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## NUISANCE unbearable

Citizens made to suffer from sound pollution caused by use of loudspeakers in city polls campaigns

HELEMUL ALAM and MATHEWS CHIRAN

As the capital is abuzz with campaigns for the city corporation polls, candidates are found using loudspeakers during the hours when it is not permitted by electoral rules.

They quite often violate section 21 of the City Corporation (Electoral Code of Conduct) Rules 2016, which allows the use of loudspeakers between 2:00pm and 8:00pm.

The rules further say no candidate, or anyone on his/her behalf, can use more than one microphone or sound amplifier during a campaign or street rally in a city corporation ward.

The reality is starkly different. City dwellers have been enduring songs and slogans played on loudspeakers, fitted on moving vehicles, beyond the permitted hours since the campaign began on January 10.

With the SSC exams a little over a week away, students

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Residents have to bear the horns blaring on every alley from the morning until late in the afternoon as one after another bandwagon passes by campaigning for the Dhaka city corporation elections. The noise pollution is particularly disconcerting for SSC examinees. The photos were taken in residential areas in Ahmed Bagh and Ashkona on Thursday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## Toothless Tigers surrender series

SPORTS REPORTER

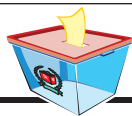
Bangladesh continued their dismal show with the bat as Pakistan clinched the three-match T20I series 2-0 with a game in hand after beating the visitors comprehensively by nine wickets at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

The third and final match of the series will take place tomorrow at the same venue.

Chasing a modest target of 137, Pakistan rode on unbeaten fifties from skipper Babar Azam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## DHAKA CITY POLLS 2020



### Will ensure civic services in 90 days

Taposh pledges while canvassing in old town

RASHIDUL HASAN

With the deadline for election campaign ending on January 30 midnight, Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Awami League's mayor candidate in Dhaka South City Corporation polls, passed a hectic day yesterday trying to woo voters in different areas of Old Dhaka.

Flanked by several hundred supporters, the AL leader carried out electioneering for more than seven hours after starting from Babu Bazar Bridge area around 2:30pm.

On the 16th day of his campaign, he went to roads and alleys in Islampur, Babu Bazar, Nawabpur, Sadarghat, Waise Ghat, Bangshal, Shakharibazar, and Tantibazar areas. He sought people's blessings and assured them of resolving their problems, if they voted for him.

These areas fall under ward numbers 32, 34, 36 and 37.

Meanwhile, the campaign caused traffic jam in the areas and many city dwellers expressed their annoyance for being stuck on the road for hours.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### Refrain from influencing the polls

Ishraque urges rival as he criss-crosses Old Dhaka

SAYYED MOHMUD ULLAH

It was 3:30pm yesterday in Old Dhaka's Ray Shaheb Bazar Mor area. Traffic at the intersection halted as several hundred BNP leaders and activists surrounded their party mayor candidate Ishraque Hossain.

The candidate for Dhaka South City Corporation campaigned in different parts of Old Dhaka.

With attractive promises to woo voters, Ishraque went door-to-door for over five hours in Nayabazar Bagdasa, Zindabazar Jame Masjid, and Bongshal areas.

In the evening, his campaign gained momentum with the participation of an increasing number of BNP leaders and activists who shook hands with people, hugged them, exchanged greetings, and distributed leaflets on behalf of their candidate in Bongshal, a business hub in Old Dhaka.

From both sides of the streets, enthusiastic leaders and activists showered flower petals on Ishraque, who was seen

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Coronavirus spreads

Europe, South Asia, Australia report first confirmed cases; death toll jumps to 41; Xi warns of 'grave' situation

AGENCIES

Europe, South Asia, Australia yesterday reported first confirmed cases as the death toll from China's coronavirus outbreak jumped to 41.

Australia on Saturday confirmed its first four cases, Malaysia confirmed three and France reported Europe's first cases on Friday, as health authorities around the world scrambled to prevent a pandemic.

Health authorities in Nepal also confirmed that a student who returned from Wuhan, the central Chinese city that is the epicentre of the outbreak, tested positive for the new coronavirus, becoming the first South Asian country to report the deadly disease.

The United States is arranging a charter flight today to bring its citizens and diplomats back from Wuhan, the Wall Street Journal

reported. France also announced similar move.

Meanwhile, President Xi Jinping warned yesterday that China was facing a "grave" situation as authorities took urgent action to halt the spread of the virus.

