

# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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## Anti-graft drive to continue: PM

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

Bss, Dhaka

Pledging to keep up the 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 good.

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

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

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## Iran promises US 'nightmare'

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

AGENCIES

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.

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কেউ আমাদের দাবাতে পারবেনা

Star MOTTO ON MUJIB BORSHO



PHOTO: COLLECTED

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 lounge.

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

the newly freed founding father of Bangladesh at Chaklala airport in Rawalpindi.

Bhutto took over power from

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Star INITIATIVE ON MUJIB BORSHO

IN COLLABORATION WITH



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 footage of the CCTV cameras installed in the

area near the crime scene, said police 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 other districts.

The Detective Branch of police is investigating the case. Several other police units were assisting

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

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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.



## Chattogram regain top spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Fifties from Imrul Kayes and Lendl Simmons helped Chattogram Challengers romp to a seven-wicket victory against Rajshahi Royals and regain their top spot in the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) under lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Considering Chris

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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 candidates.

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

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## PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS



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.

Nazmul used to visit the building from time to time

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## 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 yesterday.

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 government.

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

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## DHAKA TODAY

### REPORT LAUNCH

Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh  
Organiser: Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum  
Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity  
Time: 10:30am

Organiser: Centre for Governance Studies  
Venue: BLS, Eskaton Garden Road  
Time: 9:30am

### RALLY

Protesting rape of DU student  
Organiser: Bangladesh Students' Union  
Venue: Raju Memorial Sculpture  
Time: 3:30pm

### CHARITY CONCERT

Concert for Usnota  
Organiser: Bangladesh Student Council  
Venue: TSC, University of Dhaka  
Time: 12pm

### LECTURE

Flow Generation by Economist  
Nicolu Andreula

### EXHIBITION

Unveiling The Truth by Kazi Habib Hasan  
Venue: Dwip Gallery  
Lalmatia  
Time: 3pm



It's been a little colder in Dhaka over the past couple of nights, making the lives of people living on streets more 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 official's termination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 officials.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman set the date yesterday 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

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

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

From now on, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will issue fitness clearance to cars, SUVs and minibuses 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.

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## CORRUPTION CASES

### Former AL lawmaker Awal, wife get anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 khas land.

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 years.

Awal's wife Laila Parvin was also made accused in the case.

In the second case, Awal was accused of illegally grabbing a government land near Swarupkathi upazila bungalow and building another bungalow there. He also constructed Awal Foundation and Library on it.

According to the statement of the third case, Awal grabbed a 44 decimal pond known as "Rajar Pukur" in Pirojpur town and erected a boundary wall to keep it in his possession.

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, sub-inspector (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.

ব্রিটিশ কোম্পানি কর্তৃক প্রফেসর ডাঃ একেএম ফজলুল হক এর কলোরেস্টাল

### সাজরীর উপর ডকুমেন্টারী ফিল্ম তৈরী

বিশ্বখ্যাত কলোরেস্টাল সার্জন **অধ্যাপক ডাঃ একেএম ফজলুল হক**, প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবঃ) বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কলোরেস্টাল সাজরী বিভাগ, এর কলোরেস্টাল সাজরীর দক্ষতা ও নৈপুণ্য (Expertise) বিশ্বব্যাপী ছড়িয়ে দেয়ার জন্য বিশ্বখ্যাত ব্রিটিশ আর্টসিয়াল রিয়্যালিটি কোম্পানি "ন্য মেডিকেল রিয়্যালিটিজ লিমিটেড" **অধ্যাপক ডাঃ হকের** রোগী দেখার আধুনিক কলাকৌশল ও অপারেশনের পদ্ধতির উপর ডকুমেন্টারী ফিল্ম তৈরীর জন্য তিন সদস্য বিশিষ্ট উচ্চ ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন একটি টিম ০৭/১২/২০১৯ ইং থেকে ১১/১২/২০১৯ ইং পর্যন্ত ঢাকার **ইডেন মাস্টি-কেয়ার হাসপাতালে অধ্যাপক ডাঃ হকের** বিভিন্ন ধরনের অপারেশন আত্মাধুনিক ৩৬০° ভিডিও রেকর্ড করেন। ধারণকৃত ভিডিও রেকর্ড থেকে ফিল্ম ও ডকুমেন্টারী তৈরী করে সারা বিশ্বের মেডিকেল ছাত্র, শিক্ষক ও সার্জনদের শিক্ষার জন্য আত্মাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির (Virtual Reality) মাধ্যমে বিশ্বব্যাপী প্রচার করা হবে। কলোরেস্টাল সাজরীতে নিয়োজিত চিকিৎসকবৃন্দ পৃথিবীর যেকোন প্রান্তে পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা, ফিশার, পাইলোনাইডাল সাইনাস, রেকটাল প্রোল্যাপস, কোলন ও রেস্তাম ক্যান্সারের লেপারোস্কোপিক সাজরীরসহ আত্মাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির অপারেশনসমূহ শিখতে পারবেন। লেপারোস্কোপিক, কোলন ও রেস্তাম ক্যান্সার অপারেশনে **ডাঃ আসিফ আলমাস হক**, এফসিপিএস, এফআরসিএস (ইংল্যান্ড ও গ্লাসগো), **অধ্যাপক ডাঃ হকের** সহায়তা করেন।

