



# The Daily Star

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Your Right to Know

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**"It is unfortunate that those who have passed the electoral code of conduct are now opposing it."**  
 ELECTION COMMISSIONER MAHBUB TALUKDAR ABOUT ALLOWING MPS, MINISTERS IN ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES (PAGE 3)



**"We are noticing repeated attacks on those working for upholding the spirit of the Liberation War and these attacks are not being stopped."**  
 RIGHTS ACTIVIST SULTANA KAMAL AT A RALLY (PAGE 3)



**"Number one priority is to get rid of Donald Trump. I'm spending all my money to get rid of Trump."**  
 US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HOPEFUL MICHAEL BLOOMBERG (PAGE 8)



## Payra coal power plant takes off

The 1,320MW unit is the first large power plant to come into operation under AL gov't; by 2030, total generation capacity to reach 40,000MW

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

Coal-fired Payra power plant in Patuakhali began test production yesterday, making it the first large-scale plant to come into operation since the Awami League swept to power a decade ago.

One hundred megawatt electricity generated by the plant in Kalapara upazila was added to the national grid at 11:05am, said AM Khurshedul Alam, the acting managing director of Bangladesh-China Power Company (BCPCL), which owns the plant.

"The supply will go up gradually," said State Minister for Energy and Power Nasrul Hamid in his verified Facebook page after the first unit of the 1,320-MW plant went into production.

One of the mega projects of the AL-government, Payra power plant is the first in Bangladesh to run on imported coal. Now Indonesian coal is being used and later Australian coal would be used.

The plant would be fed sub-bituminous coal, a variety relatively inexpensive and less harmful to the environment.



The government has run ads in Germany, Singapore, and Indonesia for importing coal through competitive bidding.

Payra plant is the second coal-fired power plant in the country. The first one is the 250MW Barapukuria Power Station in Dinajpur, which uses local coal.

The plant is part of the government's efforts to diversify energy amid depleting gas reserves and to feed the growing economy.

More coal power plants are on the way. Rural Power Company and Chinese state-owned Norinco International Cooperation

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Mob beats 3 to death on suspicion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Three suspected cattle lifters were beaten to death by an angry mob in Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila early yesterday.

The identities of the deceased, aged between 35 and 45, could not be confirmed till filing of this report last night, said police.

Tajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Abhaynagar Police Station, said a group of thieves was trying to escape from the barn of Khorshed Ali with three cows in Gaidgachhi village of Jashore Sadar upazila around 4:00am.

Sensing the presence of cattle lifters, Khorshed screamed for help. As an announcement was made on the loudspeaker of a local mosque about the incident, a mob rushed there.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## ILLEGAL CASINO BUSINESS

### Absconding AL duo arrested

The two brothers own 22 houses and plots in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two brothers who allegedly ran a casino illegally were arrested in Dhaka's Keraniganj yesterday.

The Criminal Investigation Department of police arrested Enamul Haque Enu, vice-president of Gendaria Awami League, and Rupon Bhuiyan, joint general secretary of the same AL unit, at a rented flat where they had been living after failing to flee the country with forged passports.

Enamul and Rupon went into hiding after law enforcers launched a crackdown on illegal casinos, bars, spas and graft last year.

Wanderers Club, of which Enamul was the director, was raided by Rapid Action Battalion on September 18, the first day of the crackdown.

An aide to the two brothers, Sheikh Mostafa Sunny, was also arrested at the time.

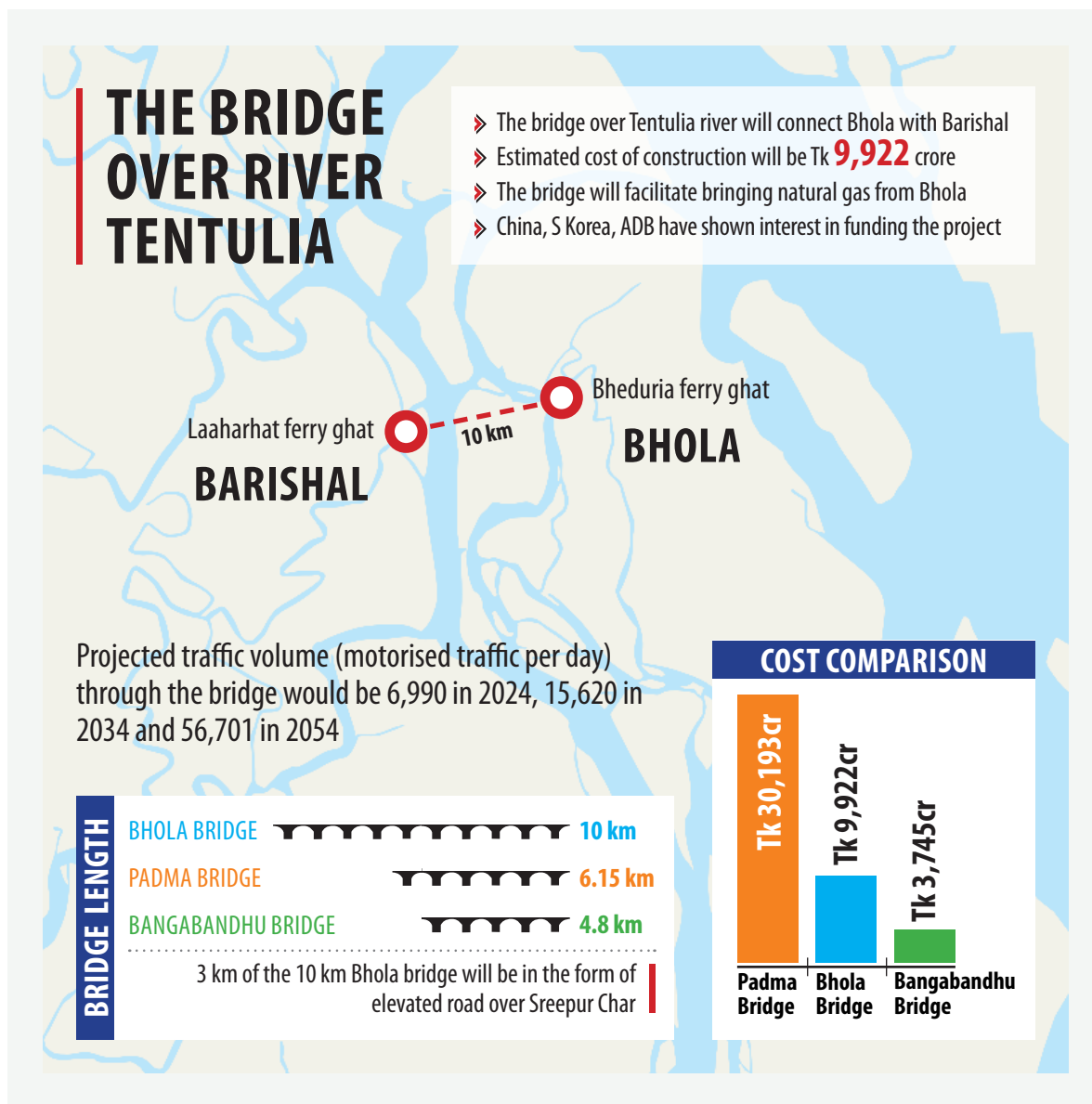
The two brothers have 22 houses and plots in the capital, five cars, and Tk 19.11 crore in 91 bank accounts

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Enamul

Rupon



## Longest bridge to link Bhola, Barishal

Gov't plans it over Tentulia river, looking for donor

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is going to build the country's longest bridge over the Tentulia river to connect island district Bhola with Barishal.

The cost of the 10km bridge is estimated at Tk 9,922 crore, almost one-third that of the under-construction Padma bridge, which will be 6.15km long. However, the cost may escalate after the detailed design is finalised.

Once built, the bridge in the country's southern part will shorten the travel time between the two districts and facilitate gas supply from Bhola, said officials.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) had already completed the feasibility study, which selected possible alignment of the bridge, they said.

"We are looking for donors,"

Belayet Hossain, secretary (bridges division) of the road transport and bridges ministry, told The Daily Star on Sunday.

They will write to Economic Relations Division (ERD) soon requesting it to manage fund for the bridge, he said.

Earlier in the day (Sunday), added the secretary, Asian Development Bank Country Director for Bangladesh Manmohan Parkash in a meeting with him showed an interest in funding three projects of BBA, and the Bhola bridge is one of them.

Officials said based on survey, study and discussions, the bridge alignment was fixed at about a few hundred metres downstream the Bheduria Ferry Ghat on the Bhola side and the Laaharhat Ferry Ghat on the Barishal mainland side from the existing highway.

Of the 10km of the bridge, about

3km will be over Sreepur Char which separates two channels of the braided river, they said.

BBA Chief Engineer Quazi Muhammad Ferdous said the bridge would open up a scope for bringing in natural gas from Bhola as it would have facilities to carry gas through pipelines.

In January 2018, Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, the then cabinet secretary, said explorers found a staggering 600 billion cubic feet of gas at Bheduria union, about 32km north of the Shahbazpur Gas Field in Bhola.

With the discovery, Bhola's gas reserve stood at 1.5 trillion cubic feet, he had told reporters.

**BRIDGE TO BOOST BUSINESS, COMMUNICATION**  
 Separated by the Tentulia river, Bhola is on the eastern part of the Barishal

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## PUBLIC HOSPITALS Outrage over circular on publication of info

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

A government circular banning publication of any public hospital's information without the consent from the authorities concerned has sparked criticisms with media professionals and experts considering the move as a blow to press freedom.

Termining the restriction arbitrary, they said such steps go against the spirit of the Right to Information Act, 2009 and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the ban for the sake of people's right to information.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued the circular to the chiefs of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), medical college hospitals and specialised hospitals.

The circular, signed by Deputy Secretary Abu Raihan Mian, said taking

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



## Khulna through to the final

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) will now see three teams vie for the trophy following yesterday's first eliminator and first qualifier matches. Dhaka Platoon were eliminated with a seven-wicket defeat at the hands of the Chattogram Challengers in the eliminator at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while Khulna Tigers became the first team to make it through to the all-important final by defeating Rajshahi Royals by 27 runs in the first

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Nazmul Haque bathing cattle at his farm in Kurigram. Many farmers like him are rearing cattle in the district and in Lalmonirhat with the support of iFarmer, the country's first digital agriculture platform working to provide capital to livestock farmers by linking them with fund providers. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Making life a little easier for farmers

iFarmer, country's first digital agro-platform, links funders and farmers to support livestock farming

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

As a farmer's wife in a remote village of Lalmonirhat, Aklima Begum's life was never easy. She and her husband used to grow rice in her 90-decimal land in Ramdash village in the district. With the crop, they could hardly meet the expenditures of her seven-member family.

But six months ago, Aklima's life took a turn for the better, when she got an offer for rearing cattle from an organisation named iFarmer. She was given five cows at a cost of Tk 2.50 lakh. She was supposed to rear the cattle for four months and sell those in the market.

"I reared the cattle for two and a half months and sold those for Tk 2.90 lakh. I got Tk 20,000 as profit within just two and a half months," Aklima told The Daily Star over phone.

It inspired her to rear a few more cows. She has now seven cows and will get three more soon.

"The best part is that it is not a loan. It is a financial support to my family," Aklima said.

Many smallholder farmers like Aklima see a new hope thanks to iFarmer as the organisation helps increase their earning.

iFarmer is the first digital agriculture platform of the country focused on linking interested sponsors/funders with farmers to support livestock farming while promoting inclusive growth in livestock and agriculture.

Founded in August 2018, its business model is based on profit sharing between the farmers, farm sponsors and iFarmer. The farmer and the sponsor share profit after completing each cycle. This model could enable the farmers to be more motivated to invest in better inputs and farming practices to ensure better return.

The country's farm sector is dominated by smallholders but the small and marginal farmers have the least access to the credit and agricultural extension services provided by the state.

iFarmer connects individuals and institutions with farmers through a sponsorship package to fund farming and agriculture for a share of the returns.

It provides easy access to capital for underprivileged farmers by connecting them with potential farm sponsors. Farm Sponsors select the kind of farms they want

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



# Myanmar sends 200 Rohingyas to camps

They were captured at sea last month

AFP, Sittue

Nearly 200 Rohingya Muslims arrested at sea last month by Myanmar's navy after a voyage of hundreds of kilometres have been sent back to Rakhine state, officials said yesterday.

Seasonal calmer waters have seen an increase in the number of Rohingyas putting their lives in the hands of traffickers in a desperate bid to reach Malaysia or Indonesia by boat.

But few make it as far as Kawthaung, Myanmar's southern-most tip, where the group of 173 were picked up mid-December.

Images taken yesterday showed 17 men, women and children looking exhausted from their ordeal as they climbed down from a wooden boat on to a beach near western Rakhine state's capital, Sittue.

Wearing identification numbers around their necks, they lined up on the sand clutching their meagre belongings before being escorted away by armed police.

They were taken to Thechaung camp, while the remaining 156 were transported further north to Ngakhuya camp in Maungdaw township, Rakhine State minister for security and border

affairs said.

Ngakhuya is a processing site for returning refugees on the Bangladeshi border.

"I'm not sure whether action will be taken against them or not," Colonel Min Than told AFP by phone, adding that their fate would be decided by the UIEHRD, a government department overseeing Rakhine.

A bloody military crackdown in 2017 forced some 740,000 Rohingya to flee over the border to Bangladesh in violence that has seen Myanmar accused of "genocide" at the UN's top court in The Hague.

Bangladesh has made life increasingly unbearable in the sprawling camps with barbed-wire fences, an internet blackout and the confiscation of phones.

Meanwhile hundreds of thousands more Rohingyas remain in Myanmar's Rakhine in what Amnesty International has branded "apartheid" conditions.

They have nearly no freedom of movement and little access to work, education and healthcare.

The captured Rohingyas came from both sides of the border, Min Than said, although it was unclear how they ended up on the same boat.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands Zayed Sustainability Prize to a winner at a programme at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre yesterday as Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan looks on.

PHOTO: PID

## Absconding AL duo arrested

FROM PAGE 1

frozen by the Bangladesh Bank, said Imtiaz Ahmed, deputy inspector general (organised crime) of CID.

Law enforcers recovered Tk 40 lakh in cash and 12 mobile phones from their possession yesterday, Imtiaz told a press briefing.

"During the drive against casinos, the brothers fled to Cox's Bazar. They planned to flee to Malaysia through Myanmar, but they failed due to the vigilance of law enforcers," the officer said.

They later returned to Dhaka and took shelter at a rented flat of one of their employees. They were caught from there yesterday.

The brothers were trying to forge passports to flee to Nepal through India, he added.

To operate the casinos, Enamul and Rupon hired several Nepalese nationals, police said.

Addicted to gambling since their childhood, they became the kingpins of illegal casinos in the capital, Imtiaz said.

During last year's crackdown, the Rab found Tk 5.05 crore in cash, around 8.5kg gold, and six firearms in five lockers in their houses. Seven cases were filed against them.

The CID is investigating four money laundering cases against them.

In the crackdown, Rab arrested former Dhaka City South Jubo League President Ismail Hossain Samrat, Organising Secretary Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan, construction mogul SM Golam Kibria Shamim, and Kalabagan Krira Chakra President

Shafiqul Alam Firoz.

Many possible suspects fled the country at the time. Some of them have started returning to the country recently, assuming that the anti-graft drive was over.

Among them, AKM Mominul Haque Sayeed, president of Arambagh Krira Sangha and expelled joint general secretary of the Dhaka South Jubo League, returned to the country and had been contesting the coming city corporation elections, according to reports.

Sayeed is running for councillor of ward-9 of Dhaka South City Corporation. He was sacked from that post on October 17 last year for being "absent in meetings and staying abroad without permission".

The CID officer was reminded during yesterday's press conference that there were allegations of running illegal against Sayeed.

He said the CID was only investigating the cases filed under the money laundering act.

"We are investigating nine cases, but Sayeed's case is not one of those," Imtiaz said.

Those who were arrested during the crackdown last year, gave investigators the names of some influential politicians, police officers and government officials, sources said, adding that the names were sent to the top leadership about one-and-a-half-month ago.

Officials of law enforcement agencies said they would resume the anti-graft drive if they are directed to do so.

## Longest bridge

FROM PAGE 1

division. With an area of 3,400sqkm and population of over 20.37 lakh, the district does not have any direct road link to Barishal.

By river, one can go to Bhola's Bheduria from Barishal by launch in two hours or speed boat in 40 minutes. The individual has to travel around 30 minutes on road to reach Bhola Sadar upazila from Bheduria.

From Laaharhat Ferry Ghat in Barishal, one can also reach Bheduria by launch. There is also a ferry running between the terminal and Ilshaghat of Bhola Sadar.

The feasibility study report said passenger and goods transportation from Bhola relies on boats and launches and it was affecting the district's socio-economic development.

Dipak Kumar Adhikary, a banker in Bhola, said his family lives in Barishal. "If there is a bridge, many like me would be able to go to work from Barishal every day."

Manik Gupta, an official of a pharmaceutical company, said they sometimes face trouble to supply medicine to Bhola from Barishal due to delay in the ferry service caused by bad weather.

Several traders in Bhola also said businesses suffer losses due to the absence of a bridge.

"A direct bridge connectivity would solve our problem," Osman Goni, a businessman from Charfesson upazila, told our Barishal correspondent.

The feasibility study report reads, "Completion of this project will bring enormous social and economic benefits to the people living in Bhola in particular and to southern part of the country in general."

"It is recommended that the bridge project be taken up for execution at the earliest."

THE WORK

On November 5 last year, Road Transport and Bridges

Minister Obaidul Quader said the construction of the Barishal-Bhola bridge would begin soon.

The work on formulating the bridge's Development Project Proforma (DPP) was going on and talks were underway over the funding, he said at a view-exchange meeting with officials of Bridges Division and BBA at the capital's Shetu Bhaban.

China showed an interest in financing the project, he added.

Starting in 2017, the feasibility study ended in August last year, an BBA official said.

It was prepared by STUP Consultant Private Limited of India, COWI Consulting of the UK, and Bangladesh's Development Design Consultants Ltd and DevConsultants Limited.

The study projected that the traffic volume (motorised traffic per day) through the bridge would be 6,990 in 2024 while 15,620 in 2034 and 56,701 in 2054.

"Although the feasibility study is done, we asked them to do some review and hope that their work will be completed soon," Quazi Muhammad Ferdous, chief engineer of BBA, told The Daily Star recently.

"We will request the ERD to look for donor(s)," he said.

On behalf of the government, Economic Relations Division negotiates with development partners for funding different projects.

The chief engineer said China and South Korea had already shown interest in funding the project.

Since the Bhola-Barishal Bridge does not have any proposed rail line, its cost will be much lower than that of the 6.15km Padma bridge, he said. The cost of Padma Bridge now stands at Tk 30,193 crore.

"So far the study says the river [Tentulia] won't be as difficult as the Padma [for river governance]," said Ferdous.

## Payra coal power plant takes off

FROM PAGE 1

are going to build another 1,320MW coal-fired plant in the vicinity of Payra seaport.

About 60 percent work of the 1,320MW Rampal power plant in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat has been completed and is expected to start test run in December this year, according to officials.

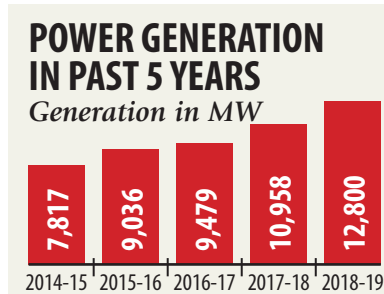
These plants are at the heart of the government plan to produce 40,000MW electricity by 2030 when coal would produce 35 percent of the power from about 2 percent now.

The BCPCL acting MD said the Payra plant was built by a 50:50 joint venture between state-run North-West Power Generation Company Bangladesh and China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation.

Its construction began in 2016.

He said the total cost of the project was about \$2 billion, with 80 percent coming from the Exim Bank of China.

At present, the cost of generating a kilowatt-hour of electricity is \$0.070 to \$0.075, but it would come down



when the entire plant begins fully-fledged operation, he said.

Khurshedul Alam said the two units of the plant were capable of generating 660MW each. The unit that went into test production yesterday is expected to go for full-capacity production this month.

The second unit is also almost ready for production and will start to supply power to the national grid within four months.

The second unit would cost \$200 million less than the first power plant, Khurshedul said.

Officials concerned had said the plant has been built using state-of-the-art ultra-supercritical technology,

which has greater efficiency and lower emissions. It can fully capture bottom ash, fly ash, Sulphur and Nitrogen, all of which can harm the environment.

The dredging of the river channel adjacent to the Payra power plant would be complete within a couple of days, paving the way for ships capable of carrying around 30,000 tonnes coal to dock.

The Rampal project -- being built by Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company (BIFPC), a joint partnership between India's state-owned National Thermal Power Corporation and Bangladesh Power Development Board -- has drawn flak for its location.

It is near the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world and a world heritage site declared by Unesco in 1997.

Activists are concerned that the Rampal plant, which is less than 10 miles from the Sundarbans, would cause environmental degradation as it would require increased river traffic, dredging, and could pollute the air and water.

## Outrage over circular on publication of info

FROM PAGE 1

pictures and videos of patients and health services inside hospitals without permission is not allowed.

"Consent on the authenticity of the information must be taken from the authorities before publishing it," it said.

The ministry also directed the officials concerned to implement an eight-point directive, including introducing visitor's entry pass for every public hospital and maintaining register books for visitors.

The circular said a patient can have a maximum of two attendants.

It also asked all on-duty physicians, nurses and other hospital staffers to make sure their ID cards are visible.

Copies of the circular have also been sent to directors of all public hospitals and clinics, all divisional

health directors, civil surgeons, and officials at upazila health complexes and family planning offices across the country.

Media personnel are critical of the government's restriction on publishing hospital's information.

"Such a move would certainly hamper press freedom ... In fact, it is hostile behaviour towards the media and a blow to press freedom," Sohel Haider Chowdhury, general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), told The Daily Star yesterday.

He questioned the move, saying all mainstream media outlets run news reports maintaining journalistic norms and professionalism.

Sohel demanded the circular be taken down immediately.

Talking about the issue, Supreme Court lawyer barrister Jyotirmoy Barua said, "If anybody violates

journalistic ethics, there are judicial remedies. Formulation of such rules and regulations, bypassing those jurisdictions, is not legally right."

He termed the government's move a violation of people's fundamental rights mentioned in the constitution. "Hospitals deal with life and death ... this is absolutely an arbitrary exercise."

Asked, Md Asadul Islam, secretary (health service division) at the health ministry, said the move was made "just to ensure journalistic principles."

"With patients, hospital is a restricted place. Whoever goes inside must take permission from the ward in-charge," he said.

Asked whether ward in-charges were given the authority to allow reporters in, he said journalists would be referred to the hospital director."

## Making life a little easier for farmers

FROM PAGE 1

to sponsor via iFarmer website, and then release the funds to iFarmer to set it up.

Now, the platform is focusing on to create an alternate, sustainable financing option for the livestock farmers.

"The initiative is very good as no other NGO gives us loan for rearing cattle in a small scale. And this is also interest free," said Nazmul Haque, a farmer in Kurigram, who has been rearing 18 cattles for the last two months.

iFarmer is now working in two northern districts -- Kurigram and Lalmonirhat. The organisation has 1,000 farmers with 800 cattle.

"We have a database of 10,000 farmers. From this database, we chose the farmer and then give cattle to them after scrutinising the need assessment," said Fahad Ifaz, co-founder and CEO of iFarmer, told The Daily Star.

