



The Daily Star

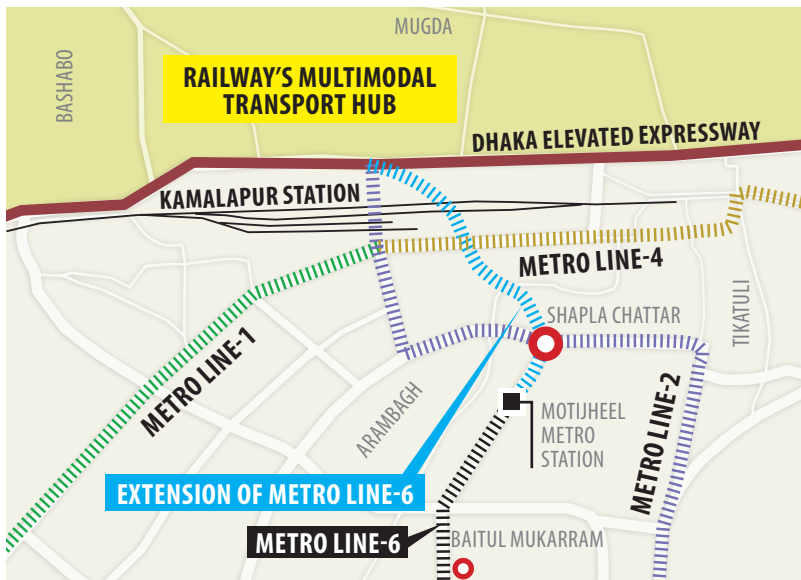
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Tussle over metro line-6 extension

Railway says the change will upset its mega plan to turn Kamalapur station into a multimodal transport hub



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway has expressed serious reservations about a move to extend a metrorail line up to Kamalapur Railway Station, saying it will jeopardise its mega plan to turn the country's prime railway station into a multimodal transport hub.

The mass rapid transit (MRT) line-6, the first-ever metrorail project in the country, was initially designed as an elevated track from Uttara to Motijheel. Later, a skywalk was planned to connect the line with Kamalapur Railway Station.

Last year, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), a government-owned company implementing the metrorail project, planned to stretch the MRT line-6 directly to the rail station.

"The present proposal of extension of MRT Line-6 alignment on the Kamalapur Station premises is not acceptable," reads the minutes of a meeting held at the

Railway Bhaban last month.

The railway authorities sent the minutes to the DMTCL on December 30 last year.

"After detailed discussions, it is found that extension of MRT line-6 will confront the basic theme of development of MmTH [Multimodal Transport Hub] and other BR development work."

Railways Minister Nurul Islam presided over the meeting, which discussed "Development Programme of Bangladesh Railway at Kamalapur Railway Station". The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the meeting minutes.

In another development, Kajima Corporation, a Japanese company which had already outlined a concept of the hub, informed the BR that it would withdraw their proposal if the MRT line-6 extension plan is accepted, said a top railway official.

BR Director General Md Shamsuzzaman acknowledged that they have sent the

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BNP men try to escort party mayor candidate Tabith Awal, in blue panjabi, to safety after he came under attack, allegedly from supporters of an Awami League-backed councillor candidate, while campaigning in the city's Gabtoli yesterday. Inset, with Tabith trapped in a crowd, a scuffle breaks out in the area.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BNP's Tabith attacked

AL ward councillor candidate's men swoop on him during campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tabith Awal, BNP's mayor candidate for Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), and his followers came under attack while campaigning in the capital's Gabtoli area yesterday.

BNP leaders alleged the attackers were supporters of a local ward councillor candidate backed by the ruling Awami League.

AL leaders, however, denied their involvement in the incident.

Witnesses said a group of people started throwing brickbats at Tabith and his followers when they were electioneering in Gabtoli's Bajarpara area around 11:15am.

Tabith suffered minor injuries. Several of his followers were also injured.

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Virus alarm

Passenger screening begins at 2 airports

STAR REPORT

The airport authorities in Dhaka and Chattogram yesterday began the screening process of China-returnee passengers to prevent probable outbreak of a SARS-like virus that has claimed six lives so far.

A medical team at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka started

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FREE ENTRY



With the Dhaka city polls only nine days away, most of the city streets and alleys have been flooded with posters of mayor and councillor candidates. Laminated with non-biodegradable plastic, these posters pose a serious threat to environment. The photo was taken in the city's Khilgaon area yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

LAMINATED POSTERS IN CITY POLLS

A big threat to environment

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Although they promised a clean and green Dhaka city, mayor and councillor candidates in the DSCC and the DNCC polls have flooded their areas with laminated posters, which are harmful for the environment.

The candidates are using posters laminated with plastic to protect those from rainwater and humidity during the electioneering period.

Visiting nine wards of the two city corporations, this correspondent found most of the posters were laminated.

The situation is similar in areas in nearly 20 other wards, locals said.

There are a total of 129 wards in the two city corporation areas.

According to environmentalists, such posters pose a serious threat to the environment. They said the laminated posters could neither be destroyed nor recycled.

Therefore, the posters will be in the dumping grounds for years only to add to environment pollution, they said,



A worker laminating posters at a printing press in the capital's Arambagh area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

adding that the huge quantity of single-use plastic would clog the drains and cause waterlogging in the coming rainy season.

Shahriar Hossain, secretary general of Environment and Social Development Organisation (ESDO), said the process of lamination also releases toxic chemicals and harm the environment.

"Thick polythene is used for lamination and a special chemical is used to turn polythene thicker. Under a certain

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Half a billion people unemployed or lack decent jobs: UN

AFP, Geneva

More than 470 million people worldwide are currently unemployed or underemployed, the UN said on Monday, warning that a lack of access to decent jobs was contributing to social unrest.

The global unemployment rate has remained relatively stable over much of the past decade, according to the UN's International Labour Organization.

But while the rate -- which stood at 5.4 percent last year -- is not expected to change much, overall jobless numbers are likely to inch up as slowing economies reduce the number of jobs available to a growing population.

This year, the number of people registered as unemployed is expected to rise to 190.5 million up from 188 million in 2019, ILO said in its annual World Employment and Social Outlook report.

At the same time, the UN body stressed that some 285 million people worldwide are considered underemployed, meaning they either work less than they want to, have given up searching for work or otherwise lack access to the labour market.

That amounts to nearly half a billion people and represents a full 13 percent of the global labour force, the ILO pointed out.

"For millions of working people, it is becoming increasingly difficult I think to build better lives through work," ILO chief Guy Ryder told reporters in Geneva.

He warned that "persisting and substantial work-related inequalities and exclusion" were preventing many from finding decent work and thereby also creating better futures.

"I think that this is an extremely worrying finding," he said, adding that lacking access to decent work appeared to be part of what was spurring growing

protest movements and unrest around the world.

"Labour market conditions are contributing to... this erosion of social cohesion in many of our societies," he said, referring to mass demonstrations in places like Lebanon and Chile.

According to the ILO's "social unrest index", measuring the frequency of things like demonstrations and strikes, there was an increase both at the global level and in seven out of 11 subregions between 2009 and 2019.

The ILO report highlighted that more than 60 percent of the global workforce currently work in the informal economy, often toiling for substandard wages and lacking basic social protections.

And in 2019, more than 630 million people -- a fifth of the global working population -- lived in so-called working poverty, meaning they made less than \$3.20 per day in purchasing power.

At the same time, the ILO report warned of significant income and job access inequality, driven by things like gender, age and geographic location.

In particular, it warned that a staggering 267 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are not in employment, education or training, while many more in this group endure substandard working conditions.

The study showed that the average share of national income going to pay wages and other labour costs shrank from 54 percent to 51 percent between 2004 and 2017.

And within the waged population, the gap between the highest earners and those at the bottom is "extremely unequal", Ryder said.

The ILO report found that it took 11 years for the bottom 20 percent of wage earners to make the same amount as the top 20 percent make in a year.

"The situation is worse than we previously thought," Ryder said.

Virus alarm

FROM PAGE 1

screening passengers of a flight that arrived at 7:30am from China, AHM Touhid-ul Ahsan, director of the airport, told The Daily Star.

At 3:30pm, the team also screened the passengers of the second flight, out of three, coming from China.

No suspected cases were found during the screening, confirmed the officials.

The third flight is scheduled to arrive at 11:00pm, airport sources said.

The flights carrying the passengers from China are of US Bangla airlines, China Eastern airlines and the China Southern airlines, who operate one flight each day.

Although there are no direct flights from China, authorities of Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram issued an alert in this regard, our Chattogram correspondent reports.

"Some passengers have to stop in China for transit to come Chattogram. As per the directives of the Directorate General of Health Services, we will screen them," said Wing Commander ABM Sarwar-e-Jaman, manager of the airport.

The move comes following the breakout of a new SARS-like virus

in China's Yuhuan province with rising fears of a bigger outbreak after China's National Health Commission confirmed on Monday that the virus can be passed between people, according to AFP.

As per the alert, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) would be notified, if symptoms are found in any passenger.

The IEDCR would then test the passenger further in their laboratory in Kurmitola General Hospital, according to officials.

"They would work as per procedure," Dr ASM Alamgir, principal scientific officer at the Department of Medical Entomology at IEDCR, told The Daily Star.

Earlier on Monday, a team of IEDCR briefed the physicians working in HSA for the detection of probable cases.

The symptoms the airport authorities would look for among passengers are fever, cough, cold, breathing difficulties and sore throat.

The new coronavirus strain has caused alarm because of its connection to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003.

BNP's Tabith attacked

FROM PAGE 1

While continuing the campaign in nearby Kalyanpur area, Tabith told reporters that some 25-30 ruling party men, equipped with arms, iron rods and sticks, swooped on his men. The attackers were chanting "Joy Bangla" slogan, he alleged.

He said the attackers also threw bricks and eggs at them.

"Like cowards, they attacked us from behind. I was their target. It is a matter of serious concern that the attack was carried out right in front of some police personnel," he said.

Tabith said he was hit on the head while many of his supporters were beaten up by the attackers.

"We did not launch a counterattack as we believe in peace. We are still going to the voters as they will give a befitting reply on the election day by voting for 'Sheaf of Paddy'," he said.

"Sheaf of Paddy" is Tabith's polls symbol for the city corporation election, which is scheduled to take place on February 1.

Contacted, Tofayel Ahamed, officer-in-charge of Darussalam Police Station, said the incident happened when mayor candidates from both the AL and the BNP were campaigning in the area.

"As they came face to face, they engaged in a scuffle. Police later dispersed them," he said, adding that he was yet to receive any complaint over the matter.

BNP's Publicity Affairs Secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anne, who was present during the incident, alleged that his party men were attacked twice by the ruling party men in Gabtoli area. He said at least 15 BNP men, including Tabith, were injured.

The party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir condemned the attack and urged the Election Commission to hold the city polls in a free, fair and credible manner.

"It's a pre-planned attack and an act of cowardice. As the voting day approaches, the criminal group of the ruling party is becoming more violent,"

he said in a press release.

Fakhrul described the EC as loyal to the prime minister and alleged that the commission took a rigid stance on using electronic voting machines in the polls to fulfil the "evil desire" of the ruling quarters.

Tabith's rival Atiqul Islam, however, termed the incident an internal clash of the BNP.

While electioneering at Beraid Muslim High School ground, the AL candidate said he was yet to hear about any attack. "They [BNP men] clashed with each other."

Talking to reporters at his Secretariat office, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said he saw a conspiracy in yesterday's incident.

A quarter is trying to create confusions centring on the election, he said. "Investigation is needed to find whether the quarter is involved here."

Hasan, also joint general secretary of the AL, alleged that from the beginning, the BNP was trying to make the polls questionable.

The Daily Star could not contact the AL-backed ward councillor whose supporters, according to BNP leaders, attacked Tabith and his followers.

The Election Commission has instructed Abul Kashem, returning officer for the DNCC polls, to investigate the attack on Tabith.

Talking to reporters at the EC Secretariat in the capital, the commission's Secretary Md Alamgir said Tabith complained to the EC right after the attack.

The returning officer was instructed to take steps following a proper investigation, he said.

In the latest development, the returning officer, in a letter, asked the OC of the Darussalam Police Station to take legal steps after investigation.

In another letter, the RO asked the executive magistrate concerned to take steps as per the rules and informed him about it.

The Daily Star obtained copies of the letters.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath at the coffin of Awami League lawmaker Ismat Ara Sadique at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan yesterday. The 78-year-old lawmaker passed away at a city hospital earlier in the day.

PHOTO: PTI

Tussle over metro line-6 extension

FROM PAGE 1

meeting minutes to the DMTCL expressing their concern. "It would frustrate our plan centring on the Kamalapur station. This is not acceptable," he told The Daily Star on January 12.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, a BR official said they were yet to get any response from the DMTCL authorities. "A letter would be sent to them soon," the official said.

While detailing the multimodal hub plan, another railway official said the project will accommodate the connectivity of conventional railway, high-speed railway, MRT line-1, 2 and 4, elevated expressway, bus stoppage, and a subway and MRT line-6 with skywalk.

"Any change and deviation will upset the whole plan," Monirul Islam Firozi, who is overseeing MmTH on behalf of the BR, told this newspaper recently.

The government aims to build six metro lines in the capital and its adjacent areas by 2030. One of the tracks will be elevated, one underground and four will be both elevated and underground.

The underground MRT line-1 will connect Kamalapur with Shahjalal International Airport. MRT line-2, which will be both elevated and underground, will link Gabtoli to Chattogram Road via Kamalapur. Kamalapur will be connected with Narayanganj by the underground MRT line-4.

MRT line-6 is under-construction at a cost of Tk 22,000 crore. It will carry 60,000 passengers per hour.

The DMTCL is working to extend the line up to Kamalapur so that people using metro rail can directly go to the country's largest railway station.

It has completed a topography survey and selected an alignment for the additional 1.16km line. There are 31 permanent structures on the route to be demolished, a DMTCL official said.

DMTCL had earlier planned to connect Motijheel with Kamalapur with a skywalk -- a suspended road only

for walk.

DMTCL abandoned the plan as a walk for more than one kilometre may not be helpful for commuters, said the DMTCL official.

EXPRESSWAY ANOTHER CONCERN The railway authorities have sent Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) the same meeting minutes, which also said, "The proposed alignment of FDEE [First Dhaka Elevated Express] has to be shifted to Atish Dipankar Road, and best engineering solution should be found out to connect it with MmTH."

The bridge authority is constructing the 19.73km elevated expressway from Shahjalal International Airport to Kutubkhali on Dhaka-Chattogram highway.

The total plan involves about a 47km-stretch including approach roads and ramps at different points. There will be a ramp and toll plaza near Kamalapur for this scheme.

AHMS Aktar, project director of the elevated expressway project, said they have received the BR letter.

As per the decision of a recent inter-ministerial meeting, a joint survey would be conducted in Kamalapur area as several authorities are implementing different projects in this area.

"If the railway has any problem with our plan, we, upon discussion will shift the ramp or toll plaza a little," he told The Daily Star on January 12.

The joint survey would be conducted to solve these problems and find out an "engineering solution", he added.

A BR official yesterday said they too would send a letter to the DMTCL as they were yet to get any response from it.

WOULD HINDER BR PLANS

According to railway officials, the latest proposals regarding MRT line-6 and elevated expressway will hinder the BR plan to build multi-modal transport hub centring on the Kamalapur station.

The government has already signed a memorandum of cooperation with Japan to implement it under a G2G public-private partnership project, and the basic concept was approved in the

third Bangladesh-Japan joint platform meeting in March last year, reads BR documents.

Buet has been engaged as advisor for conducting feasibility study.

Monirul Islam Firozi, also PPP focal point official of BR, said more than 80 meetings were held over the planned hub and the issue was discussed at three platform meetings with Japan government representatives.

DMCL officials were present at the meeting and they are very much aware of the plan from the beginning.

"We are working to integrate all possible modes including MRT-6 but the current proposal for expansion of MRT-6 up to Kamalapur is not acceptable because it would hinder our plan," he said.

Kajima Corporation has already informed the BR that they would withdraw their proposal if the MRT-6 extension route is accepted, he said.

Against this backdrop, the BR requested Kajima to find out an alternative route for MRT-6 without upsetting the plan for the hub and it has already been done, he said.

The BR has no problem with the proposed skywalk as the multimodal transport hub was planned keeping it into consideration. It has already prepared a draft plan for use of Kamalapur station's land as several important and mega projects will be connected to the station.

THREE OPTIONS

MAN Siddique, managing director of DMTCL, said they were aware of BR's concern over their extension plan of MRT-6 and were working with three options for the extension.

Option one is to build a station of MRT-6 over the underground station of MRT-1 at Kamalapur while the second option is to build the station outside BR land and third option is to build the station taking some land from the BR.

"We will hold meetings with the consultants of both MRT-6 and 1 and later talk with the BR soon to find out a solution," he told The Daily Star also on January 12.

Man beaten up for escorting rape witnesses

Victim says police did not take action during attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police yesterday arrested two people for beating up a man who was escorting witnesses of a rape incident on Friday in Pabna Sadar upazila.

The incident came to light on Monday after a video of the attack went viral on social media.

Around 7:00pm on Friday, a group of attackers allegedly led by Md Arif, brother of Maligasa Union Parishad Chairman Md Sariful Islam Sarif, attacked the victim Md Abdul Alim at the Gaspara Bazar.

Alim had gone there with the witnesses of a rape incident who were to give statements to the investigation officer of the rape case. Sarif is an accused in the case.

Police said Alim was told to bring the witnesses to the bazar to talk and gather information from them unofficially.

After the attack, Alim, 36, a local businessman, was rushed to Pabna General Hospital by passers-by in critical condition, with fractures in both his arms and legs.

When CCTV footage of the attack went viral, the victim's wife Ruma Khatun filed a case with Pabna Police Station on Monday night accusing 10 named and around 15 unnamed people.

Police arrested two of the accused -- Ashraf Hossain and Tofazzal Hossain, both around 40-years old -- yesterday morning. A three-member probe committee has also been formed by police to investigate the incident.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Alim said when the witnesses gave their statements to the police official, Arif and his men came to the spot and swooped on him with sticks and iron rods, adding that the policemen present did nothing to help him.

He claimed he was asked to help police during investigation because the witnesses were not giving their statements fearing harassment by the union parishad chairman.

"I am well-known in the locality, so I was asked to convince the witnesses to give their statements.

"Officer-in-charge [investigation] of Pabna police station Md Khairul Islam asked me to bring them [the witnesses of the rape incident]. Following his instructions, I brought them to a shop in the Gaspara bazar on Friday night, when the Sarif's attacked me in front of police. The law enforcers did not take action when I was being attacked," Alim alleged.

Contacted, OC Khairul Islam denied the allegation, saying he and a constable, both in plainclothes, were leaving the spot before the attack took place.

"I was with a constable. We were in plainclothes and without arms and were leaving the spot when we saw a rush of people... When I come to know that there was an attack, a police team was sent to the spot immediately but the attackers had fled the scene by then," he said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Goutam Kumar Biswas said, "Yesterday morning, we arrested two of the accused and a drive is going on to nab the others. A three-member probe committee, headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Shamima Parvin, has been formed to investigate the incident."

Earlier on December 22, a rape case was filed with Pabna police station accusing eight people, including the chairman of Maligasa union parishad Md Sariful Islam Sarif.

This correspondent tried reaching Sarif over phone for comments but he did not pick up.

Police claimed the investigation of the rape case was being delayed due to the lack of witnesses.

'Drug peddler' killed in 'gunfight'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with the Rapid Action Battalion in the city's Khilkhet area early yesterday.

Deceased Anwar Hossain, 34, a resident of Khilkhet, was accused in 18 drug-related cases and a rape case, said Md Kamruzzaman, assistant director of Rab-1.

He said a team of Rab-1 carried out a raid in Khilkhet's Barura around 2:00am after receiving information that a group of drug peddlers was gathering there for trading drugs.

Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the criminals opened fire at them. The Rab members fired back, triggering the "gunfight", Kamruzzaman added.

At one stage, Anwar was hit by bullets. However, his accomplices managed to flee, said the Rab official.

Anwar was taken to Kurmitola General Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Kamruzzaman claimed that a Rab man sustained minor injuries in the incident. The elite force recovered four arms, 34 bullets, and 1,950 yaba pills from the spot.

The Rab official said Anwar used to supply drugs to Khilkhet and its adjacent areas.

A big threat to environment

FROM PAGE 1

temperature polythene is heated for lamination.

"When these laminated papers are heated under sunshine again, they start emitting greenhouse gas," he said.

Apart from the environmentalists, city corporations' officials were also worried about the generation of polythene waste of such a large volume.

Seeking anonymity, a DNCC official of waste management department, said, "We're already facing land crisis for dumping daily waste. These [laminated posters] will worsen the situation."

An inspector of the DSCC's waste management department said vagabonds and scavengers would collect some of these waste and throw those here and there.

