resembling apartheid."

According to Peace Now, 1,150 of the units were approved for "deposit" or phase one of the planning process.

A total of 786 units received final endorsement, including 258 that are to be built in Haresha, an "illegal