He said the organisation partnered with Green Delta Insurance to provide insurance for all existing farm projects so that in the event of untoward circumstances the sponsor's capital can be refunded.

Currently, iFarmer has four options for investors. For example, if anyone invests Tk 30,000, they will get 18 percent return of sponsorship in one year, if anyone invests Tk

40,000, they will get 22 percent return, said Fahad.

The third option is investing Tk 40,000 with 8 percent return on sponsorship in four months and the fourth option is investing Tk 80,000 with a 15 percent return on sponsorship in six months.

iFarmer has also piloted a goat farm which give 36 percent return after 18 months with initial investment of Tk 10,500.

The initiative was taken to solve the challenges of the farmers in remote parts of the country who often face a crisis of capital and are mostly unbanked.

"iFarmer intends to play a crucial role to help farmers of our country through an innovative investment model while giving the middle-income population a unique chance to be part of farming," he said.

Now, iFarmer is aiming to become a platform for agriculture value chain financing, where on one side farmers will be able to create a profile, get credit and performance ratings and on the other side individual sponsors and financial organisations can invest and earn a healthy return. In the future, iFarmer intends to go beyond livestock and work with high value crops and agricultural products.

"We are on a mission to impact the lives of farmers in a positive way

by giving them access to finance, knowledge and the market," said Jamil M Akbar, co-founder and COO of iFarmer.

Since its official launching, the company has been working with 1,000 farmers, training them and facilitating finances to those who are selected and verified and have attracted sponsorships from more than 150 people for 800 cattle.

What makes iFarmer different is that it turns a complex problem into a digital marketplace. They are taking care of access to capital for farmers, training them on smart agricultural practices and providing the market for farmers. In doing so, they intend to create an alternative source of capital for farmers and create an efficient and inclusive supply chain of selected agricultural commodities.

They won the "Startup with the Most Social Impact" award from the Swiss Embassy in Bangladesh in 2018. iFarmer was also one of the top five businesses at the UNDP Youth COLab, a finalist of Echoing Green Social Impact Business 2019, and a winner of UNCDF's Fintech Innovation Fund for Women MSMEs 2019.

iFarmer has been incubated by Toru and has partnerships with Start-up Bangladesh and CARE International.

## China police kill kidnapper armed with explosives

AFP, Beijing

Police in China shot and killed a kidnapper who held three people hostage using a homemade gun and explosive devices, local authorities said yesterday, in a rare case involving firearms in the country.

The incident took place in Hohhot, capital of the northern Inner Mongolia region, on Sunday at around 11:00 am (0300 GMT).

The suspect, surnamed Zhou, had fired the gun as a threat, Hohhot police said on their account on the Twitter-like Weibo platform.

Later that evening, officers "decisively shot and killed the suspect" before successfully removing the explosive devices from the hostages.

The case is under further investigation, they said.

Incidents involving homemade explosives have occurred elsewhere in China, such as northeast Liaoning province, where three people were injured in an attack on a police station last March.

In July 2018, a 26-year-old man set off a small explosion outside the United States embassy in Beijing, injuring his hand and sending smoke into the air.

Still, gun violence is rare in China, where the government tightly restricts the ownership of firearms.

There are no official statistics on gun-related deaths.

Last March, a person wielding a gun killed five people in Inner Mongolia before being arrested.

In June 2017, a bomb blast killed eight people and injured dozens outside a kindergarten in eastern China and in November the same year, three people were shot dead and six others wounded in southern Guangdong province.

## Israel's left-wing parties unite ahead of elections

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's left-wing Meretz and Labor-Gesher parties said yesterday they had joined forces ahead of March 2 elections, to boost their chances against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing base.

Israel's political scene is in turmoil ahead of the third national vote in less than a year after neither Netanyahu nor his centrist rival Benny Gantz were able to form a coalition following September polls.

With Israel's two major political blocs almost neck-and-neck, smaller parties and coalitions could emerge as potential kingmakers after the upcoming elections.

The new left-wing joint list called "Emet" -- "truth" in Hebrew -- was agreed by Labor-Gesher leader Amir Peretz and Meretz head Nitzan Horowitz, who want to combine forces against the prime minister's Likud party.

"Peretz and Horowitz stressed the message of union and hope of political change which will be at the social heart and the political direction of the next government after the end of the Netanyahu era," they said in a joint statement.

Labor-Gesher and Meretz won six and five seats respectively in September in the 120-seat Knesset and must clinch at least 3.25 percent of total votes cast in order to enter the legislature after the March polls.

Netanyahu is Israel's longest-serving leader and has vowed to continue his premiership despite being charged in three separate corruption cases.

## Khulna through

FROM PAGE 1

qualifier at the same venue.

The second qualifier, scheduled for tomorrow at the same venue, will see Chattogram square off against yesterday's first qualifier loser, Rajshahi Royals.

Going into the business end of the tournament, Dhaka lost their rhythm. Dhaka captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza also acknowledged that fact as the charismatic leader mentioned during the post-match press conference that losing two matches in a row at the end of the tournament cost them.

While the Dhaka skipper was left to rue their sudden loss in momentum, Rajshahi Royals skipper Andre Russell will get another chance to see his team bounce back from yesterday's 27-run thumping.

## Mob beats 3

FROM PAGE 1

The mob chased the alleged thieves for about one and a half kilometres and managed to catch the three in Prembagh village of adjacent Abhaynagar upazila, said police.

The mob beat up the thieves, leaving two of them dead on the spot. The other died while being taken to Abhaynagar Upazila Health Complex, the police official added.

He said three other cattle lifters managed to flee.

Police seized a pick-up from the spot. Locals said the thieves had brought it with them to carry the cattle.

The three bodies were sent to Jashore Sadar Hospital for autopsies.

## Issue circular to bar lawmakers from polls activities: EC Mahbub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar yesterday urged the commission to issue a specific circular stating that lawmakers and ministers will not be able to take part in any election-related activities during the upcoming Dhaka city corporations' polls.

According to existing electoral code of conduct, MPs and ministers cannot take part in any election-related activities including electioneering in city corporation polls, Mahbub said in a letter to the chief election commissioner and other three commissioners.

"There is some confusion regarding electoral code of conduct. A specific circular is needed with directives on electoral code of conduct, so that no confusion exists. If this kind of confusion exists, questions can arise regarding the Dhaka city corporation elections."

"It is unfortunate that those who have passed the electoral code of conduct are now opposing it," Mahbub Talukdar said, regarding ruling Awami League's demand for allowing MPs and ministers to take part in election-related activities.

The comments come in the wake of growing tensions between the ruling party and Election Commission, over MPs participation in the campaigns of Dhaka city polls slated for January 30. It began after AL on January 3 formed two committees comprising several lawmakers



Posters of mayoral and councillor candidates have begun to sprawl across alleys and streets, with BNP and Awami League aspirants going toe to toe. However, in some areas, posters of BNP-backed candidates are being torn up by opponents, below, alleged Ashraf Ali Azam -- a councillor hopeful of DSCC Ward-26. The photos were taken from Azimpur and Lalbagh yesterday.



## DNCC Campaign picks up momentum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With campaigns for Dhaka city corporation elections going into full throttle, citizens are beginning to feel the heat as mayoral candidates' campaigns are parading the streets.

As BNP-nominated DNCC mayoral candidate Tabith Awal's campaign brought predicaments to commuters yesterday, Awami League-backed candidate Atiqul Islam's campaign was seen violating polls conduct.

While following Tabith's campaign, several hundred BNP activists were seen following the candidate in Tejkunipara and Karwan Bazar areas. Students and their guardians from schools and colleges in the vicinity were at times stuck behind the campaign crowd.

After offering prayers at Ziaur Rahman's grave in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Tabith and his followers started their campaign from Tejkunipara at 11am and went through Tejturi Bazar, Karwan Bazar, Tejgaon, Begunuri and Niketan.

During the campaign, rickshaws and cars got stuck in front of the Holy Rosary Church in Tejkunipara. Besides, pedestrians could not move in front of Holy Cross School and College road for about 20 minutes.

Women and children expressed their annoyance over the crowded campaign, as

## DSCC AL, BNP both confident of win

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mayoral candidates of both Awami League and BNP running for Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), yesterday expressed confidence in getting people's mandate in the upcoming city polls.

Both of them passed a busy day yesterday seeking votes from city dwellers.

While campaigning in Maniknagar area, AL's Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said he was getting "immense" support from people, as they liked his plans for the city.

"We hope people will vote for 'boat' [AL's electoral symbol] in the upcoming polls and give me the opportunity to build Dhaka as a beautiful and well-governed city," he said.

"If I am elected, my aim will be to bring all basic amenities to people's doorsteps within 90 days, and make DSCC a corruption-free institution," added Taposh.

He also assured to solve water-logging problems that city dwellers suffer from during rainy season.

Several AL leaders and councillor candidates in Maniknagar area were present there.

BNP candidate Ishraque Hossain, during his campaign in Tikatuli, assured voters of setting up public toilets across the city in proportion with population density within three months if he is elected.

He also said he was getting strong

## ATTACK ON SARWAR ALI

# Eminent citizens want 'credible investigation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday called for "credible investigation" into the attempted murder on Liberation War Museum Trustee Sarwar Ali, saying such an attack was carried out to shrink space for freethinking and progressive movements.

Investigators have to find out the persons involved in the incident and ensure their exemplary punishment, they said at a protest rally.

Pro-Liberation War platform Sammilita Samajik Andolon (SSA) arranged the rally in front of National Museum in the capital.

Two criminals attempted to kill Sarwar, also a physician and prominent cultural

activist, at his home in the city's Uttara on the night of January 5.

Sarwar escaped unhurt but his family members and two neighbours sustained minor injuries in the incident.

Sarwar said a militant group might have carried out the attack. He filed a case with Uttara Paschim Police Station over the incident.

Addressing the rally, National Professor Anisuzzaman said it is a failure of the country's democratic movement that those who practice and talk about freethinking and want to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War are not always safe in the country.

Eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal

## DU human chain seeks polls deferment

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of students and teachers of Dhaka University yesterday formed a human chain on the campus demanding deferment of the Dhaka north and south city corporation polls scheduled for January 30, as its coincides with Saraswati Puja celebrations across the country.

Under the banner of "Sacheton Shikkhak Shikharthibrinda", around 300 students organised the programme at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture around 11:30am.

Speaking at the programme, DU Senate member Prof Asim Sarkar said, "Saraswati Puja has turned into a festival to people of all religions and castes. But it is unfortunate for us that the polling date has been fixed on the same day."

"We cannot change the date of Puja like Muslims cannot change the date of Eid. It has to be turned into a specific time [Panchami Tithi]. It is our right, so the election date must be changed. We want to cast our vote and perform our puja too," Chairperson of Sanskrit department Namita Mandal said.

## PM joins Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday attended the opening ceremony of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2020 (ADSW) and Zayed Sustainability Prize Ceremony in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

ADSW was formally opened at the ICC Hall of Abu Dhabi National Exhibition at 11am (Local time).

On her arrival at the venue, the PM was received by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

This year, Zayed Sustainability Prize was conferred upon 10 organisations and institutes of different countries under five categories.

At the function, Sheikh Al Nahyan and Sheikh Hasina along with seven other

heads of state and government handed over prizes to the winners.

Sheikh Hasina handed over the prize to the representative of Eutan Tarawa Ieta Junior Secondary School of Kiribati for winning under global high school category.

The other heads of state and government include Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Rwanda President Paul Kagame, Fiji Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Serbia Prime Minister Ana Brnabic, Armenian President Armen Sarkissian and Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio.

ADSW is a global platform for accelerating the world's sustainable development endeavours. It brings together a unique fusion of policymakers, industry specialists, technology pioneers and the next generation of sustainability leaders.

## Dr Yunus summoned by labour court

JNU CORRESPONDENT

A labour court in Dhaka has asked Nobel Laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus and three other top officials of Grameen Communications to appear before it on February 6, in a case filed over violating labour laws.

Dhaka 3rd Labour Court Chairman Rahibul Islam yesterday issued the summons to each of the four separately in the case, said Miah Md Jamal Uddin, bench assistant of the court.

The three others accused are: Grameen Communications

# Draft rules for Road Transport Act partially finalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee formed by Road Transport and Highway Division has partially finalised a draft of rules for Road Transport Act-2018, two months after the much-talked about law came into force.

The committee led by Abdul Malek, an additional secretary of RTHD, finalised four chapters out of 14 chapters of the law -- which are necessary to carry out day-to-day functions of the law, officials said.

Upon receiving the final draft, the division called an inter-ministerial meeting for January 19 to finalise it, they said.

Abdul Malek said they have requested their top authorities to appoint a consultant for finalising the rest of the rules, as some complicated issues like formation of a trust for giving compensation to road accident victims are there.

"We have finalised the draft rules which are required for day-to-day function of the law," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Following an unprecedented student agitation, the parliament passed the Road Transport Act in September 2018 to bring discipline to the road transport sector.

But the government did not make the law functional, saying preparing rules for the act is a must for execution of some of its sections and it would be made effective after enactment of the rules.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) submitted the draft rules for the act in May last year and a 10-member committee, led by Abdul Malek, was formed to scrutinise the rules.

The committee, however, decided to make the rules afresh as the draft had many inconsistencies.

Meanwhile, the government on October 22 last year issued a gazette stating that the law would come into effect from November 1 -- without enacting the rule.

Transport owners and workers protested several sections of the law and its execution without the



ALL HOPE IS NOT LOST... Although Dhaka regularly ranks as one of the least livable cities in the world, it's not always gloom and doom in the concrete jungle. This photo of a big bunch of polka-dotted balloons being carried on a rickshaw was taken at Dhaka University campus.

## ABRAR MURDER Case sent to new court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of Buet student Abrar Fahad's murder case was shifted to the Dhaka Metropolitan Session Judge's Court from the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Kaysarul Islam passed the order.

Morshed Amartya Islam, a fugitive accused in the case, surrendered before the court on Sunday, and the court sent him to jail.

On December 3, a Dhaka court ordered confiscation of property of the four fugitive accused in the case.

The other fugitives are: Morsheduzzaman Jishan, Mustafa Rafid and Ehtashamul Rabbi Tanim, students of Buet.

On January 5, the court asked police to publish ads in newspapers asking the four to appear before it. Police published the ads and submitted those to the court yesterday.

On November 18, the court accepted charge-sheet

## Chief justice suggests updating Evidence Act

Workshop on use of digital evidence launched

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday suggested that the century-old Evidence Act of 1872 be updated by incorporating provisions of using digital evidence, as much of the communication and commercial activities are now performed on digital platforms.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a four-day workshop titled "Dialogue on the Use of Digital Evidence in Court", jointly organised by the US and UK embassies in Dhaka at a city hotel.

The chief justice said the law of evidence plays a pivotal role in effective functioning of the judicial system, and victory or defeat in a case depends mostly on evidential acumen or lack of it.

The 1872 Evidence Act is a great piece of law, but it needs to be updated to meet the challenges of 21st century, when technology is changing rapidly and the government and private organisations are increasingly using digital technologies, he said. "If we are able to overcome the challenges to introduce digital evidence in our justice system to a great extent, it will help assist the judges and investigation officers," he said.

Participants from tribunals where digital evidence is currently permitted under certain circumstances -- including Anti-Terrorism Tribunals, the Cyber Crimes Tribunal, Speedy Trial Tribunals, and the planned human trafficking tribunal -- were present at the workshop, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs.

US Ambassador Earl R Miller said there is widespread support in the Bangladeshi justice sector for using digital evidence, as it would significantly increase the credible evidence available to prosecutors and judges.

It will also help solve crimes more quickly, and reduce the backlog of cases, he said.

Supporting enhanced use of digital evidence in Bangladesh justice system, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton said proper use of digital evidence can play a major role in increasing efficiency and integrity of the administration of justice.

## VANDALISM ON DREAMLINER

# Biman moves to identify culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has moved to identify two passengers for taking apart two monitors of the in-flight Entertainment (IFE) system of two seats of a brand new Boeing 787-9 aircraft, which was recently added to the Bangladesh Airlines fleet.

The aircraft was on a flight to Dhaka via Sylhet from Manchester on January 7 when the incident happened, Tahera Khandaker -- deputy general manager of public relations at Biman -- told The Daily Star.

"The aircraft's engineering and other related departments are looking into the matter. Two monitors attached to seats -- 26A and 26B at economy class were forcibly pulled off," she said.

"We are trying to identify the passengers of the two seats and take legal action against them," added Tahera.

After landing of the aircraft at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, cabin crew of the Dreamliner noticed the incident, and reported to the officials concerned.

The new Boeing 787-9 aircraft has a total of 198 seats including 30 in business class, 21 in premium economy class and 247 in economy class.

It could not be known why passengers of the two seats tore up the monitors of the IFE.

On January 5, Dreamliner Sonar Tori began its commercial journey on Dhaka-Manchester route.

**The Daily Star**  
21st 'O' & 'A' Level  
Awards Presentation Ceremony, 2018-2019

**Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools**

**Private Candidates**  
Private candidates who fulfill the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

**Criteria for 'O' Level**  
Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings from **May/June 2018 to May/June 2019** for Edexcel and **May/June 2018 to October/November 2019** for Cambridge.

**Criteria for 'A' Level**  
Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings from **May/June 2018 to May/June 2019** for Edexcel and **May/June 2018 to October/November 2019** for Cambridge.

Eligible candidates are requested to contact The Daily Star, (64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Level-5, Dhaka-1215), with their original results certificates and a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person by 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020, anytime between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm (Except Fridays and Saturdays). Please do contact +8801786111100, before coming to The Daily Star office.

**Schools**  
Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact The Daily Star (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Level-5, Dhaka-1215), on the aforementioned dates and times or email at [a.level.tb@gmail.com](mailto:a.level.tb@gmail.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, with:

- The name of the school, phone number and name of a responsible representative and a valid email address that is checked regularly.

The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A'/'A\*' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

**No registration will be allowed or accepted after 5:00 pm of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.**  
**NOTE:** If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please pass on the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony.

[www.tomorrowleaders.net](http://www.tomorrowleaders.net)

### Mother and son killed

FROM PAGE 5
Following the accident, police detained Aftab Ahmed, driver of Farhan-9; and Hamid Hossain, its worker, from Hularhat berthing point in Pirojpur, confirmed Pirojpur Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nurul Islam.

### AL, BNP both

FROM PAGE 3
support from people wherever they were campaigning. About obstacles from ruling party men, Ishraque said, "We are mentally prepared. We don't care whatever obstacles might come. We will continue our campaign and stay on the field."

### Dr Yunus summoned

FROM PAGE 3
Managing Director Naznin Sultana, Director Abdul Hye Khan and Deputy General Manager Gouri Shankar. Earlier, Labour Inspector Tarikul Islam of Inspection for Factories and Establishments Department filed the case with the labour court bringing allegations of violating 10 provisions of the Labour Act on January 5.

On November 3 last year, the labour court granted bail to Dr Yunus after he had surrendered before it seeking bail in five cases filed over sacking five employees of Grameen Communications. On July 3, three former employees of Grameen Communications -- Abdus Salam, Shah Alam and Emranul Haque -- separately filed three cases with the court, alleging that they were sacked for their roles in forming a trade union at workplace.

### Case sent to

FROM PAGE 3
against 25 accused and issued a warrant for the arrest of the four fugitives in the case. Abrar, a second-year student of electrical and electronics engineering of Buet, was beaten to death reportedly by Chhatra League leaders at Sher-e-Bangla Hall of the university.

### Issue circular to bar lawmakers

FROM PAGE 3
to coordinate campaigns for mayor hopefuls from the AL tent. Two days later, another AL lawmaker inaugurated the election office of their Dhaka North City Corporation mayoral candidate.

### 'HINDUS DISAPPOINTED'

Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian-Oikya Parishad general secretary Rana Dasgupta yesterday said that they were frustrated, as the EC has not changed the election date that coincides with Saraswati Puja. After a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda, he also said members of the Hindu community will not shoulder the responsibility if any untoward incident centering the elections on Saraswati Puja.

### Abdul Jalil Howlader passes away

CITY DESK
Abdul Jalil Howlader, former assistant headmaster of Rampura Ekramunessa High School in the capital, passed away from pneumonia at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Sunday. He was 74. He left behind his wife and two sons to mourn his death. He was buried at his family graveyard in Barishal's Gournadi upazila yesterday.

### Draft rules for Road

FROM PAGE 3
rules, forcing the government to relax several sections till June this year. The government said the Motor Vehicles Ordinance-1984 will remain in force until the new rules come. Wishing anonymity, a member of the committee said BRTA, from the beginning, requested the Road Transport and Highways Division to appoint consultant to prepare the rules due to a lack of dedicated manpower and necessary expertise of legal issues.

### DU human chain seeks

FROM PAGE 3
Addressing the election commission, former provost of Jagannath hall Neem Chandra Bhowmik said, "Uphold the non-communal spirit of Liberation War by changing the polling date. If you do not do so, we will think that you do not want to acknowledge our constitutional right to vote." Speakers placed a two-point demand including rescheduling the election date and taking institutional steps -- introducing legislation or including clause to the electoral code -- to prevent recurrence of similar incidents.

### Chief justice suggests

FROM PAGE 3
The workshop will provide Bangladeshi judges and prosecutors with fundamental information on authenticating digital evidence for use in courts, and address concerns and identify common ground among stakeholders to lay the groundwork for introducing digital evidence in Bangladesh courtrooms in future, said a joint statement of US and UK missions in Dhaka.

### Campaign picks up

FROM PAGE 3
they were standing on the narrow footpath surrounded by the activists who passed them by. "We have no complaint about their vote campaign, but why would the candidates be accompanied by so many people, and create a jam-packed situation," said Kasfia Ahmed, who was moving with her one-year-old child amid the crowd.

When asked about the inconvenience caused, Tabith said, "The roads are narrow due to poor planning of the authorities concerned, but we are trying not to create discomfort for the people." Meanwhile, DNCC Mayoral Candidate Atiqul Islam's posters were seen pasted on the walls at Tejuri Bazar and Saat Rasta intersection in Tejgaon area on behalf of one Borhan Uddin, an activist of Jubo League's Abu Dhabi unit.

Clauses of the electoral code of conduct prohibits any third party to campaign on behalf of a candidate, sticking posters on walls, and using pictures of party leaders except its chief and the candidate. However, the posters show the pictures of Borhan, Atiqul Islam and Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader. Contacted over phone, Atiqul Islam said, "I did not tell anyone to do that. If someone did that, it is not right. We all should abide by the rules. People will not appreciate the matter. I also do not welcome such approach by the activist. I would like to tell them [activists] that none should not put posters randomly." Contacted about the matter, returning officer for DNCC polls Abul Kashem said, "We did not know about the matter. It is clearly a violation of the electoral code. Some over-enthusiastic activists could have done that. We will look into the matter tomorrow." Atiqul Islam campaigned in Khilgaon, Badda and Rampura areas yesterday.