"That means, pollution will be spread everywhere in the city," he said.

The elections to Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) are scheduled to be held on February 1. Ahead of the polls, the candidates are conducting door-to-door campaigns along with hanging a huge number of posters.

About 140 mayor and councillor candidates out of the 745, in their disclosure of election expenditures, mentioned that they would print nearly 50 lakh posters. Almost half of which is planned to be printed by the mayor candidates only, as per the EC's data.

In the 11th parliamentary polls, such posters were printed.

Almost a week before the start of election campaign for Dhaka city corporation polls, the High Court directed the authorities concerned

to ban single-use plastic products in coastal areas, hotels, motels and restaurants across the country in one year as those are hazardous to health and environment.

The plastic products include drinking straws, cotton buds, cigarette butts, food packaging, food containers, bottles, plates, plastic cutlery and plastic bags.

The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman came up with the order following a writ petition jointly filed by 11 rights organisations, including Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), seeking necessary order.

The rights organisations submitted the writ petition as a public interest litigation on December 17 last year, mentioning the hazardous effects of plastic -- particularly single-use plastics -- on ecology, aquatic and marine life, soil fertility, agricultural production, human health and safety.

According to the Department of Environment (DoE), the country generates around 3,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day.

Contacted, barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, mayor candidate of the ruling Awami League for the DSCC, told The Daily Star that there was no bar from the Election Commission (EC) on using laminated posters for election campaigns.

"I will remove all the posters at my own expense after the election," he said.

Mollik Anwar Hossain, additional director general of the DoE, said they were also concerned about the use of plastic on the posters.

"Since the polls are being held under the EC, we are not able to take actions without permission from it," he said adding that they had prepared a letter to be sent to the EC in this regard.

Asked about the content of the letter, Anwar said, "We will seek legal cooperation from the EC. Besides we will request the authorities to give directives to the candidates to remove

the laminated posters."

Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam said he personally did not encourage the use of plastic and polythene.

Regarding the laminated posters, he said, "There is no legal binding in the EC rules. The Department of Environment can take action as per its law. The EC will not interfere."

Cattle trader's body found on border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members yesterday recovered the body of a Bangladeshi cattle trader near Harihbasa border in Panchagarh Sadar upazila.

The victim was identified as Hasan Ali, 25, son of Tabibar Rahman from Khalpara area in the same upazila.

The body with an injury mark on the head was found lying near pillar no. 752 in Mominpara village inside Bangladesh territory, police said, adding that they had sent it to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital for an autopsy.

Locals claimed that the Indian Border Security Force shot Hasan dead early yesterday when he crossed the border to bring some cattle, and later, they abandoned the body inside Bangladesh territory.

However, police and BGB men said the reason behind his death could not be ascertained until the autopsy report is out.

Commanding Officer of 56th BGB Battalion Lt Colonel Mamunul Huque and Superintendent of Police in Panchagarh Mohammad Yusuf Ali visited the spot yesterday.

Mamunul said they were investigating the incident.

'A safe city for women'

Demands Mahila Parishad from next mayors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday said the new Dhaka city mayors, after being elected in the February 1 polls, must work towards making the capital a women-friendly city by ensuring their safety and security.

Speaking at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, the Parishad leaders said women face various forms of violence in their everyday life due to lack of security.

To strengthen security measures, they urged the next city mayors to increase public transport facilities for women, make footpaths clean and pedestrian-friendly and provide sufficient hostel facilities for working women.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Traffic rules are for everyone, unless you are part of this biker gang rallying for the Awami League mayoral candidate -- evident from stickers on the motorcycles. This group was seen blocking an entire road in Segunbagicha yesterday, parading through without helmets.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

42,700 law enforcers to be on polls duty

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission is planning to engage some 42,700 law enforcers on election duty, to maintain law and order during the Dhaka city corporations' polls on February 1.

Besides, 172 executive magistrates and 64 judicial magistrates will be deployed on election duty to punish incidents of electoral violence and breaching polls code of conduct in election areas, according to a working paper of a meeting of law enforcing agencies with the EC.

The EC is scheduled to hold the meeting today, where Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda and others commissioner are scheduled to speak, attended by top brass of different law enforcement agencies.

According to the working paper, police, Rapid Action Battalion, Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and Border Guard

Bangladesh will be on duty at polling centres, while mobile teams and strike force will be on duty for four days from January 30 to February 2.

EC sources said they are planning to deploy 65 platoons of BGB -- one per two wards -- to act as strike force.

According to EC sources, a platoon of BGB comprise 15 to 25 members. In that account there will be at least 975 BGB members in the capital on duty.

Teams comprising 16 law enforcers will guard each polling station, while teams comprising 18 members will guard polling stations considered vulnerable in Dhaka.

The 16-member team is comprised of four policemen with firearms -- including SI or ASI and three constables, two Ansar members with firearms, and 10 Ansar-VDP members carrying sticks.

As there are 2,468 polling stations in the two corporations -- 1,318 in DNCC

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Posthumous kidney transplant in the offing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Society of Organ Transplantation and Kidney Foundation will arrange kidney transplantation from brain-dead patients in intensive care units of different hospitals, for the first time in the country, from next Tuesday.

The transplants would continue from January 28 to February 4, as part of their attempt to promote safe and ethical kidney transplantation.

Prof Dr Harun Ur Rashid, founding president and chief consultant of Kidney Foundation, made the announcement in a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

"If we could initiate deceased donor organ transplants, dependency on live donors would decrease rapidly," Dr Sheikh Moinul Khokon, coordinator of the programme, told The Daily Star.

Initially, intensive care units at the Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Birdem General Hospital have joined the programme, supported by Bangladesh Renal Association and Bangladesh Association of Urological Surgeons.

"Many kidney patients in need of transplantation cannot do so due to lack of donors. If deceased organ donation could be initiated, many people would be benefited. It will discourage kidney selling also," Tiny

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Six-member cell to protect women migrant workers

Expats' minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government in December last year formed a protection cell for female workers travelling abroad for employments, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad told parliament yesterday.

In a scripted answer, he also said a vigilance task force comprising officials of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry and different agents will oversee fortnightly the process of female migrant workers' going abroad, and report to the secretary of the respective ministry.

Action will be taken in accordance with the report to ensure safety of Bangladeshi female workers abroad -- including in Saudi Arabia, said the minister.

Imran told the House that over 66.3 lakh trained workers were employed abroad in the last 10 years from 2009, who have sent \$153.13 billion in remittance.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, the minister also said a total of 9.2 lakh female workers have gone abroad in the last 28 years since 1991.

The minister said Bangladesh has started sending manpower to different new destinations including Cambodia, Romania, Poland and China.

Replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Salma Islam, he said since 2009, the government has been providing skills development training under 55 trades, through 70 training centres including six institutes of marine technology and 64 technical training centres.

Besides, training is being imparted in five languages including Arabic, Korean, English, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) and Japanese, Imran said.

Setting up shop for Ekushey book fair

Suhrawardy Udyan, Bangla Academy abuzz



Workers set up a pavilion for Amar Ekushey book fair in Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

You can hear the hammering of nails from one end, while canes and sticks are being cut on the other. There are floors being polished, name plaques being installed, and people running around to set up their stalls for Amar Ekushey Boi Mela at Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy premises.

The scale and scope of the fair is larger this year, hence this preparation period is busier, with hundreds of workers setting up stalls. Art directors were seen at the site alongside publishers during a visit on Monday.

There will be 34 pavilions at the fair, which are almost complete, workers said. "I have been visiting every afternoon to look after the stall instalment work,

as we have to complete it before February 2," said Sharif, publisher of Shobdoshilpo publication.

Aslam, a worker, said he has been setting up book fair stalls for the last 15 years. "I quite like this work... we start in the morning and often work till the evening," he said.

A total of 322 publications are going to participate in the book fair this year. Seeking anonymity, a publisher told this correspondent, "Readers might find it difficult to navigate through so many stalls. They won't be able to browse the entire fair."

Like other years, there will be a zone dedicated for children at Suhrawardy Udyan. "Lekhak Mancha" will be organised for the second time this year as well.

Cop's son missing for four days

Businessman traceless since Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The son of a police sub-inspector has been missing since Saturday from the capital's Bashabo area.

Mazharul Islam Aronno (13), son of SI Abdul Motalib Bhuiyan of Police Bureau of Investigation, is a seventh grader at Motijheel Model School and College.

Speaking to The Daily Star, SI Motalib said Aronno went out of the family's residence around 10am on Saturday to play with his friends at the nearby Balurmath field.

As he didn't return, the family started to get worried and started looking for him at possible locations, including police stations and hospitals.

Despite being a member of police, Motalib said he does not have many enemies and cannot think of a reason behind Aronno's disappearance. "I am clueless as to what might have happened to my son. We are very worried... His mother is bedridden," he said.

The family filed a general diary in this connection with Shabujbagh Police Station on Sunday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Girl found dead at home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a nine-year-old girl from her Dakshinkhan residence in Dhaka early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Suraiya Akter, who used to live with her father and stepmother in Noapara area.

Mosharrif Hossain, sub-inspector of Dakshinkhan Police Station, said the body bore several old and fresh injury marks.

Police have detained stepmother Shibli Begum (26), while her father, Hafizul Islam, fled the scene, the SI added.

Suraiya used to live with Hafizul and his second wife ever since Hafizul divorced her mother, Aziron Begum, around four years ago.

Quoting neighbours, the SI said Hafizul and Shibli used to torture Suraiya often.

The body was sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for autopsy to determine the cause of death, the police official said.

Aziron filed a case against Hafizul and Shibli with the police station yesterday.

A guiding light for health sector

Speakers say on Sir Fazle Hasan Abed's contribution



Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury speaks at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed's enormous contribution to the country's health sector helped flourish many organisations and institutions, which played important roles in further developing the service-oriented sector, said speakers at a memorial programme yesterday.

Beside his direct contributions, Sir Fazle played an instrumental role in shaping various healthcare-related movements and emerged as an avatar whenever they faced crisis, speakers added.

The Bangladesh chapter of People's Health Movement (PHM), a global network of grassroots health activists, arranged the programme at Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GSK) in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Recalling his nearly five-decade visionary journey in the field of development, Gonoshasthaya founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury said Sir Fazle's most significant contribution was in the health sector.

Once, mortality rate due to diarrhoea

was very high in Bangladesh. It was Sir Fazle who waged a movement and reached door-to-door at the grassroots with the concept of preparing oral saline and saved thousands of lives, Zafrullah said.

Zafrullah said they are going to launch an international standard kidney transplant centre at the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in June. "Our heartfelt wish is that the centre will be named after Sir Fazle," he said.

Dr Mohib Ullah Khondoker, coordinator of GSK dialysis centre, said Sir Fazle's contribution in launching the centre was significant.

Former president of Bangladesh Medical Association Prof Rashid-e-Mahub said despite not being a physician, Sir Fazle understood the country's health sector very well. He said Brac also undertook programmes in this regard, especially related to research and survey on health issues.

Sir Fazle reached out to the voiceless and he did it with generosity, said Prof Rashid.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Twelve hurt in scuffle at Dhanmondi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Staffers of Labaid Hospital and Concord Shopping Mall Owners Association members locked into a clash yesterday in the capital's Dhanmondi, that left some 12 people injured, one of them critically.

The clash ensued around 2:30pm after shopping mall owner's association members obstructed hospital staffers from opening two shops, which Labaid had bought a year back.

The hospital's security in-charge Md Nasir Uddin Taz received severe head injuries and is undergoing treatment at Labaid.

Chowdhury Meher-E-Khuda Dip, public relations officer of Labaid, said the hospital owned four to five shops on the third and fourth floors in the shopping mall.

Yesterday, hospital authorities sent three workers to paint their two shops. But the owner's association president Sanaul Hoque Mir and secretary Mokter Hossain allegedly stopped the workers, slapped them and sent them back, alleged Dip.

"Three top officials of the hospital, including the security in-charge, went to the market to check the issue where 15 to 20 members of the market association were waiting with sticks," said Dip.

As hospital officials

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A safe city

FROM PAGE 3
They also urged the Election Commission to ensure security of women before and after the polls, and called upon city dwellers not to vote for candidates involved in violence against women.

Dr Fauzia Moslem, acting president of the organisation, said civic rights are gradually deteriorating in the capital due to various mismanagement and irregularities. "Women have become the worst victim of that," she added.

The upcoming city corporation polls are not only important for ensuring basic amenities, but also for making the capital more women-friendly, she added.

Mahila Parishad General Secretary Maleka Banu and Organising Secretary Umme Salma Begum also spoke at the programme, among others.

42,700 law enforcers

FROM PAGE 3
and 1,150 in DSCC -- nearly 39,448 law enforcers will be needed to ensure law and order situation in and around polling stations.

Some 129 mobile teams -- 54 for DNCC and 75 for DSCC -- and 43 strike force teams -- 18 for DNCC and 25 for DSCC -- comprised of police, APBn and Ansar will be on duty.

Aside from that, 129 Rab teams -- 54 for DNCC and 75 for DSCC -- will be on patrol.

Judicial magistrates will be deployed from January 30 to February 3 for running mobile courts to punish incidents of electoral violence, while 43 executive magistrates are already put on duty and another 129 will be deployed from January 30 to February 2, for monitoring breach of polls code and maintaining law and order.

One executive magistrate will be deployed along with each strike force, especially for those comprising BGB men.

Posthumous kidney

FROM PAGE 3
Ferdoes Rashid, managing director of the foundation, told The Daily Star.

Prof Kanak Kanti Barua, vice chancellor of BSMMU, and Prof Habibur Rahman Dulal, general secretary of the Society of Organ Transplant, were present at the press conference, among others.

In Bangladesh, around two crore people suffer from kidney diseases each year, according to the Kidney Foundation. Some 40,000 suffer from complete kidney failure and only 20 percent of them receive treatment.

Twelve hurt in scuffle

FROM PAGE 3
asked the reason for attacking workers, the market association members locked into an altercation and attacked them, claimed Dip, adding the association president Sanaul Hoque brought out a pistol and fired at Taz, but he escaped it narrowly.

The association members threw brickbats and vandalised the hospital cafeteria, before police arrived and brought the situation under control.

Asked about the incident, Hasin Uz Zaman, assistant commissioner of police of Dhanmondi zone, said, "We checked the firearms, and Sanaul's gun is licensed."

Regarding the incident, Dr Shamsul Alam, an executive member of the market owners' association, said Labaid bought

several shops in the market, but did not pay any service charge.

As association members asked them to open the shops through applications, they refused to pay heed and forcefully tried to open the shops, which triggered a clash leaving at least six security guards and association members hurt, he said.

Regarding the gunfire, Dr Alam said the market president fired gunshots for his own protection.

Sazzadur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division), said, "We have detained four people from both sides, and are investigating the incident to check what actually happened."

No case was filed regarding the incident till filing this report last night.

Looking out for

FROM PAGE 5
the glossy ibis, falcated duck and the endangered Pallas's fish eagle, all rarely spotted.

According to IUCN Bangladesh, some 1,50,000 birds of around 40 species were recorded in different waterbodies of Tangar Haor in January last year. ABM Sarwar Alam, senior programme officer of IUCN Bangladesh, said the depth of waterbodies is still very high, which is the reason behind the lower bird count.

The birds are counted using long-range cameras. At night, when all of them return to their nests, they are carefully caught for a brief period and ringed.

"The water level will fall in February and the count will increase notably," he said. Birds get attracted to waterbodies with the right depth, as it is easiest to catch food there, he added.

Sarwar said, "So far, we have attached satellite trackers to two birds, including a gadwall duck, and ringed 40. Species like the firethroat, common pochard and tufted duck are being ringed for the first time in Bangladesh."

"All this will play an important role in our understanding of migration routes, wetland connectivity, and will help our efforts to conserve wild ducks in the area," he said.

Tangar Haor is a unique wetland of global importance and is protected under the Ramsar Convention. The international convention's goal is to ensure proper and sustainable use of wetlands and conserve their environment. The other Bangladeshi site under the convention is the Sundarbans.

Under leadership of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, IUCN has been involved with protecting the environment by establishing community-based management and biodiversity conservation since 2006.



BGMEA President Dr Rubana Huq -- chief guest at Independent University, Bangladesh's spring semester orientation programme -- handed over awards to six students who topped the admission tests. Prof Milan Pagon, IUB vice chancellor (acting), welcomed the new students to their campus on Saturday in the capital's Bashundhara.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

A guiding light

FROM PAGE 3
PHM Bangladesh President Zakir Hossain said they faced severe crisis in arranging their fourth global conference in 2018 in Bangladesh. It was Sir Fazle who came forward and helped arranging the conference successfully, he said.

Addressing the event, Brac Chairperson Hossain Zillur Rahman said it was a great surprise for him when Sir Fazle proposed

his name for the chairperson's role last year. Not just launching initiatives, Sir Fazle always gave importance to their implementation and success, he added.

The memorial event also recalled contributions of global public health movement leader Amit Sengupta, who died in November 2018, and PHM's global vice president David Sanders, who died in August last year.

ABRAR MURDER Court accepts charges against 25 Buet students

JNU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took cognisance of charges against 25 Buet students accused in Abrar Fahad murder case.

After scrutinising case dockets, Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order in presence of 22 accused.

The court also set January 30 for hearing on charge framing.

Meanwhile, the defence yesterday filed separate petitions, seeking bail for eight accused -- Mehedi Hasan Russel, Ifi Mosharraf Shokal, Mehedi Hasan Robein, Ishtiaq Ahmed Munna, Amit Saha, Muntasir Al Jemi, Akash Hossain and Morshed Amartya Islam.

The court, however, set the next scheduled date for hearing the bail petitions.

Three accused, Mustafa Rafid, Morsheddazzaman Jishan and Ehtashamul Rabbi Tanim, are on the run.

On October 7 last year, Abrar, a second-year student of Buet, was beaten to death by a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League men in a dormitory.

Cop's son missing

FROM PAGE 3
Meanwhile in another case of disappearance, a businessman has been missing for three days from the capital's Moghbazar area.

Omar Faruque (34), a former leader of Chittagong University unit Chhatra League and now an air-conditioner trader, went to his office at Moghbazar on Sunday morning but is yet to return home, his brother Sarwar Jahan Mamun told The Daily Star yesterday.

Faruque's wife last contacted him over the phone around 2pm on Sunday. During the call, Faruque told his wife he would be late.

After a while, his phone was found switched off, Mamun added.

CCIV footage of his office shows he entered the premises around 11:15am that day. However, there is no record of his exit, Mamun added.

A general diary was filed with Hatirjheel Police Station in this regard.

8 killed in road

FROM PAGE 5
sub-inspector of Karimpur Highway Police Outpost.

Meanwhile in Rajshahi, Babu (35) was killed after the three-wheeler carrying him lost control and overturned near Khyranondo beel area in Mohanpur upazila on Monday night, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.

Following the accident, locals rushed him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries yesterday.

In Joypurhat, a man was killed after a three-wheeler was hit by a train in Akkelpur upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Moksedur Rahman (35), reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

The accident occurred as the vehicle carrying Moksedur was attempting to cross an unmanned level crossing at Jamalganj village around 10am. He was killed on the spot after the Titumeer Express train hit Moksedur's three-wheeler, upazila police said.

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First Date of Publication: 22 January 2020

ITB No: Rtr/2020/WFP/ITB/001

Room to Read Bangladesh invites sealed tender from reputable and eligible suppliers/manufacturers having relevant work experience with large organization including UN agencies, INGO and other international organization in supplying Student Kits for Room to Read School Libraries. Bidding is open to all bidders from registered companies with Bangladesh Government.

Package	Description	Quantity	Estimated date of delivery
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ITB No: Rtr/2020/WFP/ITB/002

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Package	Description	Quantity	Estimated delivery date and location
A	School Bag Type : Backpack Material : Polyester cloth Closing type : Zipper Chamber : 3 (1 big and 2 small) Water bottle chamber: 2 Washable, Waterproof : Yes Stripe Adjustable : Yes Details specification and design provided in the bid form available in the office	44000 Pcs	Date : By 20 March 2020. Location : Ukhia and Kutubdia in Cox's Bazar

Envelope containing sealed bids must be marked with the ITB reference number (top right corner) as indicated above.

Interested bidder must have the following qualifications

A) At least 5 (five) years' experience with large international organization/UN Agency/INGO
B) Able to meet the time line specified above
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Interested bidder who satisfy the above-mentioned criteria may collect the bid form by paying Tk 500 (Non-refundable) for the tender at the address given below from **Wednesday 22 January 2020 to Wednesday 5 February 2020** (Except Govt. holiday) during working hours. Pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 January 2020 at 11.00am at Room to Read Country office, Conference Room (4th floor), House-31 (4th Floor), Road-4, Block-F, Banani.