The world's most populous country scrambled to contain the disease that has already infected more than 1,300 people,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## We can't buy food, groceries

Bangladeshi student trapped in Wuhan appeals for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi students under lockdown in China's Wuhan city, the epicentre of the Coronavirus outbreak that has claimed 41 lives so far, have appealed for help through social media, saying they want to return to Bangladesh.

Students in Wuhan, including Bangladeshis, have been under lockdown in their respective dorms and residences for the last two days.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



People looking down a hole on the bridge in Gabtola area of Brahmanbaria town after a large chunk of concrete fell off last week. Local autorickshaw pullers have placed bamboos in an effort to make the rickety bridge steady. The hole was eventually patched up with a slab of metal.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

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# No govt responsibility if one killed while smuggling cattle

## Says food minister

UNB, Rajshahi

The government will not take the responsibility if anyone is shot to death along the border while bringing in cattle from India, said Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder yesterday.

He made the remarks while talking to reporters after attending the founding anniversary programme of Damkurahat High School in Poba upazila of Rajshahi.

"It'll be pointless to blame others unless our character is good," he said when asked about the shooting down of three Bangladeshi nationals by members of Indian Border Security Force in his constituency Porsha of Naogaon.

On January 23, the three Bangladeshis -- Sanjit Kumar, Mofizul Islam and Kamal Hossain -- were killed by BSF members along Doarpalla

border in Porsha upazila of Naogaon.

BSF men also took away the bodies of two of the victims.

The minister said, "We won't allow anyone to bring cattle from India. Our upazila, district law-and-order committees and BGB adopted a resolution in this regard. Bangladesh government won't take the responsibility if anyone is shot to death while bringing cattle cutting the barbed-wire fence."

He also said efforts are on to bring back the bodies of the two Bangladeshis.

Border killing has been a contentious bilateral issue between the two neighbours who share a 4,100km border.

Delhi had promised to bring down border killings to zero over the years but the BSF continues to shoot dead Bangladeshis along the border.

# Refrain from influencing

FROM PAGE 1

holding his party's election symbol -- "sheaf of paddy".

"If I am elected, people will get their democratic rights back," said Ishraque.

He added that the country would "again be safe for people" and he would continue his fight against corruption and irregularities. He also pledged to make Dhaka a modern city.

He sought everyone's vote for "sheaf of paddy" on February 1.

Earlier in the day, the BNP mayor candidate called upon his rival Awami League contender Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh to refrain from establishing supremacy in the polls using his family's influence.

"So far, I know Taposh is a gentleman. I like to call upon him not to influence the election. Besides, law enforcers and election officials will have to discharge their duties in an impartial manner," Ishraque said.

Ishraque, son of former undivided Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, said this while talking to journalists at his Gopibagh home.

He said the country is not a

"inherited property" of anyone. "We will accept the polls result whatever it is unless any irregularity takes place on election day."

The BNP candidate urged police to play an "unbiased role" and condemned attacks on BNP men, including party mayor candidate for Dhaka North City Corporation Tabitha Awal, in different parts of the city.

"A fair election is not possible under such Election Commission which is failing to create a level-playing field," he said.

About his being elected, Ishraque said he was getting a very good response from people.

At the beginning of his campaign, people said they were unsure of going to polling stations, remembering their bad experiences during the last parliamentary election. But they are being motivated to cast their votes, he said.

Now it is the responsibility of the EC to ensure a participatory election, he added.

His yesterday's campaign ended with views-exchange meeting with BNP leaders and activists at the Dhakeshwari Temple at night.

# Will ensure civic services

FROM PAGE 1

This correspondent followed the campaign procession for three hours.

Although Taposh was scheduled to reach Babu Bazar area at noon, he appeared there around 2:30pm riding an SUV, accompanied by a police van.

His motorcade was welcomed by several hundred AL men who chanted slogans seeking blessings and votes.

Songs played by multiple loudspeakers caused nuisance in the area.

Addressing a brief rally on Akmal Khan Road in Babu Bazar Bridge area, Taposh pledged to ensure civic services in DSCC area in 90 days after being elected to the mayor post.

Taposh, who resigned as the Dhaka-10 lawmaker to run for the mayor, said if he was elected, the DSCC door would remain open round the clock to provide services to city dwellers.

The Supreme Court lawyer also said he would mainly work to protect the heritage of Dhaka, make the capital beautiful, and ensure good governance and development in the city.