### Eminent citizens want

FROM PAGE 3
said the present political culture in Bangladesh reflects that it is gradually turning hostile for the believers of the spirit of Liberation War. Those who fought the Liberation War, contributed to achieving the country's independence and stood for upholding the spirit of the Liberation War now have to say that they are gradually becoming "minorities" in the country, she said. "We are noticing repeated attacks on those working for upholding the spirit of the Liberation War and these attacks are not being stopped," she added. Politicians Pankaj Bhattacharya and Nazmul Haque Pradhan, economist Prof MM Akash, SSA President Ziauddin Tariq Ali, and rights activists Khushi Kabir and Rekha Chowdhury, among others, addressed the rally. PBI NABS A SUSPECT Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) yesterday said they arrested a suspect of the murder attempt from the city's Uttara. Special Superintendent Bashir Ahmed of PBI (Dhaka Metro) said suspect Md Forhad (18), was a day labourer but joined the group after being lured by the mastermind Nazmul Hossain, who previously worked as Sarwar's chauffeur. At a press briefing at PBI office yesterday, Bashir said Forhad was outside the building when two attackers went to Sarwar's house on the day. "So far we found that it was a robbery incident," he said. "However, after arresting other attackers and the mastermind, we will be able to conclude whether there was any other motive behind it," he added. Quoting the suspect, PBI officials said Nazmul, who is on the run, told his cohorts that there is money and gold ornaments in Sarwar's house and promised to share those after robbery. The attackers held at least two meetings in two hotels in Ashkona area on January 4 and January 5, they said. PBI officials said apart from Nazmul, they have identified five other attackers. Police were trying to arrest them. Earlier, law enforcers arrested a security guard of the building and a driver of Sarwar's family car in connection with the attack.

### PM joins Abu Dhabi

FROM PAGE 3
On Sunday night, Sheikh Hasina went on a three-day official visit to the UAE. Today, Sheikh Hasina is likely to have separate meetings with Sheikh Al Nahyan, UAE Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak. Sheikh Hasina will then leave for home on the same day.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Public Health Engineering
Office of the Executive Engineer
Lalmonirhat District
Memo No: 46.203.5200.061.17.055.18-18
Date: 12/01/2020
Invitation for e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for Single Package under Village Water Supply Project (VWSP), DPHE, Lalmonirhat.

Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited
Office of the Project Director
Switching & Transmission Network Development for Strengthening Digital Connectivity (STN) Project
Mohakhali Earth Station, Karail, Banani, Dhaka-1213.
www.btc.gov.bd
IGW International Tender Notice Corrigendum-3
1 Invitation Ref. No. 14.33.0000.310.07.008.19-02 date 24-11-2019
2 Tender Package Name "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of NFV Enable IP Based International Gateway Exchange in Bangladesh on Turn-key Basis"

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD
Road Circle, Patuakhali
Phone, Fax No. 0441-64457, 0441-65114
E-mail: se.rhd.patuakhali@gmail.com
Memo No: 27 Date: 12/01/2020
e-Tender Notice
This is to notify all concerned that the following tender have been published through e-GP Portal.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY
New Ideas Fashion Ltd is 100% Export oriented foreign company in Bangladesh is looking for ambitious, enthusiastic person to join its team as:
SL NO. JOB TITLE POST OF THE QUANTITY
1. PRODUCTION MANAGER 01
The candidate should have minimum Graduate/Diploma degree with 10 years practical experience as Production Manager. International exposure will be an added advantage. The position offers competitive compensation along with other benefits. Please send your CV along with a cover letter and three recent passport size photos to the following address by 20 Jan, 2020.

IN MEMORIAM
Twenty ninth Death Anniversary of
Late Abul Qasem FCA (1919-1991)
Founder President (ICAB),
Former President (DCCI),
Founder, A. Qasem & Co., Chartered Accountants
In Fond Remembrance
Shakil, Farzana, Sohail, Jabeen, Sanjida, Mostaq Sadaat, Sajid, Navid, Sadaaf, Omair, Ahnaf, Afraz &
All Partners, Directors, Staff and Students of A. Qasem & Co.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়
জেলা কারাগার, মুন্সীগঞ্জ
পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
পত্র নং-এস.০৪.৫৯০০.০৮৮.০৪.০০১.২০-১০৫ তারিখঃ ০৯-০১-২০২০
১ মহাপরিচালক/বিভাগ স্বস্তি মহাপরিচালক।
২ এজেন্ট/সহকারী করা অফিসার, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা।
৩ সহকারী/সহকারী জেলা সুপার, মুন্সীগঞ্জ।
৪ দরপত্রের নাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন সরকার।
৫ কোয়ালিফিকেশন ০১-০১-২০২০ হতে ০৩-০৬-২০২০ পর্যন্ত সময়ে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন সরকারের ২৯ বাজার দরপত্র।
৬ দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ০২/২০২০
৭ দরপত্রের বড়ত্ব সীমিত দরপত্র।
৮ প্রস্তাব দাখিলের তারিখ নগর সনদিলে বর্ণিতমতে।
৯ দরপত্র সনদিলে প্রস্তাব জমা জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, জেলা কারাগার, মুন্সীগঞ্জ ও করা উপ-মহাপরিচালক এর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা।
১০ দরপত্র সনদিলে মূল্য ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত টাকা)।
১১ সর্ববৃহৎ সনদিলে সর্ববৃহৎ।
১২ দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান মুন্সীগঞ্জ জেলা কারাগারের প্রধান ফটক, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, মুন্সীগঞ্জ ও নগর, মুন্সীগঞ্জ।
১৩ দরপত্র সনদিলে সর্বশেষ ২২-০১-২০২০ অবধি সনদিলে ২.০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত।
১৪ দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময় ১০-০১-২০২০ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৫ দরপত্র সনদিলে তারিখ ও সময় ১৩-০১-২০২০ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৬ দরপত্র সনদিলে তারিখ ও সময় ১৬-০১-২০২০ বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৭ বাস্তব ও কাজ প্রাপ্তি উদ্দেশ্যে জারি করা হইবে।
১৮ দরপত্র সনদিলে অন্যান্য জরুরি প্রয়োজন হইলে সর্বশেষ কার্যক্রমের সাথে (অফিস জরুরি সনদিলে) বেগোযোগ করা হইবে।
১৯ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করিতে হইলে সনদিলে প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে।
মেয় মুলদনী হুইরা
বিক্রম-০২৬০৩০০০০০৮৬
জেলা সুপার
জেলা কারাগার, মুন্সীগঞ্জ
ফোনঃ ৩৬১১০২১ (পত্রঃ)

বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জান্স
Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons
সিপিএস নং-৭৭৬/২০২০/
তারিখঃ ১২-০১-২০২০খ্রিঃ
বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এফসিপিএস ১ম পর্ব পাস করা অবৈতনিক প্রশিক্ষার্থীদেরকে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে প্রতিমাসে ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকা করে পারিতোষিক প্রদান করা হবে। বিসিপিএস-এর ওয়েবসাইট থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরম ডাউনলোড করে তা পূরণপূর্বক আগামী ১৮ জানুয়ারি, ২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে কলেজের আরটিএম বিভাগে জমা দেয়ার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সবাইকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
ইতিপূর্বে যারা পারিতোষিকের জন্য আবেদন করেছেন, তাঁদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
এতদসংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানার জন্য কলেজের ওয়েবসাইট www.bcps.edu.bd ভিজিট করুন।
অধ্যাপক আবুল বাসার মোহাম্মদ খুরশীদ আলম
অনারারী সচিব, বিসিপিএস
জিডি-৮৮

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Bangladesh Forest Research Institute
Sholoshahar, Chittagong-4211
Telephone: 880-031-2581029, Fax: 880-31-681566, E-mail: pd.rbrtcbfri@gmail.com
Memo No: 22.04.0000.037.21.000.2020-548 Date: 13-01-2020
Re-Tender Notice
Re-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (http://eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following goods.



A polling officer helping a woman to cast vote through electronic voting machine at Madyam Shakhura Government Primary School centre, during the by-election to Chattogram-8 yesterday.

## CTG-8 BY-POLLS AL's Moslem wins amid low turnout

AGENCIES

Awami League-backed candidate Moslem Uddin Ahmed won the by-election to Chattogram-8 constituency yesterday amid a low turnout of voters, reports BSS.

With the symbol "boat", Moslem got 87,246 votes, with his nearest contender -- BNP-backed Abu Sufian -- getting 17,395 votes for "sheaf of paddy".

Md Hasanuzzaman, regional election officer and returning officer for the by-polls, announced the results at the temporary election office in the port city's gymnasium field.

Voting was held through Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) from 9am to 5pm in 170 polling centres of the constituency, that comprises the port city's Chandgaon and parts of Bayezid, as well as Boalkhali upazila.

Voter turnout remained low on the day, with only 22.94 per cent votes being cast among the 4,74,485 voters of the constituency.

Four other candidates contested in the seat that fell vacant after the death of lawmaker Moinuddin Khan Badal on November 7 last year. Of them, SM Abul Kalam Azad received 1,185 votes, Syed Mohammad Farid Uddin got 992 votes, Emdadul Haque got 567 while Bapan Dasgupta got 656 votes.

Earlier in the day, BNP candidate Abu Sufian demanded suspension of voting, citing various irregularities, including "polling centre capture" by Awami League activists, reports UNB.

"I've sent a written complaint in this regard to the Election Commission," Sufian said at a press conference at the BNP office in the city around 1pm.

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) drove voters out of polling stations after taking their fingerprints and prevented them from casting their votes, he alleged, adding that BCL men captured 120 polling centres out of 170.

## Man brutally murdered in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A man was brutally murdered and dismembered at Naotola area of Cumilla's Chandina upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nasir Uddin (26) from the area. He was married and had a daughter.

Nasir's father Rabiullah works as a night guard and runs a small shop. In absence of his father, Nasir used to fill in as the shopkeeper and guard.

Yesterday morning, Rabiullah went to his shop and saw it covered in blood. After searching, he found Nasir's dismembered body beside the highway near the shop.

Abul Faisal, officer-in-charge of Chandina Police Station, said, "We recovered his body and sent it for autopsy to Cumilla Medical College morgue."

"We are investigating the matter," he added.

## Harun ur Rashid no more

CITY DESK

Barrister Harun ur Rashid passed away last night, said a press release.

He was suffering from old-age complications. After retiring as Permanent Representative Ambassador to the UN in Europe in Geneva with concurrent accreditation to the UN Office in Vienna, UNIDO and IAEA, he wrote columns for newspapers and magazines, including The Daily Star, and an author.

He left behind children Mamun, Sabina and Amin, son-in-law Safi, daughters-in-law Rosemary and Jane and grandchildren Joshua, Mia, Zara and Alisha.

His janaza will be held after Juma prayers on Friday at Azad Mosque in Gulshan.



## Mother and son killed, 8 hurt as launch hits another in Meghna

Two detained, one of the vessels seized; two probe committees formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A woman and her son were killed and eight people injured as a passenger launch hit another vessel on the river Meghna in Barishal early yesterday.

Police said the accident took place at Majerchar in Hijla upazila around 12:30am when Vandaria-bound launch "Farhan-9" from Dhaka hit Dhaka-bound "Kirtankhola-10" coming from Barishal.

The deceased -- Mahamuda Khatun (25) from Vandarikati in Barishal and her six-year-old son Momin -- were aboard Kirtankhola-10, confirmed Hijla Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ashim Kumar Sarker.

The OC quoted Kirtankhola-10 authorities as saying that poor visibility due to dense fog caused the accident.

Aslam Hossain, one of its passengers, said, "The launch was

moving slowly amid foggy weather. Suddenly, the other launch hit it perpendicularly, killing the two on the spot and injuring at least eight people."

Echoing him, Bellal Hossain, owner of Kirtankhola, said Farhan-9 was going to Vandaria.

Mamunur Rashid, driver of Farhan-9, said the accident happened because of thick fog.

Similar comments came from Alamin, a staff member of Farhan-9; and Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice president of Launch Owners' Association.

Triple-decker Kirtankhola-10 was carrying more than 800 passengers while triple-decker Farhan-9 over 500, said BIWTA officials and staffers of the launches.

Ajmol Huda Mithu, deputy director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport

Authority in Barishal, said BIWTA formed a four-member committee to investigate the incident.

The probe body headed by Saiful Islam, additional director (port and transportation) of BIWTA, was asked to submit a report to its chairman within seven working days, said Ajmol Huda, adding that Farhan-9 was seized.

Collection of information about the accident already started, he added.

Abdur Razzak, port officer at Chandpur River Port, said two of the injured were treated at Chandpur Sadar Hospital and later were sent to Dhaka for better treatment.

Of them, Noorjahan was hit in the leg and Haiful Begum in the head, he added.

The others were given first aid, said the officer.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## MONEY LAUNDERING

### Sigma Huda, daughters get anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to former BNP minister Nazmul Huda's wife Sigma Huda and their two daughters -- Antara Selima Huda and Srabanti Amina Huda -- for eight weeks in two separate money laundering cases involving Tk 6.73 crore.

The HC also ordered the three to surrender before the trial court concerned in eight weeks in connection with the cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice AKM Zahirul Huq came up with the orders after hearing two petitions filed by the accused.

## 2005 series bombing convict held from Patuakhali after 15yrs

STAR REPORT

A team of Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) of police yesterday arrested a life-term convict of the 2005 series bomb-blast case from Patuakhali.

Arrested Md Belal Mia (36) is a member of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), the group responsible for the bombings. Belal was accused in the First Information Report (FIR) of the case.

He went into hiding hours after the case was filed, MM Hasanul Zahid, SP of ATU, told The Daily Star.

For the next fifteen years, he took up different identities and made several fake National Identity Cards (NID) to evade arrest, added SP Zahid. He lived in Dhaka, Savar, and Naryanganj, and worked a variety of jobs.

For the last two years, he worked as a mason around Mohipur Bazar area of Patuakhali carrying a fake NID card under the name Rubel, the SP said.

Based on information, an ATU team conducted a joint drive with district police in the area around 2am and made the arrest, SP Mainul Hasan of Patuakhali district police told a press briefing.

Banned JMB on August 17, 2005 simultaneously blasted bombs in 63 districts of the country. Belal was awarded life-term in the case by Khagrachari District Court.

## Sixth-grader killed in road crash

Locals block road for an hour in Mymensingh

STAR REPORT

A sixth-grader was killed and her classmate was injured in a road accident at Gouripur Madhyabazar area in Mymensingh yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Tithi Pal (13), from Gouripur. The injured friend was identified as Rupa Chakraborty, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

Tithi, a student of Gouripur Pilot Girls High School, got GPA-5 in her Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) from a local primary school last year, said police.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge of Gouripur Police Station Md Borhan Uddin Khan said the accident took place around 7am when a sand-laden truck ran over Tithi and her classmate

Rupa while they were going to attend coaching classes.

The collision killed Tithi on the spot and critically injured Rupa.

Hearing of the incident, locals rushed the spot and took Rupa to Gouripur Upazila Health Complex. They also caught truck driver Humayun and his helper Mohammad Robin and handed them over to police after roughing them up. Police have seized the truck, said the OC.

The incident prompted locals and students to put up a barricade in the area for an hour. On information, police went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

After taking them to the hospital for first aid, police produced Humayun and Robin before a Mymensingh court that sent them to jail in a case

lodged by the deceased's father.

Meanwhile in another accident in Cumilla, a retired police officer died after he was hit by a speeding motorcycle yesterday afternoon, our Cumilla correspondent reports.

Deceased Sekandar Ali (75) hailed from Adamsar Khusbash of Barura upazila.

The accident occurred as Sekandar was crossing the Dhaka-Chattogram highway at Kabila near Eastern Medical College Hospital around 2:45pm. Critically injured after the motorcycle hit him, he was rushed to a local hospital in Cumilla city.

On-duty doctors at the hospital declared him dead around 4:30pm, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Mainamoti Highway Police Station.

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

Memo No-46.02.8182.000.26.003.19-20 Date: 12/01/2020

**e-Tender Notice Number: 02/2019-20**

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

Sl. No.	Package No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Tender security (Tk)	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time	Time for completion
01.	e-Tender/UGDP/puthiauzp/2018-19/W01	405967	1. (A) Const. of Slaughter House at Banerwar Hat under Banerwar UP, Puthia, Rajshahi. (B) Const. of WASH BLOCK at Bharora MPO Vukto High School under Banerwar UP, Puthia, Rajshahi. (C) Const. of WASH BLOCK at Fulbaria MPO Vukto High School under Valukgachi UP, Puthia, Rajshahi. 2. Const. of Science Laboratory Building with Instrument at Pochameria Degree College under Shilmara UP, Puthia, Rajshahi. 3. Const. of Building at Jamira College under Belguria UP, Puthia, Rajshahi.	120000.00	04/02/2020 Time: 17:00	05/02/2020 Time: 13:00	05/02/2020 Time: 13:00	180 days

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 banks branches up to 12:00 noon on 05/02/2020.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Saidur Rahman  
Upazila Engineer  
LGED, Puthia, Rajshahi  
E-mail: ue.puthia@lged.gov.bd  
Mob. No. 01708-161599  
Fax: 07228-56109

## Fatema Kabir passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fatema Kabir, and activist and wife of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir, passed away early yesterday, while undergoing treatment at the ICU of Labaid Hospital. She was 68.

Central leaders and advisors of the committee yesterday expressed deep shock at her death. Fatema was actively involved with all movements against fundamentalism and communalism in Bangladesh, a statement said.

"We are deeply shocked at her [Fatema] death," members and advisors said, adding, "We express our condolences to the bereaved family members, her colleagues and co-activists."

She will be buried at the capital's Miapur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard after Zohr prayers tomorrow. Her qulqhwani will be held at Shahriar Kabir's residence after Asr prayers on Friday.



**Janata Bank Limited**  
Estate Department (5<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
Head Office, 110 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

**Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) For**

Interior Design firm/ Artistic work construction firm to install mural of the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, portraits of seven Birshreshtha and the national flag/map of Bangladesh at the main Entrance lift lobby of Janata Bank Head Office and decorated consistent with the mural work.

No.	Procurement Entity	Janata Bank Limited
1	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Interior Design firm/ Artistic work construction firm
2	Proposal Package No.	AS H/Int. De. Fi/G.F. Renovation/20
3	Proposal Invitation No. & Date	DGM/ Int. De. Fi/G.F. Renovation /20/04 Date: 14/01/2020
4	Procurement Method	Design competition method
5	Budget and Source of Funds	Janata Bank Limited's own fund
6	Program / Project Name	Installation of mural of the portrait of Bangabandhu, portraits of seven birshreshtha and the national flag/map of Bangladesh at the main entrance lift lobby of Janata Bank Head Office and decorated consistent with the mural work.
7	Submitting Date and time	28-01 - 2020, within 2:30 P.M.
8	Opening Date and time	28-01 - 2020, within 3:00 P.M.
9	Brief Description of the Assignment	Marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 'Mujib Barsha 2020' is being celebrated throughout the Nation. As part of the celebration, authority of Janata Bank Limited are interested to install mural of the portrait of Bangabandhu, portraits of seven birshreshtha and the national flag/map of Bangladesh at the main entrance lift lobby at ground floor of Janata Bank Head Office (Janata Bank Bhaban), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. Proposed decoration of main entrance of the Janata Bhaban and the entrance lift-lobby area should be consistent with the mural work. Providing the services include: a) Prepare details layout plan, drawing (Civil, Electrical, Mechanical), 3D view from different angle and animation of the project. b) Realistic portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, portraits of seven birshreshtha and the national flag/map to be installed in mural form by natural materials/artist choice. c) The interior decoration work consistent with the mural work including Civil, Electrical and Mechanical work.
10	Experience, Resources and Delivery	Intending firms have to submit the following documents along with the EOI: a) Brochure summarizing their available facilities, areas of expertise, general information including legal documents. b) Availability of appropriate experience and professional qualification along with the expertise of technical persons and resources to carry out the said assignment. c) Administrative strength, logistics and Financial Capability
11	Other Details	a) An Interior Design firm/ Artistic work construction firm will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2008. b) Envelope containing EOI along with relevant support documents to be marked with "Expression of Interest (EOI) for install mural of the portrait of Bangabandhu, portraits of seven birshreshtha and the national flag/map of Bangladesh at the main entrance lift lobby of Janata Bank Head Office and decorated consistent with the mural work" is to be submitted in the office of the Deputy General Manager, Estate Department (5 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Janata Bank Limited, Head Office, 110 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. c) Any EOI submitted after the closing time will not be accepted. d) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOI either partly or in full without assigning any reason thereof. e) If any firm/company produces a False/ Fabricated paper/ certificate with the EOI, the related EOI will be treated as cancelled. f) The firm must have a team of Artist having MFA/BFA degree and experience in relevant field or agreement with a team of Artist of similar educational qualification and working experience. g) The Principal artist for mural work has to be renowned and experienced in exhibition his/her work both at home and abroad with minimum 10(ten) years working experience.

JB1/PRD/HO/04/2020

GD-97

(Amal Chandra Sarker)  
Deputy General Manager

# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 14, 2020, POUSSH 30, 1426 BS

## No prescription, no monitoring, no nothing!

*Absence of accountability breeds incompetence*

A report by this newspaper on Monday again pierced the myth that we have somewhat of a decently working healthcare sector, albeit from a unique angle. Despite a court directive to stop over-the-counter sale of antibiotics, the health authorities have not only failed to follow up on the order, but seem completely lost at sea as to what to do.

A recent joint study by the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) and the WHO shows that antibiotics consumption in Bangladesh has increased by 30.81 percent in the last two years. Overuse of antibiotics has given rise to the danger of superbugs throughout the world that cause some seven lakh deaths globally per year. Yet, our health authorities, as if unaware of these facts, have failed to do anything at all to raise awareness among the general populace about the dangers of over- or wrong use of antibiotics.

According to experts, the problem lies in the fact that people don't know which drugs are antibiotics, meaning, people are taking antibiotics daily without even knowing about it. On April 25, the HC ordered the DGDA to take steps to stop the over-the-counter sale of antibiotics. Accordingly, all that the DGDA has done so far is issue a notice in May to all district commissioners and civil surgeons, followed by a reminder a month later.

Such apathy on the part of the DGDA is completely unacceptable. According to WHO estimates, 10 million people could die from superbugs by 2050 if the overuse of antibiotics go unchecked. And as this newspaper discovered during its investigation, hundreds if not more, stores across the country are selling antibiotics at whim without any doctor's prescription.

The reason why pharmaceuticals have been able to get away with this practice is the lack of monitoring by the health authorities. It is time for those responsible within the health ministry and DGDA to be held accountable for letting things spiral onto this point. And for the health authorities to finally start doing their job.

## An amazing alternative to polythene

*More companies should come forward to produce biodegradable bags*

It is heartening that a local company in Bangladesh has been producing biodegradable packaging materials and bags from corn, a rather unlikely source material. Unlike polythene bags, which survive in the soil for several hundred years and have devastating impacts on the environment, these bags are "compostable," do not contain any heavy metal, and are thus environment-friendly. Apart from the packaging materials, the company has also been producing shirt clips, collar stays, hang tags, and hangers from the corn fibre.

Although polythene bags were banned in Bangladesh in 2002, successive governments have failed miserably to enforce the ban. And it is easily understandable why—there has not been any suitable alternative to these bags all these years. Although the government took some initiatives to encourage the use of jute bags, unfortunately, they could not popularise it.

According to the Earth Day Network of USA (2018), Bangladesh is the 10th most plastic polluting country in the world. Plastic contributes eight percent of the country's waste, which is equivalent to 800,000 tonnes. Of these, around 200,000 tonnes go into the ocean and rivers, posing a serious threat to the marine ecosystem.

Under the circumstances, if we want to fight the menace of plastic pollution, there is no alternative to encouraging the use of biodegradable bags. Apart from the bags made from other biodegradable materials, we also need to encourage the use of jute bags, which would help revive our ailing jute sector.