এ উপলক্ষে ০৮/১২/২০১৯ ইং তারিখে এক সংবাদ সম্মেলনে **অধ্যাপক ডাঃ হক** ও সফররত মেডিকেল রিয়্যালিটিজ কোম্পানির **মি. মেথিউ লেদারবারো** (প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা), **মি. জেইমস পেনজি** (প্রধান অপারেটিভ কর্মকর্তা), **মি. সিয়ান ক্যারিক** (প্রধান টেকনিক্যাল কর্মকর্তা) বক্তব্য রাখেন। এ সংক্রান্ত খবর বিভিন্ন টেলিভিশন ও সংবাদপত্রে বিশেষ গুরুত্বের সাথে প্রচারিত হয়।

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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.

PHOTO: PID

## MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

# 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 Ibrahim.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Gulshan Police Station on August 16, 2011 against Hafiz and his wife Mafruzat 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 its cancellation.

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 Mafruzat and other accused following the HC order.

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## DAMAGE TO SCHOOL

# UCEP receives Tk 1 crore in compensation

CITY DESK

Ahyan Hotel & Resort Ltd authorities have given Tk 1 crore to UCEP Bangladesh as compensation for damages caused to a technical school due to construction of the hotel in Khulna, says a press release.

Muhammad Ferdous Bhuiyan, general manager of Ahyan Hotel & Resort Ltd, handed a cheque to Parveen Mahmud, chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh, at the conference room of Vasstakalpa Architects Ltd in Khulna yesterday.

Among others, JI Bhowmik, vice chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh, its executive director Tahsinah Ahmed, AQ Siddiqui and Architect Mobashsher Hossain, were present on the occasion.

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## 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

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

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

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

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

He is also the secretary of Achintapur union unit of Awami League.

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 him.

At one stage, Antor started slapping him indiscriminately,

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## AIR QUALITY INDEX

# Dhaka air second worst yet again

UNB, Dhaka

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 Pakistan'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 since Thursday.

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

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

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 the market.

But it started soaring again after light rain hit the country from Thursday and reached Tk 200 a kg.

## POLICE WEEK 2020 605 cops get IGP badges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 605 police members were awarded "IGP's Exemplary Good Service Badge" yesterday, in recognition of their performance in the last one year.

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 in phases.

"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 all distribution utilities to implement a prepayment meter system, with a view to reducing non-technical 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



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: SHEIKH NASIR

## 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 years 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 speaker.

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 PhD.

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, Lalmonirhat

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 on Friday morning. The accident occurred at Muktagacha 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 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.

## How many rape cases are too many?

Time to put patriarchy on trial

WE 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

WE 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 verdict from the HC.

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

### NO STRINGS ATTACHED



AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

EVEN before we can catch our breath as we enter a new year, a new decade, rape continues to haunt us, reminding us of 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 her.

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-year-old 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

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 (Ducusu) 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

### POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



SALEEMUL HUQ

THE Climate Vulnerable Forum (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 high-level 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. 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

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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.

FILE PHOTO: PID

global leaders wished to protect all people on the planet.

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

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 two-year 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 shifting our focus from our vulnerability to our resilience. Perhaps we can also weigh the possibility of changing the name of the group from Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) to Climate Resilient Forum (CRF)?

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

the next two years, there are a number of things that should be taken into consideration.