"I have a 30-year plan to make the Dhaka South City Corporation areas beautiful and more liveable," he said amid clapping of his supporters.

"The heritage and pride of Dhaka has faded. I want to present Dhaka before the world after reviving the pride and heritage," he said.

Criticising his rival candidate from the BNP Ishraque Hossain, Taposh claimed the BNP leader was not

actively participating in electioneering.

"Instead of going from door to door, my counterpart is busy bringing different allegations against me. Although it is a city corporation election, they are doing politics over national issues," he said.

"But we are busy making plans to develop areas under Dhaka South City Corporation."

After the rally, Taposh along with several hundred AL men and his supporters started visiting different shops and markets in Old Dhaka.

He walked for around two-and-a-half kilometres and been to roads and alleys in Babu Bazar, Nayabazar, Islampur Road area, Ahsanullah Road, Simpson Road, and Waise Chat. He reached Sadarghat area around 4:15pm.

Following Asr prayers, Taposh resumed the electioneering at Sadarghat and its surrounding areas. After Maghrib prayers, he visited different areas of Bangshal.

He campaigned in Nawabpur area around 8:00pm.

Later around 9:00pm, the mayor candidate attended a views-exchange meeting organised by Dhaka Samity. He then met eight MPs elected from the DSCC areas at the residence of senior AL leader Amir Hossain Amu, chief coordinator of Taposh's election campaign.

The elections to the Dhaka south and north city corporations are scheduled to take place on February 1.

# Toothless Tigers surrender

FROM PAGE 1

and the experienced Mohammad Hafeez to reach the target with 20 balls to spare as the Tigers helplessly surrendered to the home side.

Shafiqul Islam dismissed opener Ahsan Ali for a duck but since in the second over, but since then Babar and Hafeez scored 66 and 67 respectively and made sure Pakistan cruise to the target as the pair added an unbeaten 131 for the second wicket.

Earlier, a hapless batting display from the Tigers once again put the visitors far behind the pace right from the start after skipper Mahmudullah Riyad elected to bat.

Compared to the wicket for the first match on Friday, yesterday's strip at the Gaddafi Stadium was much more batting-friendly but the Bangladesh batters remained unable to get any momentum.

Bangladesh made one change in the playing eleven as all-rounder Mahedi Hasan replaced Mohammad Mithun, but it did little to change Bangladesh's fortunes.

From the start, Bangladesh failed to get partnerships going. Opener Mohammad Naim was the first to depart for a golden duck while Mahedi too departed cheaply for nine after coming in at number three.

At the other end, Tamim remained

watchful as he has been in the recent past and took his time to get going. But the pressure kept mounting as Bangladesh posted just 33 for the loss of two wickets in the Powerplay. Soon after, Liton Das too departed for eight to leave the Tigers struggling on 41 for three inside eight overs.

Afif Hossain then paired with Tamim and added 45 runs for the fourth wicket but Bangladesh never looked to charge the Pakistani bowlers at any point, and after the same approach in the first game, that has now become a big concern.

Afif was also dismissed after scoring 20 off 21 balls, after which Tamim reached his fifty off 43 balls with a cracking cover drive off leg-spinner Shadab Khan.

Tamim tried to accelerate and briefly succeeded, adding three more boundaries, but the left-hander was finally dismissed after scoring 65 off 53 balls with seven fours and a six in the 18th over, with Bangladesh still struggling on 117 for five.

The Tigers did manage to score 48 runs in the last five overs but it was nowhere near enough to save the series. Fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain bagged two wickets while Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Shadab took a wicket each for Pakistan.



Sand being lifted from the bed of the Dharla river and loaded on to trailers to be carried elsewhere for sale defying a ban. Unregulated sand lifting during the dry season exacerbate erosion of the banks in monsoon.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

# Coronavirus spreads

FROM PAGE 1

building a second field hospital to relieve overwhelmed medical facilities and closing more travel routes as the country marked the Lunar New Year holiday.

"As long as we have steadfast confidence, work together, scientific prevention and cures, and precise policies, we will definitely be able to win the battle," Xi said, after more countries reported cases.

In Wuhan, 450 military medics were deployed to help treat patients in the central city, where a seafood and live animal market has been identified as the centre of the outbreak.

When they should have been celebrating Lunar New Year, people waiting at one hospital in the city were angry and frustrated.

"It takes at least five hours to see a doctor," one woman, who didn't want to be named, told AFP.

One man in his 30s said some people had to queue for two days.