Only last week, the High Court directed the government authorities concerned to ban single-use plastic products in the coastal areas and hotels, motels and restaurants across the country. The HC has also directed the government to strictly enforce the legal ban on polythene. We hope this time the government will comply with the directives. Needless to say, if more companies come forward to produce biodegradable bags and packaging materials for the local market, enforcing the ban will be much easier.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Sex education must be compulsory

Sex education is still considered a taboo in our society. It is not discussed as much as it needs to be across most of our educational institutions, often leading to major misconceptions regarding this, especially amongst the youth. Add to that the widespread exposure of pornography and the portrayal of hypersexuality in the media, and it results in the alarming rise in sexual abuse and rape that continues to run rampant. The lack of proper sexual education has led many people to make ignorant and unhealthy decisions in their lives.

Therefore, dissemination of correct information about reproduction, human sexual anatomy, sexuality, sexual activity, reproductive rights, birth control, emotional relations and responsibilities, age of consent and privacy, among other issues, have become indispensable. It is high time that parents and the concerned authorities alike introduce our children to sex education at home and schools so that they are well aware about the subject which will in turn help prevent severe social and health consequences.

Sabina Sultana, by email

# The rapes that don't matter



ZYMA ISLAM

A photo taken at the recent protests against rape has been making the rounds on social media. In the image, a tea-seller named Abdul Jalil Shwapan—or "Shwapan Mama" as he is fondly known to the students of the campus—holds up a placard demanding death for the rapists of both the DU student whose rape has shaken up the system, as well as that of his own child.

His daughter, aged 20, who also happens to be speech-impaired, was raped in 2018 by her 55-year-old neighbour. The rape accused was released on bail and has now lodged a burglary case against Shwapan Mama. The case rolls on while Shwapan Mama braves the winter to demand justice for his daughter, along with the other daughters of the country.

This, unfortunately, is what happens to most rape cases in the country—nothing.

You see, right now, good times prevail. One gets raped, and the rapist is caught within a record 48 hours—as happened in the case of the DU rape victim, or within 24 hours—as in the cases of the Dhamrai ceramic factory worker and the girl gang-raped in Kamrangirchar. Law enforcers are leaving no stone unturned in finding rapists as soon as the incidents are reported. It is a truly commendable attitude that is bringing much reassurance to the lives of the survivors.

But I can't help but wonder where this pro-survivor, go-getter attitude was when Priyanka Rani Davnath was raped. She did not have a nation rallying for her, and so found herself trying to move a system that had little willingness to be moved.

Last year the *Star Weekend* magazine published an article about her struggle for justice titled "The Burden of Proof" to demonstrate just how difficult it is for rape survivors to navigate the system. Raped, traumatised and bleeding, Priyanka had delivered herself to Dhaka Medical College Hospital right after the incident for DNA testing. She pushed her investigating officer (IO) for months to find the rapists, even as he abused his position to flirt with her. She convinced the police station to change her IO to a female one so that she could stop being harassed by the very cop assigned to investigate her case. Seeing no progress even after three months, Priyanka organised a press conference where male journalists showed up to ask her gory details about the rape, and finally dismissed her as incoherent and not newsworthy.

There's more. Her new IO was hardly

proactive. Instead, she asked her to find out where her rapist lives—even though the rapist could easily have been tracked using his phone number. Priyanka went on to the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to request them to take over her case. To their credit, they did, but they also told Priyanka to create a fake online personality, befriend her rapist, and lure him to a location to be arrested. And so, she did, reliving the trauma of communicating for several months with the man who had violated her. She cornered the man in a previously agreed-upon location, where the police were hiding, and he was finally caught.

I will not forget the way she burst into loud tears of relief in the middle of a busy

room. Meanwhile, other rape survivors sat around with their families and IOs in the ground floor parking lot of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, or hung out in the balconies outside the courtrooms waiting for their turn at justice.

While the state's efforts to be sensitive to the DU rape survivor is definitely to be lauded, we must ask why the same is not being accorded to the other cases where there isn't public scrutiny. The state itself is setting the standard, showing what they are capable of doing when they have the political will to do so. Then why does it not?

We understand that the perpetrator is a serial rapist. So, we entreat the law enforcers to take his DNA sample and suspects in this case are going free because they are more than just addled junkies from the street—why else have Tonu's rapists not been arrested in four years, even when their DNA is available?

The fact that the state got a DNA match as soon as possible in the case of the DU rape survivor is also an anomaly. As Fahmida Akhter, lawyer of the One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC), says, "It takes more than a month for the medical report of most rape victims to be submitted."

"Since the process can be quite lengthy, many victims cannot keep up and choose to settle out-of-court, leaving the rapist free from imprisonment," Akhter says. A *Prothom Alo* investigation from 2018 found out that 41 percent of the



PHOTO: COLLECTED

A tea-seller named Abdul Jalil Shwapan—or "Shwapan Mama" as he is fondly known to the students of the campus—holds up a placard demanding death for the rapists of both the DU student whose rape has shaken up the system, as well as that of his own child.

Dhaka street as she watched her rapist being shoved into a police van. At least a part of the exhausting marathon for justice had just come to an end for her—now onto the next of fighting the court battle.

And let's not even get into the case of Sohagi Jahan Tonu, who was gang-raped and left to die in May of 2016. Her body was exhumed and she went through two rounds of DNA testing, while masses of people took to the streets and social media with hashtags like #justicefortonu. They found three distinct DNA samples on her... and that is where the case stopped, buried deep in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), one of the elite investigation agencies in the country.

One has to wonder whether the

legal cases at the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal lost steam through the judicial process. "[The survivors] receive money from the rapists or they are threatened into withdrawing the case. There are even cases of rape survivors being married off to their rapists," explains Akhter.

It must also be said that—while being very commendable—there is a distinct difference in how the state has dealt with the DU rape survivor, and the kind of experience other rape survivors go through.

Even last Thursday, when the rapist Majnu and the DU rape survivor were being brought to court, the court took special measures to protect the girl from trauma. They hid her under a *burkha* and stealthily sneaked her into a magistrate's

match it with the DNA records of past OCC victims to see if there are any matches. Interrogate him and make him identify the women he has preyed upon. Go to his victims—the beggars and the mentally-disabled who do not have the whole nation protesting for them or who do not report their rape to the OCC—and tell them their rapist has been caught. Tell them that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Prove to the women of this country that the law enforcers are not solving this case as a PR stunt, or to stop the public from protesting, but because they actually care about bringing an end to rape.

Do this, why don't you?

Zyma Islam is a journalist at *The Daily Star*.

## PROJECT SYNDICATE

# Erdogan wades into the Libyan quagmire



JOHN ANDREWS

FOREIGN critics of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan deride him as a quasi-dictatorial megalomaniac. But Erdogan—who was Turkey's prime minister for 11 years before being elected president in 2014—is now a reckless gambler, too. In short order, Turkey will send troops to Libya at the request of the United Nations-backed Government of National

Accord (GNA), which has been besieged in Tripoli for the last eight months by the advancing forces of Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA).

This will be a military and diplomatic folly. Erdogan already has the distressing example of the Syrian conflict on Turkey's own doorstep. Does he really imagine that sending a few hundred—or even many thousand—Turkish troops to aid the beleaguered GNA will somehow resolve Libya's tragic and bloody turmoil, itself the result of the 2011 intervention by foreign powers that toppled Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's regime?

If Erdogan expects either a GNA victory or an imminent peace settlement,

he is deluding himself. Haftar's well-equipped LNA has the support of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and (at least covertly) France. With mercenaries from Russia and Sudan on his side, Haftar must feel rather more optimistic than Fayeze al-Sarraj, the GNA's prime minister. Support for the GNA from Turkey and Qatar, along with the fig leaf of UN recognition, weighs rather less in the military balance.

So, what explains Turkey's entry into Libya's dreadful conflict as yet another proxy warrior? One factor, often baffling to outsiders, is the ideological and political influence throughout the Middle East—or at least its Sunni Muslim

Turkey—specifically, Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP)—and tiny Qatar (very much at odds with neighbouring Saudi Arabia) view the Brotherhood with enthusiasm rather than alarm. On the almost frivolous premise that my enemy's enemy is my friend, the fact that Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt support Haftar is excuse enough for Turkey and Qatar to support Sarraj and the GNA.

The bigger reason for Erdogan's adventurism in Libya, though, is that it fits his desire for Turkey to play a determining role in its region for the first time since the demise of the Ottoman empire (of which Libya was once a

influence abroad, but under the slogan "zero problems with our neighbours."

How ironic, then, that Erdogan has created problems with almost all of his neighbours. The EU cannot accept Turkey's appalling record on human rights, especially following the military's failed coup attempt of 2016. Israel cannot abide Turkey's support for Hamas (which is aligned with the Muslim Brotherhood) in Gaza. And virtually everyone is exasperated by Turkey's policy in Syria, which features attacking the Kurds—the most effective fighters against the Islamic State—and ambivalence towards several jihadist groups. Significantly, Davutoglu has broken with Erdogan and formed a rival political party.

True, Erdogan's supporters can justifiably argue that Turkey has become a regional player to be reckoned with. The EU has to be financially generous, or else Turkey may let hundreds of thousands of Syrian and other refugees from war and poverty flood into Europe. Russia and Iran, which both support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime, recognise that a settlement of the Syrian conflict will depend on Turkey's acquiescence—hence the continuing three-party peace process that began three years ago in Astana, Kazakhstan. Even the United States under President Donald Trump has had to eat a slice of humble pie: Turkey, regardless of NATO sensitivities and American economic threats, stands by its decision to buy a Russian air-defence system.

But the Libyan venture may be a step too far. On December 5, the Turkish parliament ratified an agreement between Erdogan and Sarraj that sets a maritime border between their two countries. The Turkish-Libyan deal ignores international law—as the EU, Cyprus, Greece, and Egypt have pointed out. It also ignores geography, because the Greek island of Crete lies halfway between the two countries. And it threatens the January 2019 agreement between Egypt, Israel, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority to exploit the gas reserves of the eastern Mediterranean.

Erdogan is the epitome of today's strongman political leader. But by the time his Libyan gamble sours, as it inevitably will, he will have run out of both luck and friends.

John Andrews, a former editor and foreign correspondent for *The Economist*, is the author of *The World in Conflict: Understanding the World's Troublespots*. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org) (Exclusive to *The Daily Star*)



PHOTO: AFP

Turkey begins deploying troops to Libya.

parts—of the Muslim Brotherhood. Founded in Egypt almost a century ago, the Brotherhood favours a transition (peaceful, it has always maintained) to theocratic government. As its slogan proclaims, "Islam is the solution."

That is a problem for the ruling families of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain, all of which regard the Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation seeking to undermine their power. So, too, does the oppressive Egyptian regime led by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who mounted the 2013 military coup that ended the Brotherhood's disastrous year governing the Arab world's most populous country. Only

part). On the surface, that ambition sounds reasonable enough. Turkey has a population of more than 80 million, the second-largest military in NATO, and a relatively developed economy. It deserves to be treated with respect—which is why the European Union's obvious reluctance to advance the country's membership bid is a blow to Turkish pride.

But Turkey's pursuit of its regional leadership ambition has come at a high cost. When the AKP came to power in Turkey almost two decades ago, Erdogan's mentor was Ahmet Davutoglu, an academic who then became foreign minister and eventually prime minister. Davutoglu was keen to expand Turkey's

# Why count birds?

Conservationists reveal (still) promising numbers after census near Padma char areas, and throw light on important ecosystem services of avian fauna



ABIDA RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

On a half-wooden, half-iron boat, a team of men and women in heavy winter gear and heavy-duty binoculars set sail on a very, very cold winter morning on January 5. Their destination was the sandbars and shallow

water lagoons of the mighty Padma River. The team comprising conservationists, bird watchers, and foresters were conducting a census, the first of its kind in Rajshahi division. While this was the first time that the Bangladesh Forest Department and other official bodies were involved in a census of this kind in Rajshahi division, it wasn't the first census per se in the area. In fact, bird censuses are now commonplace in the country—well, by commonplace, I mean carried out by a niche group of scientists, conservationists, ornithologists, and birdwatching enthusiasts/experts.

From the high seas beyond Sandwip to the sandbars of Sonadia, from the shrublands of Tetulia to even tea gardens in Srimangal, the country has seen a surge in citizen science revolving around birdwatching and census in the last few years.

I came to know about the census from a facebook post. Not long after, through a strange set of circumstances, I found myself with a group of men, women, and bird guidebooks travelling to the south east coast of Bangladesh.

And in the span of those travels I chanced upon something enchanting. A barren mudflat that stretched for miles ahead; grey and steely, reflecting the mirage of the horizon, yet a land brimming with life. I saw ruddy turnstones appear fleetingly, only to be lost right back into the landscape strewn with red and brown pebbles on a bed of grey mud. Through a spotting scope, we would scan the land and conservationist Sayam U Chowdhury would erupt in squeals as he spotted a spoon-billed sandpiper, busily feeding in the mudflats. That was the identification trait

for the tiny bird, of which less than a few hundred remained back then. The critically endangered bird had this nervous energy—it was tiny, tinier than a house-sparrow and it fed on the soft mud like a supersonic beast. It blended into the landscape and had flown all the way from Russia to spend its winter here.

It is data such as this, and rare sightings and the ongoing biodiversity decline worldwide, that prompt conservationists to continue their work. Bird censuses are a way to monitor environmental trends in our local area, identify potential problems, and create a wealth of data.

In the research carried out in Rajshahi that I mentioned earlier, one day of census counted a total of 4,025 birds of 37 species of water birds in the chars of Padma. Of them, 27 were migratory bird species and the rest were resident birds.

Even the highest and second highest count of individuals—1,100 were of gadwall and 330 of Temnick's stint species—are both migratory bird species. This is important because Rajshahi division



In Rajshahi, for this season, conservationists have tagged common teal with GPS-enabled satellite tags to understand the flight details of birds.

PHOTO: MOHSIN KABIR MIRON



Birds are ecological indicators, and maintaining a database of their populations and habitat preferences can help shape policies.

PHOTO: SAYAM U CHOWDHURY

falls under the Central Asian Flyway, which means that migratory birds fly over these areas to reach their wintering grounds and often stop here for rest and replenishment.

The Padma and Brahmaputra river chars have been hotspots for birdwatchers and ornithologists. The somewhat untouched grasslands host many different species of birds, so much so that a rare sighting of Baikal teal, majestic and glorious in gait, was also seen during the census at Padma.

Ornithologists under the Wildbird Monitoring Program, which was established last year, have also been tagging wild ducks with GPS-enabled satellite tags to understand the flight details of birds. The satellite tags and the wealth of data they provide to the conservationists is a long-term scientific endeavour. Flight patterns will reveal where and how the birds interact with their habitats, and their stopovers will show which places require long term conservation plans, among other things.

In Rajshahi, for this season, conservationists have satellite-tagged two species of wild ducks. They tagged a common teal, weighing in at 310 gms and clocking in nearly 10 kms on the first day, and another 13.5 kms on day two.

"We observed that the bird, especially during the nights, travelled to paddy fields to feed on small insects and vegetation in

the soil. It is natural that they also leave bird droppings in the field which in turn enhances the soil fertility," says ABM Sarowar Alam, highlighting some of the ecosystem services of avian fauna on their surrounding landscape.

In addition to enhancing soil quality, birds are also ecological indicators, and maintaining a database of their populations and habitat preferences can even help shape policies.

Sayam U Chowdhury, conservationist working on endangered species in Bangladesh, says, "Scientists and conservationists need such data at their disposal because this can deter development projects on sensitive habitats or help in declaring protected areas."

According to the National Audubon Society, birds are the "canary in the coal mine" for our environment. Their health, abundance, and distribution can signal trends in the health of the larger environment. They are basically like the warning bells of nature—when the birds leave, it means the habitat is not doing well, it is suffering.

Here in Bangladesh, citizen science too is starting to pick up pace. eBird, an app run by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is being fed by data from local bird photographers and birdwatchers and has gained immense popularity.

"Many people have started to use this app to report sightings of even fairly common birds which are often neglected in more focused censuses. This will help in future predictions and conservation actions. In Bangladesh there has been an overall decline in the number of birds which is no surprise because of the degradation of habitats. But certain areas, especially the coast which is a very dynamic zone and is gaining landmass, was showing signs of improvement and growing number of birds. But now new development plans in the area is likely to threaten that."

Natural calamities, wars, and exploitation worldwide have left the natural order of things under deep, lasting threat. As climate crisis becomes the new reality, it is up to us to continue the scientific work in the backdrop to guide policies and decisions.

Abida R Chowdhury is a journalist at *The Daily Star*, with a background in environmental science and a keen interest in animals and wildlife.

The Bangladesh Bird Club has been assisting various organisations with bird census throughout the years.

## Sustainable 'costing' can empower factory owners



MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

We hear a lot about the concept of sustainability from an environmental and social standpoint. But what about sustainable business? Is the current customer-supplier model sustainable in the long term with respect to the global

apparel industry?

I would argue that, certainly with reference to Bangladesh, it is inherently unstable. Before I continue, I want to stress here that this is not an 'anti-brand' article which claims that suppliers are squeezed too hard and unfairly. My view generally on prices paid by brands is that these are dictated by global market forces, and there is a general over-supply in the market at the current time, which is why prices have been driven down.

But while I believe in the power of the market, I also think there are times when the market needs a helping hand in order to operate more effectively and to achieve more socially desirable outcomes.

I am talking here about the issue of wages paid to garment workers and, also, sustainability. Is enough of a margin currently being built into the negotiation process to ensure that garment workers receive a fair wage—or even a minimum wage? And is enough being built in to cover the costs of sustainable production? At the present time there are huge question marks about these issues. I hear stories of factories taking orders at a loss, or orders where everything is trimmed right to the bone.

This is unsustainable and such businesses will struggle to survive in the long term. It also helps nobody—neither factories nor brands.

The problem here is not necessarily that brands are driving too hard a bargain. Rather, it is the nature of the negotiation process which, in many cases, is inherently flawed. At present, brands often calculate the retail value of a product, and then use projected retail figures to determine the FOB/CMT price that the brand seeks to pay.

However, this 'top-down' way of negotiation often fails to take into account the 'true' cost of production, including paying decent wages, investing in safety, sustainability and so on. Conversely, bottom-up costing, a process whereby

labour and other input costs are used to determine the FOB/CMT price, is rarely practiced.

The result of this is that, in many cases, FOB prices paid by brands are not sufficient to cover minimum wage benchmarks in production countries.

And yet, it need not be this way. There are a number of costing tools which enable minimum wage and other costs to be factored into the negotiation process. It would be a progressive step, I believe, if more of the industry moved towards this method of determining prices.

One of these tools was developed by the Fair Wear Foundation (FWF). The FWF costing tool tries to create greater transparency and precision in determining the labour component of cost price negotiations. This method uses actual wage data to calculate how much it would cost to cover a certain level of wages (minimum wages or higher). The calculator enables

depreciation on a new sprinkler system), divide it by the monthly sewing capacity and multiply this with the number of minutes needed to sew a certain product.

The beauty of this tool is that it gives the factory transparent and verifiable arguments to justify a certain FOB price during negotiations with buyers. It therefore improves a factory owner's bargaining position, providing a compelling—and fair!—reason for brands to pay a certain price.

But brands also benefit as those committed to ensuring that workers producing their garments are paid at least the legal minimum wage now get to see a clear link between wages and prices.

The other benefit of this tool is that it could potentially help us move away from an adversarial approach to price and cost negotiations, building trust on both sides. 'Open book' costing has actually been talked

*The 'top-down' way of negotiation often fails to take into account the 'true' cost of production, including paying decent wages, investing in safety, sustainability and so on. Conversely, bottom-up costing, a process whereby labour and other input costs are used to determine the FOB/CMT price, is rarely practiced.*

suppliers and buyers to determine the cost of one minute of labour in a factory, taking into account factory-specific variables such as workforce composition, bonuses and insurance and actual overtime hours. Knowing the price of one minute and multiplying that with the number of sewing minutes required to make a garment will provide the actual labour costs for a product concerned. When wages go up, for instance because of a rise in the legal minimum wage, the tool allows one to calculate the effect such an increase has on the manufacturing (CMT or FOB) price of garments.

This same method could also be applied in other areas in order to 'build in' extra costs associated with, for instance, factory safety or sustainability. To offer the example of a new sprinkler system, one would simply take the monthly costs (e.g. the monthly

about for many years, but tools such as this take it to another level, providing previously unseen levels of transparency.

Contrary to what many people might think, I believe most brands are reasonable and want to pay prices that ensure their suppliers can treat their workers fairly and pay them a decent wage, as well as cover other issues such as environmental compliance and factory safety.

But they do need clear information to do that, and tools such as this may provide it—ensuring that all parties know exactly where they stand in the negotiation process, and that there can be no hidden agendas.

It's a win-win.

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE). He can be reached at mostafiz@denimexpert.com

QUOTABLE Quote

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American journalist

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## US condemns latest missile attack on Iraqi airbase

4 local troops hurt

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday he was "outraged" by another missile attack on an Iraqi airbase where US forces have been stationed, as neighbouring Iran signalled a wish to de-escalate tensions.

"Outraged by reports of another rocket attack on an Iraqi airbase," Pompeo tweeted. "These continued violations of Iraq's sovereignty by groups not loyal to the Iraqi government must end."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Sunday's rocket attacks, in which the Iraqi military said eight missiles wounded two Iraqi officers and two airmen.

The US has previously blamed such attacks on Iran-backed groups in Iraq.

The Al-Balad base had held a small US Air Force contingent as well as American contractors, but most were evacuated following a sharp rise in friction between the US and Iran over the past two weeks, military sources told AFP.

Al-Balad is the main airbase for Iraq's F-16s, which it bought from the US.

Military bases hosting US troops have been subject in recent months to rocket and mortar attacks that have mostly wounded Iraqi forces, but also killed one American contractor last month.

That death set off a series of dramatic developments, with the US carrying out deadly strikes against a pro-Iran paramilitary group in Iraq as well as a convoy carrying top Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani outside the Baghdad airport.

Pro-Iran factions in Iraq have vowed revenge for those raids, even as Iran said it had already responded in "proportion" by striking another western airbase where US soldiers are located.



Mourners console each other as they gather at a memorial service for the victims of Ukrainian Airlines flight PS752 crash in Iran at the Saville Community Sports Centre in Edmonton, Canada on Sunday night.

PHOTO: AFP

## Canada grieves for victims

PM promises justice and accountability at Toronto memorial

AFP, Toronto

Thousands of people attended vigils on Sunday night in Canada for the 57 Canadian victims of the Ukrainian airliner crash in Iran, most of them from the Iranian community.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told a memorial event in Edmonton that "this tragedy struck our Iranian-Canadian community, leaving cities like Edmonton reeling, but this was truly a Canadian tragedy."

"This tragedy should have never occurred, and I want to assure you that you have my full support during this extraordinarily difficult time ... you give us purpose to pursue justice and accountability for you," said Trudeau, who has demanded Canada take part in the crash probe.

"We will not rest until there are answers."

Six university students were killed when the Ukraine International Airlines flight crashed on January 8, shortly after takeoff from Tehran's airport.

All 176 people aboard were killed, 57 of whom were Canadian, many of them dual Iranian nationals.

Iran has since admitted the airliner

was mistakenly shot down by Iranian missiles.

At a ceremony at the University of Toronto, many of those who had been close to the victims expressed their grief and anger.

"It's a story that resonates with the people, these immigrants with a lot

### IRAN PLANE DOWNING

"This tragedy should have never occurred, and I want to assure you that you have my full support... We will not rest until there are answers."



of hopes and dreams. They worked super hard, they were high achievers and they get here only to be shot down in the middle of the air," said Ali Esnaashani.