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৬৫/২/২, বঙ্গ কালভার্ট রোড, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০
টেলিফোনঃ ৫৫১১২৮৫৭-৬০

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C) Able to deliver the goods (Student kits) in the specified location

Interested bidder who satisfy the above-mentioned criteria may collect the bid form by paying Tk 500 (Non-refundable) for the tender at the address given below from **Wednesday 22 January 2020 to Thursday 6 February 2020** (Except Govt. holiday) during working hours. Pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday 30 January 2020 at 11.00am at Room to Read Country office, Conference Room (4th floor), House-31 (4th Floor), Road-4, Block-F, Banani.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be collected by interested bidders upon submission of a written application on bidder's letterhead. Bids must be delivered to the address below by Thursday 6 February 2020 no later than 3.00 pm. Any bid after the deadline will be rejected. **All bids will be opened on Thursday 6 February 2020 at 3.00pm** in presence of bidders' representative & Room to Read purchasing committee.

Room to Read reserve the right to accept or reject all bids without any reason whatsoever.

Administration
Room to Read, Bangladesh House-31 (4th Floor), Road-4, Block-F, Banani Model town, Dhaka 1213 Phone # 987-1201, 987-1275, 987-2051, 987-2602 Fax # 987-2650. Email: Bangladesh@roomtoread.org

Cash, valuables worth Tk 37 lakh stolen from Malibagh flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants stole gold ornaments, clothes, and cash worth around Tk 37 lakh from a Malibagh apartment in Dhaka on Sunday night.

Prof Mohammad Harun Ur Rashid and his daughter Rokeya Mahmuda, residents of "Nokshi Villa", filed a general diary with Shahjahanpur Police Station.

Prof Harun said the burglary occurred after he and his daughter went to sleep, leaving their master bedroom empty, as his wife had gone to their elder daughter's home the previous day.

The following morning, Rokeya went to the room around 7am and saw its furniture and belongings scattered, while a window grille was broken. The family suspects miscreants may have entered by cutting the grille.



A huge flock of migratory birds fly over one of the many waterbodies in Sunamganj's Tanguar Haor. Birds of several rarely-seen species visit the area around this time of the year.

PHOTO COURTESY: IUCN

Looking out for our avian friends

10-day wild bird monitoring underway in Tanguar Haor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Peering through cameras and panning across the vast Tanguar Haor is not an everyday activity. And when the main goal is to spot and track the many visiting birds, it just gets better.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) initiated a ten-day wild bird monitoring programme at Sunamganj's Tanguar Haor on Sunday.

As a part of the programme, IUCN wild bird monitoring team along with Bangladesh Forest Department and volunteers of Bangladesh Bird Club are conducting the bird research and monitoring camp.

The programme, being supported by Linnaeus University, will feature censuses, bird ringing, attaching GPS devices to long-distance migratory ducks, and tracking movement using artificial intelligence.

On the first day, the team conducted a water bird census -- led by Enam Ul Haque, founder of the bird club -- while IUCN researchers Sakib Ahmed and Zenin Azmiri, and renowned bird club members Paul Thompson and James Pender accompanied him.

A total of 51,368 birds of 35 species were recorded in the census. The highest counted number is that of the common coot (9,925). This year's most notable birds were

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

3km illegal gas lines snapped in Ashulia

Two people jailed, factory fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A mobile court of Savar upazila yesterday evicted three kilometers of illegal gas lines from Ghoshbagh area of Ashulia.

The mobile court team, led by executive magistrate Tajwar Akram Sakapi Ibne Sazzad, assistant commissioner of Dhaka, conducted the day-long drive in association with Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd.

During the drive, the team disconnected gas lines of around 2000 households, shops, markets and factories of the area.

They also seized pipes and other materials used to set up the connections, Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem, Managing Engineer of Savar Titas Gas told The Daily Star.

In addition, Purba Apparels Limited, an RMG company, was fined TK 1 lakh for running their factory with illegal gas connection.

Cases will be filed with respective police stations against those found with the illegal connections, Sayem said.

The team also arrested two people, technicians Manik alias Alal (40) and Feroz (24) for their direct involvement in setting up the illegal connections. They were given one month jail each, Sayem added.

Earlier at midnight, locals saw four people setting up gas connections in the area. Sensing that something wrong was going on, they intervened and caught Manik and Feroz red-handed, while the others managed to flee the scene.

The detainees are: Mozibor Rahman Shahed, secretary of Yarpur Union Parishad AL, and Aslam, a contractor.

Speaking to journalists, Manik and Feroz told journalists they were working under the directive of Mozibor and Aslam.

The Daily Star tried reaching Mozibor, but found his phone switched off.

8 killed in road and train accidents

STAR REPORT

In a tragic day for commuters, eight people were killed in separate road and train accidents across the country in the last two days, report our correspondents.

In Sylhet city, a woman was killed in a road accident in Majortila area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Kulsuma Begum (40) of Bateshwar in Sylhet's Sadar upazila, reports our Sylhet correspondent.

The accident occurred around 3:30pm after the Bateshwar-bound human haulier carrying her plunged into a roadside ditch after a bus of Nagar Express hit it from behind, said Md Abdul Quaiyum, officer-in-charge of Shahporan Police Station. The collision killed her on the spot.

This also injured five other passengers of the human haulier, but their identities could not be confirmed.

"Police recovered the body and sent it to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for autopsy. The injured are undergoing treatment at the same hospital," Quaiyum added.

Following the accident, locals blocked the road for half an hour but withdrew it on request of the police, the OC said.

In Keraniganj, three people were killed in a three-way collision between a motorcycle, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, and a microbus in Kanarchar area yesterday evening, reports our Savar correspondent. Identity of the deceased could not be confirmed until filing of this report.

The accident took place on the Kolatia-Keraniganj road around 5pm and left five people critically injured.

The injured were taken to Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar where on-duty doctors declared the three dead, Mostofa Kamal, said OC of Keraniganj Model Police Station.

The other two were admitted to ICU in critical condition, said Nasir Uddin, operation theater in-charge of the hospital.

In separate accidents in Faridpur, two people, including a school student, were killed in the last two days, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

In Saltha upazila, school student Mamun (11) was killed after a three-wheeler ran him over at Baliya road around 5:30pm on Monday. Later, locals caught the driver and handed him over to police.

In another accident, biker Zahangir Sheikh (42) was killed after a truck hit his bike on the Dhaka-Barishal Highway yesterday. Police have seized the truck but the driver managed to flee the scene, said Sapur Ahamed,

BAU suspends 4 over stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) authorities yesterday suspended four students after an allegation of stalking was brought against them.

The suspended students are, Nasir Uddin of agriculture engineering and technology faculty; Safayetul Islam of agriculture faculty, and Mobasher Hossain and Shamim Reza of veterinary science faculty. All of them are final-year honours students.

Another student was also served a show-cause notice asking him to reply within five days, but the name was not disclosed.

According to campus sources, the four started following a second-year female student on the campus around 7pm on Monday. Concerned, the student called another senior student named Hasibul Hasan for help.

Hasibul rushed to the spot and sent the girl to her dormitory, but the stalkers later engaged in fisticuffs with him. Injured, Hasibul was taken to BAU Healthcare Centre.

Contacted, Prof Dr Md Solaiman Ali Fakir, students affairs adviser, said they have heard about the stalking and "a clash between two groups of students".

"We are investigating into the allegation and the university authorities have formed a five-member probe committee headed by Prof Dr AKM Zakir Hossain of agriculture faculty today [yesterday] to investigate into the incident," said Prof Dr Md Azharul Hoque, proctor of the university.

The committee was asked to submit its report within five working days.

RAPE OF STUDENT Two held in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two people, including a local Jubo League leader, were arrested yesterday in a case filed over the rape of a madrasa student in Narayanganj Sadar upazila.

The accused are Md Turjo (22) and Anisur Rahman Shyamol (35), acting president of Kashipur union Jubo League unit.

The duo was arrested following a case filed with Fatullah Model Police Station by the victim's mother yesterday morning.

Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station, said on Sunday, Turjo abducted the girl, confined her in a flat with the help of his friends and then raped her.

The girl's family started looking for her as she did not return home. Acting on locals' information, they rescued her from the flat.

She was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for treatment.

Turjo, who regularly stalked the 14-year-old on her way to the madrasa, was arrested in a raid yesterday. Meanwhile, Shyamol was arrested on charge of assisting the key accused to flee, the OC said.

Recruitment notice for Bangladesh Bank regarding the recruitment of 05 posts of 'সহকারী মেইনটিন্যান্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ার' পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে.

HC orders to seize passports of 20

Bss, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday ordered to freeze bank accounts and seize passports of 20 people, including former managing director of NRB Global Bank and Reliance Finance Limited Proshanta Kumar Halder.

The court also appointed former central bank deputy governor Khondker Ibrahim Khaleed as the independent director and chairman of International Leasing and Finance Service Limited to run the company.

The division bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar passed the order after hearing on a writ petition filed by two stock market investors.

The other 19 accused who have been barred to leave the country are: shareholder directors and top executives of International Leasing and Finance Service Limited MA Hashem, M Nurul Alam, Md Zahirul Alam, Nasim Anwar, Bashudeb Banerjee, Papi Banerjee, Momtaz Begum, Md Nowsherul Islam, Md Anwarul Kabir, Engr Md Nuruzzaman, Md Abul Hashem, Rashedul Haque, Proshanta Halder's mother Lilaboti Halder, brother Pritish Kumar Halder, wife Susmita Saha, cousins Amitav Adhikari, Abhijit Adhikari, former managing director of Bank Asia Erfanuddin Ahmed and one Uzazul Kumar Nandi.

Mamata observes 37th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mamata, a Chattogram-based NGO, has celebrated its 37th founding anniversary amid much enthusiasm and festivity.

On the occasion, Mamata honoured four distinguished personalities from different backgrounds on Friday, for their significant contributions to the society, said a press release.

They are: MA Malek, editor of Dainik Azadi; Sabiha Nahar, former lawmaker and founding general secretary of Mamata; Jashim Uddin, a deputy managing director of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation; and Mofizur Rahman, a beneficiary of Mamata.

The NGO also arranged various programmes -- including rally, discussion and award-giving ceremony -- to mark the day, the release added.

Chattogram city Mayor AIM Nasir Uddin, Deputy Director of Department of Social Services Mohammed Shahidul Islam, and top officials from Mamata -- including its President Badiuzzaman Khan Nomi, General Secretary Mansur Masud and Chief Executive Rafique Ahamed -- spoke at the events.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিজ্ঞপ্তি. উন্নতমানের মাইক্রোবাস আড়া করার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (২০১১ সালের পূর্বে তৈরী গাড়ি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Project Director Office Old Ban Bhaban, 101 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 www.bect.gov.bd

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22, 2020, MAGH 8, 1426 BS

Use of character evidence in courts deplorable

Rape is about lack of consent, not character

RECENTLY, there has been much outcry—and rightly so—about the impunity enjoyed by rapists in the country, with conviction rates in rape cases as low as 3 percent. Some, including MPs in the parliament, have gone so far as to demand extrajudicial killings of rapists. Rather than engaging in such ludicrous discussion in the parliament, we urge our lawmakers to assess and address loopholes in the existing system, which protect the perpetrators and further harass the survivors. One such provision is the archaic Section 155 (4) of the Evidence Act 1872, which allows defense lawyers to actually introduce character evidence against complainants during trial, the implication being that a woman who is not considered “virtuous” in the eyes of the court is incapable of being raped.

We are at a loss to understand what a woman’s so-called character has to do with rape. We should not have to remind the court, nor our lawmakers, that rape is actually about a woman’s lack of consent, not her romantic or sexual history—and our laws need to be updated to reflect that. By using this colonial-era provision, we are essentially putting the victims on trial—by dissecting minute and irrelevant details of their personal lives in front of a courtroom full of people, including lawyers of other cases, policemen, rapists, other victims and interested onlookers. If anybody’s character is relevant in a rape case, certainly it is that of the perpetrator, not that of the victim/survivor! If complainants have to go through such public persecution, it is hardly a surprise that so few survivors speak up and file cases, and that so few cases actually end in convictions.

We strongly demand that lawmakers do away with this offensive and discriminatory provision immediately, which harasses victims, emboldens perpetrators and institutionalises the “victim blaming” tendencies of our patriarchal society.

Combatting the silent killers

Awareness is key to prevention

THE Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey (BDHS) 2017-18 made public on January 20 paints an extremely grim picture, particularly about the alarming rise in the number of people affected by two of the most prevalent silent killers, hypertension and diabetes.

A few statistics would help convey the magnitude of the problem in our country. Some three crore people aged 18 and above suffer from hypertension while 1.1 crore of the same age group suffer from diabetes. Women are the worst affected. Alarmingly, according to some health experts, the situation on the ground is far worse than what the report reveals. Even more disturbing is that, most of those afflicted with these diseases are not aware of the fact, primarily because these do not have any symptoms until irreparable damage has been done to the body.

Lack of exercise and unhealthy food habits are two of the main reasons why younger people are increasingly vulnerable to high blood sugar, while sedentary and highly stressful working conditions and the absence of recreation are exacerbating hypertension. Under the circumstances, it is time for the administration to draw up an emergency action plan to stem the pervasiveness of these two diseases in the country. There has to be an extensive campaign to make people aware of the long-term consequences of high-blood pressure and diabetes. Meanwhile, parents must play their part in keeping children away from fast foods, schools must ensure time for children to play and exercise, municipalities must provide recreation and park facilities for people to relax and exercise, and workplaces must prioritise the health of their workforce. Additionally, we feel it should be made mandatory for all employers, government or private, to have their employees undergo medical tests, at least blood pressure and blood sugar checks, at regular intervals.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Campaign or chaos?

I highly appreciate the decision made by the Election Commission to set the new date for polls on February 1 as the earlier date coincided with Saraswati Puja. With a little more than a week remaining, it is no surprise that the electioneering for Dhaka north and south city corporations are at full swing now. While I understand that activities such as meetings, putting up posters, promotion of candidates over the mic, pamphlet distribution are among the many prerequisites prior to an election, it is the Election Commission’s responsibility to make sure that such undertakings do not hamper the status quo of the citizens and the city at large.

The amount of posters and banners have blanketed many of the streets in residential areas, if not all. Now is also the time when the candidates are preparing for their SSC examinations. Though the government deferred the SSC and its equivalent examinations following the announcement of the new date for elections, the chaos that results from the ongoing campaigns is taking a toll on the students and hindering concentration during their studies. I hope the concerned authorities take such matters into serious consideration.

Nahian Zaman, Dhaka



MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA

STRAIGHT LINE
THERE is no denying that the present government has taken laudable steps by fulfilling a number of long-felt demands of the mainstream police. The cynical observer would say that the status of cops has been upgraded in the eyes of the government, but their real status in society depends on their conduct and performance vis-à-vis the members of the public. In other words, the crux of the matter is whether cops will serve the establishment’s interests without venturing to check legal standings or if they will work as true public servants maintained by public money.

Answers to the above queries will not be easy to come by, as policing in this part of the world, for reasons well known, is yet to be a respectable profession. That, however, has not prevented the guardians from waxing eloquent on the virtues of an impartial professional police organisation. The reality is that while their concern is admirable, remedial actions on the ground have been less than adequate.

Those wishing to take a deeper look into the status question may find that the public do not trust the police although they have to depend on them. Even if the public do trust them, the law does not. This puts the police in a unique predicament. The mistrust between the police and the public is a historical creation. Laws which govern the police were created to raise the trust of the people in the British Empire so that the colonial occupation could continue forever.

When the police were organised, they were given a low status and a low salary but more fetters, so that they could not really serve the people but only the masters who were ruling the people. This background has to be understood clearly while studying the evolution of the police in our country. There is a consensus that the police have been misused and abused, leading to the decline in the rule of law and thereby increasing distrust in police performance. This factor is directly related to the status question.

The laws of crime, evidence and procedure dating back to the mid-19th century and designed to serve the colonial interests of an imperial power still govern the day-to-day functioning of our police force. The question is, can a colonial police meet the needs of a free society in flux? It would not be an exaggeration to say that most efforts at reform have met with increasing resistance from the entrenched privileged classes in politics and the so-called civil service. Our society looks at and treats a policeman with revulsion and contempt, little realising



NAZLI KIBRIA

THE high point of drama during last week’s Democratic presidential debate was the public sparring between Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. The two progressive candidates engaged in a heated “he said”, “no, I didn’t” exchange about a private conversation they had in 2018. According to Warren, Sanders had said that a woman could not win the presidency, a claim that Sanders vigorously denied.

I find it sad, and both surprising and entirely predictable, that the question of female electability still shadows US presidential politics. For Americans today, a polarised political landscape filled with anger, anxiety and irony shrouds the question of women leaders and their electability. An openly misogynistic man who is a poster child for toxic masculinity holds the highest political office in the country even as the growing #MeToo movement has raised awareness of the problems of sexual harassment and assault. The 2018 midterm elections brought record numbers of women into the House and Senate, many determined to resist and push back the tides of racist and xenophobic nationalism represented by Trump. In a televised spectacle filled with irony, President Trump praised the record number of women in Congress at a State of the Union address following the elections. In a celebratory response, female lawmakers, many newly elected on a platform of resistance to Trump, applauded and danced in the white suits they had worn to honour the suffrage movement.

The question of whether a woman can successfully win her way to the presidency

Why do we not trust the police?

that there is no such thing as “scientific investigation” and “clean interrogation” under a legal system where the guardians of law are not even recognised as such.

The Criminal Procedure Code and the Evidence Act look upon police officers with distrust, which lowers their morale, reduces their efficiency and affects their character. The considered view is that the public cannot be expected to trust the police when the law of the land does not do so. This distrust of the police is not only widely known but also manifests itself every day in courts throughout the country. Thus, it is not unusual to see police officers resorting to padding of evidence and other dubious methods partly because what they do and what they say are invariably looked upon with

Regarding the mistrust or distrust of police, it has to be noted that the misbehaviour and ill-treatment police officials often mete out to complainants at the police station is one of the most glaring aberrations in police behaviour. There is a tendency to discriminate between the rich and the poor, and it is the latter who become the target of the worst kind of misbehaviour from the police. Policemen often lack an expected attitude of sympathy and consideration towards those who need it the most. There is a virtual absence of a service orientation and policemen often fail to realise that the complainant at the police station is often an aggrieved person, much like a patient who goes to the doctor, and any misbehaviour with them

resultant mistrust can be progressively reduced.

Increasing violence, changing patterns of crime, use of more sophisticated weapons in crime and the general atmosphere of insecurity demands a review of the provisions of law to empower the police to effectively deal with lawless activities. We have to (a) free the police from the clutches of extraneous forces; (b) make the police accountable to people and law; (c) improve police credibility by reposing more trust in their depositions, at least at the assistant superintendent level; (d) raise their status to make them trustworthy in the eyes of the citizen; and (e) regulate police behaviour through internal controls



ILLUSTRATION: WOODY HARRINGTON

suspicion. How can the police function if they are not trusted?

In our country, the law maintains that statements of witnesses recorded by the police need not be signed by them. Confessions made before a police officer are not admissible as evidence. Even when the recovery of a crime weapon becomes admissible, any self-incriminating statement of the accused will render it suspect before the court and a conviction can be sustained only on independent evidence of witnesses. For example, if the police officer is the only witness in a crime like murder, rape or robbery, a conviction cannot be sustained merely on his evidence.

would be construed as a gross violation of human rights. Other aberrations are verbal abuse and ill-treatment while on patrolling duty, harassment of innocent persons during arrest, ill-treatment of traffic violators, etc.

It should be the binding responsibility of supervisory police officials to make a conscious endeavour towards bringing about the much needed attitudinal changes in police forces. When policing and police are elevated to a pedestal of well-deserved priority in the government’s scheme of things and the necessary training and orientation is imparted to the rank and file of police forces, these aberrations in police behaviour and the

and external supervision through an independent agency.

The above steps may appear unusual for transforming an organisation abruptly from being unreliable to being virtuous, but there is no other alternative left. The way characters, ethics and morals are being lowered; the manner in which educated people flout the law and the helpless way in which the state is witnessing the ordeal of the citizens compel us to do something drastic. When trust is reposed in police, there will also be a proper response, we hope, to honour the trust.

Muhammad Nurul Huda is a former IGP.

Welcome Madam POTUS?

Women leaders in America and the question of electability

is one that many liberal Americans are thinking about these days, even if it makes them uncomfortable to do so. Polls show many Americans are skeptical about whether a woman can win the election, even as they express support for the idea of a woman president. The urgency of defeating Trump in the next elections encourages a pragmatic approach to the choice of Democratic nominee—if women are disadvantaged in their electability, it is best to steer away from them for the moment. The highest priority is to capture the presidency and rescue the country from the rollbacks of civil and human rights that will come from another Trump term.

Women presidential candidates face the unenviable task of conveying strength, authority and capability while not violating the norms of femininity. In what appears as a Catch-22, women who project themselves as authoritative and capable face condemnation as overly ambitious, aggressive, manipulative and unlikeable women.