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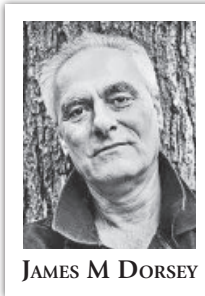
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Saleemul Huq is Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University, Bangladesh.

KILLING QASSEM SOLEIMANI

Rule of law or rule of the jungle?



JAMES M DORSEY

INTERNATIONAL 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.

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.



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.

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.

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 minority.

2010s: The Decade of Protests

FAHMIDA ZAMAN

AS 2020 begins with news of escalating tensions between the United States 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.

Facebook, Twitters, WhatsApp and YouTube have played a significant role in galvanising protests. These technological developments have made it easier to spread outrage, facilitate information dissemination, and create informal networks among large numbers of people.

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.

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.

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.



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

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS/ZOHRHA BENSEMRA

QUOTABLE Quote section featuring a portrait of Edith Wharton and the quote: 'There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.'

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH section containing crossword clues and a grid.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS section containing a crossword grid with previous answers filled in.

BEETLE BAILEY and BABY BLUES comic strips by Mort Walker and Kirkman & Scott.

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





**WHAT'S ON**

**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: His Dream World  
 Venue: Shilpangan, Dhanmondi  
 Date: December 27 – January 11  
 Time: 3 pm – 8 pm

**Workshop**  
 Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo  
 Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur  
 Date: January 25, 2020  
 Time: 11 am – 6 pm

**Cultural Festival**  
 Title: Bangladesh Shanskritik Utsab 2020  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: January 3-23, 2020  
 Time: 4 pm - 8 pm

**Musical Evening**  
 Title: Plugged Out IV - One Night Stand  
 Venue: Counter Culture Club, Dhanmondi  
 Date: January 31, 2020  
 Time: 5 pm onwards  
 Tickets: BDT 300

**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition  
 Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall, Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Dec 17 – Feb 15  
 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.



PHOTO: COURTESY

You have won the National Film Award for the first time, that too for your first film. How are you feeling after this achievement?

Receiving the National Award, that too for my first film, was truly an honour for me as an artiste. Two of my films, Haldaa and Chitkini, was released on the same day. Chitkini won the Meril Prothom Alo Critic's Choice Award for Best Actress and Haldaa as brought me a National Award. I thank my director Tauquir Ahmed, and all my co-stars and crew.

Where do you see your acting career heading?  
 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 television.

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, respectively.

# Minar's 'Jhoom' crosses 40 million views

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Jhoom 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 Ahmed Rana.

# 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 Fakhru 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.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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 - 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

the modern aspects of the city, the 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 theme.

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

explores a broad range of elements. It is the first edition of a series of exhibitions, 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.



**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন দমন ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১ এর কার্যালয়  
রংপুর

**নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারের অধিকারিত জনা জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন দমন ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১, রংপুর এর সিডান কার মে-৩৩৩৩ মেট্রো-১২-৯৯২২ নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত সীলমোহর যুক্ত বামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র সিডিউল আণাঐ ১৪/০১/২০২০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন প্রতিটি সিডিউল ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা (অফেনতযোগ্য) নাদনমুলে অত্র ট্রাইব্যুনাল হতে জর করা যাবে। দরপত্র আণাঐ ১৬/০১/২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ০২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দাখিল করা যাবে। ঐ দিন বিকাল ০৪.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রাদানের নামে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাজ খেলা হবে। দরপত্রের শর্তকলী ও যাবতীয় তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে জানা যাবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ যাকিন হোসেন  
সহকারী  
অফিসের গাউন্ড নিলাম বিক্রয় কমিটি  
ও  
বিচারক (জেলা জজ)  
নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন দমন ট্রাইব্যুনাল-১  
রংপুর

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**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Dhamoirhat, Naogaon  
www.lged.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. 46.02.6428.000.14.002.18-14 Date: 07/01/2020

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

E-Tender is hereby invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	Tender security	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Tender/ 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 accepted.  
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 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 desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Ali Hossain  
Upazila Engineer  
Dhamoirhat, Naogaon  
Phone: 07424-56034  
e-mail: [ue.dhamoirhat@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.dhamoirhat@lged.gov.bd)