"I'm angry, I'm sad," the 30-year-old told AFP. "But I also feel inspired to see the community come together like this."

On stage, Mehrdad Ariannejad, head of the Canadian-Iranian cultural dialogue nonprofit Tirgan, began to cry during his speech.

"Shock has given way to grief and increasingly anger," he said.

"We must demand justice from the Islamic Republic authorities and demand answers and compensation for the negligence and lack of regard for human life that has led to this tragedy."

Canada is home to a major Iranian diaspora. In 2016, 210,000 Canadians claimed Iranian origins, according to official figures.

Half of them live in Toronto, which has one of the most significant Iranian communities in North America after Los Angeles.

Hola, 50, who knew one of the victims, could not hold back her tears. "I'm happy that the Canadian government promised to follow through and find justice for these people, for the families and loved ones," she said.

"Nothing will ever replace these brilliant lives that have been cut short," said Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland in Toronto. "We will always bear these scars."

## CAA, NPR and NRC unconstitutional

Says India's Congress-led opposition

Toi, New Delhi

The opposition parties, led by the Congress, passed a resolution against the amended Citizenship Act and National Population Register (NPR) yesterday, calling them part of an "unconstitutional package" that targets the poor and downtrodden.

In a firm rebuttal, the BJP said that the opposition resolution against the law must have made Pakistan happy since it was a chance to expose Islamabad.

In a meeting convened by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, 20 opposition parties deliberated upon the current political situation in the country, following widespread protests against the amended Citizenship Act and the violence on campuses.

The opposition parties said that CAA, NPR and NRC is a package that is unconstitutional, which specifically targets the poor, the downtrodden, the SC/STs and the linguistic and religious minorities.

"The NPR is the basis for the NRC. We demand the withdrawal of the CAA and the immediate stoppage of the nationwide NRC/NPR," the opposition resolution said.

Hitting back, Union law minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the opposition resolution will make Pakistan very happy since the legislation was a chance to expose Islamabad's "barbaric treatment" of minorities.

He added said the Opposition ended up "unnecessarily" attacking the Modi government in the process. Taking a dig over some parties skipping the meeting, the Union law minister said the opposition unity stood "exposed".

## 'I'm spending all my money to get rid of Trump'

Says Bloomberg, denies trying to buy US election

REUTERS, San Antonio

US presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg told Reuters he is ready to spend much of his vast fortune to oust Republican President Donald Trump from the White House in 2020, rejecting criticism from rivals for the Democratic nomination that the billionaire is trying to buy the US election.

Ranked by Forbes as the eighth-richest American, Bloomberg has flooded US airwaves and social media feeds with messages that he stands the best chance to beat Trump, spending more on campaign ads since he launched his campaign in November than his main Democratic rivals have over the last year.

"Number one priority is to get rid of Donald Trump. I'm spending all my money to get rid of Trump," Bloomberg told Reuters aboard his campaign bus on Saturday, during a nearly 300-mile (483-km) drive across Texas, one of the 14 states that will vote on Super Tuesday on March 3.

"Do you want me to spend more or less? End of story."

US Senator Elizabeth Warren, one of the leading Democratic presidential contenders who has vowed to get money out of politics, blasted Bloomberg when he launched his campaign with a \$37-million TV advertising blitz, accusing the former New York City mayor of trying to buy American democracy.

"These are just political things they say, hoping they catch on and they don't like me doing it, because it competes with them, not because it's bad policy," Bloomberg said.

After entering the race late and missing the first six Democratic debates, Bloomberg generally sits fifth in national public opinion polls behind Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Warren and Pete Buttigieg.

But not just the two liberal standard-bearers of Warren and Sanders, all of the four are too liberal to beat Trump, Bloomberg said.



### CHINA PNEUMONIA OUTBREAK

## First case of new virus found in Thailand

AFP, Geneva

A new virus from the same family as the deadly SARS disease has spread beyond China's borders for the first time with a case emerging in Thailand, UN and Thai officials said yesterday.

Thai doctors diagnosed a Chinese traveller with mild pneumonia on January 8 later confirmed to have been caused by the so-called novel coronavirus -- which has already given rise to 41 pneumonia-like cases and one death in China.

The outbreak has caused alarm because of the link with SARS (Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome), which killed 349 people in mainland China and another 299 in Hong Kong in 2002-2003.

The UN health agency (WHO) confirmed that the outbreak in the city of Wuhan was caused by a previously unknown type of corona virus, a broad family ranging from the common cold to more serious illnesses like SARS.

"Laboratory testing subsequently confirmed that the novel coronavirus was the cause," WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told AFP in an email, referring to the case in Thailand.

WHO said it might soon host an emergency meeting on the spread of the new virus.

Thai Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul stressed to reporters in Bangkok yesterday that a 61-year-old Chinese woman who had travelled from Wuhan "was infected with the virus from outside Thailand".

## Philippines on alert

Authorities warn of 'explosive eruption' as volcano spews ash, lava near Manila; 20,000 evacuated; hundreds of flights grounded

AFP, Talisay City

Lava and broad columns of ash illuminated by lightning spewed from a volcano south of the Philippine capital yesterday, grounding hundreds of flights as authorities warned of a possible "explosive eruption".

Fine grit weighed down trees and turned roads into muddy messes across the region surrounding the Taal volcano, which burst to life Sunday and has forced over 20,000 people to seek refuge in evacuation centres, a provincial governor said.

Geologists said the volcano remained active, spurring red-hot lava some 500 metres (1,600 feet) into the air from new cracks that have opened in its northern flank, as accompanying earthquakes rattled the area.

"We are really scared of what might happen to us... that our house might collapse in a strong earthquake and that we'll all be killed by falling debris," said Bienvenido Musa, aged 56.

"Who wouldn't be scared? That's why I decided to send my family to an evacuation

centre."

Taal is a tourist attraction that sits in a picturesque lake, yet is also one of the most active volcanoes in a nation where earthquakes and eruptions are a frightening



and destructive part of life.

The Philippines sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide deep below the Earth's surface.

Schools in the region around Taal, some government offices in Manila and

the Philippine Stock Exchange were closed as authorities issued warnings against breathing the ash.

Stores quickly sold out of dust masks, which health officials said could help protect against potentially harmful effects of the powder-like soot.

"I'll just stay at home and tie a handkerchief around my face. I think that's OK," Manila resident Menchie Claveria said, after attempting to buy a mask.

Limited flight operations resumed at Manila's main international airport yesterday, nearly a day after authorities halted them due to the safety risk volcanic ash poses to planes.

However, travellers booked on over 240 cancelled flights still faced delays at Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"I'm disappointed because this (delay) means additional expense for me and it's tiring to wait," said stranded traveller Joan Diocaras, a 28-year-old Filipino who works in Taiwan.

"But there's nothing we can do."

### Islamic State on rise again: King of Jordan

King Abdullah of Jordan yesterday warned that the Islamic State group was regrouping and was once again on the rise in the Middle East. Months after the ousting of IS last year from their last Syrian holdout, Abdullah said his "major concern is that we have seen over the past year the re-establishment and rise of Isis, not only in southern eastern Syria but also in western Iraq. "We have to deal with the reemergence of Isis," the king added in an interview with TV channel France 24 ahead of talks this week in Brussels, Strasbourg and Paris. He also said many foreign fighters from Syria were now in Libya.

### Ex-pope Benedict breaks silence on celibacy debate



Former pope Benedict XVI has publicly urged his successor Pope Francis not to open the Catholic priesthood up to married men, in a plea that Sunday stunned Vatican experts. The ex-pontiff, who retired in 2013, issued the defence of clerical celibacy in a book written with arch-conservative Cardinal Robert Sarah, extracts of which were published in exclusive by France's Le Figaro. "I cannot keep silent!" Benedict wrote in the book, which follows an extraordinary meeting of bishops from the Amazonian at the Vatican last year that recommended the ordination of married men in certain circumstances.

### HRW head denied entry to HK ahead of report launch

China yesterday defended barring the head of Human Rights Watch from entering Hong Kong, saying non-governmental organisations were responsible for political unrest in the city and should "pay the proper price". Kenneth Roth was supposed to give a press conference in Hong Kong this week to unveil the New York-based rights group's latest global survey, which accuses China of prosecuting "an intensive attack" on international human rights agencies. The long-time executive director said Sunday that he was turned back by authorities at the city's airport.

SOURCE: AFP

## Man survives 3 weeks in frozen wild

AFP, Washington

Haggard and traumatized, a young man has told how he survived for more than three weeks in the snowy wilderness of Alaska after his remote cabin burned down when he mistakenly put cardboard in his stove.

Tyson Steele, who was rescued by helicopter on Thursday, said his cabin -- located 20 miles (30 kilometres) from the nearest neighbour -- was incinerated in mid-December, and his beloved dog Phil died in the blaze.

Steele, 30, dug a snow cave and then built a makeshift shelter, staying warm with just a few sleeping bags and coats, and eating tins of food saved from the fire.

Helicopter footage released by Alaska State Troopers showed Steele waving for help, with SOS marked out in the deep snow, after a rescue effort was launched as he had not called his parents for three weeks.

"The mistake I made, I got hasty and I put a

big piece of cardboard in the stove to start the fire," Steele said. "It sent a spark out through the chimney which landed on the roof."

He awoke in the middle of the night to the sound of melting plastic dripping and rushed outside in minus 15 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 26 degrees Celsius) temperatures to find his cabin ablaze.

At first, he thought his six-year-old chocolate Labrador had escaped safely.

"My dog starts howling, right? Inside. And I thought he was not inside... I was hysterical," he said.

"I have no words for that sorrow; it was just a scream... that's all I could express -- just scream. (It) felt like I tore my lung out."

Eating a long-awaited McDonald's and still wearing some of the same clothes, Steele gave an interview to the State Troopers unit, which described him as appearing "vaguely reminiscent of actor Tom Hanks' character in the movie 'Cast Away'."



### TRUMP IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

## Republicans will pay price for denying witnesses: Pelosi

REUTERS, Washington

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said House Democrats will determine today when to send formal impeachment charges against President Donald Trump to the Senate and warned that Republicans will pay a political price for denying a trial with witnesses.

Pelosi, speaking on Sunday on ABC's "This Week" program, said her caucus at a regular meeting this morning would vote on the timing of sending articles of impeachment to the Senate and naming trial managers in the House.

"I have always said I would send them over. So there shouldn't be any mystery to that," Pelosi said.

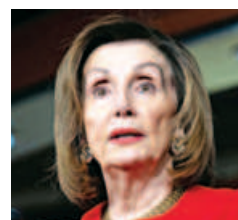
Pelosi has delayed delivery of the charges for weeks to compel Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to agree to include new

witness testimony and evidence about Trump's pressure on Ukraine to probe former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading Democrat running for the nomination to face Trump in the November election.

Her gambit appeared to fail as McConnell slammed the door on that idea last week, saying he had enough Republican votes to start the trial without a commitment to hear from additional witnesses, including former Trump national security adviser John Bolton.

Bolton has said he would be willing to testify if subpoenaed by the Senate.

Pelosi insisted her delay helped make American voters aware of the need for a "fair trial" with witness testimony and evidence. If McConnell continues to block such proceedings, Republicans would pay a political price.






**WHAT'S ON**


**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Calling of the Roots  
 Venue: Zainul Gallery, DU  
 Date: January 8 - 14  
 Time: 11 am - 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)




PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 'Selim Al Deen Memorial Festival 2020' kicks off

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Commemorating renowned playwright and theatre artiste Selim Al Deen on his 12th death anniversary, theatre troupe Swapnadal has organised the 'Selim Al Deen Memorial Festival 2020', which will take place on January 14, 15 and 17 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). This is the twenty-first edition of the festival.

The programme will feature a memorial procession, seminars on theatre and Swapnadal's productions, *Horgoj* and *Tringsho Shotabdi*, among other arrangements.

The festival will conclude on January 17, with the seminar, *Oitijhyobahi Bangla Nattiyoriti Doitadotitibadi Shilpototyo O Selim Al Deen er Nattiyorshon*, at National Theatre Hall, BSA. The Inaugural speech will be delivered by Zahid Repon, while Mancho Sharothi Ataur Rahman will preside over the programme. Dr Lutfor Rahman, Professor, Department of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University, along with theatre personalities Dr Shoma Mumtaz, Mannan Hira, Masum Reza, and Secretary of Theatre Group Federation, Kamal Bayezid, will be present at the event, among others.

# Keeping up with Apurba

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

*Popular actor Apurba has added significant milestones to his career over the years. Currently, he is keeping busy with a handful of television projects. In an interview with The Daily Star, he speaks about his latest ventures and more.*

**What are you currently busy with?**  
 Recently, I took up three TV serials and a one-hour tele-fiction. I enjoy working in the television industry.

**Could you elaborate a bit more on your current projects?**  
*Ghore Baire*, a serial on Maasranga Television, is directed by Nazrul Islam Babu. *Priyo Protibeshi*, televised on Channel i, is directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud. I am working on two shows for BanglaVision. These include *Jaygir Master*, directed by S A Haque Olike and *Tomar Golpe Ami*, directed by Jakaria Showkhin.

**Out of the four TV serials, which one did you like working on the most?**  
 Each of the stories are different from one another. I am glad that the audience are appreciating the serials. So, it is tough to pick one. However, if I had to choose, I would say *Ghore Baire*, as the story and my character really resonated with me. My character on the show works for underprivileged children. The story revolves around a shelter home.

**You have been working in the industry for 12 years, and you have experimented with various roles. What would be your dream role?**  
 I would love to play Amit from *Shesher Kobita* by Rabindranath Tagore. It is one of my dream roles.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Gandaria Kisholoy Kochi-Kachar Mela hosts their 17th annual art exhibition



ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Providing young artists with a platform to exhibit their artworks, Gandaria Kisholoy Kochi-Kachar Mela's Kisholoy Charukola Kendra organised their 17th annual art exhibition at its auditorium at Dinanath Road, Old Dhaka, recently. The three-day event was inaugurated on January 11.

Eminent artist Syed Abul Barak Alvi, Professor, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU), was present at the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest. Artist Kamal Uddin, Lecturer, FFA, DU, also attended the programme special guest.

The second day of the event featured a prize-giving ceremony, where 142 young artists were awarded with crests and certificates. The award ceremony was presided over by M A Shañur Rahman Dulu, Director of Gandaria Kisholoy Kochi-Kachar Mela. Artist Aynal Haque Munna and Jalal Uddin, along with Shirajul Islam Abed, Assistant Editor of Samakal were also present, among others.

Around 312 artworks, by 240 students (aged 3-18), 20 teachers and special guests were on exhibit at the event. The programme concluded with a cultural programme yesterday.

PHOTO: PIYAS BISWAS

## Open Call for 'Art Festival 2020, Nilphamari' underway

The four-day event, 'Art Festival 2020, Nilphamari' will take place from February 26 to 29. The prime purpose of the arrangement is to introduce a healthy culture against the backdrop of poor taste, from cities to the remote countryside of Bangladesh.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The art festival aims to inspire artists to create innovative artworks, in a quiet place beyond the chaotic city life. Renowned artists from home and abroad, will share their experiences and views on art with school students during the event.

Set in a natural environment, the festival hopes to become a true reunion for the participating artists, students and local inhabitants. The theme for this year's festival is 'Nature is Life, Art for Brighter Life'. Artists will paint as they like, while the organisers will provide them with art supplies, food and accommodation.

The festival will feature an international art camp by eminent artists from

Bangladesh and beyond, art exhibitions, cultural programmes, a traditional folk art and craft-fair, and sightseeing tours.

Eminent artist Professor Mohammad Eunus is the convener of the festival organising committee. Multi-award winning artist Md Harun-Ar-Rashid Tutul, an Assistant Professor of the Department of Graphic Design, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka is the curator of the festival.

An open call for applications from artists and art organisations to participate is currently underway. A total of 60 artists and organisations will be selected to take part in the festival. The deadline for submitting applications is January 20, 2020. For more details, visit: [www.artbangla.org](http://www.artbangla.org)



## WORLD HINDI DAY 2020

World Hindi Day was celebrated by High Commission of India, Dhaka, recently. High Commissioner Smt Riva Ganguly Das presented the awards to winners of Hindi poem recitation, elocution and speech competitions. Deputy High Commissioner Shri Biswadip Dey read the Prime Minister's message to the audience.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## 'Poush Mela' kicks off in Barishal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, from Barishal

*Poush Mela*, a three-day winter event organised by Jatiya Robindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad (JRSSP), Barisal branch, began at Jagadish Saraswat Girl's school and college, Barishal, recently.

Professor Dr Sadequl Arefin, Vice Chancellor of Barishal University, inaugurated the fair. Semiabad Sadik

Abdulla, Mayor, Barishal City Corporation, attended the programme as the chief guest and Kajol Ghosh, President of JRSSP was present at the event, among others.

The fest features *Pitha*, toys, and handicraft stalls. A Nagordola is also organised for children to enjoy during the fair. Discussions on traditional and folk life, and cultural programme are currently underway at the fair.



PHOTO: STAR



Rescuer workers load children onto a truck as they evacuate them to a safe place in Talisay town, Batangas province south of Manila yesterday. Lava and broad columns of ash illuminated by lightning spewed from a volcano south of the Philippine capital, grounding hundreds of flights as authorities warned of a possible "explosive eruption".

PHOTO: AFP

## Relief from cold

FROM PAGE 16

while the highest temperature was at 26.2 degrees Celsius in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar.

As the shivering cold wave is sweeping over the country, people are getting infected with different cold-related diseases.

Around 6,000 people took treatment at different government hospitals across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Meanwhile, flight operations at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka were disrupted for around six hours yesterday due to fog.

The airport authorities halted flight operations around 3:00am and resumed around 9:15am yesterday, SN Wahid Ur Rahman, deputy director of air traffic control at HSIA, told this newspaper.

Two Dhaka-bound flights of Biman had to divert to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata, the official said.

The Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka flight was scheduled to land at 3:00am yesterday but had to divert to Kolkata as did the flight from Dubai which was scheduled to land at 7:30am.

Meanwhile, one flight each of Saudia and Emirates airlines from Dhaka got delayed.

The Dhaka-Jeddah flight of Saudia Airlines was supposed to leave at 2:50am. It was delayed by 21 hours.

The Dhaka-Dubai flight of Emirates was to take off at 1:00am, but it left Dhaka at 9:15am.

A number of flights to and from Dhaka got disrupted in the last few weeks due to poor visibility.

## 'Gunfight'

FROM PAGE 16

tipped off that a group of narcotics were gathering

in Tajpur village for drug dealing, a team of DB police raided the area around 2:00am.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, some 10-12 drug dealers opened fire on them, forcing them to retaliate, which eventually led to a "gunfight", the SP said.

Rahmat and Kashem sustained bullet injuries during the incident and were taken to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur where doctors pronounced them dead.

Both were accused in multiple drug cases, said ATM Golam Rostul, officer-in-charge of DB police in Dinajpur.

Police recovered a firearm, two bullets, 150 bottles of Phensedyl and 50 yaba pills from the spot, the OC said.

## China launches

FROM PAGE 16

telescope. The project has also obtained some valuable scientific data over that time and is expected to help lead to some breakthroughs in areas such as low-frequency gravitational wave detection and interstellar molecules in the next three to five years, Xinhua said.

Advancing China's space programme is a priority for Beijing, and the country has set a target to catch up with Russia and the United States and become a major space power by 2030.

Beijing plans to launch construction of its own manned space station next year.

## Pakistan HC annuls death penalty

FROM PAGE 16

and senior officers are often considered immune from prosecution.

It caused a wave of controversy, with Musharraf -- exiled in Dubai -- slamming it as a "vendetta" and the military expressing its disappointment.

A High Court in the eastern city of Lahore ruled it "illegal" yesterday.

"The filing of the complaint, the constitution of the court, the selection of the prosecution team are illegal, declared to be illegal... And at the end of the day the full judgment has been set aside," the prosecutor representing the government, Ishtiaq A Khan, told AFP.

"Yes, he is a free man. Right now there is no judgment against him any longer," Khan added.

Musharraf's lawyer, Azhar Siddique, also told media outside the court in Lahore that it has "nullified everything".

The prosecution now has the

option to file a new case against Musharraf with the approval of the federal Cabinet.

The treason trial -- which began in 2013 and is just one of several involving Musharraf -- centred on his decision to suspend the constitution and impose emergency rule in 2007.

Musharraf first took power after ousting prime minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup in 1999.

A cigar-smoking, whisky-drinking moderate, the general became a key US ally in the "war on terror" after the September 11 attacks and escaped at least three al-Qaeda assassination attempts during his nine years in office.

His rule faced no serious challenges until he tried to sack the Supreme Court chief justice in March 2007, sparking nationwide protests and months of turmoil that led to the imposition of emergency rule. After the December 2007

assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, the national mood plunged further and Musharraf was left increasingly isolated by the crushing losses suffered by his allies in February 2008 elections.

He finally resigned in August 2008 in the face of impeachment proceedings by the new governing coalition and went into exile.

Musharraf returned to Pakistan in 2013 in an attempt to contest elections, but was barred from taking part in the polls and from leaving the country as a barrage of legal cases mounted.

The travel ban against him was finally lifted in 2016, and he travelled to Dubai for medical treatment, where he has been ever since.

The treason case against him was first launched by his old foe Sharif in 2013.

It went on for years with repeated delays until last year's surprise announcement.

## Shut them all

FROM PAGE 16

appropriate steps should be taken to stop burning of tyres and recycling of vehicles' batteries without the approval from the DoE.

The court asked the government authorities to take steps to ensure that all the market owners or shopkeepers keep their daily garbage in a safe bin or bag or sack. The garbage must be dumped in the designated areas before the closure of shops or markets.

It asked the government to take steps to fix the economic life of different vehicles as per section 36 of the Road Transport Act, 2018. The court banned plying of economic life-expired vehicles on the roads in the capital.

The HC ordered the government to ensure road construction or carpeting or excavation works by strictly complying with the related laws and rules and also with the terms and conditions of tenders to ensure clear air.

The court said the government must ensure that trucks carrying mud or waste on the roads in the capital have those covered. It also instructed the contractors to use bags or sacks for storing or keeping sand or mud at the city's construction sites so that air was not polluted.

It further ordered the authorities to take steps to spray water over the construction areas in the morning and evening every day.

The HC bench ordered the authorities concerned to submit a

report to it on March 1 on the progress of implementing its directives.

**DOE DG SUMMONED**

Yesterday, the HC bench summoned the DoE director general to appear before it on February 2 to explain why air pollution in Dhaka city could not be reduced.

The DG has also been asked to give explanations about the quality of Dhaka air and the manpower of the organisation.

Earlier in the day, petitioner's counsel Advocate Manzill Murshid made some recommendations to the HC bench for reducing the air pollution and prayed to it to issue directives in this regard.

Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar represented the state.

Following the writ petition, the HC on January 28 last year had issued a rule, asking the government to explain why the inaction of the administration to curb air pollution in the capital should not be declared illegal and why it should not be directed to take effective steps to stop air pollution.

The city had the worst air quality in the world on November 25 last year, according to Air Visual, an air quality measuring application.

The situation reportedly prompted the government to draw up immediate measures to give some relief to the city dwellers.

"The level of air pollution is alarming. Just a few days ago, air

quality in Dhaka was the third or fourth worst in the world. But now it's the ranking," said Shahab Uddin, minister for environment, forest and climate change, who presided over an emergency inter-ministerial meeting on Monday.