Despite the historic wins of women in the 2018 congressional elections, the US lags behind globally on the legislative representation of women. From Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel to Ethiopia’s President Sahle-Work Zewde, a growing number of countries have elected women heads. To date, the US has not done so. Varied national political structures, especially with respect to systems that guide the selection of candidates to run for office, undergird these differences. Gender quotas for elective office do not exist in the US, unlike in many parts of the world where they have opened doors for women and given them access to political connections. Parliamentary systems also enable women to work their way up the party hierarchy into positions of leadership without being subject to the gender biases of the voting public.

In South Asia, where women leaders are highly visible, dynastic politics has enabled the political ascension of women. That is, women have come into power through their family ties and identities. Family connections confer legitimacy and authority through what sociologist Max Weber calls “hereditary charisma” or the transmission of charismatic authority through family lines. In unstable political systems, a dynastic choice may also be favoured as a strategy to prevent fighting among political factions.

Let us come back to the US, where neither quota systems nor dynastic politics are especially relevant. What makes it difficult for some Americans to support or imagine a Madam POTUS in 2021? Individual image and personality play a key role in US presidential elections. Women presidential candidates face the unenviable task of conveying strength, authority and capability while not violating the norms of femininity. In what appears as a Catch-22, women who project themselves as authoritative

and capable face condemnation as overly ambitious, aggressive, manipulative and unlikeable women.

However, if the image dilemmas faced by women political leaders in the US are formidable, they are also surmountable, especially for those with the right kind of resources and biographies. I have recently been fascinated by the public persona of Nancy Pelosi, the first woman in US history to hold the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives. Backed by her many years of experience as a legislator, Speaker Pelosi projects herself as a shrewd and tough “don’t mess with me” mother who will get the job done and protect those under her care. She skillfully draws on the cultural trope of motherhood to assert the legitimacy of her power and authority. She has even gone so far as to rebuke President Trump in a way that reduced him to the status of a difficult toddler. In response to a meeting with the President in which he stormed out in anger, Pelosi wryly noted that she was a mother of five and grandmother of nine, and that she knew a temper tantrum when she saw one.

To be sure, there is not one single cultural script for how women leaders can and do balance their authority with the gender expectations of the broader public. Right now, it is up to women leaders themselves to carve out their own unique paths and strategies for doing so. Ultimately, I remain hopeful about the prospect of a Madam POTUS in the very near future because of the growing numbers of women who are willing to take up this very challenge. Refusing to give in to self-fulfilling notions of lesser female electability, women in the US have entered into the political fray in record numbers. By doing so, they chip away at the entrenched culture of hostility and suspicion towards women in power.

Nazli Kibria is Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Boston University.

Rising economy, falling stock markets



AHSAN HABIB

WHILE Bangladesh's economic growth is at its peak, the capital market of the country is racing towards its worst condition yet. Hence, even if the government speaks volumes of the rise in GDP, the investors of the stock market, on the other hand, are disheartened and upset.

In the fiscal year of 2018-19, Bangladesh's GDP growth was 8.13 percent. The stock market collapsed right when this news was being shared every day, incurring a loss of almost one trillion taka for investors within just a few months.

The increase in GDP and the contradictions in the stock market bring forth many questions. Is economic growth truly increasing, and the stock market suffering because of structural problems? Or is the condition of the stock market a forecast of economic indicators slowly getting weaker?

In the fiscal year of 2018-19, Bangladesh's GDP growth was 8.13 percent. The stock market collapsed right when this news was being shared every day, incurring a loss of almost one trillion taka for investors within just a few months. After 2012, this is the first time that a 4.5 percent decrease in the premier index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange was recorded within a span of only two days. As a result, the benchmark index of the DSE has come down to 4036 points, which is around the lowest in the past five years, although it jumped up again in the last few days due to an announcement of the government's policy support.

Around the world, stock markets work as an important indicator of the economic conditions of a country. Bangladesh's capital market has never really represented the nation's economic status to that extent, but it would be untrue to say that it has not done so at all. So, what exactly is the current situation? A crisis of liquidity has become apparent in the country's banks in the last few months. Export earnings have started to slow down. Foreign currency reserves are decreasing, especially, when compared to imports. The current account balance is also under pressure. These issues are more keenly observed by foreign share investors than us.

This is because if the economy suffers, the local currency also suffers from depreciation, and foreign investors start to feel the negative impact on their investments. They are clearly worried about this risk, since the selling of shares on their part in the last few months have played an important role in the changes in the market. Foreign investors are probably thinking that given the current economic indicators, the government will not be able to stop currency depreciation, despite their announcement that depreciation will not occur. As a result, foreign investors have sold more shares than they have bought in the last 10 months.

There are also other reasons behind foreign investors selling their shares. After communicating with many of them over email, I found that most of them are unhappy with political interference in the market and with regard to various economic issues in Bangladesh. At the end of last year, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) suddenly increased the tenure of the mutual funds from 10 to 20 years. At a time when investors are waiting for the fund to mature within



ILLUSTRATION: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

a few months and yield a lump sum profit, they were told the terms had been changed, that too without asking for their permission. A foreign investor even filed a lawsuit against BSEC, asking how they can make such decisions regarding mutual funds that were set up specifically with investors' money. When the investors understood that this is all possible in Bangladesh, they started to sell their shares. However, these changes were made based on extremely fragile logic—it was claimed that selling shares in order to liquidate the mutual funds will have a negative impact on the market.

Now the question is, when these shares are sold 10 years later, will the market not feel the same negative impacts? Additionally, if investments in the capital market do yield profits, it is extremely rare for that profit to be taken out of the market and used up. Instead, investors tend to reinvest that money into the market again. Despite knowing this, the government caved to political lobbying that ended up frustrating thousands of investors.

This is not all. The conflict between Grameenphone and the telecommunications regulators have gone from bad to worse. The Finance Minister himself announced that the issue will be resolved within three weeks. Four months have passed since then, and if anything,

it has made foreign investors realise that even the Finance Minister cannot resolve this problem. On top of that, despite Grameenphone being a listed company, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) did not consult with the BSEC while taking any of their decisions against Grameenphone—something which the Chairman of the BSEC has expressed his frustrations about.

This is not the only example—the same thing happened with Titas Gas in 2015. On that occasion, a decision was taken by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to reduce the service charges of Titas Gas, again without consulting the BSEC. After this, Titas' prices suffered a serious collapse, which further impacted the investors negatively. Even then, the BSEC chairman expressed his frustrations with this decision, but to no avail.

However, the stock market is not suffering purely due to the decisions to sell on the part of foreign investors. Rather, there is a loss of confidence among institutional as well as individual investors that is keeping them from investing and is perhaps even influencing them to sell their shares.

Many are saying that a crisis of liquidity in the banking sector is the reason behind a decrease in investment from institutional investors.

While this is true, it is not the only reason for reduced investments. Speaking to a number of senior officers from different banks have also yielded the same opinions—the irregularities and poor decisions in the market and the lack of punishment for any of these instances mean they are losing the confidence to invest. Even many listed corporate companies are devoid of good governance. Most of them are deceiving investors in various ways; increasing reserves year after year and not paying dividends even after incurring large profits. A lot of company heads are also stepping into the business of shares now. As a result, long-term investments are not as profitable as they should be, and the BSEC is not displaying the resolve that is required to rectify this situation.

The poor condition of the banking sector is also responsible for the fall in the capital markets, since this is still the largest sector in the market. The increase in bad debt and the deterioration of asset value has had severe repercussions for the banking sector—out of 30 listed banks, nine of them have already plunged under the face-value of Tk 10. The interest rate set by the government, at six and nine percent respectively, will have further negative impacts on the sector. The government has their own reasons for these fixed rates. While I do not want to comment on them, it should be remembered that Kenya also tried to set fixed rates of interest and then eventually had to move away from that decision. However, we know for sure that if the conditions of the banking sector do not improve, neither will the stock markets.

While the Bangladesh Bank and BSEC did take some measures to rectify the situation, they have not, however, borne any fruit. This is due to a lack of research behind these initiatives; those concerned with the markets explained its conditions according to their own understanding and convenience, and the policies were implemented on that basis without verifying these "expert" opinions. As a result, the BSEC brought forward 22 policy changes a few months ago. Bangladesh Bank gave scheduled banks the opportunity to take loans and invest in the capital market. However, no one took this opportunity except City Bank, and there was not much of an impact on the market.

This goes to show that the BSEC needs to take a strong stance with regard to good governance in the corporate sector. More well-known and successful companies need to be brought into the market, and no matter how much political lobbying goes into the process, no compromises must be made with regard to meddling in the market. Above all, BSEC needs to work for the investors. Whether it is policy changes in the market or decisions regarding listed companies, there needs to be research and discussion that place the most importance on the interests of investors. This will help gain back their confidence in the market, leading to increased investments and promoting a level of growth in the stock market that will run parallel to the GDP growth of the economy.

Ahsan Habib is a Staff Reporter at The Daily Star. The article was translated by the Editorial Desk.

Adieu my friend, Ambassador Harun ur Rashid

ABDUL HANNAN

THIS is to redeem my pledge to my friend and classmate Ambassador Harun ur Rashid and write his obituary if I survive him. With his death, perhaps one of the rare, genteel specimens of a perfect gentleman from our generation has passed away. After his retirement, he was a regular contributor to *The Daily Star* and a prolific writer. Whenever I appreciated his writing, he jokingly used to say that my articles in *The Daily Star*, which were written after long intervals, were like missiles—precise, hard hitting and lethal, unlike his writings.

I have known Harun since the early fifties, when we were students of the English department in Dhaka University. Harun stood out in the crowd of our batch of 17 students—which included Dilara Hashem, Ruhul Amin Mazumder, Ali Anwar, Masud Ahmed, Amir Ali, Waseq Al Azad, Nazibul Haq Ansari and others—for his sophisticated lifestyle, aristocratic tastes and temperament, impeccable dress, charming personality and inimitable wit and humour. While we were wearing ordinary panjabi pajamas, he looked elegant in his white sharkskin



Harun ur Rashid (1934-2020)

suit and shining shoes.

He became a barrister by accident. While studying for his Masters, he became seriously ill, with severe pains in his leg. He was under treatment in Mitford Hospital for about a year when doctors diagnosed his illness as bone tuberculosis and suggested amputation of his leg. He sat for his final MA examinations while bedridden and received a high second class. Professor Turner, who had a great deal of affection for this student of his, was

not convinced with the diagnosis of this illness and recommended further treatment in London. He wrote a letter of recommendation addressed to whomever it may concern, with a copy for President Ayub Khan, suggesting that Harun was a brilliant student and needed support for his treatment in London. I used to visit him often in the hospital with food prepared for him by my mother. One day, he looked in high spirits and showed me a letter received from the military secretary of President Ayub Khan, telling him to collect his ticket to London from the CIA office in Motijheel. Over there, the doctors diagnosed his illness as arthritis and soon he was cured. He became a teacher in a school and went on to study to become a barrister.

Harun returned home as a Barrister from Lincoln's Inn, started practising in Dhaka High Court, and married Nazma Bhabhi, daughter of Amin Ahmed, the first Chief Justice of East Pakistan. Meanwhile in the 60s, after serving as a Professor of English in Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh for over four years and a brief stint with APP as a journalist along with Mahbulul Alam, Amanullah, Saiful Bari, Jawadul Karim and Mozammel, while I moved to Islamabad to work as a senior research

assistant in the information ministry headed by the amazing Altaf Gauhar as secretary. One day, to my surprise, Harun showed up at my residence and said he had joined as Deputy Legal Advisor in the foreign ministry. After that, we met often at our residences, dined together and went on sightseeing visits to the Murree Hills, Lahore Fort and Landi Kotal Market in Peshawar.

After the independence of Bangladesh, we worked together in the foreign ministry. He had since left his job as a legal advisor and joined the political desk of DG South Asia. He was later inducted into the foreign service but often felt himself as a stranger among the tribe of his career diplomat colleagues. However, with his legal background, he soon grasped fully to his advantage the negotiating skills needed in diplomacy and acquitted himself as an astute diplomat as Ambassador for Bangladesh in Nepal, Australia, the Philippines and Austria. After retirement, he maintained contact with local diplomats and hosted parties and dinners for them.

Again as first secretary at Bangladesh's Mission in Calcutta, I worked with Harun who was then head of the Mission, but we remained as good friends as ever, with no frayed

nerves between the boss and the subordinate. While I was working in our UN mission in New York in the 80s, I hosted Nazma Bhabhi, who was visiting the US with their daughter Sabrina for her admission into college. Sabrina has since done her PhD and is now teaching at BRAC University. Most of my class friends have passed away. Another classmate, Ruhul

He became a barrister by accident. While studying for his Masters, he became seriously ill, with severe pains in his leg. He was under treatment in Mitford Hospital for about a year when doctors diagnosed his illness as bone tuberculosis and suggested amputation of his leg.

Amin, is in a coma for over a year after suffering a stroke. Their deaths remind me of Donne's poem—"Don't ask me for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee." I am in the departure lounge waiting for the last and final call to join my dear, departed friend Harun.

Abdul Hannan is a former diplomat of Bangladesh.

QUOTABLE Quote

MARIANNE WILLIAMSON
(Born 1952)
American author, spiritual leader, politician, and activist.

We are not held back by the love we didn't receive in the past, but by the love we're not extending in the present.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Aid illegally
- 5 Appear
- 9 Longtime battlers
- 11 "—the top"
- 12 Cloth fold
- 13 Mystiques
- 14 Descartes's conclusion
- 15 Stifle
- 17 Evergreen tree
- 19 Lock opener
- 20 Brown ermine
- 21 Soap unit
- 22 Odor
- 24 Inlet
- 26 — cologne
- 29 Huck's pal
- 30 Catherine the

Great, e.g.

- 32 Put into words
- 34 Speedometer
- abbr.
- 35 Girder metal
- 36 Colleague of
- Spock and Sulu
- 38 Parliament members
- 39 Feast of Lots
- 40 Big galoots
- 41 Wagers

DOWN

- 1 Jellied dish
- 2 Secures, as ropes
- 3 Not subject
- 4 Pot brew
- 5 Tart
- 6 Cry of discovery
- 7 Pencil end
- 8 Like many dorm rooms
- 10 Brook
- 11 Puppy sounds
- 16 Reverses
- 18 Optimistic
- 21 Unfocused sight
- 23 Takes in eagerly
- 24 Proof of purchase, at times
- 25 Current unit
- 27 Modest
- 28 Vivacious wit
- 29 Physicist Nikola
- 30 Sinuous fish
- 31 Counterfeits
- 33 Cincinnati team
- 37 Center

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

N I C E S T W E A R
O R A C L E S T A R I D
D A L L A S T A R I S
A N T E S
S W I G G O B S
S C A R T U N I C S
P E C S U E B R A
A N K L E T C L E O
T O A D P H E W
M A R I A
P H O E N I X S U N S
T U R N G E T S U P
A B E T S L E E T Y

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker

BABY BLUES by Kirkman & Scott

Global resource consumption tops 100b tonnes for first time

AFP, PARIS

The world is using up more than 100 billion tonnes of natural resources per year for the first time ever while global recycling of raw materials has fallen, according to a report released yesterday.

The share of minerals, fossil fuels, metals and biomass feeding into the global economy that is reused declined in two years from an already paltry 9.1 percent to 8.6 today, the Circularity Gap Report 2020 found.

"No country is meeting the basic needs of its citizens while also operating within the physical boundaries of our planet," said Marc de Wit, a director at the non-profit Circle Economy and lead author of the report.

The resources fuelling the world economy increased more than eight percent in just two years from 93 billion tonnes in 2015 to 100.6 billion in 2017, the last year for which data is available.

Since 1970, the human population has doubled, the global economy has grown fourfold, and trade has expanded tenfold, a trajectory that -- in the absence of widespread recycling --

relentlessly pushes up the demand for energy and resources.

Global use of materials is projected to balloon to 170-184 billion tonnes by mid-century, the report said.

To improve living standards -- especially in low-income countries -- while also protecting ecosystems that provide clear water, air and soil, the world must vastly boost the share of recycled natural resources, the authors said.

Wealthy nations, the authors note, consume 10 times more resources per person than in the developing world, and produce far more waste.

Rich countries must "take responsibility for the impact of their imports and exports," the report said, noting that much of what they consume comes from less developed nations, while much of their waste is exported.

The report also noted that recycling rates are high in poorer countries, as waste can "provide a valuable source of revenue for informal workers."

"China, for instance, has pioneered eco-industrial parks where the waste of one business becomes the feedstock for another."



Members of Mexico's National Guard hold their shields to block migrants, part of a caravan travelling to the US, near the border between Guatemala and Mexico, in Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico, on Monday. Forces fired tear gas at rock-hurling Central American migrants who waded across a river into Mexico, in a chaotic scramble that saw mothers separated from their young children.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWSIN brief

Pak jurno detained for Facebook posts

AFP, Islamabad

A Pakistani journalist critical of the government and the army has been detained for five days for having published "anti-state" comments online, his lawyer told AFP yesterday, in a new illustration of shrinking freedoms in Pakistan. Azhar-ul Haq Wahid made several comments about the Pakistani establishment on his Facebook account. Wahid was arrested last Thursday in the eastern city of Lahore, and has been in custody since.

Seoul to send vessel to Strait of Hormuz

AFP, Seoul

South Korea will send a naval destroyer and 300 troops to the Strait of Hormuz, its defence ministry said yesterday, after pressure from its ally the US in the face of tensions between Washington and Tehran. Seoul has had diplomatic relations with Tehran since the early 1960s and until last year Iran was one of the resource-poor South's key oil suppliers.

UK PM tastes first defeat

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday suffered his first parliamentary defeat since the election when peers voted to give EU citizens physical proof of their right to stay after Brexit. Members of the unelected upper House of Lords voted by 270 to 229 to amend the EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill, which ratifies the terms of Britain's exit from the EU on January 31.

'Heirs of foolish fortune tellers'

Trump rejects 'prophets of doom' as Thunberg warns Davos over climate inaction

AFP, DAVOS

US President Donald Trump yesterday assailed environmental "prophets of doom", delivering an uncompromising message in Davos after Swedish teenage campaigner Greta Thunberg slammed government inaction on the climate crisis.

Thunberg was in the audience in the Swiss Alps to hear a typically bullish speech by Trump, delivered just before the start of his Senate impeachment trial in Washington.

The 50th meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) got under way in the ski resort with an avowed focus on climate change but with starkly different visions over global warming laid bare.

"We must reject the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse," said Trump, growling that "they want to see us do badly".

He claimed that "alarmists" had been wrong on previous occasions by predicting population crisis, mass starvation and the end of oil.

Trump branded those warning of out-of-control global warming and other environmental disasters "the heirs of yesterday's foolish fortune tellers". Trump told reporters later that his Davos trip was devoted to meeting "the most important



"We must reject the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse."

-Donald Trump

"... Basically nothing has been done. It will require much more than this."

-Greta Thunberg



people in the world and we're bringing back tremendous business."

"The other's just a hoax," he said of the "disgraceful" impeachment trial.

Before Trump's appearance, Thunberg underlined the message that has inspired millions around the world, saying "basically nothing has been done" to fight climate change.

"It will require much more than this. This is just the very beginning," the 17-year-old said.

Speaking calmly and with a wry smile,

Thunberg acknowledged that her campaign which began with school strikes had attracted huge attention without yet achieving concrete change.

"There is a difference between being heard to actually leading to something," she said.

While the WEF and individual business leaders have been detailing their own concerns about climate change, Greenpeace complained in a new report that some of the world's biggest banks, insurers and pension funds have collectively invested \$1.4 trillion in fossil fuel companies since the Paris climate deal in 2016.

Business leaders are likely also to be concerned by the state of the global economy whose prospects, according to the International Monetary Fund, have improved but remain brittle.

The IMF cut its global growth estimate for 2020 to 3.3 percent, saying that a recent truce in the trade war between China and the US had brought some stability but that risks remained.

Activists meanwhile will be pressing for much more concrete action to fight inequality, after Oxfam issued a report outlining how the number of billionaires has doubled in the past decade and the world's 22 richest men now have more wealth than all the women in Africa.



People wearing protective masks arrive at Beijing railway station to head home for the Lunar New Year, yesterday. Inset, Workers from a cleaning service spray disinfectant at the customs, immigration and quarantine area at Incheon international airport, west of Seoul. China has confirmed human-to-human transmission in the outbreak of a new SARS-like virus as the number of cases soared and the World Health Organization said it would consider declaring an international public health emergency.

PHOTO: AFP



Prince Harry starts new life in Canada

AFP, Vancouver

Prince Harry was spending the first full day of his new life in Canada yesterday after jetting in from Britain to join his wife Meghan, 38, following their shock exit from their royal roles.

Harry, 35, landed at Vancouver International Airport on a British Airways flight from London Heathrow shortly after 7:00 pm on Monday (0300 GMT Tuesday).