GD-55

**Patuakhali Pourashava**  
District: Patuakhali

Memo No. Patua/Poura/Eng/2020/02(10) 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 U.P.V.C 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-BC/PCO/W-112	A) Improvement of Road at Chowrasta Mirzangong Sarak Mosque to South Side Poli 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 Mirzangong Sarak Mosque to South Side Poli Bidyut Main Highway, under Patuakhali Pourashava.	08 January-2020 10:00	05 February-2020 16:00	06-February 2020 14:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender 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 ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Zasim Uddin Arzu  
Executive Engineer  
Patuakhali Pourashava

GD-51

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১  
(রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং)  
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা  
[recruitment.bb.org.bd](http://recruitment.bb.org.bd)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ০৫/২০২০ তারিখ: ২২ পৌষ ১৪২৬  
৬ জানুয়ারি ২০২০

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক 'ফার্মাসিস্ট' পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের তালিকা**

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক 'ফার্মাসিস্ট' পদে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে ১৫/০৫/২০১৯ তারিখে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৮/২০১৯ এর সূত্রে পত ২৬/১০/২০১৯ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত পরীক্ষায় নিম্নোক্ত ৪৭ (সাততালিশ) 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 (সাততালিশ) জন।

০২। মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের সময়সূচী সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি পরবর্তীতে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট ও পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ করা হবে।

ব্যাকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হেরমানির নিকর হলে কিবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২০৬ নম্বরে বোল করুন।

হিউম্যান ৪৮/২০২০-১১ তারিখ: ০৭-০১-২০২০  
জিডি-০৩ মোঃ ইকবাল হোসেন  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (সহিত দায়িত্ব)

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)  
IEB Bhaban (5th, 6th & 7th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Web: [www.btrc.gov.bd](http://www.btrc.gov.bd)

**Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)**  
**For Conducting Information Systems Audit of Banglalink Digital Communications Limited**

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1. Ministry/Division	Posts and Telecommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology.
2. Agency	Autonomous bodies and other institutions.
3. Name of procuring entity	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).
4. Procuring entity code	Not applicable.
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting/Audit Firm (Lump-sum).
7. EOI Ref. No.	14.32.0000.900.01.037.18.01
8. Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	06/01/2020
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
9. Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
10. Budget and source of funds	Revenue budget and own funds.
11. Development partner (if applicable)	Not applicable.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.
13. Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.
14. EOI closing date and time	04-02-2020 (2:00pm) Bangladesh Local Time (GMT+6).
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>	
15. Brief description of the assignment	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as the 'Commission' or 'BTRC') intends to appoint a Consulting/an Audit Firm for conducting Information Systems Audit of Banglalink Digital Communications Limited. The scope includes performing the auditing tasks in the following categories: 1) Regulatory and legal matters 2) Technical matters 3) Financial matters 4) Any other matters. The details of the scope of work are mentioned in the Terms of References (TOR).
16. Experience, resources & delivery capacity required	The lead firm must be a competent institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) member with sufficient and high-scale auditing experience. Additionally, the lead firm and/or any of its Joint Venture, Consortium or Association (JVCA) partners must have sufficient technical and information system auditing experience in multinational telecom/IT firms. The lead firm is encouraged to associate with foreign audit firm(s) with sufficient information system (technical) audit experience in multinational environment. The details of the experience, resource and delivery required are mentioned in the TOR. Detailed TOR and other relevant information are available at <a href="http://www.btrc.gov.bd/notice-board/tor-isa-banglalink">http://www.btrc.gov.bd/notice-board/tor-isa-banglalink</a> .
17. Other details (if applicable)	The formation, operation and obligation of JVCA shall be governed by the Rule-54 of Public Procurement Rules-2008 of Bangladesh.
18. Association with foreign firms is	Encouraged.
19. Ref. No.	Phasing of services Location Indicative start date (month/year) Indicative completion date (month/year)
-	Not applicable Dhaka 06/2020 11/2020
20. Name of the official inviting EOI	Mr. Subrata Roy Maitra.
21. Designation of the official inviting EOI	Vice-Chairman, BTRC.
22. Address of the official inviting EOI	IEB Bhaban (5th, 6th & 7th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
23. Contact details of the official inviting EOI	Tel: +88 02 9553944 Email: <a href="mailto:vice-chairman@btrc.gov.bd">vice-chairman@btrc.gov.bd</a>

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

Sd/-  
**Subrata Roy Maitra**  
Vice-Chairman, BTRC  
Tel: +88 02 9553944  
Fax: +88 02 9556677  
Email: [vice-chairman@btrc.gov.bd](mailto:vice-chairman@btrc.gov.bd)