Last year, Dhaka's air was ranked third most polluted in the world, according to air quality data compiled by the World Health Organisation for megacities with a population of 14 million or more.

## False alarm sets off nuclear scare in Canada

AFP, Montreal

An alert signalling an incident at a major nuclear power plant near Toronto in Canada was sent in error to millions of residents Sunday, causing a scare and prompting calls for an investigation.

The emergency alert went out shortly before 7:30 am (1230 GMT). Though intended for residents living within a 10-kilometer (six-mile) radius of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, it went to all residents in Ontario province.

About an hour later, the Ontario Power Generation company that manages the nuclear plant announced on Twitter that the alert was issued by mistake.

## ROYAL MOTORCADE

# Thailand eases rules to check traffic jam

AFP, Bangkok

Royal motorcades will no longer completely shut down Bangkok's roads, a rare concession by the unassailable Thai king to public opinion.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn, 67, sits at the apex of Thai power and -- alongside senior royals -- is protected by a draconian defamation law, which makes public scrutiny of the family near impossible inside the kingdom.

Police routinely close down major roads when the royal family passes, adding serious delay on the congested streets of Bangkok and heaping frustration onto commuters.

This in recent months have taken to Twitter and Facebook to air their irritation over road closures believed to be linked to the royal family's travels.

The hashtag #Royalmotorcade trended last year on Thai Twitter, drawing tens of thousands of mentions.

Late Sunday government spokeswoman Narumon Pinyosinwat said on Facebook that the king "has acknowledged the traffic problem and is concerned for the people".

Roads will no longer be completely shut down, according to a police video she posted detailing the changes, with officers ordered to use orange cones

instead to designate a pathway for travelling royals.

The other side of the road can also be used by motorists and pedestrians. "Long live the King," she added in her Facebook post.

Police did not respond to requests for comment. The new guidelines are "a good sign" of a monarch responding to public concerns, said political analyst Titipol Phakdeeawanich.

"It could make people feel more connected to the institution of the monarchy and show that the monarchy is not ignoring them," he added.

Vajiralongkorn inherited one of the world's richest monarchies when he ascended the throne in 2016 following the death of his father.

He was officially crowned last May in an elaborate three-day coronation ceremony.

## Arrested baul

FROM PAGE 16

Ahmed told The Daily Star.

"During interrogation, Shariat admitted that he had made a mistake," said Saidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Someone filmed Shariat's comments and showed it to people in the area causing an outrage, the OC added.

## Japan's Abe warns conflict with Iran impacts entire world

AFP, Riyadh

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has warned that military confrontation with Iran will impact global peace and stability, as he visits the Middle East hoping to ease tensions spiked by the US killing of a top Iranian general.

His comments came at the start of a five-day Gulf tour that had been thrown into doubt after Tehran responded to the attack on Qassem Soleimani by launching a barrage of missiles at bases hosting American troops in Iraq, prompting fears of all-out war.

But as those concerns receded, the Japanese premier decided to go

ahead with the visit and on Sunday discussed regional tensions during an hour-long meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in northwestern Al-Ula province, according to foreign ministry spokesman Masato Ohtaka.

"Any military confrontation in the region that includes a country like Iran will have an impact not only on peace and stability in the region but the peace and stability of the whole world," Abe said, according to Ohtaka.

Abe called "on all relevant countries to engage in diplomatic efforts to defuse tensions", Ohtaka added.

## 'Clerics get lost!'

FROM PAGE 16

Tehran's Azadi Square. Wounded were being carried and security personnel ran gripping rifles. Riot police hit protesters with batons as people shouted "Don't beat them!"

"Death to the dictator," other footage showed protesters shouting, directing their fury directly at Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader since 1989.

Reuters could not authenticate the footage. State-affiliated media has reported protests in Tehran and other cities but has provided few details.

"At protests, police absolutely did not shoot because the capital's police officers have been given orders to show restraint," Tehran police chief Hossein Rahimi said in a statement on state media.

Tehran's showdown with Washington has come at a precarious time for the authorities in Iran and the proxy forces they support to wield influence across the Middle East. Sanctions imposed by Trump have hammered the Iranian economy.

Iran's authorities killed hundreds of protesters in November in what appears to have been the bloodiest crackdown on anti-government unrest since 1979. In Iraq and Lebanon, governments supported by Iran-backed armed groups have faced mass protests.

Adding to international pressure on Tehran, five nations, including Canada, Britain and Ukraine, whose citizens died when the Ukraine International Airlines Boeing 737 crashed, meet in London on Thursday to discuss possible legal action, Ukraine's foreign minister told Reuters.

In his latest tweet directed at Iran, Trump wrote on Sunday that "I couldn't care less if they negotiate. Will be totally up to them but, no nuclear weapons and 'don't kill your protesters'."

**ESCALATION**

Iran's government spokesman

## Neo-JMB

FROM PAGE 16

month ago had been using it as an IT branch of "Neo-JMB", Maruf said.

Around 4:00pm yesterday, police cordoned off the building owned by Saudi expatriate Akter Hossen. The raid ended around 9:00pm.

A case will be filed in this regard, Maruf said.



Bomb-making materials and sharp weapons found at the militant den in Ashulia of Savar.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
কমান্ডিং অফিসারের কার্যালয়  
এয়ারপোর্ট (১৩) আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন  
উত্তরা, ঢাকা

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)**

স্মারক নং-এপিবি (এয়ারপোর্ট)-১৩/শেয়া/২২৫ তারিখঃ ১২/০১/২০২০খ্রিঃ

The Public Procurement Act, 2006 & The Public Procurement Regulation, 2008 এবং তদীয় সংশোধনী বিধি মোতাবেক ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বৎসরে এয়ারপোর্ট (১৩) আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, উত্তরা, ঢাকার আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে লীলমোহরিত বাহ্যিক প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।				
২. সেক্ষত্র/বিভাগ	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।				
৩. ক্রয়/সেবার স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	কমান্ডিং অফিসার, এয়ারপোর্ট (১৩) আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।				
৪. সরবরাহকারী দপ্তর/জেলা	কমান্ডিং অফিসার, এয়ারপোর্ট (১৩) আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।				
৫. যে জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান	আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়।				
৬. দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং-এপিবি (এয়ারপোর্ট)-১৩/শেয়া/২২৫ তারিখঃ ১২/০১/২০২০খ্রিঃ।				
৭. দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।				
৮. বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস	পুলিশ হেজেকোয়ার্টারি হতে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে।				
৯. দরপত্র পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের তারিখ	১৫/০১/২০২০খ্রিঃ।				
১০. দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২০/০১/২০২০খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত (স্ট্রিট দিন ব্যতীত)।				
১১. দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৩০/০১/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।				
১২. দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	৩০/০১/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।				
১৩. (ক) দরপত্র দলিলাদি বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। ডিআইজি, এপিবিএম, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকার কার্যালয়। ২। কমান্ডিং অফিসারের কার্যালয়, এয়ারপোর্ট (১৩) আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।				
(খ) দরপত্র দলিলাদি গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	কমান্ডিং অফিসারের কার্যালয়, এয়ারপোর্ট (১৩) আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।				
(গ) দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	কমান্ডিং অফিসারের কার্যালয়, এয়ারপোর্ট (১৩) আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।				
(ঘ) প্রাক দরপত্র সভার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজন নহে।				
১৪. দরপত্রদাতাদের যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিলযোগ্য কাগজপত্রের বিবরণ	পিপিআর/২০০৮ এবং বর্তমান সংশোধনী মোতাবেক দরপত্রদাতাকে দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রাদি দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে (১) হালনাগাদ বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স। (২) টিআইএন নম্বর সংশ্লিষ্ট হালনাগাদ পরিশোধিত আয়কর সনদপত্র। (৩) ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র। (৪) নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র। (৫) যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে হালনাগাদের আর্থিক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র। (৬) মালিকানা সনদপত্র। (৭) দরপত্রদাতা কোনো তালিকাভুক্ত নয় মর্মে ঘোষণা/অস্বীকারনামা ১ম শ্রেণীর সরকারি কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষর করে দাখিল করতে হবে। (৮) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (৯) সদ্যাকোলা ০১ (এক) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি এবং ০৩ (তিন)টি নমুনা স্বাক্ষর। অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা বাহা দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।				
১৫. মালামাল অথবা কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ	দরপত্র তফসীল (সিডিউল) মোতাবেক।				
১৬. লট নং	লটের পরিচিতি	দরপত্র সিডিউল মূল্য	পরিমাণ	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত	কাজের সময়সীমা
লট নং-১	আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়	৪০০/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	২০,০০০/-	কার্যক্রমের তারিখ হতে ১৪ (চৌদ্দ) দিন।
১৭. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	মোহাম্মদ রাশিদুল ইসলাম খান, বিপিএম, পিপিএম।				
১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	কমান্ডিং অফিসার।				
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	এয়ারপোর্ট (১৩) আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।				
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ফোন নং	০২-৪৪৮৯০০৩০, ফ্যাক্স নং ০২-৪৪৮৯০০৩৬, ই-মেইল co13apbn@police.gov.bd				
২১. সরাসরি সস্তা কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সকল প্রকার দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।					
২২. জাতীয় বিষয়	ক) ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাকেট আবেদনপত্রক অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিউল সজ্ঞহ করতে হবে। খ) দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জামানত হিসেবে উল্লেখিত টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। বর্ণিত সনদ/বিষয়সমূহের একটিও ঘাটতি থাকলে সংশ্লিষ্ট ঠিকাদারের অযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে। গ) দরপত্রের সকল স্বাক্ষর The Public Procurement Act, 2006 & The Public Procurement Regulation, 2008 ও তদীয় সংশোধনী বিধি মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে। ঘ) দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্যসম্পাদন করতে হবে। ঙ) অনুমোদিত বাকের আলোকে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।				

মোহাম্মদ রাশিদুল ইসলাম খান, বিপিএম, পিপিএম  
বিপি-৭৫০৩২০৮৯৬  
কমান্ডিং অফিসার  
এয়ারপোর্ট (১৩) আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন  
উত্তরা, ঢাকা

জিডি-৮৫

**বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট**  
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute  
Joydebpur, Gazipur-1701

কৃষি ই সমৃদ্ধি  
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Office Ph: 02-4927000  
PABX: 02-4927004-8  
E-mail: dg.bari@bari.gov.bd  
website: www.bari.gov.bd

Memo No: PN GD-2/6339 Date: 12 January 2020

**e-GP: Re-Tender Notice No. 14 (2019-2020)**  
e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

SI No.	Package No.	Tender ID & Ref. No.	Description of goods	Tender documents last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
1.	PN GD-2	396478 & IRN: 318	05 (five) items of field equipment	26.01.2020 at 17:00	27.01.2020 at 11:55	27.01.2020 at 11:55

The interested persons/firm may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).  
Project Name: "Innovation and dissemination of formulated bio-product from novel endophytic Bacillus species for controlling witing of eggplant"

Sd/-  
**Md Ferozur Rahman**  
Deputy Director (Additional Charge)  
Procurement & Store Section  
Email: [dd.procure@bari.gov.bd](mailto:dd.procure@bari.gov.bd)  
Phone: 02-49270140  
For Director General  
BARI, Joydebpur, Gazipur

GD-94

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
ওয়েব আর্নালি কল্যাণ বোর্ড  
প্রাথমিক কল্যাণ ভবন  
৭১-৭২, ইন্টার পার্শ্ব, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০  
[www.web.gov.bd](http://www.web.gov.bd)

নং-৪৯.০৪.০০০০.০০৪.১৮.০০২.২০২০-(১২) তারিখঃ ১৩-০১-২০২০খ্রিঃ

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

প্রাথমিক কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন ওয়েব আর্নালি কল্যাণ বোর্ডে চুক্তিভিত্তিক ০১ (এক) বছরের জন্য ০১ (এক) জন নির্বাহী প্রোগ্রামার (সিডিএল) পদে সম্পূর্ণ স্বল্পহারি ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত পদের পাঠে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলিগে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রম	পদের নাম ও বৈশিষ্ট্য	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়স	শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা	শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা
১.	নির্বাহী প্রোগ্রামার (সিডিএল) (সেভেন আসলোনা সাপেক্ষে)	০১ (এক)	৪০-৬০ বছর (অভিজ্ঞতার প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য)	পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী-ক) EOI আহ্বান করে কনসাল্টিং কর্ম নিয়োগ সন্মত্রে বাধ্যতায় কার্যনির্বাহী সম্পন্ন করা। খ) BOQ সহ হেডের ডকুমেন্ট প্রস্তুত করা। গ) পূর্ণ নির্মাণ ও ইন্সটলেশন ডিভিশন সেক্টরে টেকের অভিজ্ঞতা করে (ইন্সটল এবং মাল্টিমিডিয়া) টেকের নিয়োগ পর্যন্ত বাধ্যতায় কার্যনির্বাহী সম্পন্ন করা। ঘ) ওয়েব আর্নালি কল্যাণ বোর্ড ও সফটওয়্যার মন্ত্রণালয়ের নির্দেশনা এবং ট্রুটি মোতাবেক নিয়োগকৃত কনসাল্টিং কর্মের নিকট হতে যুক্তিযুক্ত কাজ সুক্কে ন্যা এবং তার মালিকসহ বিল পরীক্ষা করা। ঙ) নিয়োগকৃত টেকদের কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত বাধ্যতায় কার্যনির্বাহী ও পরিচালনা করা এবং মালিকসহ বিল পরীক্ষা করা। চ) এছাড়াও উপর্যুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক অন্যান্য টেকনিক্যাল কার্যনির্বাহী সম্পন্ন করা।	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সিডিএল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এ ডিগ্রি হতে হবে। অন্যদিকে পদের কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুরোধে উত্তর দেওয়া হবে।	মূলতঃ ১৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা আবেদন। অন্যদিকে পদের কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুরোধে উত্তর দেওয়া হবে।

শর্তাবলি:  
১. নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি [www.web.gov.bd](http://www.web.gov.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।  
২. আবেদনপত্রের সাথে প্রার্থীকে (ক) জীবন-বৃত্তান্ত, (খ) শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, (গ) সন্য তথ্য ০১ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙিন ছবি, (ঘ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, (ঙ) নাগরিকত্ব সনদ, (চ) প্রথম শ্রেণীর দুইজন মেট্রিকের কপি প্রমাণিত হতে হবে।  
৩. আবেদনপত্রের সাথে আবেদনকারীর বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা (ইংরেজি ও বাংলা), মোবাইল নম্বর ও ই-মেইল আইডি উল্লেখ করতে হবে।  
৪. মারফত কৃত সফটওয়্যার পরীক্ষা (এস.এস.সি) বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার সনদপত্র উল্লেখিত জন্ম তারিখ অনুযায়ী প্রার্থীর বয়স নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রকরণে তারিখে উল্লেখিত বয়সসীমার মধ্যে হতে হবে। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এম্বিডেড গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।  
৫. কর্তৃত চাকুরী প্রার্থীকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতি গ্রহণপূর্বক আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় মূল অনুমতিপত্র প্রদর্শনপূর্বক এক কপি সত্যায়িত স্বাক্ষরিত করা হতে হবে।  
৬. আবেদনপত্র প্রার্থীর হতে হবে বাধ্যতাকৃত ও যোগ্যপ্রার্থীগণকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য নির্বাচন করা হবে। এছাড়াও কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।  
৭. মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীগণকে কোন টি/ডি/ডি প্রদান করা হবে না।  
৮. মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় অবশ্যই শিখা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও প্রশিক্ষণ সনদের সনদ প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।  
৯. কৃত্য পোশাক বা ক্রীড়া পোশাক পরে চাকরিতে নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত হলে সফটওয়্যার প্রার্থীর নিয়োগসময় বাধ্যতায় কার্যনির্বাহী গ্রহণ করা হবে।  
১০. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির আর্থিক সংশোধন বা সম্পূর্ণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বা পুরো নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল বা সাময়িকভাবে স্থগিত করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে এবং নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখিত কোন বিষয় বা অংশের অধিকতর বাধ্যতায় প্রয়োজনে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ গ্রহণ বাধ্যতায় চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

পোর্টাল আহ্বান পদ  
সুদ-সিবি  
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও উন্নয়ন)  
ওয়েব আর্নালি কল্যাণ বোর্ড

জিডি-৯২

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Madaripur Zone, Madaripur.

Memo No: EE/EED/MZ/Rev/7016/e-GP/2019-20/17, Date: 09.01.2020

**e-Tender Notice No:17/2019-2020 (Limited Tendering Method)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED Madaripur Zone as mentioned below:

Sl No	Tender ID	Package No	Description of works	Tender Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
01	410539	REV/4111201/NEW/2018-19/WD-28	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation to Baghuria High School at Kalkini, Madaripur	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
02	410540	REV/4111201/NEW/2018-19/WD-29	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation to Zojira Junior Girls School at Kalkini, Madaripur	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
03	410541	REV/4111201/NEW/2018-19/WD-30	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation to Goriberchar Secondary School at Gosairhat, Shariatpur	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
04	410542	REV/4111201/NEW/2018-19/WD-32	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water supply Electrification & Deep Tube Well works at Kashimpur Maher Ali High school under Rajoir Upazila Madaripur District.	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
05	410543	REV/4111201/NEW/2018-19/WD-33	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water supply Electrification & Deep Tube Well works at Nowpara Public high school under Naria Upazila Shariatpur District.	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
06	410544	REV/4111201/NEW/2018-19/WD-34	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water supply Electrification & Deep Tube Well works at Chilarchar Balikandi Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib high school under Sadar Upazila Madaripur District.	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
07	410545	REV/TMED/NEW/2018-19/WD-35	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water supply Electrification & Deep Tube Well works at Zanjira Shamsul Ulum Fazil Degree Madrasa under Zanjira Upazila Shariatpur District.	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
08	410553	REV/TMED/NEW/2018-19/WD-36	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water supply Electrification & Deep Tube Well works at Shariatpur Mohila Dakhil Madrasa under sadar Upazila Shariatpur District.	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
09	410555	REV/TMED/NEW/2018-19/WD-26	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water supply Electrification & Deep Tube Well works at Al Jamiatul Islamia Dakhil Madrasa under Shibchar Upazila Madaripur District.	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
10	410556	REV/TMED/NEW/2018-19/WD-27	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water supply Electrification & Deep Tube well works at Char Samantoshar Mohshenia Fazil Madrasa under Gosairhat Upazila Shariatpur District.	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00
11	410557	REV/TMED/NEW/2018-19/WD-31	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storey Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water supply Electrification & Deep Tube well works at Khalihur Rahman Islamia Fazil Degree Madrasa under Gosairhat Upazila Shariatpur District.	28/01/2020 at 16.00	29/01/2020 at 13.00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP System Portal and No offline/hard copies will be accepted. To Submit e-Tender A1 renewed upto 2019-2020 enlistment Category Contractor of Education Engineering Department under Madaripur Zone(Madaripur & Shariatpur District)only who are registered in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) will be eligible.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 16.00 on 28/01/2020

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))  
The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md. Hasan Sawkat)  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
[ee\\_mad@cedmoe.gov.bd](mailto:ee_mad@cedmoe.gov.bd)

GD-87

**বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)**  
৬৭, শহীদ তাজউদ্দিন আহমেদ সড়ক, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২

সিপিএস নং-৫৩৩/২০২০/১৪৫৭৭ তারিখঃ ১২-০১-২০২০ খ্রিঃ

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)-এর নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদ সমূহে লোক নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের কাছ থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে-

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বয়স	বেতনক্রম (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ মোতাবেক)
১.	সহকারী পরিচালক (চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা)	০১	(১) এমবিবিএস ডিগ্রি। (২) মেডিক্যাল এডুকেশনে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বছর	৩৫৫০০-৬৭১০
২.	সহকারী পরিচালক (আরটিএম)	০১	(১) চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানে স্নাতক ডিগ্রি। (২) রিসার্চ মোডেলজিং কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন। (৩) কম্পিউটার কাজে দক্ষতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বছর	৩৫৫০০-৬৭১০
৩.	প্রোগ্রামার	০১	(১) অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে পদার্থ বিদ্যা/কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান-এ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি অথবা বি.এস.সি (ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং)। (২) স্বীকৃত কম্পিউটার সোসাইটির মূল্যবান সহযোগী সদস্য। (৩) কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান/ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-এ স্নাতকোত্তর ক্ষেত্রে ২ বছরের বাহ্যিক অভিজ্ঞতা।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বছর	৩৫৫০০-৬৭১০
৪.	সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার	০১	(১) অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে পদার্থ বিদ্যা/কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান-এ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি অথবা বি.এস.সি (ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং)। (২) স্বীকৃত কম্পিউটার সোসাইটির মূল্যবান সহযোগী সদস্য। (৩) সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার হিসেবে ৪ (চার) বছরের (কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান/ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-এ স্নাতকোত্তর ক্ষেত্রে ২ বছর) বাহ্যিক অভিজ্ঞতা।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০
৫.	প্রটোকল-কাম-জনসংযোগ কর্মকর্তা	০১	(১) কোন অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি। (২) প্রশাসন এবং অন্যান্য বিভাগের কাজে ২ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। (৩) ইংরেজি ভাষায় দক্ষ হতে হবে। (৪) কম্পিউটারে দক্ষতাসম্পন্ন হতে হবে।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০
৬.	সহকারী পত্রিকা নিয়ন্ত্রক	০১	(১) কোন অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি। (২) কম্পিউটারে এম এস ওয়ার্ড, এক্সেল, পাওয়ার পয়েন্ট, এডেস এবং যে কোন কম্পিউটার সফটওয়্যারে ২ বছর কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতা। (৩) কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/কলেজ/বোর্ডে পত্রিকার ব্যবস্থাপনার কাজে ৩ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০
৭.	সহকারী প্রশাসনিক অফিসার	০১	(১) স্বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক/স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি। (২) প্রশাসন ও অন্যান্য বিভাগের কাজে ০২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। (৩) কম্পিউটারে দক্ষতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০
৮.	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর	০২	(১) কোন অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক ডিগ্রি সম্পন্ন। (২) কম্পিউটারে ডিপ্লোমা থাকতে হবে। (৩) কম্পিউটারে এমএস ওয়ার্ড, এক্সেল, পাওয়ার পয়েন্ট, এডেস এবং যে কোন কম্পিউটার সফটওয়্যারে ২ বছর কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতা।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	১২৫০০-৩০২৩০
৯.	নিম্নমান সহকারী-কাম-মুদ্রাক্ষরিক	০১	(১) উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ এবং বাংলায় ২৫ শব্দের গতি। (২) কম্পিউটারে দক্ষতাসম্পন্ন হতে হবে।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	৯৩০০-২২৪৯০
১০.	ল্যাব এ্যাটেন্ডেন্ট	০১	(১) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। (২) কম্পিউটারে দক্ষতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	৮৮০০-২১১১০
১১.	মিউজিয়াম এ্যাটেন্ডেন্ট	০১	(১) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। (২) কম্পিউটারে দক্ষতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	৮৮০০-২১১১০
১২.	গুয়টার	০১	(১) অষ্টম শ্রেণি পাশ। (২) সর্টিফিক্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	৮২৫০-২০০১০
১৩.	অফিস এটেন্ডেন্ট	০১	অষ্টম শ্রেণি পাশ।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	৮২৫০-২০০১০