He then took a connecting flight to Victoria on Vancouver Island, where he and Meghan have temporarily set up a home, having spent six weeks on the Pacific west coast over Christmas with their baby son Archie.

According to local reports, the couple are looking to buy a beachside house in Vancouver, or possibly in Toronto, where US former television actress Meghan spent several years while acting in the legal drama series "Suits".

Like Britain, Canada is a Commonwealth realm, meaning Harry's grandmother Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state.

Harry and Meghan are bowing out entirely from representing the monarchy, in a crisis that has shaken the centuries-old institution.



The Duke and Duchess of Sussex openly said they have struggled in the spotlight since their wedding in May 2018, and were seeking to step back as frontline royals.

Harry said Sunday that they did not want to quit their royal duties but reluctantly accepted there was "no other option" if they wanted to cut loose from public funding and seek their own income in pursuit of a more independent life.

Under their new arrangement, the Sussexes are free to earn their own commercial income -- but can no longer represent Queen Elizabeth or be referred to as their royal highnesses, and must repay taxpayers' money

spent on their UK home.

They will no longer receive public money -- though 95 percent of their annual funding comes from his father Prince Charles' hereditary estate for the heir to the throne. To what extent that will continue, and who will cover their security bill -- currently met by the British police -- remains to be seen.

The couple intend to raise their own income streams. They have launched their new Sussex Royal website and trademarked the name. However, Queen Elizabeth's senior advisor on heraldry suggested they should not be allowed to use the royal moniker, having relinquished their public duties.

Protester killed as Iraq struggles to stem unrest

REUTERS, Baghdad

Iraqi police fought running street battles with anti-government demonstrators yesterday, firing tear and rubber bullets to try to disperse stone-throwing youths pressing for an overhaul of a political system they see as deeply corrupt.

One protester was killed in Baghdad while another succumbed to a bullet wound sustained on Monday in Baquba city, medical sources said, adding at least 50 demonstrators were wounded.

Violent clashes erupted for a third straight day in Baghdad's Tayaran Square and in other southern cities including Basra and the holy Shi'ite cities of Kerbala and Najaf, with protesters hurling stones and petrol bombs at police who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

"Our protests are peaceful. We call for the resignation of the government and an independent prime minister who does not belong to any party," said a hooded protester in Baghdad, who declined to give his name.

Anti-government unrest has crippled Iraq since Oct 1, with protesters demanding an end to what they say is deeply-rooted corruption and a ruling elite that has controlled Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003. More than 450 people have been killed.

Yesterday's unrest followed violent gatherings on Monday that killed six Iraqis, including two police officers, and wounded scores across the country.

THREE ROCKETS HIT NEAR US EMBASSY

Three rockets hit near the US embassy in the Iraqi capital's high-security Green Zone early yesterday, security sources told AFP, with no immediate reports of casualties. The US has blamed Iran-backed paramilitary groups for a spate of similar attacks in recent months on the Green Zone, but there has never been a claim of responsibility.

New Islamic State group leader identified: report

Intelligence services have identified the new leader of the Islamic State (IS) group as Amir Mohammed Abdul Rahman al-Mawli al-Salbi, British newspaper The Guardian reported on Monday. The paper, citing officials from two unnamed spy services, described him as one of the terrorist group's founding members and said he had led the enslavement of the Yazidi minority in Iraq. It said he also oversaw operations around the world. The organisation had named Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi as its new head just days after its previous leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was killed in a raid by US special forces in October. However, some analysts have suggested the group was caught off guard by Baghdad's killing and that the true identity of its new leader remained uncertain.

Iran MP offers \$3m reward for "whoever kills Trump"

An Iranian lawmaker offered a \$3 million reward to anyone who killed US President Donald Trump and said Iran could avoid threats if it had nuclear arms, ISNA news agency reported yesterday amid Tehran's latest standoff with Washington. "On behalf of the people of Kerman province, we will pay a \$3 million reward in cash to whoever kills Trump," lawmaker Ahmad Hamzeh told the 290-seat parliament, ISNA reported. He did not say if the idea of a reward had any official backing from Iran's clerical rulers. The city of Kerman, in the province south of the capital, is the hometown of Qassem Soleimani, a prominent Iranian commander whose killing in a drone strike ordered by Trump on Jan 3 in Baghdad prompted Iran to fire missiles at US targets in Iraq.

Indian PM Modi bats for neighbours first policy



"Neighbourhood first" is the main policy of Modi government and improving cross-border connectivity is an important aspect of it, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said. He made the statement while inaugurating an Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Joghani-Biratnagar border yesterday. Modi and his Nepal counterpart KP Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the ICP through a video conference, our New Delhi correspondent reports. The check post was built with India's assistance in a bid to facilitate trade and people's movement between the two countries. This is the second ICP on the Nepal border. The first was built at the Raxaul-Birgunj border in 2018.

SOURCE: AFP

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Truce Artist: Ata Mojlich Venue: Dwp Gallery, Lalmitia Date: January 25 – February 1 Time: 3 pm – 9 pm (Except Mondays)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Cultural Festival Title: Bangladesh Shanskritik Utshab 2020 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: January 3- 23, 2020 Time: 4 pm - 8 pm</p>	<p>Musical Evening Title: Tondrahara Raater Gaan Organiser: Star Melodies Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Zaki Nazrul Islam Ave Date: January 25 Time: 6:30 pm onwards</p>	<p>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)</p>
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Artworks on exhibit at the event.

PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

Charity painting exhibition for Art Fest 2020 underway at Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

A painting exhibition by eminent artists of Bangladesh was inaugurated at Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, recently. The exhibition, which will run till January 27, is a charity event. The revenues generated from the sale of the exhibited works will go towards organising the Art Fest 2020, Nilphamari.



For the past few years, the Art Fest, alternatively known as Charukola Utshab, has been organised at a location outside Dhaka, involving different groups of people, with a focus on school children and the youth. Charukola Utshab aims to create an interchange of art practices between the city life and the country life outside the metropolitan. The festival functions largely as an art camp, with many guidelines and teachings provided to the young people interested in art. Different topics surrounding social issues and causes, such as the environment and nature, are highlighted in the themes of the workshops. Additionally, cultural programmes, an arts and crafts fair and sightseeing walks are also scheduled during the event.

Along with the children, university art students and renowned artists also take part in the events and create artworks in an interactive environment. Since this initiative is seen as a one with many spillover benefits, especially with respect to engaging the youth in arts and culture of our country while keeping them immersed in positive activities, prominent artists have come together to help raise funds in order to organise yet another successful festival.

The paintings displayed in the ongoing exhibition portray a variety of styles, media and subjects. A wide array of emotions swirl through the depictions of various realities of the artists. Canvases swathed in intricate abstract acrylic textures are hung alongside nature landscapes. Some of the paintings include words and poetry inscribed in decorative patterns. Many of the paintings focus on feminine figures, with regards to their significance and relation to nature and family.

Though the paintings by established artists have little in common, be it in styles, subjects or depicted moods, the exhibition presents itself unitedly in the collective goal to not only further the arts within an exclusive circle, but to promote the arts in a broader sense that can impact people in different parts of the country. The financial support as well as the ideological encouragement provided by the senior artists of Bangladesh for the Art Fest will surely go a long way in ensuring a rich and vibrant artistic and cultural landscape for the youth and for our future.



Star Melodies to host 'Tondrahara Raater Gaan' on January 25



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Star Melodies, an initiative of The Daily Star to promote Bangla music, will host a special evening, titled Tondrahara Raater Gaan, featuring evergreen nostalgic, romantic songs.

The programme, sponsored by Dhaka Bank Limited, will be held on January 25, 2020, at 6:30 pm in the A S Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre.

Noted artists Mahfuzur Rahman, Samarjit Roy, Champa Banik, Tanjina Karim Sharalipi and Shemonty Monjari will perform at the event, hosted by Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, The Daily Star.

Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.



'Kathbirali' has received a lukewarm response at Ananda Cinema Hall.



At Star Cineplex in Bashundhara City, the crowd for 'Kathbirali' mainly consisted of youngsters.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

'Kathbirali' garners mixed reactions from cinemagoers

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Niyamul Mukta's *Kathbirali*, starring Sporshia, was released in 18 cinema halls inside and outside Dhaka, on January 17. Positive public reviews of the film surfaced on social media platforms immediately after its release. Looking into the film's current progress, *The Daily Star* recently visited numerous cinema halls in Dhaka. So far, *Kathbirali* has received a lukewarm response at Ananda Cinema Hall, located in the

heart of Farmgate. The first impression of the ticket counter for the matinee show of the film was disappointing. Only a couple of people were seen holding tickets to *Kathbirali*, at the venue. According to the managers, although the film attracted some cinemagoers during the weekend, the numbers went down as soon as the holidays ended.

At Star Cineplex in Bashundhara City, the crowd for *Kathbirali* mainly consisted of youngsters. On the other hand, at Balaka Cinema Hall, the film is running

quite well. It has managed to attract a significant number of cinemagoers. A couple of young film buffs, standing in a queue outside the hall, said that they came to watch the film because of positive word-of-mouth.

Since its release, *Kathbirali* has performed quite poorly at Madhumita Cinema Hall. "Many cinemagoers have said that they liked the story of the film. However, a limited number of audiences are coming to watch it," shares Iftekhar Uddin Nawshad, the owner of the theatre.

Rachel Perris to speak at SOAS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A lecture by Gaudiya Nritya exponent Rachel Priyanka Perris will be held at Wolfson Lecture Theatre (SWLT), Paul Webley Wing, SAOS University of London, today. The free and open for all event is being hosted by the SOAS Indian Dance Society.

Rachel is an award-winning dancer, choreographer and researcher from Dhaka. Having completed her training under the tutelage of Mahua Mukherjee, she is the pioneer of Gaudiya Nritya in Bangladesh. She conducts regular workshops and courses for Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and other prestigious cultural institutions both home and abroad. The celebrated dancer has represented Bangladesh in acclaimed dance festivals worldwide, including the UNESCO Centre in Paris (2016) and at the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in Oslo (2006).



PHOTO: COURTESY



The music video for the song, 'Phuler Naame Naam', by Momtaz Begum, MP, was released at a press conference held at Zahur Hossain Chowdhury Hall of National Press Club (NPC) in the presence of Farida Yeasmin, General Secretary, NPC, recently. Besides singing the song which intends to raise awareness regarding child marriage in Bangladesh, the artiste is also seen in the music video.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Najib Tarque's 'Art Makes Us Human' at 3rd Space

SUMAIYA KABIR

Slowly gaining more and more popularity as the cultural hub of Dhanmondi, 3rd Space hosted an insightful art talk recently, where youngsters spent a wonderful weekend afternoon brainstorming how art makes us human, with Najib Tarque.

Najib Tarque is an artist, printmaker and writer, best known for being one of the pioneers of online art galleries in Bangladesh. He is the founding member of Jolrong, one of the first online art galleries in South Asia. His discussion, *Art Makes Us Human*, covered the beginning of his journey, his realisations regarding visual art and the age we live in today, where information is power.

What was unique about the art talk was that it was not simple a discussion

on art, but rather a wholesome experience of everything that is going on around us today. From literary conversations on recent happenings such as Abdullah Abu Sayeed's article, *Saree*, to European artists from the last century, movies and Bill Gates, the programme had it all.

The art talk began with the question of what makes us humans different from other animals. Najib Tarque gave an example of how a spider weaves his own web, the same way decade after decade, while we humans keep on progressing. We have learnt to evolve over time and fine-tuned our skills and all that we see

around us today. He discussed how from the clothes we wear to the words we speak on open mics, everything is in fact, art.

Art Makes Us Human was not just the title of the talk. It is a virtual art project started on Instagram by Najib Tarque in 2015, which eventually spread across Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and Tumblr as well. Since 1987, he has been a part of various group and solo exhibitions, both at home and abroad. He has exhibited over a hundred images online in the last couple of years. Najib Tarque claims to have a thousand more posts ready, with all the images conveying different messages through writings, brush strokes and colours. A few other new mediaprojects came up in the discussion as well, leaving the audience excited for more interesting works from the artist.



PHOTO: PRIYAS BISWAS



An Iraqi protester falls down after being hit by a tear gas canister amid clashes with riot police on Mohammad al-Qasim highway in east Baghdad, yesterday. An Iraqi protester was killed yesterday in Baghdad, medics said, where angry youth have reignited their anti-government protest movement by shutting roads to pressure authorities to implement long-awaited reforms.

PHOTO: AFP

Virus spreads, fear grows

FROM PAGE 16

Wuhan.

The coronavirus has caused alarm because of its genetic similarities to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003.

At four airports in Thailand, authorities introduced mandatory thermal scans of passengers arriving from high-risk areas of China. Anyone exhibiting signs of fever will be quarantined for 24 hours for monitoring.

Around 1,300 passengers are expected each day in Thailand from Wuhan over Chinese New Year, which starts on Friday.

In Hong Kong, where memories of SARS still haunt the city, authorities said they were on "extreme high alert", with passengers from Wuhan required to fill out health declarations and face possible jail time if they do not declare symptoms.

"We are ... preparing for the worst. We have not lowered our guard," Hong Kong's number two leader, Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, told reporters.

Taiwan went onto its second-highest alert level for those travelling to and from Wuhan, advising visitors

to avoid visiting any live poultry markets while screening has been stepped up at airports.

Enhanced screening measures have also been set up at airports in Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Singapore, and the United States.

A man showing symptoms of the disease who had travelled to Wuhan has been put in isolation in Australia as health officials await test results, authorities said yesterday.

In China, the government yesterday announced it was classifying the outbreak in the same category as SARS, meaning compulsory isolation for those diagnosed with the disease and the potential to implement quarantine measures on travel.

In Wuhan, authorities banned tour groups and police were conducting spot checks for live poultry or wild animals in vehicles leaving and entering the city, state media said.

Passengers were being screened for fever at the airport, railway stations and bus terminals. Those with fevers would be registered, handed masks and advised to see a doctor, and they would not have to pay to change their tickets.

Zhong Nanshan, a renowned scientist at the National Health Commission, raised the alarm when

he said on Monday that patients can contract the virus without having visited Wuhan, though he added that it was milder than SARS.

The WHO had previously identified animals as the likely primary source, but had warned of "some limited human-to-human transmission".

Doctors at the University of Hong Kong released a study yesterday estimating that there have been 1,343 cases of the new virus in Wuhan. Scientists at Imperial College in London said last week the number was likely closer to 1,700.

The WHO has only called a global public health emergency a handful of times, including during the H1N1 -- or swine flu -- pandemic of 2009 and the Ebola epidemic that devastated parts of West Africa from 2014 to 2016.

The Communist government was accused of covering up the SARS outbreak in 2003 but some foreign experts have praised the swift release of information on this new virus.

"China is willing to continue to deepen international cooperation, join hands with the international community to respond to the epidemic, and jointly maintain regional and global health security," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters.

Talks on BBIN vehicle deal to resume

FROM PAGE 16

seems to have changed its stance and now shows its interest in the initiative, said a Bangladeshi official involved in the initiative.

On June 15, 2015, aiming to make a route for seamless flow of passenger and cargo traffic in the region, the MVA was signed at the BBIN transport ministers meeting in Bhutan.

The initiative got a setback in November 2016 when Bhutan stepped out of the BBIN process amid severe domestic opposition to the agreement, primarily on fears of vehicular pollution and environmental degradation.

Bhutan, however, asked the other stakeholders to go ahead

with the plan and expressed hope to join it after clearance from its parliament.

Against the backdrop, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal in April 2018 went for a trial run of a tri-nation bus service to scrutinise in detail all aspects of the journey. Officials of the three countries took part in the bus trip.

The 1,100km route was Dhaka-Rangpur-Banglabandha-Siliguri (India)-Kakarvitta (Nepal)-Bharatpur-Katmandu, said officials.

Currently, Bangladesh has a bus route with India only.

The officials were supposed to submit a report with necessary recommendations and based on

the report, a protocol will be inked before a regular bus service starts, officials said at the inauguration of the trial run in Dhaka.

But Nepal reportedly backtracked on the initiative at that time.

Before signing of the protocol, the three countries have to ink a "memorandum of understanding" to go ahead with the tri-nation approach, said the Bangladeshi official.

Bangladesh approved the draft of "memorandum of understanding" prepared by India, but Nepal did not agree with it, the official told this newspaper.

No meeting was held after the trial run, he said, adding, "I have heard

that Nepalese officials will attend the JWG meeting and their stance would be clear at the meeting."

In October last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met her Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli on the sidelines of the 18th NAM Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Asked about the BBIN issue after the meeting, then foreign secretary Shahidul Haque said Bhutan had a problem in implementing the initiative, but Nepal agreed to execute it.

In this connection, Hasina said, "We've raised the issue before India, and Nepal could also raise it before New Delhi and we could operationalise the BBIN through it."

FROM PAGE 16

Trump lawyers 48 hours, evenly split, to present their arguments over four days. Opening arguments are expected to begin this week and could well run into each night.

Under the resolution, lawyers for Trump could move early in the proceedings to ask senators to dismiss all charges, a senior Republican leadership aide said, a motion that would likely fall short of the support needed to succeed.

"That is not a fair trial. In fact, it is no trial at all," the seven House Democrats who will set out the case against Trump said in a statement on Tuesday.

"A White House-driven and rigged process, with a truncated schedule designed to go late into the night and further conceal the President's misconduct, is not what the American people expect or deserve," they wrote.

Senate Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer told CNN that Democrats would seek amendments.

McConnell has repeatedly said the rules for the trial would mirror those the Senate used in the 1999 impeachment of then-President Bill Clinton, and Republican senators have not ruled out the possibility of further witness testimony and evidence.

Votes could take place as early as Tuesday on the rules, including deciding whether the Senate should at a later date consider subpoenas for witnesses, such as Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in a statement, said the Republicans' plan would force the trial into the "dark of night" and accused McConnell of choosing "a cover-up for the president, rather than honor his oath to the Constitution."

"Every Senator who supports this sham process must be held accountable to the American people," added Pelosi, who formally kicked off the House impeachment investigation in September.

Republican Senator John Cornyn said on Twitter that the House's investigation had been "tainted and half-baked" and that Democrats were to blame for any issues in the Senate trial.

The Senate trial is expected to continue six days a week, Monday through Saturday, until at least the end of January.

At the heart of the impeachment trial is Trump's request to Ukraine

in July to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a top Democratic contender to face Trump in the 2020 election, and his son Hunter.

Democrats accuse Trump of pressuring a vulnerable ally to interfere in US elections at the expense of American national security and say he needs to be removed from office because he is a danger to American democracy and national security.

Trump and his legal team, which includes White House counsel Pat Cipollone, say there was no pressure and that the Democrats' case is based on hearsay. They say the president did nothing wrong and that Democrats are simply trying to stop him from being re-elected.

During his bilateral meeting with the President of the European Commission in Davos, Switzerland yesterday, Trump called the trial a hoax.

"That whole thing is a hoax," he said. "It goes nowhere because nothing happened. The only thing we've done is a great job."

Cops find

FROM PAGE 16

Bureau of Investigation yesterday, MKH Jahangir Hossain, additional superintendent of police of the PBI, said they analysed mobile phone call lists, government records, and statements of two of the accused during the over four-month long probe.

But it was not primarily proved that SI Khairul was present at the victim's house on September 3.

DNA tests were conducted on all the four accused and the test results showed that only one of the accused was involved in the incident, he said.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the victim said, "I have no complaint against police."

She declined to make further comments.

The rape incident came to light after the victim, a mother of two, talked to reporters while receiving treatment at a Jashore hospital.

A day after filing the rape case against the four, she claimed that though she had identified Khairul as her rapist, she did not name him in the case out of fear when senior police officers had brought the SI before her.

Later, police arrested three of the accused -- Abdul Quader, 40; Kamruzzaman Kamrul, 40, and Abdul Latif, 50.

Our Benapole correspondent contributed to this report.

AL MP Ismat Ara Sadique

FROM PAGE 16

Minister MA Mannan, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan and Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury also expressed profound grief over her death.

Taking part in the discussion of condolence motion, Hasina said after the death of Ismat's husband ASHK Sadique, she requested Ismat to contest in the ninth general election.

"She was a little nervous about whether she would be able to tackle the pressure. I told her that she could win the election, and she won," the

PM said.

Hasina said at first she made Ismat the state minister for primary and mass education and then the state minister for public administration.

Ismat carried out all her duties with honesty, Hasina said.

"Honesty, sincerity and integrity were her great qualities," the PM added.

Ismat had undertaken so many works for the development of her constituency, Hasina said, adding that the lawmaker provided electricity connections to all houses

in Keshabpur, from where she was elected an MP for twice.

Senior treasury and opposition bench MPs including Tofail Ahmed, Abdus Shahid, Swapan Bhattacharjee, Rowshan Ara Mannan, among others also took part in the discussion where they discussed various aspects of late Ismat's life.