GD-43

**Daily Star BOOKS**

গতদিন মুসলমানের বুদ্ধিবৃত্তিক বিক্রম ও বিকাশহীনতা  
সৈয়দ আব্দুল মকসুদ

সোনাখরা দিন  
তারহিমা আনাম

কালের পরীক্ষা ও আমার জীবনের দিনগুলি  
৪৪২০১৮ ৭৭

কালের পরীক্ষা ও আমার জীবনের দিনগুলি  
তারহিমা আনাম

শ্রেষ্ঠ উপন্যাস  
রবিক হাসান

১৯৭১  
তাপসকর বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়

নিবাচিত গল্প  
আবুল হায়ত

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Sylhet Forest Division, Sylhet  
[www.bforest.gov.bd](http://www.bforest.gov.bd)

Memo No. 22.01.0000.672.02.033.20.073 Date: 07/01/2020

**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/W-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 copies will be accepted.  
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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) also from e-mail: [dfosylhet@yahoo.com](mailto:dfosylhet@yahoo.com); Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

S.M. Sazzad Hossain  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Sylhet Forest Division, Sylhet

GD-52

**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](mailto:ee_bari@pwd.gov.bd)

Memo..... Dated:-

**Invitation for e-Tender**

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

Sl. 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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Gerald Oliver Guda**  
Executive Engineer  
PWD Division, Barishal

GD-50



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: MASUKHRIDOV



# Illegal stations, sand trade threat to 3 Meghna bridges

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

MASUK HRIDOV, 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 the bridges. Handsome amounts of

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 set by cutting river protection embankment and roads for



supplying sand to different villages.

Only a little away, three other landing stations have been built.

"Thick pipes for carrying sand,

set up after cutting different roads including Station Road and Bazar Road, can be seen in over a three-kilometre stretch of area in the

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 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 trade.

Asked what action he has taken as the upazila parishad chairman, 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 the river area but they are remaining silent about the illegal landing

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

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

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

Contacted, Ashuganj UNO Nazimul Haider said, "I am not aware about the matter. I will conduct an inquiry and take action if there is any illegal occupation."

## 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 upazila.

Originated from the Maskata river, the three-km-long canal connects the Tetulia river in nearby Alimabad and Chargopalpur unions of the upazila, said locals.

Thousands of fishermen and farmers depend on the canal for their

livelihood.

Blocking of the canal for fish 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, 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 the rainy season.

He further added such arrangement 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

OUR CORRESPONDENT, 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 red-handed 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 day, 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



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 felled trees," said Ashraf Ali, 55, a local at Kashipur village.

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

"Felling of roadside trees by ruling party men has become a common

scene here. Often we dare not protest 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 continued tree looting," he said.



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.

PHOTO: STAR

# 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

upazila in the current brick burning season.

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 12 lakh were either completely or partially

damaged by the untimely rain.

"I will have to spend an additional Tk 3 lakh to remove the damaged bricks from kiln premises. Moreover, it will take at 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 bricks.

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 for drying.

Mirzapur Brick Kiln Owners' Association President Firoz Haider Khan claimed that on an average bricks worth around Tk 10 lakh to Tk 12 lakh were damaged in each of 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

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

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

The deceased was Md Masud Rana, 7, son of Abdul Masud 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 union parishad.

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 swooped 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 bombs.

On information, police visited the spot.

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

## 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 Qadir were tried in absentia.

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.

In 2014, Hannan went to convict Lokman's shop in Bangara area of Cumilla's Muradnagar upazila to collect his dues.

Later, Lokman asked Hannan to come to the house of his in-laws in Bramanbaria's Banchhampur 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 Banchhampur 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

quoted as saying.

He said that each judicial magistrate 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 damage.

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

"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 cases.

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

prosecution department be put under the purview of the police to ensure better coordination in criminal cases.

He further urged that higher-ranked officers be appointed officers-in-charge in metropolitan police stations.

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 the DIG.

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 law and order committee in absence of the deputy commissioner.

"Although the SP is the vice-president of the committee, an officer of the district administration who is often found to be junior to the SP, chairs the meeting in

the absence of the DC, who is the president of the committee," said the SP.

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 cases.

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 vehicles.

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 police.

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 officers will not be promoted to DIG."

The home minister gave assurances that the terms of reference of the recently formed review committee would be made more consistent and steps taken to provide operational vehicles.