**প্রার্থীদের জন্য পালনীয় শর্তাবলী ও জাতীয় বিষয় সমূহ**

- উল্লিখিত পদ সমূহে আবেদনকারীগণকে সাদা কাগজে "সিবি, বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস), ৬৭, শহীদ তাজউদ্দিন আহমেদ সড়ক, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২" বাকের আবেদন করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের আবেদনকারীর পূর্ণ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত যথা: (ক) প্রার্থীর পূর্ণ নাম বাংলায় ও ইংরেজীতে (Capital Letter), (খ) পিতা/মাতার নাম, (গ) পদের নাম (ঙ) স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, (ছ) বর্তমান ঠিকানা, (জ) জন্ম তারিখ, (ঝ) জন্ম তারিখ, (ঞ) জাতীয়তা, (ট) শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা, (ঠ) অভিজ্ঞতার বিবরণ (ড) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের নম্বর (ঢ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার নম্বর এবং (প) মোবাইল/ফোন নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রে অবশ্যই প্রার্থীর স্বাক্ষর থাকতে হবে এবং ডকুমেন্ট ছবির পেছনে প্রার্থীর নাম থাকা আবশ্যিক।
- প্রার্থীগণকে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে (ক) প্রথম শ্রেণীর মেট্রিকের কপি/কর্তৃক শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (খ) প্রথম শ্রেণীর মেট্রিকের কপি/কর্তৃক প্রস্তুত চারিফের সনদপত্র (গ) ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/সৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান/ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারের নিকট হতে নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্র (ঘ) সন্য তথ্য পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ০৩ কপি ছবি এবং (ঙ) জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- কোন বোর্ড বা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধীন কোন পরীক্ষার ০৩ কপি প্রমাণ বা সমমানের প্রাপ্ত প্রাপ্ত আবেদনকারীর আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- শিক্ষণত যোগ্যতা থাকার ক্ষেত্রে সর্টিফিক্ট পরীক্ষায় আধিপত্য প্রার্থীগণের আবেদন বিবেচনা করা হবে না।
- উল্লিখিত পদসমূহের জন্য কেবলমাত্র সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/ব্যক্তিগত/স্বত্বাধীন বা সংগঠিত/প্রতিষ্ঠানের আবেদনকারীর অভিজ্ঞতা বিবেচনা করা হবে।
- চাকুরীতে নিয়োগিত অথবা বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদেরকে অবশ্যই 'ব' নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের কোন অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- আবেদনকারীকে বামের উপর পদের নাম অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে। একজন আবেদনকারী একাধিক পদের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন না।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা হিসেবে চাকুরী প্রার্থীদের মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা পিতা/মাতার মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সংক্রান্ত সার্টিফিকেট (যা গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মুক্তিযোদ্ধা বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের সচিব এবং মাননীয় মন্ত্রী/প্রতিমন্ত্রী/উপদেষ্টা কর্তৃক খসড়াতে স্বাক্ষরিত এবং প্রতি স্বাক্ষরিত/ ১৯৯৭-২০০১ সাল পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সংসদের অধীনে তত্ত্বাবধায় মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী কর্তৃক প্রতি স্বাক্ষরিত)-এর সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদন পত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।
- সচিব, বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্-এর অনুমোদিত ক্রমিক নং ১ থেকে ৩ পদ সমূহে ১০০০/- টাকার, ৪ থেকে ৬ পদ সমূহে ৫০০/- টাকার, ৭ থেকে ১১ পদ সমূহে ৩০০/- টাকার এবং ক্রমিক নং ১২ থেকে ১৩ পদ সমূহে ১০০/- টাকার (অফিসের ব্যয়) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার সরবরাহের সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র বাম বহু অবস্থায় অবশ্যই রেজিষ্টার ডাকঘরে/হুজুরিয়ার সার্ভিসে অথবা ব্যক্তিগতভাবে সরাসরি নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকটে আগামী ০৯-০২-২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ৪.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে। উক্ত তারিখ বা সময়ের পরে ডাকঘরে বা অন্য কোন উপায়ে প্রেরিত আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্রসমূহ প্রাথমিক বাছাইয়ের পর কেবলমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষার জন্য ডাকা হবে। অসত্যা/ভুল তথ্য সংশ্লিষ্ট/অসম্পূর্ণ/ ক্রটিপূর্ণভাবে পূর্ণপত্র আবেদনকারী কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই বাতিল করা যাবে। আবেদনপত্র যাচাই-বাছাইয়ের ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বাকশি শিক্ষণযোগ্য।

(অধ্যাপক আবুল বাসার মোহাম্মদ খুরশীদ আলম)  
অনারারি সচিব  
বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)

GD-89

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ALLEGED COW THEFT

## Schoolboy brutally tortured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A schoolboy, brutally tortured for alleged stealing of a neighbour's cow, is undergoing treatment at Sundarganj Upazila Health Complex.

The victim is Rafiqul Islam, 13, an inhabitant of Dhumaitari village in Sundarganj, and a student of Class VIII at a local school.

Police rescued the boy and admitted him to the health complex on Sunday.

The law enforcers yesterday arrested Rana Mia and Abbas Mia of the same village in connection with the incident.

A cow was stolen from the shed of Raja Mia of the village on Friday night, said locals and police.

On Saturday, men of the house picked up neighbour Rafiqul, suspecting him as a cow thief and beat him mercilessly.

Later they brought the victim to the house of Afsar Pramanik, a local influential man, where the boy was beaten for a second time.

Meanwhile, the incident went viral in social media.

On Sunday night, the victim's elder brother Shafiqul Islam filed a case with Sundarganj Police Station against 13 persons on charge of mercilessly beating the minor boy, said Abdullaheel Zaman, OC of Sundarganj Police Station.

Police have arrested two of the accused and drives are on to nab the others, he said.

The brutality on the schoolboy was discussed with importance at yesterday's meeting of the upazila law and order committee, where Upazila Nirbahi Officer Solaiman Ali asked police to arrest all the accused.

## Bid to snatch Tk 21.5 lakh foiled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Police foiled a bid to snatch Tk 21.5 lakh in cash of a bKash agency in Melandah upazila of the district on Sunday night.

They also arrested three men, including a bKash staffer, in connection with the incident, said Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Melandah Police Station.

The arrestees are Riaz Mursheed Ali Dipu, 30, a sales representative of bKash, and his friends-Jasim Uddin, 32, and Sumon Ahmed, 28, -- of Chhankanda area in Jamalpur town.



With many smaller rivers from upstream under the grip of encroachers, a few bigger ones like the Jadukata river in Sunamganj Sadar upazila is losing its unique characteristics due to massive contamination and disposal of waste during illegal and unscientific extraction activities by sand and stone traders. Inset, houses built illegally on the Khasiamara river in Mohabbatpur Bazar area of Doarabazar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR, COLLECTED

# The cry of small rivers from upstream

Most of such rivers and streams in Sunamganj are disappearing fast at the hands of encroachers and traders of sand and stone

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Sunamganj

Hilly rivers from upstream are a lifeline to hundreds of rivers crisscrossing the riverine country that we live in. But topography of the river basins is changing significantly as many of these rivers, streaming down from India's Meghalaya into Sunamganj, are shrinking fast due to encroachment.

Many rivers inland already disappeared and the rest might follow the same course -- a prospect that would deal a devastating blow to the geography, ecology, biodiversity and most importantly, the economy of the country.

With the natural course of many of these small streams or creeks, also called rivulets, destroyed by encroachers, water from upstream is oftentimes inundating low-lying areas in Sunamganj, causing heavy damage to farmers in the area.

All sorts of installations including markets, shops and residential houses have been built on these streams along the bordering areas of the district over the years. But the authorities concerned

seem to be indifferent to the greater threat the illegal act poses to the country's future.

Abdul Hye Al-Hadi, chief coordinator of Save the Heritage and Environment, said the main rivers and rivulets flowing through Sunamganj are originated in hilly areas of Meghalaya. They are the Surma, Kushiara, Kamarkhali, Kalni, Nokunda, Bowai, Nitai, Sonai, Gunai, Sameshwari and the Nawa.

Most of these are the principal tributaries of the two main rivers -- the Surma and the Kushiara, which are non-tidal and navigable throughout the year by country boats. The flowing length of these rivers is about 195 kilometres.

The ecology and biodiversity as well as the socio-economy of people in the area completely depend on the existence of these rivers. These rivulets from hills have their unique characteristics, which are different than that of the plainland rivers in the country.

But with the intention to extract sand or stone from these as well as to encroach on the land, these rivulets are wrongly being identified as "quarries".

Moreover, no scientific method is being followed while extracting, which is in fact illegal, Abdul Hye said.

In the long run, these rivulets are losing their unique characteristics due to massive contamination and disposal of waste during extraction activities.

As a result, biodiversity in vast wetlands and haors is being affected and rivers all around are losing navigability, he added.

Mohabbatpur village resident Harunur Rashid from Doarabazar upazila said many influential locals set up shops occupying land on the Khasiamara river that is a tributary of the Surma river and runs through Lakkhipur and Surma unions after descending from Meghalaya.

The Khasiamara has practically died after around sixty-five shops were built on it in Mohabbatpur Bazar area over the past few years, he also said.

A local shop owner named Delwar Hossain, whose shop was removed from the river bank recently by assistant commissioner (land) of the upazila, claimed that his shop was not obstructing the river's flow.

Surma Union Parishad Chairman Khandaker Mamunur Rashid said many houses have been built in Bangla Bazar area on the banks of the Bali river that runs through Bangla Bazar and falls on the Surma.

Since the river's flow is obstructed, water overflowing from it now causes frequent flooding in the upazila, resulting in destruction of properties as well as the road between Bangla Bazar and Bhogla, he added.

Swapan Barman, president of Bishwambharpur Press Club, said many tributaries of the Surma run through Bishwambharpur upazila. Most of those tributaries, after originating in Meghalaya, falls on the Rakti river and the Rakti finally falls on the Surma.

One of them, the Dhamalia river, is on its death throes as many influential locals, including former UP chairman Rafiqul Islam Talukder, constructed several hundred houses on its banks, choking its natural flow.

Rafiqul Islam, however, denied causing any harm to the Dhamalia and claimed that his house was built far from the river.

Another of the tributaries, the Jadukata, is also under threat of extinction due to encroachment in Modergaon and Anwarpur areas, said Abdul Gani Ansari, an environmental activist from Muktikhola village.

Abdul Karim Kim, executive member of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said, most of the rivers and streams -- such as Bali, Khasiamara, Dhamalia, Rakti, Ghatghatia and Old Jadukata -- that enter Sunamganj from Meghalaya are endangered due to illegal occupation.

These rivers will soon disappear from the geography of the area unless the illegal structures are removed from the rivers and stern action is taken immediately against the encroachers, he also said.

Contacted, Sunamganj Water Development Board Executive Engineer Sabibur Rahman said any structure found anywhere along the paths of the rivers will be removed.

Assuring due importance on the rivers and rivulets from upstream, he also said their drives against illegal encroachment on rivers are ongoing.



A mobile court of Department of Environment demolished Bishal Brick Kiln in Dhalapara area of Tangail's Ghatail upazila yesterday. The owner of the establishment had no authorisation to run the kiln in the area.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Mobile court demolishes illegal brick kiln in Ghatail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court during a drive yesterday demolished an illegal brick kiln in Ghatail upazila of Tangail.

The executive magistrate of Department of Environment (DoE) led the demolition of Bishal Brick Kiln in Dhalapara area around noon.

Aside from local DoE officials, personnel from law enforcers and the Fire Service and Civil Defence also took part in the drive.

Mujahidul Islam, deputy director of Department of Environment in Tangail, said there are 274 brick kilns

in 12 upazilas of the district and out of those, as many as 118 brick kilns have valid documents.

Among the remaining 156, a total of 137 have been conducting operations after obtaining orders from the court, while 19 others have been conducting business without any permission from any authorities whatsoever.

The demolished establishment, Bishal Brick Kiln, had been operating without any authorisation from any government authorities, he said, adding that it did not obtain any authorisation from the district administration either.

# Swindling crores of taka, they vanished in thin air

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A group of con artists disappeared after taking crores of taka in deposits from hundreds of depositors in at least 15 villages of Patuakhali Sadar upazila last month.

In order to lure the villagers, in three unions of the upazila, into making deposits with their fake non-governmental organisation (NGO), the 10-member gang made promises of paying lucrative profits to each depositor.

At noon on December 29, hundreds of outraged depositors formed a human chain in Kheserhat area of Morichbunia union, demanding arrest of the criminals and recovery of their money.

The day before, several hundred depositors formed another human chain and made the same demand in Fatullah Bazar area of Auliapur union.

Rubel Mridha, a depositor and a member of Ward 6 under Morichbunia Union Parishad, addressed the human chain among others.

He said a 10-member gang led by Nasir Uddin alias Sabuj Mridha, son of Abul Hasem Master of Emadi village in the union, formed a fake NGO named 'New Navana Company' around six months back.

Setting up a makeshift office of the NGO in Patuakhali Bazar area, they collected Tk 1 lakh from him and assured him of a profit between Tk 20,000 and Tk 40,000 per month.

Against each deposit, the



Demanding arrest of the gang that stole crores of taka from hundreds of villagers, several hundred depositors formed a human chain in Fatullah Bazar area of Auliapur union under Patuakhali Sadar upazila on December 28, 2019.

PHOTO: STAR

criminals provided a depositor with only a handwritten piece of paper, mentioning the deposit amount and the date, said Khokon Sikder of Bara Auliapur village. "I deposited Tk 10 lakh that I got from selling my land and jewellery of my wife."

Homemaker Shahnaz Begum from Tafalbaria village said, "Twenty days back, I sold two of my cows and deposited Tk 50,000 with them, with the assurance that I would receive Tk 60,000 a month later. But now, I found out that they have fled."

"Sabuj Mridha took seven of my cows 15 days back, promising to pay me back Tk 2 lakh a month later.

But they have disappeared," said Shamsunnahar of the same village.

"I looked for them for the last three days, but it all went in vain," said Abu Hanif Fakir, a small businessman at Fatulla Bazar, who deposited Tk 1 lakh.

Locals said other members of the gang are Shahjahan Gazi, Roman, Badol, Kuddus, Noman, Aminul Gazi, Rahim Mollah, Rahman Akon and Kawsar Gazi.

When this correspondent went looking for Sabuj at his home in Emadi village, the door of the house was found locked from outside.

His neighbour Shahida Begum said his parents lived there, but

they both left two days back. His wife lives in Kalikapur area in Patuakhali town, she also said.

After this correspondent reached his wife Rumana Akhter in Patuakhali town, she said she was not aware of her husband's monetary transactions with others as he had left her with their two daughters several months ago when he married another woman.

Contacted, Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Patuakhali Police Station, said they received arrest warrant for Sabuj and they would take necessary steps upon completion of investigation.

## SPORT



**AN AERIAL CELEBRATION:** Chattogram Challengers pacer Rubel Hossain jumps into the air while celebrating the dismissal of opener Tamim Iqbal with wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan during the eliminator of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) that Chattogram won by seven wickets against Dhaka Platoon in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Dhaka Platoon sent packing

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Platoon could not avoid being knocked out of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League as the side succumbed to a seven-wicket defeat against Chattogram Challengers in the eliminator match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Chattogram faced little to no resistance as they cruised to the modest 145-run target set by Dhaka with forty balls to spare.

With Chris Gayle and Ziaur Rahman opening the innings, Chattogram made a solid start. Ziaur, who was promoted to the opener in this match, paired up with big-hitter Gayle to add 42 runs for the first wicket before he was eventually dismissed on a 12-ball 25.

Imrul Kayes then combined with Gayle to put Chattogram within touching distance of the target before both batsmen departed with 30-plus scored. Mahmudullah was the one to finish the job with a six while remaining unbeaten

with 34 runs off 14 balls.

With this win, Chattogram kept their hopes for a place in the final alive as they will now take on Rajshahi Royals, who lost the first qualifier against Khulna Tigers in the day's second match, in the second qualifier tomorrow.

Earlier, Dhaka were asked to bat first after skipper Mashrafe surprisingly came for the toss despite his injury, which was sustained while fielding against Khulna on Saturday. The inspirational skipper played

with 14 stitches in his left hand.

However, Dhaka were dealt a huge blow when Rubel Hossain bowled the experienced Tamim Iqbal for three to start the proceedings. Things went from bad to worse for Dhaka after that as they lost a number of wickets in no time and were reeling on 43 for five inside nine overs.

It was opener Mominul Haque who held his ground though but he too departed after scoring 31 while Asif Ali also departed cheaply (five) as Dhaka seemingly found it difficult to even pass the hundred-run mark at one stage.

Shadab Khan and Thisara Perera made amend though, adding 44 runs for the eight wicket before the latter departed on 25 runs off 13 balls.

Shadab remained unbeaten on 64-runs off 41 balls, featuring five fours and three sixes, as Dhaka put on 51 runs in the last three overs to post 144 for eight.

West Indian seamer Rayad Emrit picked up three wickets while Rubel and left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed bagged two wickets each for Chattogram.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**DHAKA PLATOON:** 144 for 8 in 20 overs (Mominul 31, Shadab 64 not out, Perera 25; Rubel 2-33, Nasum 2-11, Emrit 3-23)

**CHATTOTGRAM CHALLENGERS:** 147 for 3 in 17.4 overs (Gayle 38, Ziaur 25, Imrul 32, Mahmudullah 34 not out; Shadab 2-32)

**Result:** Chattogram won by 7 wickets.

**Player-of-the-match:** Rayad Emrit.

### SHORT CORNER

#### U-19s tie with Aussie counterparts

Bangladesh shared the honours with their Australian counterparts in their first official warm-up match ahead of the ICC U19 World Cup at the LC de Villiers Oval in Pretoria yesterday.

The match ended in a draw as Bangladesh scored 250 for three in 43 overs while in reply, Australia were all out for 250 in their allotted 43 overs.

Opener Sam Fanning (46), Lachlan Hearne (41) and Corey Kelly (44) scored notably for Australia.

Earlier, Bangladesh's innings was built around three fifties from Parvez Hossain, Towhid Hridoy and Shamim Hossain. Tanzid Hasan and Parvez Hossain made a good start after electing to bat, adding 70 runs for the opening stand in a 43-over-a-side game.

Tanzid scored 32 runs off 38 balls, featuring five fours, while Parvez retired hurt after making an 82-ball 52. Towhid contributed 53 runs off 57 balls and it was Shamim who helped his side post a respectable total with an unbeaten 59 from 33 deliveries. Shamim smote three fours and as many sixes during his knock.

Bangladesh will play their last official warm-up match against New Zealand tomorrow before their first Group C encounter of the tournament proper on January 18 at the JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom.

--SPORTS REPORTER

#### Women cricketers to leave for India today

The Bangladesh national women's cricket team will leave for India today to participate in the Women's T20 Quadrangular Series in Patna, Bihar.

The squad is scheduled to depart from Dhaka at 3:30pm. India Women's A, India Women's B and Thailand national women's team are the other sides in the series.

**SQUAD:** Salma Khatun (C), Ayasha Rahman, Murshida Khatun, Sanjida Islam, Nigar Sultana, Fargana Hoque, Lata Mondol, Ritu Moni, Shailla Sharmin, Shamima Sultana, Fahima Khatun, Jahanara Alam, Nahida Akter, Khadiza-Tul Kubra, Panna Ghosh, Suraya Azmim, Rabeya, Sobhana Mostary.

--SPORTS REPORTER

#### Sharma, Shami recalled

Senior batsman Rohit Sharma and fast bowler Mohammed Shami were recalled to India's Twenty20 squad for the tour of New Zealand after they were rested for the home series against Sri Lanka.

Sharma and Shami come into the 16-man squad for the five T20 internationals starting on January 24 in Auckland. India will also play three ODIs and two Tests in New Zealand.

-- AFP

#### Bravo back after 3 years

Dwayne Bravo was recalled to the West Indies squad on Sunday, more than three years after his last appearance as the Caribbean side build up to the defence of their World Twenty20 title.

The 36-year-old all-rounder, a two-time World T20 winner, was named in a 13-man squad for a three-match series against Ireland later this month.

-- AFP

## Amir dismantles Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Najmul Hossain Shanto's brilliant unbeaten 78, complemented well by a deadly Mohammad Amir spell, helped Khulna Tigers to become the first team to confirm their spot in the final of the ongoing Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL), beating Rajshahi Royals by 27 runs despite Shoaib Malik's gritty 50-ball 80 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Rajshahi will however get another chance to make it to the final when Andre Russell's men play Chattogram Challengers in the second qualifier tomorrow in Mirpur.

Amir, who bagged six for 17 the best-ever figure in BPL history, removed Rajshahi opener Liton Das in the very first over. A typical delivery from the left-hander had nipped back just a wee bit to outsmart the in-form Liton before casting him. Next

over, Amir picked up Afif Hossain and Alok Kapali to leave Rajshahi reeling at 23 for three after 4 overs.

Ravi Bopara soon fell and then Amir removed skipper Andre Russell in the sixth over. Malik produced an astounding 74-run partnership with Taijul Islam for the seventh wicket but Amir thwarted any chance of a comeback, removing both in the 18th over as Rajshahi were bowled out for 131.

Earlier, Najmul, who became the first Bangladeshi batsman to have scored a century in the ongoing BBPL, smashing an unbeaten 115 to orchestrate the highest-ever chase in BPL history against Dhaka Platoon on Saturday, shone once again in yesterday's qualifier.

Although the 21-year-old youngster, hit a 57-ball 78 to help Khulna post a modest 158 for three, he could consider himself lucky.

Najmul, who was on nine off 10 deliveries, was deceived and saw his stumps rattled off a Shoaib Malik delivery in the sixth over. To his relief, replays showed that Malik overstepped and the left-hander survived. He was then dropped on 57 with Afif Hossain the culprit, off a Ravi Bopara delivery in the 15th over.

But despite riding on his luck a couple of times, a confident Najmul looked exquisite for the rest of his innings that was laced with seven fours and four maximums. Khulna's

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**KHULNA TIGERS:** 158 for 3 in 20 overs (Najmul 78 not out, Shamsur 32, Mushfiqur 21; Irfan 2-13)

**RAJSHAH ROYALS:** 131 all out in 20 overs (Shoaib 80, Taijul 12; Amir 6-17, Mehedi 2-6)

**Result:** Khulna won by 27 runs.

**Player-of-the-match:** Mohammad Amir.



**India players led by skipper Virat Kohli (C) run holding hands during a training session ahead of the first ODI against Australia in Mumbai yesterday.** PHOTO: AFP



## Mashrafe found wanting in BBPL too

MAZHAR UDDIN

A dark chapter in the 2019 World Cup was the dismal returns for ODI skipper Mashrafe, who looked a shadow of his former self as he went limping through the campaign with persistent hamstring problems before eventually leading the Tigers to an eighth-place finish.

His performances fuelled questions regarding the ODI captain's retirement, and with no ODIs till the home series against Zimbabwe in February, it propagated a hangover that began in 2019 and one that Bangladesh cricket is still suffering from in 2020.

Mashrafe not just failed as a captain but also as a pacer as he managed to pick up just one wicket in eight World Cup games. The Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League provided the long-awaited return for Mashrafe to competitive cricket, but the inspirational cricketer once again faced harsh reality.