Later, prayer seeking eternal peace of the departed soul was offered in the House.

Her first-namaz-e-janaza was held at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban last afternoon.

After the janaza, President Hamid, PM Hasina and Speaker Shirin, among others, laid floral wreaths at her coffin.

Body of the lawmaker was taken to her constituency last night. Ismat's body will be taken to Bogura today and will be buried at their family graveyard, sources at the parliament said.

Ismat was born in Bhogoti village of Jashore's Keshabpur upazila on December 12, 1942.

She left a son, a daughter and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Cows can talk!

FROM PAGE 16

"It all relates back to their emotions and what they are feeling at the time," she said.

Previous research has found cattle mothers and offspring communicate through individuality in their loving.

However, this new study has detailed how cows keep their individual moo throughout their lives, even when talking among themselves.

It found the animals studied would speak to each other during their sexually active period, while waiting for or denied food and when kept separate from the group.

The University of Sydney research, which has been published in Scientific Reports, recorded and analysed 333

samples of cow vocalisations.

"Ali's research is truly inspired. It is like she is building a Google translate for cows," said Cameron Clark, an associate professor at the university.

Ms Green said she hoped her research would help farmers "tune into the emotional state of their cattle, improving animal welfare".

A 2018 study found that animals communicate with each other in a similar way to humans.

Taking turns in conversations had previously been considered something that distinguished the human language from the way animals talk to each other -- but this research found the characteristic exists throughout the animal kingdom.

French police arrest seven for terror plot

AFP, Paris

Security forces on Monday arrested seven men believed to be planning a terror attack in France and preparing to travel to conflict zones in Iraq and Syria, sources close to the case told AFP.

They were detained by France's DCSI domestic intelligence agency in the western coastal city of Brest and the surrounding Finistere region.

Some of the men were on the country's "Fiche S" list of potential security risks because of their links with Islamic extremists, one of the sources said.

Investigations will continue to determine how far the suspects had advanced in their plans for the attack and flight to the Middle East.

+CIFRC

Motel Labonee, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Motel Road, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT-TENDER NOTICE

DATED: 22/01/2020

1	Sourcing entity	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
2	Seeking	IFRC invites sealed bids from suitably qualified and experienced bidders for the supply and provision of the following goods and services.
3	Reference Category	Description
4	Shelter housing construction	Agreement for Construction of Shelter houses. Expected quantity is 35 houses, Location is Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazar District for Union host community.
5	Shelter housing framework	Framework Agreement for Construction of Shelter houses. Expected quantity is 2495 houses, Location is Kutupalong, Camp 12, Block A and B for Displaced People from Myanmar.
11	Experience, resources and delivery capacity required	Interested bidders must fulfill the following requirements: 1. Have an updated business registration certificate. 2. Recent Tax compliance certificate and TIN. 3. Evidence of providing similar goods or services. 4. Solvency letter from the bank confirming your bank account. 5. Audited financial statements for the last 3 years. 6. Bank statement for 1 year up-to-date. 7. Evidence of providing similar goods or services in the last 3 years.

Documents to be filled in provided by IFRC;
8. Tender documents (Request for quotation or proposal).
9. IFRC Supplier registration form (to be filled in signed and stamped).
10. IFRC General terms and conditions (to be signed and stamped).
11. IFRC Specifications for the requested goods (to be acknowledged).
12. IFRC Terms of reference in case of services (to be acknowledged).
13. IFRC Pricing Template (to be filled in signed and stamped).

A Tender Guarantee (an amount equal to 2.5% of the tender value) must be submitted with the tender by way of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from a recognized scheduled bank. A Bank Guarantee will not be accepted.

12	Designation and contact of official inviting Expression of Interest	All interested companies or businesses can request for the tender document and instructions on requirements and submission by email to the IFRC PMO Procurement Delegate on gela.tsuladze@ifrc.org . The email subject should quote the reference category. E.g. "Tender Request for Shelter Housing Construction". Inquiries should be requested in writing and response will also be in writing.
13	Deadline and instructions	Launch date for the various tender(s) is 23 January 2020. The Deadline for submission is 05 February 2020, 5pm Bangladesh time. Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Any tender containing false/fabricated certificates will be rejected. IFRC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof. IFRC does not require any payment for issuing tender documents or receiving the tender submissions and will not be held responsible for payments made by your companies to third parties.

Head of Cox's Bazar Sub-Office
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Bangladesh, 22nd January 2020

D-19

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka- 1208

Local Tender Notice

Tender ref.: EDCL(Bogura)/PUR/PT/2020/27 **Dated. 21/01/2020**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the genuine importers/suppliers for supply & installation of following items for EDCL, Bogura on urgent basis:

Name of Items	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
Supply & installation of 01 (one) no Pharmaceutical Garments Drying Machine & 01 (one) no Garments Washing Machine. (Details as per technical specification)	Tk. 2.5% of quoted amount	Tk.1000.00/set (Non refundable)	Closing : 11/02/2020 At 12.00 noon Opening : 11/02/2020 At 12.15 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of **Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL)**, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Limited" without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

Essential Drugs Company Limited authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager
Procurement Deptt.
For : Managing Director

চীফ জুডিসিয়াল ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট আদালত, মুন্সিগঞ্জ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

যেহেতু ফৌজদারী কার্যবিধির ৮৭ ও ৮৮ ধারার বিধান সমূহ প্রতীপালন করিবার পর আদালতের বিশ্বাস করিবার কারণ রহিয়াছে যে, যাহাতে প্রফতার ও বিচারে সোপর্দ করা না যায় সেই জন্য আসামীগণ পলায়ন বা আত্মপোষন করিয়াছে এবং তাহাদেরকে প্রফতার করিবার আশঙ্কা সঞ্চারিত হইয়াছে।

Table with 4 columns: ক্রমিক নং, মামলা নং ও ধারা, আসামীদের নাম ও ঠিকানা, সংশ্লিষ্ট আদালতের নাম. Contains 30 entries of legal cases.

Table with 4 columns: ক্রমিক নং, মামলা নং ও ধারা, আসামীদের নাম ও ঠিকানা, সংশ্লিষ্ট আদালতের নাম. Contains 15 entries of legal cases.

জিডি-১৫০

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Patuakhali PWD Division, Patuakhali
Phone: 0441-62562, Fax No. 0441-62631
Email : ee_patua@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 196 Date: 20/01/2020

Invitation for e-Tender

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

Table with 5 columns: Sl No, Tender ID No., Invitation Reference No., Name of works, Tender closing date & time. Contains 3 tender items.

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

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

Md. Haroon Or Rashid
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Patuakhali

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রত্নতত্ত্ব অধিদপ্তর
এফ-৪/এ, আগারগাঁও প্র/এ
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
www.archaeology.gov.bd
director_general@archaeology.gov.bd

নথি নং-৪৩.২৩.০০০০.১২১.০৭.১৫০.১৯.১৩১

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Table with 2 columns: S/N, বিবরণ. Contains 23 items of work and their descriptions.

জিডি-১৪৩



In plain view of everyone, the killing of fish, aquatic animals and insects goes on in the beautiful Ratna river. The makeshift sheds on both sides of the river are used by guards to protect the catch in the fishing net, set across the river, and the docked boats are used to transport the catch. A few hundred feet away, just past the curve, a similar structure can be seen in the river. Such illegal structures have been placed across the Ratna and Shutki rivers in at least 20 places of Baniachong upazila under Habiganj, alleged locals. The photo of the river was taken nine kilometres away from the upazila headquarters.

PHOTO: STAR

College teacher suspended

9 allegations including sexual harassment of girls raised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The authorities of Barabari Shaheed Abul Kashem College in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on Monday suspended a teacher on charge of nine crimes including sexual harassment of girl students.

The accused, ABM Faruk Siddiki, hailing from Barabari Shibram village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, is an assistant professor of Bangla at the college.

On January 11, the college authorities issued him a notice, citing nine crimes committed by him earlier, and asked him to show cause within seven days.

"Faruk Siddiki did not respond to the show cause notice, even he misbehaved with the senior fellows over the matter. The college authority has suspended him and notified all the authorities concerned about the decision," said Snigdha Chakrabarty, acting principal of the college.

"The accused teacher, a locally influential man, vitiated the academic environment of the college. Many families in the area did not send their daughters to study at this college in fear of him," she said.

The nine allegations brought against Faruk includes stalking and sexually harassing college girls, misbehaving with colleagues and torturing his wife in public.

The show cause notice mentioned that Faruk kidnapped a girl student of the college in 2010 and sexually harassed her, keeping her in a hidden place for two months.

Afterwards, he was arrested and kept in jail for six months but later the case was 'settled'.

"We will write to the higher authorities concerned, seeking legal action after discharging him from the college," said the acting principal.

Faruk's wife, who lodged a case against him with the court on Monday, said, "I was very much disturbed due to my husband's character. As I protested strongly about his immoral acts with women, he tortured me at a public place a few days ago and drove me out of home."

Contacting over mobile, ABM Faruk Siddiki said, "Allegations against me concerning women are not new, I will deal with it."

Then he cut the line and put the phone switched off.

Boy killed over trivial matter, stepmother held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A schoolboy was killed allegedly by his stepmother for watching television with high volume.

The deceased was identified as Saif Ahmed Walid, 9, son of Salahuddin Imon and a Class IV student of a local school in the town.

On Monday, accused Sabrina Nahar Sinthe gave confessional statement to the court of Munira Sultana, additional chief judicial magistrate in Tangail, under Section 164, said Tanvir Ahmed, court inspector.

The court later sent her to jail, he added.

Shofiqul Islam, additional superintendent of police in Tangail, said Salahuddin Imon, owner of a computer training centre, along with his wife Sabrina and son Saif had been living in a rented house of the town's Amin Bazar area for the last few years.

Police recovered the body of Saif from the house on Saturday night.

During interrogation, Sabrina said when Saif was watching TV with high volume on Saturday night, she asked him to reduce the sound.

As Saif did not do so, she got angry and tied his hands and mouth with her scarfs. She later confined him to the room.

After half an hour, she entered the room and found Saif senseless.

When two years is not enough

The authorities appear to have been in their slumbers for about two years, during when all sorts of aquatic animals continue to be killed in the Ratna and Shutki rivers in Baniachong upazila, threatening ecology and biodiversity

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Baniachong

While many rivers in the country are dying slowly due to encroachment, several others, such as the Ratna and Shutki in Baniachong upazila of Habiganj, are facing a different predicament -- being robbed of all their aquatic life.

Thanks to the indifference of the authorities concerned, a chairman of a union parishad and several others have been destroying aquatic animals and insects in the two rivers for the last couple of years by placing fine fishing nets across the rivers -- in not one, not two, but at least 20 places.

This correspondent during a visit to the upazila recently came across two such nets, supported by bamboo structures, on the Ratna river.

Every single aquatic animal or insect that tries to pass through the nets are getting caught as holes in the nets are exceedingly fine. Later on, during collection of fish, the workers engaged by the net owners simply destroy all other living creatures caught in the nets.

Such practice is not only threatening the

ecology and biodiversity in the area, but also causing a decline in fish population in the rivers.

Besides, locals who depend on fishing for their livelihoods have been struggling immensely to provide for their families through alternative means.

According to the Protection and Conservation of Fish Act, 1950, it is a punishable offence to set up any structure that obstructs flow of a river.

Prof Dr Md Shahab Uddin, dean of Faculty of Fisheries at Sylhet Agricultural University, said fish fry and aquatic life are being destroyed due to the unabated netting.

"If this is not stopped right now, the reserve of indigenous varieties of fish will decrease to a drastic level."

A number of villagers requesting anonymity said Nine Mandori Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Sheikh Shamsul, also former vice president of Awami League's Habiganj district unit; Anwar Khan, Arab Ali, Juber Ahmed, Shamsul Haque and Yunus Khan with the help of several others have are behind the illegal fishing in the Ratna and Shutki rivers in the upazila.

Fisherman Sadek Mia from Bhatipara village said, "Most of the villagers living by the river depend on fishing. But some influential people have illegally set up nets with bamboo structures at around 20 different points of the rivers, depriving the villagers of their livelihood."

Hasan Mia, also a fisherman from the same village, said, "The nets are causing obstruction to the river's natural flow. Moreover, all sorts of fish and aquatic animals, including frogs and snakes, are dying after getting trapped in the nets. Only a few years ago, there used to be a plenty of fish in the rivers. But now, the number has fallen sharply."

Although the authorities were informed on numerous occasions, they did not take any action against the influential people responsible for the illegal act, he alleged.

Asked about the illegal structures in the rivers, UP Chairman Sheikh Shamsul denied any involvement.

Meanwhile, Juber Ahmed, refuting the allegation raised against him, said, "I am not involved in [setting up] the bamboo enclosures [in the rivers]. Rather, I buy fish

from fishermen and sell it to others."

Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon in Habiganj, alleged that although the illegal activities have been going on for quite some time, the authorities concerned seem to be reluctant in taking any action against the offenders.

Local fishermen are being deprived of their livelihood, while local species of fish and other aquatic animals are going extinct due to the mindless act, said Imdadul Hossain Khan, general secretary of Baniachong Press Club.

Contacted, Baniachong Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mamun Khandakar said some of the structures in the Shutki river could not be removed due to stay orders from the court.

He also said they would soon take necessary action against the people who built the other obstructions in the Shutki and Ratna rivers.

ML Saikat, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Habiganj, said the obstructions in the Ratna and Shutki would eventually be removed under the ongoing drives of the government against river encroachers.

Croplands under water as canal blocked for fish cultivation

Farmers worried as Boro cultivation on 1500 bighas hampered

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Boro cultivation on around 1500 bighas of land is hampered due to overflowing of Majdia beel (waterbody) as a consequence of building an embankment at the mouth of Sonalidanga canal in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah.

The 1440-bigha beel touching Badurgachha, Mahishhati, Badedehi, Majdia and Sonalidanga villages is under Barobazar 9 No union in Kaliganj.

Locals said Barobazar union parishad (UP) chairman Abul Kalam Azad, and his brothers, who are cultivating fish at Majdia beel for several years, built embankment at the mouth of Sonalidanga canal in March last year, impeding flowing down of water from the beel through the canal.

Consequently, overflowing of the waterbody keeps 1500 bighas of cultivable

land in the area inundated.

Villagers dare not protest as Abul Kalam Azad, also secretary of union unit of Awami League, is an influential man.

"I grow crops on my 28 bighas of land beside the waterbody. But this year I will not be able to cultivate Boro paddy there as all the land is under water due to building of the embankment at the mouth of Sonalidanga canal," said a farmer of Majdia village, seeking anonymity.

The local administration should take immediate steps to remove the embankment so that hundreds of farmers of five villages can cultivate Boro paddy, he said.

A good number of farmers echoed the same.

"I took loan from a local NGO and had plans to repay it after selling the Boro paddy that I would grow on my three bighas of land beside the waterbody. Now I am worried as the land is under water," said a farmer from

Jaganathpur village.

UP chairman Abul Kalam Azad could not be reached for his version as nobody received his cell phone when this correspondent called several times.

Demanding steps to remove the embankment to save them from losses, local farmers submitted a petition with hundreds of signatures to Jhenidah deputy commissioner (DC) on December 4 last year and the DC asked the upazila administration to see the matter.

Kaliganj Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Bhupali Rani Sarkar said, "Following direction from the higher authority, I visited the spot and learnt that a case is pending with the court. And so, nothing can be done regarding the matter at this moment."

Contacted, Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Subarna Rani Shaha said she will take action if the stakeholders approach her.



Embankment built at the mouth of Sonalidanga canal in Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila impedes flowing down of water from the adjacent Majdia beel, eventually inundating a large area of croplands in the area.

PHOTO: AZIBORRAHMAN

Orphan tortured by employer on theft charge

UNB, Laxmipur

Police on Monday detained two people in connection with a case for torturing a boy, tying him to an electric pole, on theft charge on Saturday.

The law enforcers arrested Rashed, a leather shop owner in Laxmipur municipality area, and one of his accomplices from Banchhanagar area the district town on Monday evening. Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station AKM Azizur Rahman said.

Earlier on Saturday, the 12-year-old victim, Nirab Hossain, son of late Kiran Hossain of the municipality area, was accused by his employer Rashed on theft charge.

Later, Rashed and his men tortured the orphan boy inhumanly by tying him to an electric pole. They also placed a garland of shoes around his neck.

Nirab, however, denied the allegation of theft and said he had secretly taken the amount equal to his wages as the owner wasn't paying his dues.

A video clip showing the boy being tortured inhumanly went viral on Facebook, causing a huge public outcry across the country.

Locals said, since losing both his

parents, Nirab was being brought up by his maternal grandmother and the boy used to work at Rashed's shop to make ends meet.

On Saturday afternoon, Rashed accused Nirab of stealing and the former along with his two accomplices tied the minor boy to a nearby electric pole and beat him mercilessly.

They also placed the garland of shoes around Nirab's neck and made him walk through the locality before handing him over to Sadar Police Station.

But moments later, they took the boy back from the police station and arranged an arbitration meeting with village elders on Sunday to settle the issue.

The arbitrators, whose motives were not clear, found the boy guilty and fined him Tk 30,000.

Obviously unable to do so, when his grandmother refused to pay the fine they started torturing the boy again.

Eventually he was rescued by police and admitted to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital.

Contacted, Rashed said they boy stole money from his shop and the arbitration found him guilty.

OC said a case was filed over the incident.

No EVM in city polls

FROM PAGE 16

are slated for February 1.

"I have handed a letter to the CEC during a meeting," BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

He went to the EC to hold a meeting with the CEC to place the party's demand for cancelling results of recently held Chattogram-8 by-polls and holding fresh elections. The party brought allegations of vote rigging by using EVMs.

The BNP is opposing the use of EVM in any election. The opposition became stronger after the Election Commission announced the schedule of Dhaka city corporation polls on December 22.

BNP leaders on several occasions termed the EVM "a tool for robbing votes".

In the letter, Fakhru said ineffectiveness of EVM was proved during the Chattogram-8 by polls on January 13.

Media reported that the EVM's ballot unit was still insecure, he said, adding that people would not be able to exercise their voting rights until the EC ensured a transparent and fair voting system.

"The Election Commission still has a chance to prove that it can hold free and fair elections in the upcoming city polls. Taking ineffectiveness of the EVM into consideration, cancel the use of EVM in the polls and take a step to hold the elections with traditional ballot papers," Fakhru suggested.

Briefing reporters after the meeting with the CEC, Amir Khasru said they were worried that ruling Awami League men would take control of polling stations.

"The country's people will lose their rights to elect their representatives in parliament and local government bodies, if the Election Commission does not cancel their decision to use the EVM," he added.



A farm worker sprays pesticide in a potato field at Yakubpur village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, in an attempt to minimise the effect of late blight disease.

PHOTO: STAR

ADVERSE WEATHER IN TWO N-DISTS

Late blight attack worries potato growers

Farmers in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh struggling to save their potato plants from outbreak of the disease

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Potato growers in two northern districts -- Thakurgaon and Panchagarh -- are struggling a lot to save their potato plants and worried about the yield of the winter vegetable this season as the ongoing adverse weather have caused the outbreak of late blight disease in many areas.

Late blight, locally known as patamora rog, is a fungal disease, Deputy Director at Thakurgaon Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said, adding that if immediate steps are not taken, leaves of the affected plants turn blackish and die shortly after.

The ongoing prolonged cold and dense fog in addition with fluctuation of temperature during day and night caused the outbreak of late blight in some potato fields, he said.

"To check the outbreak of the disease, we are suggesting the farmers to spray two grams of Mencozeb or Metalaxyl medicine mixed with one litre of water in their affected potato fields once a week," he said.

He said the situation is still under control and it would improve once the weather condition improves.

During a visit to Yakubpur, Farabari, Chameshwari, Baragaon and Bhulli Kumerpur villages in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, and Moidandighi, Sipaipara and Sakoa villages in Panchagarh's Boda upazila this correspondent saw many potato fields attacked with the fungal disease and affected farmers were spraying medicines to save their potato plants.

A number of farmers said frequent use of medicine adds more money to their production cost.

"I cultivated potato on five bigha

of land spending Tk 1.5 lakh this season. But nearly one-fourth of the plants already died due to the fungal attack. As per the experts' advice I am now spraying medicine in my potato field in a bid to save the remaining crop," farmer Nur Jamal of Yakubpur village said.

Jamal said he had spent Tk 1.3 lakh in potato cultivation and has expressed fear that the production may drop this season.


Another grower Mohammad Akbar of the same village echoed the same.

According to DAE officials, 25,030 hectares of land has been brought under potato cultivation against the target of 23,528 hectares in Thakurgaon this season while 9,920 hectares has been cultivated against the target of 8,531 hectares in Panchagarh.