## Anti-graft drive to continue: PM

FROM PAGE 1

was spearheading a motivational campaign against corruption as 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 non-communal "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 situation.

"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," she said.

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

necessary to make parliament effective and the participation of the lawmakers from both the treasury 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 them.

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 faces.

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

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 services.

"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."

The premier said some "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.

She also highlighted her government's successes in different 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 index.

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."

On the relations with neighbouring countries, the PM said Bangladesh believes in moving ahead by maintaining good relations with its neighbouring 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

FROM PAGE 16

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

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

Replying to a question regarding whether there is any chance of seeking

her bail as she has already been 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 are not being met and that is also a violation of the constitution."

No one is beyond the constitution and if anyone violates it, they will

be held responsible, the noted constitution expert said.

Replying to a query, Kamal said, "We will continue our efforts to secure her bail."

He demanded immediate steps be taken by the government to ensure her proper treatment.

The steering committee also condemned the recent rape incident of the Dhaka University student.



When on song, Chris Gayle can destroy the most potent of bowling attacks and as expected, the left-hander smashed three sixes in his first match for Chattogram Challengers in the ongoing Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL). However, the 'Universe Boss' walked back to the pavilion with a forlorn face as his innings lasted only 10 balls but his 23-run innings gave his side a flying start in chase of Rajshahi Royals' 166. Chattogram rode on Lendl Simmons's 51 and Imrul Kayes's unbeaten 67 to win the match by seven wickets.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



## 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 yesterday.

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

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 Mushfiqur Rahim informed the board about his intentions of not touring with the side.

According to the sources, the board was under pressure to agree to 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 in English with 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," Fletcher said.

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 season.

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 reasons.

### 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 yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

"Fletcher met me and shared his observations of the tournament [BBPL] regarding facilities, organisation and his experiences for the betterment of the tournament in the coming days," Nizamuddin told The Daily Star yesterday.

It all started right from the opening game of the BBPL when Sylhet's West Indies seamer

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

Even Sylhet team director Tanjil Chowdhury, one of seven BCB directors appointed attached to each team, 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 in the coming days

NIZAMUDDIN CHOWDHURY  
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 no such issues.

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 tomorrow. --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 four-day 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 the tour.

"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

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



Dom Sibley made his maiden Test century for England in the second Test against South Africa but he had already scooped his family a record £21,600 (\$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 his then-teenage grandson -- first at 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 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 in Surrey, south East of England.

"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

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

Although MacKenzie spotted 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

by the time he was seven or eight he was playing for the under-9s and that was when



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

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.

# What to WATCH

GTV &amp; MAASRANGA

BBPL  
Khulna v Cumilla  
Live from 1:30pm  
Dhaka v Rangpur  
Live from 6:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangabandhu Bangladesh  
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. —AFP



# Quality foreigners make Fed Cup competitive

SPORTS REPORTER

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 Police FC.

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.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

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 league.”

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 seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second Twenty20 international in

Indore on Tuesday.

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.

# BANGABANDHU 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 manager 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 Mubia 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

AFP, Cape Town

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 Dwaime Pretorius and Anrich Nortje caught in the slips before he took the final wicket when Vernon Philander was caught at gully.

## 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

AGENCIES, Milan

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 A on Monday.

Lautaro Martinez was also on target as Inter claimed their first away win against Napoli since 1997.

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 in three games since Gennaro Gattuso replaced Carlo 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 his legs into the net.

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

# Mujib Borsho Cup golf inaugurated

SPORTS REPORTER

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.

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.

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## Up against the wall

Without wages, financial benefits, workers of state-run 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 weeks-long 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, SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



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

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## 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 least 342 children were killed in violent incidents involving torture, abduction, and rape last year, according to the report.

Besides, some 902 children -- aged up to 18 -- fell victim to rape across the country.

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 SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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 action.

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 will form more such committees, but the problem will not be resolved."

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 problem.

"Forming committees will not resolve the problem," Benazir was SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

If necessary, I will stand at court for Khaleda Zia

Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday 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 the former premier's 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, SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## 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.

Six people were 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



**PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 8**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:00  
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 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 2019.

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 SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



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.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES Israel approves 1,936 new settler homes: watchdog

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel has approved the construction of 1,936 new settler homes on occupied Palestinian territories, watchdog Peace Now said Monday.

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 elections.

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 SEE PAGE 10 COL 1