After not being picked initially by any team during the players draft of the BBPL, Mashrafe was eventually roped in by Dhaka Platoon during the seventh call of the draft. The main reason for the lack of interest from the teams towards Mashrafe was his performance as he was returning after a long break following the injury he suffered before the ODI series against Sri Lanka.

Much like his performance in the World Cup, Mashrafe was unable to make an impact in the BBPL, picking up eight wickets in 13 games at an economy of 7.62 as Dhaka Platoon were ousted following a seven-wicket defeat against Chattogram Challengers in the first eliminator yesterday.

A key aspect in any sports around the world is fitness of a player, and Mashrafe's match fitness was found wanting in the BBPL.

It was rather unusual when Mashrafe, who had to take 14 stitches on his left hand during the previous game, decided to play in the all-important eliminator.

It begged the question on why an unfit player with 14 stitches in his hand would play a competitive game, that too in such a crucial encounter? His discomfort was apparent all throughout the game. It is not difficult to guess that it was solely Mashrafe's call to take part in the game, which raises the question whether his personal decision to play despite being injured had hampered composition of the Dhaka team.

Despite his brave decision to play with 14 stitches, the pacer ended the game without a

wicket, conceding 33 runs in four overs.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board, however, gave Mashrafe the liberty to make the call on his own retirement and even offered him a grand farewell.

Interestingly, Mashrafe himself was realistic over the issue of retirement, asking whether he should be selected for the national team considering his



performances at the World Cup.

"No, I don't think the selectors will first select the captain and then the team as I have already given a clear message that the selectors can do whatever they dim fit. As you know everything happens in Bangladesh, so the selectors would do what they think. If the BCB asks me to quit then I will quit captaincy right now, I have no problem. Leave my decision to me," Mashrafe said yesterday when asked whether he would quit ODI captaincy.

It appears the stance from the board and the selectors on Mashrafe is confusing too. Chief selector Minhajul Abedin said, "We are not thinking of him at the moment as we have Tests and T20s to deal with. Mashrafe is one of the biggest players we have got, so we can think about him when we have ODIs."

The stance from both BCB and Mashrafe over his future and how both parties are dealing with this is a ridiculous circumstance that the cricket world very rarely experiences.



**Khulna Tigers pacer Mohammad Amir celebrates one of his six wickets against Rajshahi Royals in the first qualifier of the BBPL at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.** PHOTO: STAR

total might have been a bit different if skipper Mushfiqur Rahim continued till the end. Mushfiqur, who scored a 16-ball 21, was forced to leave the field clutching his leg after suffering a cramp in the

penultimate over, but the skipper returned to his wicketkeeping duties after the exchange. For Rajshahi, Mohammad Irfan remained the most impressive bowler, returning figures of two for 13.

## India to face stiff challenge

### First ODI against Australia today

AGENCIES, Mumbai

After a scintillating T20I series win over Sri Lanka, a Virat Kohli-led India will face a stiff challenge against Aaron Finch-led Australia in the first ODI of a three-match series here on Tuesday.

Australia are entering the contest after series wins over Pakistan and South Africa, and will be riding high on confidence.

Kohli's men will be eager to avenge the home series defeat which they suffered at the hands of Australia last year in January. With India set to travel to New Zealand later this month, it will be important for Kohli to win the series and keep the morale high before the away tour.

"It is always 3-2, 2-1 kind of series,"

Kohli said on the eve of the opening game. "Having played a lot against each other, we know the strengths and weaknesses of either side. So it's always good and a tough challenge playing Australia purely because of the skill set and mindset they bring on to the field."

Kohli said India will need a top performance in every game.

"As players we are excited to play a full strength Australia in our conditions, also to test ourselves against the best," said Kohli.

"In the year of the World Cup as many games as we play together as a team, it's going to benefit us, especially the white-ball cricket."

The high-voltage rivalries that fans enjoy will be back as Rohit Sharma's elegance will be pitted against enforcer David Warner while the Virat Kohli vs Steve Smith duel will resume in earnest.

# What to WATCH

**SONY SIX**  
India v Australia  
First ODI  
Live from 2:00pm

**TEN 2**  
FA Cup  
Tottenham v Rochdale  
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

## TRAORE TOUGHER THAN RONALDO?

Wolves winger Adama Traore is tougher to mark than five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo, claims Newcastle defender Jetro Willems. Willems tackled Ronaldo when lining up against Portugal for the Netherlands at Euro 2012. His most recent Premier League outing saw him face the considerable threat of Traore, with Newcastle taking in a 1-1 draw. Molineux. The 25-year-old wing-back fared admirably in that challenge, as Steve Bruce's side took a point from a 1-1 draw. Willems admits to having had a tough afternoon, though, with chasing the jet-heeled Traore considered to be a trickier task than trying to contain Ronaldo – despite the Juventus forward having bagged a brace for his nation in a 2-1 win for Portugal back in 2012. "I have played against some very good players in my career, but no one quite as fast as Traore," Willems said in the Northern Echo. "I have played against Ronaldo, who is fast, but not that fast. Of course, he is so skilful but sometimes that is easier than being up against someone with such incredible pace."



Defending champions Palestine were the first team to arrive in Dhaka yesterday following a 24-hour journey ahead of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup, which kicks off tomorrow.

PHOTO: BFF

# Booters gear up as defending champions arrive

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Palestine and first-time participants Mauritius arrived in Dhaka yesterday to take part in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup international football tournament, which will kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

The defending champions, who arrived here following a 24-hour journey, will take on hosts Bangladesh in the opening fixture at 5:00pm tomorrow. The Middle Eastern nation have not brought their full-strength national team, rather a combination of young and experienced players, yet they are confident enough to take home the title.

Jaber Jaarin, the manager of the team, informed that they are taking this tournament as preparation for the World Cup qualifying fixture against Singapore in March.

"We are happy to be back here for the second time. We want to win the title this time too," Jaarin said after the team arrived at the Pan

Pacific Sonargaon Hotel where all the six teams will be based.

"There are eight Olympic team players and eight players who played in the last World Cup qualifying match. This team is a blend of youth and experience. We have a World Cup qualifying fixture in Singapore in March, so this tournament will be a good preparation for that," Jaarin added. Palestine had beaten Bangladesh 2-0 in the semifinals of the last edition in 2018 when they eventually won the title, beating Tajikistan on penalties in the final.

The Palestine team captain Taher Jabour also voiced his confidence about winning the title. "We have come here to defend the title. Many players of this team have played in the last Bangabandhu Gold Cup, so we have a fairly good idea about the tournament," said the 27-year-old centre-back.

The Palestinians will take on Sri Lanka in their second and last group-stage match on Friday while Bangladesh will square off against the islanders two days later.

While Bangladesh will be

earmarking a win against Sri Lanka for a place in the semifinals, they are willing to give their best against Palestine, the highest-ranked (106) team of the six-nation tournament.

Following a day's rest, the Bangladesh team's training session yesterday focused mostly on Palestine's attacking style and how to defend and safeguard the goal against them.

Conceding late goals has become a cause for concern for the men in red and green, who conceded four goals in the second half of their World Cup qualifier against Oman in November last year, the same number of goals they had conceded in their three previous qualifying fixtures.

Things did not improve much in December's South Asian Games where the Bangladesh team, masquerading as under-23s, managed only one clean sheet in four matches. The team's goalkeeping coach Robert Mims is aware of the situation and wants the keepers and defenders to keep their concentration right till the end.

"Conceding late goals is a team issue, issue of concentration and is about being organised in certain situations. It is also about awareness of opposition's tactics," the coach said after the training session.

"(We are working on) making them aware of Palestine's strength; how Palestine put you under pressure and where their dangers come from," the goalkeeping coach said.

The team's Number 1 goalkeeper Ashraf Islam Rana knows the defending champions will be a big challenge first up, but he feels the team can learn from mistakes of the past.

"The first match is always important in any tournament. Palestine are physically, tactically and technically far ahead of us," Rana said. "However, we are confident from our position since we are playing at home. We are mindful of the defeat against Palestine in the last edition. The key for us is to concentrate till the last moment. The goalkeepers and defenders will have to take extra challenge."

# Real Madrid clinch 11th Super Cup

AFP, Jeddah

Thibaut Courtois proved the hero on Sunday as Real Madrid beat city rivals Atletico Madrid in a penalty shoot-out in Saudi Arabia to win their 11th Spanish Super Cup.

Courtois and Jan Oblak were both imperious during a goalless final in Jeddah but the Belgian came up trumps, saving Thomas Partey's penalty after Saul Niguez had already hit the post.

Sergio Ramos tucked away the winning spot-kick to ensure Real Madrid clinched their first trophy of the season, with La Liga and the Champions League next in their sights.

"I went through their takers on the bench,"

I told him that anyone would have done the same in his position."

Victory maintains Zinedine Zidane's spotless record as a coach in finals.

He has now led Madrid to success three times in the Champions League, and two each in the Club World Cup, UEFA Super Cup and now Spanish Super Cup.

"I have won many things as a player and now as a coach," said Zidane. "But I congratulate the players. You can achieve anything if you work hard enough."

The focus before the tournament was more on the decision of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) to move this year's Super Cup -- a four-team competition rather than a straight final -- away from Spain and to Saudi Arabia, despite the country's long-criticised treatment of women and record



Real Madrid players celebrate with the Spanish Super Cup trophy after defeating Atletico Madrid in the final in Jeddah on Sunday. After regulation time ended in a 0-0 draw, Los Blancos clinched a 4-1 win on penalties.

PHOTO: AFP

said Courtois. "Saul's surprised me but Thomas' I read, and he's got a very hard shot."

Atletico might have won it in extra-time when Alvaro Morata went through one-on-one but Real's Federico Valverde took a red card in exchange for cynically fouling the striker from behind.

"It was something you shouldn't do and I apologised to Alvaro but it was the only option I had left," said Valverde.

"It was the most important moment of the match," added Atletico coach Diego Simeone. "If he had gone through it was a goal but

on human rights.

For all the controversy off the pitch, on the pitch, the tournament has delivered.

Real Madrid played brilliantly to beat Valencia on Wednesday while a pulsating 3-2 win for Atletico on Thursday has put Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde on the brink of the sack.

And although the final lacked goals and quality finishing, there was drama until the end and joy on the faces of Real Madrid's players as Ramos hoisted another trophy under the fireworks.

## Premier V'ball from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangabandhu Popular Life Premier Volleyball League will get underway at the Shaheed Nur Hossain National Volleyball Stadium tomorrow, with 10 teams taking part.

A press conference in this regard was organised at the Bangabandhu National Stadium conference room yesterday, where Bangladesh Volleyball Federation general secretary Ashikur Rahman Miku disclosed the details.

Although the event is called a league, it will be held in tournament format, with the teams split into two groups. The final will be held on January 28.

## Lewis leads WI to series sweep

AFP, St. George's

Evin Lewis smashed a dazzling century as West Indies defeated Ireland by five wickets on Sunday to complete a 3-0 sweep of the one-day international series.

Lewis hit his third one-day ton off 96 balls with six boundaries and five huge sixes at the National Stadium in Grenada as West Indies reached their rain-revised target of 197 with 64 balls to spare.

For Ireland, captain Andy Balbirnie top-scored with 71 in a total of 203 all out. West Indies leg-spinner Hayden Walsh took 4-36.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
IRELAND: 203 all out in 49.1 overs (Balbirnie 71; Walsh 4-36) **WEST INDIES:** 199 for 5 (Lewis 102, Pooran 43 not out)

Result: WI won by 5 wkts (D/L).



Although PSG forward Neymar (C) scored a brace, Monaco twice battled back from behind to secure a 3-3 draw in a scintillating Ligue 1 encounter at the Parc des Princes in Paris on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Neymar brace goes in vain

AFP, Paris

Neymar scored twice and created another goal but leaders Paris Saint-Germain were held to an entertaining 3-3 draw at home on Sunday by a Monaco side playing their first Ligue 1 game under new coach Robert Moreno.

The Brazilian gave PSG the lead after just two minutes at the Parc des Princes but Monaco scored two quick goals through Gelson Martins and Wissam Ben Yedder to move 2-1 ahead inside quarter of an hour.

A Fode Ballo-Toure own goal brought PSG level and Neymar restored their advantage from the penalty spot before half-time after a foul on Kylian Mbappe.

But Monaco earned a point when Islam Slimani's goal was controversially awarded after it was initially ruled out for offside.

It was just the second time PSG have dropped points at home this season -- after a shock 2-0 defeat by Reims in September.

PSG had started the new year in rampant form by scoring six both times in a pair of domestic cup wins and looked on track for a 10th win in a row over Monaco after Neymar controlled a terrific Marco Verratti pass to smash home the opener.

Thomas Tuchel's side came in riding an eight-match winning streak -- across which they had scored 34 goals -- but concerns remained over the deployment of a prolific four-man attack against stronger opposition.

Monaco hit back almost immediately as Cesc Fabregas threaded a neat ball through for Ben Yedder and although he was chopped down by Keylor Navas, the rebound rolled into the path of Martins who tapped into an empty net.

# Juventus take top spot

AFP, Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo stretched his goal-scoring streak to six consecutive league games as Juventus took top spot in Serie A on Sunday with a 2-1 win at Roma, whose defeat was made worse by the cruciate ligament injury of rising star Nicolò Zaniolo.

Juventus move two points ahead of Inter Milan after going two goals up in just 10 minutes in Rome.

Turkish defender Merih Demiral found a way through after three minutes when he connected with a Paulo Dybala free-kick.

Minutes later Argentine Dybala was hauled down in the box, and Ronaldo stepped up to convert from the spot to make it nine goals in six league games.

Both sides had casualties in the first half with Demiral limping off with a knee injury not long after scoring his first Juventus goal.

And Zaniolo was stretched off in tears eight minutes before the break after falling victim to what Roma later confirmed was a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

Zaniolo, who is considered one of Italy's most exciting young talents and was a rare bright point for Roma in a torrid first half, underwent surgery yesterday.

"I swear to you ... I'll be stronger than before," the 20-year-old later wrote on Instagram.

Roma had their chances with Edin Dzeko hitting the post and Wojciech Szczesny denying Cengiz Under from point-blank range.

Diego Perotti pulled a goal back for the hosts from the penalty spot on 68 minutes after an Alex Sandro handball.



Juventus talisman Cristiano Ronaldo (L) celebrates after scoring a penalty during a Serie A match against Roma in Rome on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

আপনি কি উচ্চ রক্তচাপ, হৃদরোগ, ডায়াবেটিস ও স্ট্রোক প্রতিরোধ করতে চান?  
ওষুধ খাওয়ার পরও কি উচ্চ রক্তচাপ বা ডায়াবেটিস নিয়ন্ত্রণ হচ্ছে না?  
রিং লাগানো বা বাইপাস করার পরও কি অসুবিধা হচ্ছে?  
কোনোভাবেই কি ওজন কমাতে পারছেন না?

অপারেশন বা রিং পরানো ছাড়াই হৃদরোগ নিরাময় করতে এবং উচ্চ রক্তচাপ, ডায়াবেটিস, স্ট্রোক ও স্থূলতা প্রতিরোধ ও নিরাময়ের রহস্য জানতে অংশ নিন

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স্থান : কয়েমিএমপিএ ভবন, কাকরাইল  
সময় : সন্ধ্যা ৬:৩৫ - রাত ৮:৩৫

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# Shut them all within 2 months

HC asks DoE to implement order in 5 districts, including Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued some directives for the government to reduce air pollution in and around the capital and also ordered the Department of Environment to shut down the rest of the illegal brick kilns in five districts, including Dhaka, in next two months.

It also asked the authorities to seize the vehicles emitting black smoke beyond permissible limit in Dhaka city.

The directives and orders came during the hearing for a writ petition, filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh in January last year.

On Sunday, the DoE submitted a report to the HC stating that it has shut down 349 illegal brick kilns, which have no environment clearance certificate, out of 559 in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Munshiganj and Manikganj in line with the court's earlier directive.

The DoE said the brick kilns were closed through operating mobile courts and issuing notices. Besides, it realised fines of Tk 4.93 crore from the owners of the brick kilns, and the drives were going on.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader in its directives said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Two little girls are sleeping under a thin blanket at the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station on Sunday night. Earlier in the evening, they arrived from Kishoreganj with their mother, who would take them to a doctor at Dhaka Medical College Hospital the next morning. The family had nowhere else to go, so they spent the night at the station amid the bone-chilling cold.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Relief from cold likely in 2 days

STAR REPORT

Temperatures may rise over the next few days, reducing the effects of the cold wave sweeping over the country, says the Met office.

"Temperatures have already started increasing today [Monday] and will continue for the next couple of days," said Monwar Hossain, a meteorologist at Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

But another cold spell may hit the country by the end of this week, he told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

In the 24-hour weather bulletin, the Met office last night said, "Night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged and day temperatures may rise by two to three degrees Celsius across the country."

Along with it, moderate to thick fog may occur over the country between midnight and noon, the bulletin said.

Yesterday's lowest temperature was recorded at 7.2 degrees Celsius in Tentulia of Panchagarh,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## DIGITAL SECURITY ACT Arrested baul to be produced at court today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Baul singer Shariat Sarkar will be produced before a Tangail court today after a three-day remand, police said.



Shariat Sarkar

Mirzapur police arrested the 40-year-old folk singer on Saturday in a case filed under the Digital Security Act, charging him with hurting Muslim sentiment.

He was arrested in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila.

Shariat, who studied up to class VI, is a resident of Jamurki area of Mirzapur upazila, police said.

Mohammad Faridul Islam filed the case with Mirzapur Police Station on January 9, accusing Shariat of making comments during a performance that hurt his "religious sentiment".

Immediately after the arrest, police produced him before a judicial magistrate's court in Tangail with a 10-day remand prayer. The court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Akramul Islam placed him on a 3-day remand, Court Inspector Tanvir

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## 'Clerics get lost!'

Iran protests rage on over plane disaster; police deny shooting protesters

REUTERS, Dubai

Protesters denouncing Iran's clerical rulers took to the streets and riot police deployed to face them yesterday, in a third day of demonstrations after authorities acknowledged shooting down a passenger plane by accident.

Demonstrations, some apparently met by a violent crackdown, are the latest twist in one of the most serious escalations between the United States and Iran since the 1979 Iranian revolution swept the US-backed shah from power.

Video from inside Iran yesterday showed students chanting slogans including "Clerics get lost!" outside universities in the city of Isfahan and in Tehran, where riot police were filmed taking out positions on the streets.

Images from the previous two days of protests showed wounded people being carried and pools of blood on the ground. Gunshots could be heard, although the police denied opening fire.

US President Donald Trump, who raised the stakes last week by ordering the killing in a drone strike of Iran's most powerful military commander, tweeted to Iran's leaders: "don't kill your protesters."

Tehran has acknowledged shooting down the Ukrainian jetliner by mistake on Wednesday, killing all 176 aboard, hours after it had fired at US targets in Iraq to retaliate for the killing on January 3 of General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad.

Iranian public anger, rumbling for days as Iran repeatedly denied it was to blame for the plane crash, erupted into protests on Saturday when the military admitted its role.

Scores, possibly hundreds, of protesters were videoed at sites in Tehran and Isfahan, a major city south of the capital.

"They killed our elites and replaced them with clerics," they chanted outside a Tehran university, referring to Iranian students returning to studies in Canada who were on the plane.

'DON'T BEAT THEM'

Videos posted late on Sunday recorded the gunfire around protests in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## 'GUNFIGHT' WITH COPS 2 'narcotics dealers' killed in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two suspected drug peddlers were killed in a "gunfight" with detectives during an anti-drug raid in Dinajpur Sadar upazila early yesterday, said police.

The dead are Rahmat Ali, 35, from Dakkhin Balubari village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila and Abul Kashem, 34, from Shipahipara village in the same upazila.

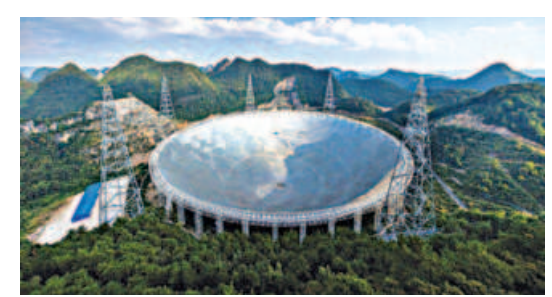
Two policemen were also injured in the incident. They are Nahid Hossain, assistant sub-inspector at the Detective Branch (DB) of police in Dinajpur, and Mahbub Alam, a constable at the same unit, said Anwar Hossain superintendent of police (SP) in Dinajpur.

They are being treated at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur, Anwar said.

During a press conference at his office yesterday, Anwar said being

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## HUNT FOR LIFE BEYOND EARTH China launches gigantic telescope



REUTERS, Shanghai

China on Saturday officially opened operations of the world's largest radio telescope, which it will use for space research and help in the hunt for extra-terrestrial life, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope, or FAST, is the size of 30 football fields and has been hewed out of a mountain in the southwestern province of Guizhou. It is also known by the name "Sky Eye" in China.

Xinhua reported that the telescope had received national approval to start operations. It finished construction in 2016 and has been undergoing debugging and tests in the years since.

FAST's Chief Engineer Jiang Peng told Xinhua that the telescope's trial operations had so far been reliable and stable, and that its sensitivity was more than 2.5 times that of the world's second-largest

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Pakistan HC annuls death penalty of Musharraf

AFP, Lahore

A Pakistan court yesterday annulled the death sentence handed to former military ruler Pervez Musharraf, ruling that the special court which had found him guilty of treason last year was unconstitutional, a government prosecutor told AFP.

The original ruling had marked the first time a former leader of the armed forces had faced such a sentence for treason in Pakistan, where the military maintains strong influence

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



**PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 14**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:36 7:00  
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:40 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 'Neo-JMB IT den' busted in Savar

1 held; bomb-making materials, sharp weapons seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police yesterday busted a den of "Neo-JMB" and arrested a female member of the militant outfit in Ashulia's Gokulnagar area on the outskirts of the capital.

Police also seized bomb-making materials, crude bombs, sharp weapons, three toy pistols, and computer equipment.

The arrestee Shaila Sharmin, 25, is the wife of militant suspect Tanvir who is a student of Jahangirnagar University and an IT expert. Police are looking for him, said Maruf Hossain Sarder, superintendent of police in Dhaka.

Being tipped off about a militant den, police raided a two-storey building in the evening, he told reporters at the scene after the raid.

The suspects rented a flat on the ground floor of the building one-and-a-half-

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A cart with logs sticking out plying the Buriganga Second Bridge in the capital's Babu Bazar area yesterday. Such slow-moving vehicles, which are often involved in accidents, are not allowed on the bridge.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Queen agrees 'transition' for Harry, Meghan

AFP, Sandringham

Queen Elizabeth II yesterday said Prince Harry and his wife Meghan would be allowed to split their time between Britain and Canada while their future is finalised.

The couple said last week they wanted to step back from the royal frontline, catching the family off guard and forcing the monarch to convene crisis talks about the pair's future roles.

The 93-year-old queen, her son and heir Prince Charles, and his two sons princes William and Harry began a family summit at her private Sandringham estate in Norfolk, eastern England, yesterday.

She called the discussions "very constructive" and said she and her family were "entirely supportive of Harry and Meghan's desire to create a new life as a young family."

"Although we would have preferred them to remain full-time working members of the royal family, we respect and understand their wish to live a more independent life as a family while remaining a valued part of my family," she added.

"Harry and Meghan have made clear that they do not want to be reliant on public funds in their new lives.

"It has therefore been agreed that there will be a period of transition in which the Sussexes will spend time in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