People of all ages join hands to repair this three kilometre road in Lengura union in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila yesterday. They took the initiative after repeated appeals to the authorities concerned fell on deaf ears.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়

প্রধান কার্যালয়

মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৬/২০২০
তারিখ: ০৬ মার্চ, ১৪২৬
২০ জানুয়ারী, ২০২০

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যসভায় বিভিন্ন ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে সমন্বিতভাবে নিম্নে বর্ণিত সংখ্যক শূন্য পদসমূহ প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে পূরণের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে Online এ দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক	শিরোনাম	বিবরণ																
১.	পদের নাম	'সিনিয়র অফিসার' (২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক)																
২.	পদ সংখ্যা	৭৭১টি [সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ (২৬৪ টি), জনতা ব্যাংক লিঃ (১০৯টি), রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (২১১টি), রাজশাহী কৃষি উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক (১১৩টি), বাংলাদেশ হাউসবিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন (০৮টি), ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (৩০টি) ও কর্মসংস্থান ব্যাংক (০৬টি)]																
৩.	বেতন স্কেল	জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ এর টাকা ২২০০০-২৩১০০-২৪২৬০... -৪৮১২০-৫০৫৩০-৫৩০৬০ স্কেল এবং তৎসহ নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা।																
৪.	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	ক) স্বীকৃত কোনো বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা চার বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক/স্নাতক(সম্মান)/সমমান ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে। খ) মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/সমমান এবং তদুর্ধ্ব পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষাসমূহে ন্যূনতম ০২(দুই) টিতে প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণী থাকতে হবে। প্রোভি পদ্ধতির ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারী নীতিমালা প্রযোজ্য হবে। গ) কোন পর্যায়েই ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ঘ) প্রোভি পদ্ধতিতে প্রকাশিত ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৬/২০০৯ ও ০২/০৩/২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/৫-১(অংশ)/৫৮২ এবং শিম/শাঃ১১/১৯-১/২০০৭/১৭৪ অনুযায়ী বর্তমান প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ফেরমত, সিজিপিএ এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম ও ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হবেঃ (১) এস.এস.সি বা সমমান এবং এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে- <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব</td> <td>প্রথম বিভাগ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম</td> <td>দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ</td> </tr> </table> (২) অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সিজিপিএ এর ক্ষেত্রে- <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">অর্জিত সিজিপিএ</th> <th>সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ</th> </tr> <tr> <td>৪.০০ পর্যন্ত স্কেলে</td> <td>৫.০০ পর্যন্ত স্কেলে</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব</td> <td>৩.৭৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব</td> <td>প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণি</td> </tr> <tr> <td>২.২৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম</td> <td>২.৮১৩ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম</td> <td>দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি</td> </tr> </table>	জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	প্রথম বিভাগ	জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ	অর্জিত সিজিপিএ		সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ	৪.০০ পর্যন্ত স্কেলে	৫.০০ পর্যন্ত স্কেলে		৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	৩.৭৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণি	২.২৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম	২.৮১৩ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি
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জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ																	
অর্জিত সিজিপিএ		সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ																
৪.০০ পর্যন্ত স্কেলে	৫.০০ পর্যন্ত স্কেলে																	
৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	৩.৭৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণি																
২.২৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম	২.৮১৩ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি																

৫. বয়স (০১/০৭/২০১৯ তারিখে) : ক) মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থী ব্যতীত সকল প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর।
খ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর।

৬. আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও ফি প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০৪/০২/২০২০ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।

৭. Tracking Page সফর শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০৬/০২/২০২০ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।

৮. আবেদন ফি এর পরিমাণ পরীক্ষার ফি অফেরতযোগ্য টাঃ ২০০/- (টাকা দুইশত মাত্র) যা ডাচ বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর Payment Gateway 'রকেট' এর মাধ্যমে প্রদান করতে হবে।

৯. আবেদন পদ্ধতিঃ

ক. **Online Application Form:** শুধুমাত্র বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (<https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) -এর Online Application Form পূরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। Online এ আবেদন দাখিলের সময় ফর্ম পূরণ করার নিয়ম ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী ওয়েবসাইটেই পাওয়া যাবে।

খ. প্রার্থীর বিবরণঃ প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম এসএসসি অথবা সমমানের সনদে যেভাবে লেখা আছে Online আবেদনে তিক সেভাবে লিখতে হবে।

গ. প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানাঃ প্রার্থীর ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌরসভার মেয়র/ ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত জাতীয়তাসনদে উল্লিখিত স্থায়ী ঠিকানা প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হিসেবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। অনলাইন আবেদনে উল্লিখিত প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা বর্ণিত পদের ক্ষেত্রে কোনভাবেই পরিবর্তন যোগ্য নয়। তবে অববিহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন দাখিলের পক্ষে বিবাহবন্ধনে আবদ্ধ হলে যথাযথ প্রমাণ সাপেক্ষে স্বামীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানার অনুকূলে নিজের স্থায়ী ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন করতে পারবেন।

ঘ. ছবি (Photo)ঃ প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত স্থানে 600x600 pixel এর কম বা বেশী নয় এবং file size 100 KB এর বেশী নয় এরূপ মাপের অনধিক তিন মাস পূর্বে তোলা প্রার্থীর রঙিন ছবি (সাদা ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ড সঞ্চিত) scan করে আপলোড করতে হবে। ছবি তোলার সময় মুখ ও কানের উপর আবরণ রাখা যাবে না। সাদাকালো ছবি এবং Informal ছবি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

ঙ. স্বাক্ষর (Signature)ঃ Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত স্থানে 300x80 pixel এর কম বা বেশী নয় এবং file size 60 KB এর বেশী নয় এরূপ মাপের প্রার্থীর নিজের স্বাক্ষর scan করে আপলোড করতে হবে। আপলোডকৃত প্রার্থীর স্বাক্ষর অবশ্যই সাদা কাগজের উপর কাগো কালিতে প্রদত্ত হতে হবে।

চ. অর্জিত ডিগ্রীর ফলাফলের তারিখঃ Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত ঘরে পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত সংশ্লিষ্ট ডিগ্রীর ফলাফল প্রকাশের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

ছ. বিদেশী ডিগ্রীধারী প্রার্থীঃ প্রার্থী 'O' Level ও 'A' Level পাশ হলে দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) এবং বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ডিগ্রী প্রাপ্ত হলে দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন/শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রী ও ফলাফলের (শ্রেণি/ বিভাগ/জিপিএ/সিজিপিএ উল্লেখসহ) তথ্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় চেকিং বোর্ডে অবশ্যই উপস্থাপন করতে হবে। অন্যথায় মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

জ. প্রতিষ্ঠান পছন্দের ক্রমঃ Online আবেদনে প্রার্থীগণকে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত প্রত্যেক প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিবেচনায় নিম্নে প্রতিষ্ঠান পছন্দের ক্রম নির্ধারণ করতে হবে। চূড়ান্তভাবে মনোনীত প্রার্থীগণকে তাদের অর্জিত মেধাক্রম এবং Online আবেদনে উল্লিখিত পছন্দেরক্রম অনুসারে শূন্য পদ থাকা সাপেক্ষে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানে পদায়ন করা হবে। অনলাইন আবেদন দাখিলের পর আবেদনকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান পছন্দের ক্রম কোনো অবস্থাতেই পরিবর্তনযোগ্য নয়।

ঝ. CV ID No. গ্রহণঃ বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে ইতোপূর্বে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীদের বিদ্যমান CV ID No. এবং Password ব্যবহার করে Online Application Form পূরণ করতে হবে। নতুন আবেদনকারীগণ ওয়েবসাইট (<https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) এর মাধ্যমে Online Application Form এর প্রয়োজনীয় ঘরগুলো পূরণ করলে একটি CV ID No. এবং Password প্রাপ্ত হবেন। প্রাপ্ত CV ID No. এর ১ম অংশ [হাইফেনের(-) পূর্বের অংশ] আবেদন ফি প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে ব্যবহৃত হবে।

ঞ. Job ID No : বর্ণিত পদের Job ID No. 10084 আবেদন ফি প্রদানের সময় নির্ধারিত স্থানে ব্যবহার করতে হবে।

ট. আবেদন ফি প্রদান পদ্ধতি : আবেদন ফি জমা দেয়ার পদ্ধতি সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত জানতে <https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd/onlineapp/rocketprepay.pdf> ওয়েবসাইটে ভিজিট করতে হবে। Prepaid পদ্ধতিতে একজন আবেদনকারী একেট অথবা নিজের একাউন্ট এর মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত Job ID No এবং প্রার্থীর CV ID No. এর ১ম অংশ [হাইফেনের(-) পূর্বের অংশ] এর বিপরীতে আবেদন ফি প্রদান করবেন। আবেদন ফি প্রদান করলে প্রার্থী জমাকৃত ফি এর বিপরীতে একটি Txn ID নম্বর পাবেন।

ঠ. Tracking Page সফরঃ ফি প্রদানের পর বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইটে সংরক্ষিত প্রার্থীর Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত ঘরে Txn ID নম্বরটি বসালে ফি প্রদানের verification সাপেক্ষে তাঁকে একটি Tracking ID No. প্রদান করা হবে। Tracking ID No. প্রাপ্ত হলেই প্রার্থীর আবেদন যথাযথভাবে সম্পন্ন হয়েছে বলে বিবেচিত হবে। Tracking ID No. সঞ্চিত Tracking Page টি ভবিষ্যতে ব্যবহারের জন্য প্রিন্ট করে যথাযথভাবে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। কোনো অবস্থাতেই Tracking Page এর Duplicate Copy সরবরাহ করা হবে না।

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য: শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও নির্ধারিত ফি প্রদান করতঃ Tracking Page টি হার্ডকপি আকারে সংরক্ষণ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

- Online Application Form এ প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী জেলা, জন্ম তারিখ, ছবি, স্বাক্ষরসহ অন্যান্য তথ্য অভ্যন্তর সতর্কতার সাথে নিরুদ্বন্দ্বভাবে নিজে পূরণ করতে হবে। Online Application Form এ প্রদত্ত সার্বিক তথ্য, ছবি, স্বাক্ষর ইত্যাদি verification সাপেক্ষে প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের নির্বাচন করা হবে।
- প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র ও নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষার তারিখ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি যথাসময়ে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট ও দৈনিক জাতীয় পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ করা হবে। উল্লেখ্য, প্রার্থীদের অবহিতকরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের পক্ষ হতে এসএমএস/ইমেইল/ফোন/পত্র প্রেরণ বা অন্য কোনো মাধ্যমে কোনো প্রকার যোগাযোগ করা হবে না।
- প্রার্থীদেরকে নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীদেরকে Online আবেদনের সময় কোনো কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণকে অনলাইন আবেদনে প্রদত্ত প্রতিটি তথ্যের স্বপক্ষে যথাযথ সনদ/প্রত্যয়নপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার দিন জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। Online Application Form এ প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত তথ্যের সঠিকতা যাচাই করতে কোনো substantive ক্রেডিট থাকা পড়লে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ থাকবে না। তাছাড়া, মৌখিক পরীক্ষা শেষে প্যানেল প্রশ্নকালে কোনো প্রকার ক্রেডিট পরিপন্থিত হলেও প্রার্থীকে প্যানেলভুক্ত করা হবে না।
- চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীগণ তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বনুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার দিন উক্ত অনুমোদনের কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সংক্রান্ত সরকারী সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা ও অন্যান্য বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগ প্রদান করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

জিপিএ: ৪৮/২০২০-২৪৯

তারিখ: ২১/০১/২০২০

ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হেরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অকিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-

(মোহাম্মদ আলী)

মহাব্যবস্থাপক ও সদস্য সচিব
ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি

GD- 158



Microcredit Regulatory Authority

Gulfeshan Plaza (6th floor), 8 Shahid Sangbadik Selina Pervin Sarak
Baro Mogbazar, Ramna, Dhaka-1217

Ref No: 53.04.0000.002.07.005.20.240 Date:- 21/01/2020

Invitation for e-Tender (Goods)

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

Tender ID. No	Name of Tender	Tender Document last selling / downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
411510	Procurement of Cleaning items, cookerries & other Stationeries	09-Feb-2020 at 11:00 AM	09-Feb-2020 at 12:00 PM

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and e-GP help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Corrigendum for e-Tender

Tender ID. No	Name of Tender	Previously Circulated	To be Replaced
398216	Procurement of Computer & related accessories /Office Equipment/ IT Equipment.	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time: 23-Jan-2020 at 12:00 PM Last Date & Time for Tender Security Submission: 23-Jan-2020 at 11:59 AM	27-Jan-2020 at 12:00 PM 27-Jan-2020 at 11:59 AM

*Amendment on Item No. 20 (Description of Item), Form e-PG2-3 & Form e-PG2-2A.

Other Terms & conditions of the Tender will remain unchanged.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and e-GP help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sd/-
(Amalendu Mukherjee)
Executive Vice Chairman
Microcredit Regulatory Authority
Fax : 02-8333257
email: evc@mra.gov.bd



Opener Soumya Sarkar (L) and all-rounder Mahedi Hasan joined the last training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday knowing that the next generation must step up if Bangladesh are to come away with positives from their upcoming tour of top-ranked T20I side Pakistan.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Tamim and I must step up'

SPORTS REPORTER



Following a promising performance in the three-match T20I series in India, the Bangladesh Cricket Board kept faith in Mahmudullah Riyad to lead the Tigers in the upcoming three-match T20I series against Pakistan.

Normally a calm and composed character, Mahmudullah seemed positive about his captaincy in the shortest format as the 33-year-old walked in confidently for the pre-tour press conference ahead of Bangladesh's chartered flight to Pakistan today.

As expected, security concerns once again dominated talks ahead of cricket itself and Mahmudullah tried to play according to the basics and focused mostly on the game.

"Initially it was tough [deciding to tour Pakistan] as there were concerns from my family. But I spoke to them and they were finally agreed so from that point I am assured that my family won't feel stressed because Pakistan will give us top security. But I also support Mushfiqur Rahim's decision as there are always issues with family. There can't be anything more important than family for a cricketer or a normal person," Mahmudullah told reporters yesterday.

In the absence of Shakib Al Hasan, the BCB is now considering Mahmudullah the captain at least for T20Is. Although the board has been naming captains on a series-by-series basis, Mahmudullah believes it will help him to plan accordingly if he is given captaincy on a long-term basis.

Even head coach Russell Domingo said that he preferred Mahmudullah as

T20 captain so it will be important for Bangladesh if they are to prepare for the upcoming ICC World T20 later this year.

Apart from Shakib, Bangladesh will also miss the vast experience of Mushfiqur in Pakistan and Mahmudullah said that he and Tamim Iqbal would have to play crucial roles on the tour.

"I personally feel that Tamim and I will have added responsibility on this tour. Tamim's experience in the top order will be vital. He was in good touch during the



BPL. I personally would want to fulfil my responsibilities and I will try to bat till the end. There might be changes in the batting order for some players but I hope everyone will be able to cope," he said.

The all-rounder was also hopeful about the younger cricketers, saying that he was confident with his team and hoping that newcomers would apply themselves in Pakistan.

MAHMUDULLAH'S KEYS FOR PAKISTAN TOUR

FAST BOWLING VARIETY

Although it is the first time in a while that Bangladesh will not have a left-arm spinner in the side, Mahmudullah believes that the variety in his fast bowling department is going to help the Tigers. The likes of Rubel Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shafiqul Islam and Hasan Mahmud have all performed well in the recently concluded BPL.

THE NEXT GENERATION TO TAKE THE BATON

It seems that Bangladesh are not so far from a big transitional period with the Big Five in the final stages of their careers. According to Mahmudullah, the likes of Soumya Sarkar, Afif Hossain, Naim Sheikh and others need to create healthy competition in the team. Mahmudullah also informed that the board had already started chalking out plans for the upcoming World T20 in October this year.

BANK ON THEIR OWN STRENGTHS

Bangladesh are ranked number nine in the T20I rankings and a series against the format's top-ranked side on foreign soil will be a huge challenge. Although Pakistan lost their recent T20I series against Sri Lanka, according to Mahmudullah said it would be important for the Tigers to bank on their own strengths and not think of the opponents. Inspiration can be drawn from Bangladesh's recent performance in India, where the visiting Tigers displayed some good cricket despite losing the series 2-1.

Tigresses to face India A in final

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's team will play the Women's T20 Quadrangular Series against the India B Women's team in Patna today.

The Tigresses had secured a win over India A Women, but succumbed to a six-wicket defeat in the group phase against their opponents in today's final.

They won the do-or-die fixture against Thailand by a narrow margin after making an easy chase look difficult.

Having restricted Thailand to 120 for 3 in 20 overs, Bangladesh reached 91 for two on the back of Shamima Sultana's 37-ball 38 before they slumped to 112 for 8, losing six wickets inside 18 deliveries.

Only a gallant 13-ball 28 from Fahima Khatun in the end saw them secure a two-wicket victory and a place in the final and they will be hoping for a better performance this time around.

Hasan hatricket seals clinical win for U-19s

ICC



Bangladesh are on the cusp of earning a place in the Super League Quarterfinals of the Under-19 World Cup after a comfortable victory over Scotland at the Witrind Oval in Potchefstroom yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Rakibul Hasan took a stunning hatricket as Bangladesh claimed their second win of Group C by seven wickets to move closer to the knockout stages.

Their place in the next stage would be assured if Pakistan beat Zimbabwe today -- a result which would also see Pakistan progress.

The Scots were bowled out for 89 -- with Hassan finishing with figures of four for 20 including the scalps of Kess Sajjad, Lyle Robertson and Charlie Peet in successive balls to take the Scots from 5-67 to 8-67 in the 24th over.

Bangladesh reached the target within 17 overs, although Scotland did force a fight back with a sterling bowling performance from seamer Sean Fischer-Keogh, who took three for 27. However, Mahmudul Hasan Joy's unbeaten 35 steered his side across the line.

The win leaves Bangladesh top of Group C with four points and captain Akbar Ali

was pleased with his side's clinical display in the tournament so far, having opened the event with a nine-wicket win over Zimbabwe on Saturday.

"It feels good to win back to back matches and gives us some confidence heading to our next game against Pakistan. We will try to beat them and look at getting to the next round having finished at the top

I feel very great today after getting the first hatricket of my career. My teammates were also excited.

RAKIBUL HASAN
HATRICK HERO

of the group," said Ali.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Scotland Under-19s: 89 all out in 30.3 overs (Uzzair 2-13; Shoriful 2-13; Tanzim 2-26; Rakibul 4-20)

Bangladesh Under-19s: 91-3 in 16.4 overs (Parvez 25; Mahmudul 35 not out; Hridoy 17 not out; Sean 3-27)

Result: Bangladesh Under-19s won by seven wickets.



Hatricket hero Rakibul Hasan (R) celebrates with teammates after one of his four wickets during an ICC Under-19 World Cup group-stage match against Scotland at Potchefstroom yesterday.

PHOTO: ICC



Indian cricketers pose for a selfie prior to their departure for New Zealand yesterday. They will play a five-match T20I series from January 24 followed by a three-match ODI series.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Gibson to take over as Tigers' bowling coach

SPORTS REPORTER



Ottis Gibson is set to take over as the Bangladesh national team's fast bowling coach, sources revealed yesterday.

The former West Indies fast bowler will join the team in Lahore during Bangladesh's tour of Pakistan, with the Tigers slated to participate in a three-match T20I series.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Gibson have already agreed terms and it was learned that the only remaining formality was inking the deal.

Champaka Ramanayake, the High-Performance team coach, was supposed to travel with the Tigers to Pakistan but with Gibson now accompanying the team, Champaka will remain with the HP side.

Information on the length of Gibson's contract with the BCB is yet to be known. The position of fast bowling coach has been vacant since Charl Langeveldt left for the South Africa job in December last year.

Gibson worked as the head coach of West Indies from 2010 to 2014 and the Barbadian has also worked as fast bowling coach in England in the past.

The 50-year-old was in talks with the BCB for the vacant post during the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League, where he worked as head coach for the Cumilla Warriors.

South African Nantie Hayward, who had worked with Sylhet Thunder, was also in talks with the BCB for the job.



SHORT CORNER

Dhawan out of NZ T20I series

India opener Shikhar Dhawan has been ruled out of the five-match T20I series against New Zealand due to the shoulder injury he suffered during the third ODI against Australia.

Sanju Samson can be a possible replacement for Dhawan along with Prithvi Shaw. Suryakumar Yadav can also be an option for the selectors.

The T20I series begins on January 24, and will be followed by a series of three ODIs from February 5.

Squad: Virat Kohli (C), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Navdeep Saini, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur.

-- AGENCIES

De Kock named SA ODI captain

Quinton de Kock was on Tuesday named as South Africa's one-day international captain as part of a long term transition plan.

His first assignment will be to lead the team in a three-match series against World Cup champions England, starting in Cape Town on February 4.

Squad: Quinton de Kock (captain), Temba Bavuma, Bjorn Fortuin, Beuran Hendricks, Reeza Hendricks, Sisanda Magala, Janneman Malan, David Miller, Andile Phehlukwayo, Lungi

Ngidi, Tabraiz Shamsi, Lutho Sipamla, Jon-Jon Smuts, Rassie van der Dussen, Kyle Verreynne.

--AFP

Rabada surprised by ban

South Africa paceman Kagiso Rabada says he was surprised to be sanctioned for his exuberant celebration of Joe Root's dismissal in the third Test against England but knows he cannot keep letting his team mates, and himself, down.

Rabada was handed a one-match ban by the International Cricket Council, ruling him out of the last match of the four-Test series, which



starts in Johannesburg on Friday.

His absence is a serious blow to South Africa's hopes of levelling the series after a heavy defeat in the third test at Port Elizabeth on Monday left them trailing 2-1.

"It was something I didn't expect," Rabada said on Tuesday.

"Whether it was the right thing to ban me or the wrong thing, the reality is that I'm banned."

-- REUTERS

Mathews steadies SL reply

AFP, Harare



Captain Angelo Mathews struck an unbeaten 92 as Sri Lanka posted 295 for four at the close of the third day of the first Test against Zimbabwe on Tuesday, putting his side in the driving seat at the Harare Sports Club.

Sri Lanka trail Zimbabwe's first innings total of 358 by 63 runs, but have six wickets in hand to pass that on day four and leave

their hosts likely needing to bat out their second innings to save the Test on what is a slow wicket.

Mathews has taken 253 balls on his way to what he hopes will be a 10th Test century and first in over a year.

SCORES IN BRIEF
ZIMBABWE: First innings 358

SRI LANKA: First innings 295 for 4 (Mathews 92 not out, Mendis 80, De Silva 42 not out, Karunaratne 37; Nyauchi 2-38)

What to WATCH

BTV & RTV
Bangabandhu Gold Cup
Semifinal
Palestine v Seychelles
Live from 5:00 pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Manchester Utd v Burnley
Live from 2:15 am (Thursday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League

Tottenham v Norwich City
Live from 1:30 am (Thursday)
SONY SIX & TEN 2
Australian Open
Live from 6:00 am & 2:30 pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangabandhu Gold Cup
Semifinal
Palestine v Seychelles
Time: 5:00 pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

INSIGNE SAYS SORRY TO YOUNG FAN

Napoli captain Lorenzo Insigne has apologised to a nine-year-old fan after the team's dismal performance in a 2-0 home defeat by Fiorentina on Saturday made the boy burst into tears. The image of the tearful fan with a Napoli scarf appeared during the broadcast of the match and was widely posted on social media, prompting some supporters to suggest it be hung on the dressing-room wall to motivate the team. "I'm sorry that the result made you cry," Insigne said in a video to the fan, named as Mario, which was posted on several Italian websites. "We promise that from now until the end we will have a great championship and you will smile with us again. We are waiting for you at the stadium. A big hug."



—REUTERS



Former champion Maria Sharapova of Russia looks down and out during her first-round defeat against Donna Vekic of Croatia in the Australian Open in Melbourne on Tuesday. (Inset) World No. 1 Rafael Nadal of Spain, however, was in best of forms as he dispatched Hugo Dellien of Bolivia in straight sets to book a second-round berth.

PHOTO: AFP

Visual pollution and the Grand Slim

AFP, Melbourne



Stomach for a fight

Britain's Dan Evans insists he's in good nick after coming through a five-set epic at the Australian Open, patting his stomach in celebration in a nod to the doubters.

Ahead of the tournament his ATP Cup captain Tim Henman suggested Evans lose weight and "miss a few meals" if he wants to go far at the Grand Slam.

"It was just a bit of a joke to the guys in the corner," Evans told reporters of the tummy pat, after beating American Mackenzie McDonald 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3.

"I'm in good shape -- there's no question about that. I've got strong legs and a good set of lungs."

'Visual pollution'

Grigor Dimitrov has never been afraid of making a fashion statement, and his outlandish tracksuit at the Australian Open certainly turned a few heads.

The Bulgarian strutted on court in a dark purple number with random yellow shapes, an outfit that sent social media into overdrive with one punter calling it "visual pollution" and another suggesting he forget to take off his pyjamas.

Dimitrov said he likes being different. "I love colours... I love experimenting as well

and when I'm out there, I don't really think that much of the outfit. But it's so good to feel comfortable."

Cheers from the crowd

Australia's John Millman is all for rowdy spectators getting in the mood with a drink -- or three or four.

The 30-year-old defeated France's Ugo Humbert in four sets and said afterwards that the backing of the vocal home crowd was something he "loved" and "needs".

One of the sponsors in Melbourne is a Chinese liquor, and that's just fine with Millman.

"I know that the Chinese one's a really strong alcohol so let's feed the crowd," he said, before adding quickly: "I don't encourage binge-drinking, guys, so please don't quote me on that."

Generous to a fault

Most players aren't happy about serving double faults but they're no problem for Belinda Bencic, who has pledged to donate to Australia's bushfire relief each time.

The Swiss world number seven sent down four doubles in her win over Anna Schmiedlova, clocking up US\$800 for the cause after deadly wildfires torched thousands of homes.

"It's great. I could have done more, but I didn't," she said.

French player denies disrespect

REUTERS, Undated

French player Elliot Benchetrit on Tuesday denied having showed a lack of respect to a ball girl at the Australian Open after asking her to peel a banana for him during a qualifications match last weekend.

The umpire told Benchetrit the girl did not have to do this for him, but the player had an explanation for the unusual request.

"I had put some powder on my hands to stop sweating," Benchetrit told reporters after his 6-2 6-0 6-3 defeat in the first round in Melbourne against Japan's Yuichi Sugita.

"The bananas are very hard to peel here because they don't have a stem. I asked the ball kid nicely because she had already peeled one for me at the beginning of the match," he explained.

"The umpire intervened and told me: 'She's not your slave, you cannot ask her that.' He said 'Slave!'"

Nadal sizzles in pink as Sharapova hits all-time low

AFP, Melbourne

Top seed Rafael Nadal turned on the style as he launched his bid for a record-equalling 20th Major title at the Australian Open on Tuesday, but falling star Maria Sharapova hit a career low.

Australia's Nick Kyrgios also cantered into the second round, but fourth seed Daniil Medvedev had to fight his way past American Frances Tiafoe in four sets.

Nadal, one shy of Roger Federer's Grand Slam mark, dropped only five games as he swatted aside Bolivia's Hugo Dellien 6-2, 6-3, 6-0 in just over two hours at a sunny Rod Laver Arena.

"It was a positive start," said the reigning Roland Garros and US Open champion, wearing a bright pink singlet and matching trainers.

"What you want in the first round is just to win, and it's better if it's in straight sets."

He joins Federer and defending champion Novak Djokovic in round two as the Big Three look to tighten a stranglehold that has brought them all but one of the last 14 Australian Open titles.

Nadal, the first player to be world number one in three different decades, is still thriving at 33 but it's a different story for five-time Grand Slam winner Sharapova.

The 32-year-old, playing on a wildcard as she wrestles with a shoulder injury, lost 3-6, 4-6 to Croatian 19th seed Donna Vekic, making her an opening-round loser at three straight Grand Slams for the first time.

The future looks uncertain for the former world number one, who won Wimbledon when she was just 17 but has not reached a Grand Slam final since she lifted the 2014 French Open trophy.

"I can speak about my struggles and the things that I've gone through with my shoulder, but it's not really in my character to," Sharapova said.

"I was there, I put myself out there (playing). As tough as it was, I finished the match -- it wasn't the way that I wanted."

Britain's Johanna Konta, a two-time Slam semi-finalist, also fell at the first hurdle as she battles to overcome a knee problem, losing 4-6, 2-6 to unseeded Tunisian Ons Jabeur.

On a bumper day of 88 first-round matches, after rain wiped out half of Monday's schedule, former US Open champion Marin Cilic and Milos Raonic both moved safely through.

Italy's Fabio Fognini, two sets down against America's Reilly Opelka when their match was suspended on Monday, returned to win it in five after a stormy encounter when both players argued furiously with the umpire.

A new star emerged in 18-year-old Italian Jannik Sinner, last year's NextGen champion, who earned his first Grand Slam victory against Australia's Max Purcell.

Australia's Kyrgios, who has spearheaded fundraising efforts for the country's deadly bushfire disaster, kept his notorious temper in check despite being taken to two tie-breaks in a 6-2, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7-1) win over Lorenzo Sonego of Italy.

"I feel super-comfortable, you guys are the best. I feel the support... I am ready to go again," Kyrgios told the crowd.

Medvedev, the narrow loser to Nadal in September's US Open final, dropped the second set against Tiafoe before recovering to win 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Austria's Dominic Thiem, who has reached the last two French Open finals, went through in straight sets against Adrian Mannarino, while 2014 champion Stan Wawrinka needed four to get past Damir Dzumhur.

There was disappointment for France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the 2008 finalist, when he had to retire with a back injury against Australia's Alexei Popyrin.

Air pollution from the bushfires disrupted the build-up to the year's first Grand Slam, but after Monday's heavy rain the skies were clear and sunny on Tuesday.

AFP, Bagnolet



Kylian Mbappe says he is dreaming of helping Paris Saint-Germain win a first Champions League trophy this year, as well as leading France to the title at Euro 2020 and the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The 21-year-old PSG and France star, a World Cup winner in 2018, was asked what was on his wish list for the new year while launching his charity in the Paris suburbs on Monday.

"It would be a treble of Champions League, European Championship and Olympic Games. That wouldn't be bad," said Mbappe, with a smile.

"That seems unattainable for the time being but I'm going to make sure I fulfil this dream. It would be a proud moment to be able win the first European title for PSG and for our country to keep winning."

Mbappe's charity, "Inspired by KM", was set up to help 98 children -- a nod to his birth year -- between the ages of nine and 16 from various social backgrounds to accomplish "their dreams".

Last month, Mbappe put himself forward for the French team at the Tokyo Olympics, while adding he would not



want to fight his club over taking part in Japan.

"Playing in the Olympics, I don't control everything," he told France Football magazine. "Of course I want to go, but if my club, which is my employer, doesn't want me to go, I won't force a clash."

Palestine oozing confidence

SPORTS REPORTER

Palestine are looking forward to confirming the final berth of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup as the defending champions take on Seychelles in the first semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. The match will get underway at 5:00pm.

Palestine, the top-ranked side in the six-nation tournament, stormed into the last four with wins over Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The side from the Middle East had four days' rest before their fixture against Seychelles, who scraped into the last four due to better goal-difference after playing a 2-2 draw against Mauritius following a 3-1 defeat against group champions Burundi.

Despite being confident about keeping the winning streak intact, Palestine are focused on their own performance rather than thinking much of the opponents.

"Sometimes long rest leads to both positives and negatives, but we are focusing on positive things as we have come here to win the trophy. We watch their [Seychelles] two group matches, but we are focusing only on our team because we have confidence in our players," Palestine coach Makram Daboub said at a pre-match conference at the BFF house yesterday.

Makram's counterpart Ralph Jean Louis was worried about the players' fatigue as they got only one day's rest before the semifinal.

"The players got tired in the late stages of the last game [on Monday]. We have to minimise the fatigue of the players," Louis said. "Palestine are very good technically and tactically and we are wary of them. Hopefully it will be a competitive game."

Young Riyadul out to fill big shoes

SPORTS REPORTER



With scoring always being a cause for concern for the national team, there is now the additional worry in defence ahead of their Bangabandhu Gold Cup's semifinal clash against Burundi as the charges of Jamie Day will be without experienced centre-backs Tapu Barman and Yeasin Khan.

The coach had picked four centre-backs including Tapu, Yeasin along with young Tutul Hossain Badsha and Riyadul Hasan, but only Riyadul will be available for the semifinal as Badsha and Yeasin left the squad with fever while Tapu faces one-match suspension for seeing a red card against Sri Lanka.

The absence of three centre-backs will put Bangladesh in deep trouble against Burundi, who have one of the best attacking forces as they have scored seven goals in two group matches against Mauritius and Seychelles.

But Day, during training yesterday, instead of thinking too much of his own defence, was more focused on how to unsettle the Burundi defence with quick moves to get goals.

After releasing the ball from the centre area, Day shouted one, two, three, four and shot on the target as play was built up through the wings and the forwards finished every move with shots on target.

Three goals against Sri Lanka in the final group match might have given the home side some confidence, but the defence will have to play a key role to ensure the final berth of the tournament after five years. Riyadul is fully confident of taking the responsibility on his shoulders.

"The absence of Tapu and Yeasin bhai is not a worry for us, rather it is challenge for ones who are going to play against Burundi. I am ready to take the responsibility to lead the defence," Riyadul said. "The difference between the national team players is little, so the absence of anyone can hardly be felt but the absence of Tapu bhai and Yeasin bhai is quite something.



Young centre-back Riyadul Hasan (R) watches as Rahmat Mia (L) and Matin Mia vie for the ball during a training session at the Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

I think Rahmat Mia and Bishwanath Ghosh are also playing regularly, so we will not face much trouble."

Following injury to Badsha, Riyadul was given the chance to play alongside Yeasin in the two-match series against Bhutan last September, and the Saif SC defender passed those tests successfully to get chances against Qatar and India in the World Cup Qualifiers in October. The defender impressed all in both games with whole-hearted performances.

"Burundi like to play directly with long ball. Our defenders will try to not concede any goal and keep the slate clean. I know I have more responsibility in absence of two senior players," said Riyadul.

After missing the match against Sri Lanka due to pain on upper side of his left knee, skipper Jamal Bhuiyan yesterday had full training. He was not too worried about the defence.

"Burundi have a strong attacking line-up and they are also physically stronger than us. The coach will see who will be suitable in place of Tapu, who was a vital player for us. We have Raihan Hasan and Manjurur Rahman Manik in reserve," said Jamal.

"We had a training on quick attacks as Burundi players do not run back and their defence is not organised either. If we play like this, we can penetrate them," Jamal said. "I think if we can score first, we can hold the lead because we have the capability of doing that."

WOMEN'S HANDBALL

Ansar win 18th title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar emerged champions in the Bangabandhu 30th National Women's Handball Championship following a 33-25 goals victory against Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

It was overall 18th title for Bangladesh Ansar, who dominated the first half by 16-11 as Khadiza scored highest 11 goals for the winners. Alpana Akter of Ansar was named best player of the championship.

FEDERATION CUP TT

Hamza stuns Manosh in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Mufradul Khayer Hamza became the new champion in men's table tennis singles of the Federation Cup table tennis tournament after beating Manosh Chowdhury in an exciting final at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Hamza came from behind to beat former champion Manosh in 4-3 sets. Manosh had taken the lead by winning the first two sets 11-9, 11-3 but Hamza bounced back to win the next three sets 11-9, 12-10 and 11-9. In the sixth set, Manosh beat Hamza 11-7 to level the tie but the final set went in favour of Hamza, who beat the experienced player 12-10.

In women's singles, Sonom Sultana Soma beat Nowrin Sultana Mahi in 4-2 sets to be crowned champion.



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SHAH CEMENT

Talks on BBIN vehicle deal to resume

Joint Working Group meets next week as Nepal changes mind, decides to join the initiative

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Discussions on the much-talked about sub-regional connectivity initiative -- BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) -- are going to resume after around two years.

A Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) MVA would be held on January 30-31 in New Delhi.

The meeting's purpose is to finalise the BBIN MVA Protocols, namely the Passenger Vehicle Protocol and the Cargo Vehicles Protocol, Sarwar Mahmood, director general (South Asia) of the foreign ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He would lead a Bangladesh delegation at the meeting. The foreign ministry has also called an inter-ministerial meeting today at its Annex Building Conference Room to formulate the position of Bangladesh in preparation for the JWG meeting.

Representatives of ministries and agencies concerned, including the road transport and bridges ministry, home ministry, commerce ministry, Economic Relations Division, National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh Land Port Authority, and Roads and Highways Department, have been asked to join the meeting.

Asked whether officials from Bhutan, which pulled out from the initiative, would join the meeting, Sarwar said, "Details about the JWG meeting would be known after tomorrow's [Wednesday] internal meeting."

The development comes after a trial run of a tri-nation (Bangladesh, India, and Nepal) bus service in April 2018.

Nepal, which was reluctant to the three-nation approach,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Traders have set up temporary shops on the footpath and part of DT Road in Chattogram city's Kadamtali area, obstructing the movement of traffic and pedestrians. Such occupation of footpaths often causes tailbacks. Inset, traders with permanent shops have piled up their products on the footpath.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

AL MP Ismat Ara Sadique passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Ismat Ara Sadique passed away at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 78.

Elected from Jashore-6, Ismat Ara, also the former state minister for public administration, breathed her last around 11:00am while undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospital.

She was admitted to the hospital on January 14, a staff of her residence told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, parliament yesterday unanimously adopted a condolence motion expressing deep sorrow at the demise of the lawmaker.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of the lawmaker.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, Planning

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Impeachment trial of Trump opens in Senate

Democrats accuse Republicans of rigging; president slams 'hoax'

REUTERS, Washington

Democrats yesterday accused the top Senate Republican of rigging US President Donald Trump's impeachment trial with proposed rules that would prevent witnesses from testifying and bar evidence gathered by investigators.



Trump's trial on abuse of power and obstruction of Congress charges began yesterday in the Republican-controlled Senate in a rare use of the constitutional mechanism for ousting a president. The Democratic-led House of Representatives approved the charges last month on a party-line vote.

Senate Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has vowed to coordinate the televised trial with the White House, proposed on Monday rules that would execute a potentially quick trial without new testimony or evidence.

He unveiled a resolution that would give House Democratic prosecutors and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Virus spreads, fear grows

Beijing confirms human transmission of SARS-like virus; death toll hits 6

AFP, Beijing

Asian countries yesterday ramped up measures to block the spread of a new virus as the death toll in China rose to six and the number of cases jumped to almost 300, raising concerns in the middle of a major holiday travel rush.

From Australia to Thailand and as far as Nepal, nations stepped up fever checks of passengers at airports to detect the SARS-like coronavirus, which first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

Fears of a bigger outbreak rose after a prominent expert from China's National Health Commission confirmed late Monday that the virus can be passed between people.

Authorities previously said there was no obvious evidence of person-to-person transmission and animals were suspected to be the source, as a seafood market where live animals were sold in Wuhan was identified as the centre of the outbreak.

The confirmation of human transmission comes as hundreds of millions of people are criss-crossing China in packed buses, trains and planes this week to celebrate the Lunar New Year with relatives.

Almost 80 new cases have been confirmed, bringing the total number of people hit by the virus in China to 291, with the vast majority in Hubei, the province where Wuhan lies, and others in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong, according to the National Health Commission. State media said one case was found in Zhejiang province.

Wuhan mayor Zhou Xianwang told state broadcaster CCTV that the death toll had risen from four to six.

China said it would attend a special World Health Organization meeting on Wednesday which will determine whether to declare a rare global public health emergency over the disease, which was detected in Thailand, Japan and South Korea among four people who had visited

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Jashore Gang Rape Cops find no proof of SI's involvement

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday said they did not find any evidence of a sub-inspector's involvement in the gang rape of a woman in Jashore's Sharsha upazila in September last year.

The name of SI Khairul Islam, the then in-charge of Gorpara Camp, came up in the victim's statement to journalists on September 5.

She told them that Khairul along with several others came to her house around 2:30am on September 3 and demanded Tk 50,000 for the release of her husband, who had been arrested a few days before in a narcotics-related case.

As she refused to give them money, the SI and the others raped her, she alleged. The following day, she filed a rape case against four people -- three named and one unnamed.

At a press briefing at the Jashore office of Police

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Cows can talk!



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Cows tell each other how they feel through their moos, according to a new study.

The animals have individual vocal characteristics and change their pitch depending on their emotions, according to research by the University of Sydney.

Alexandra Green, the study's lead author, said: "Cows are gregarious, social animals. In one sense it isn't surprising they assert their individual identity throughout their life."

"This is the first time we have been able to analyse voice to have conclusive evidence of this trait."

The study found that cows use their voice to help them maintain contact with the herd and express excitement, arousal, engagement or distress.

Talking about the animals she studied, Ms Green said: "They have all got very distinct voices. Even without looking at them in the herd, I can tell which one is making a noise just based on her voice."

She would record and analyse their calls, using the pitch to "assess how aroused or excited the animal is in a certain situation".

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

No EVM in city polls

BNP demands in a letter to CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday demanded that the Election Commission cancel its decision to use electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the upcoming Dhaka city elections.

Instead, it wanted the traditional ballot papers are used in the polls.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir wrote to Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda and other commissioners.

Elections to Dhaka north and south city corporations

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:43 7:15
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:47 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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