The country's most important celebration has been all but cancelled for at least 56 million people as authorities expanded travel bans across central Hubei province to try and contain the spread of the virus.

On the eastern outskirts of Wuhan, police manning a roadblock turned away a handful of vehicles trying to exit the city.

"Nobody can leave," an officer told AFP.

But the police allowed some medical workers who had gone home for the holidays to re-enter the city to help at crowded hospitals.

The government says most of the cases have been in Hubei and most of the deaths involved people who already suffered pre-existing health conditions.

Underscoring fears that the virus could spread further, Beijing will suspend long-distance bus service entering and leaving the capital of 20 million people from Sunday due to "requirements of epidemic prevention and control," the official People's Daily newspaper reported.

The National Health Commission

also ordered nationwide measures to detect and isolate people carrying the virus on planes, trains and buses across the country.

Xinhua said that temperature screening checkpoints have been set up in 387 railway stations across the country.

Meanwhile, tourists from Hubei in Haikou, capital of the island province of Hainan, were told by the city government they had to spend 14 days in a hotel for centralised medical observation, and were forbidden to leave.

Foreign citizens were set to be evacuated from the virus-hit Wuhan within the next few days.

Residents in Wuhan were stocking up on masks, gloves and disinfectant.

The virus has caused global concern because of its similarity to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).

The new virus has now infected people nationwide and in nearly a dozen other countries, with France saying three cases were confirmed there -- the first known European infections.

The virus has also been detected in Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Nepal, and the United States.

Beijing's Forbidden City, Shanghai Disneyland and a section of the Great Wall are among many attractions that have closed as a precaution. China's film box-office earnings for Lunar New Year's Eve on Friday were just one-tenth of last year as people shunned crowds.

Xi chaired a Communist Party leadership meeting which urged regional governments to make "the safety of the masses' lives and their physical health a top priority", state media said.

Xinhua said the Standing Committee agreed to set up a working group that would visit Hubei.

In Hong Kong, where five people have tested positive for the virus so far, city leader Carrie Lam declared the situation an "emergency" and schools, currently on holiday, will remain

closed until February 17.

China's aggressive response has won praise, especially compared to the SARS outbreak, when it was accused of reacting sluggishly and stonewalling the international community.

"China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus," US President Donald Trump tweeted, hours after the United States confirmed its second case.

"The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency," he added.

The World Health Organization on Thursday stopped short of declaring a global emergency, which would have prompted greater international cooperation, including possible trade and travel restrictions.

# Torrential rain kills dozens in Madagascar

AFP, Antananarivo

At least 26 people have died in Madagascar after almost a week of heavy rain in the north-west of the island, the government said on Friday.

The tropical Indian Ocean nation is in the midst of an intense six-month rainy season that often results in casualties and widespread damage.

Flooding in the districts of Mitsinjo and Maevatanana has claimed at least 26 lives since Sunday, and 15 more people are still missing and thousands have been displaced, the National Bureau of Disaster Risk Management (BNGRC) announced on Friday.

Strips of road were swept away by the rains and access to affected areas has been cut off.

The BNGRC warned that flooding in lowland and rice-growing areas also posed a risk of "food insecurity and malnutrition".

A disruption in the supply of basic goods could also lead to surge in prices, it added.

Prime Minister Christian Ntsay declared the situation a "national loss".

13 are for mayor and 740 for councillor. DNCC is comprised of 54 wards while DSCC has 75.

## PERMISSIBLE LEVEL OF SOUND

As per the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006, permissible level of sound in residential areas is 50 decibels in daytime and 40 decibels at night.

In industrial areas, it is 75 decibels and 70 decibels during the daytime and night respectively whereas, in the mixed areas, it is 60 decibels and 50 decibels.

The rules prohibit use of loudspeakers and even honking of vehicles within 100 metres of any hospital, educational institution or office.

Construction work within 500 metres of residential areas are also prohibited.

For using loudspeakers on any occasion, a prior permission has been made mandatory.

## ALREADY UNBEARABLE

Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Paribesh Bachao Andolon, said if the candidates themselves violate the rules and fail to protect citizens' rights, others would also be encouraged to do so.

"So, we expect the candidates to follow the Environment Act properly and hope that they would not do anything that would cause sound pollution or affect environment in a bad way," he said.

The intensity of sound pollution in the capital is already unbearable and the recent election campaigns through loud speakers are adding to this, he said, adding that the Election Commission should intervene to prevent this.

Contacted, Abul Kashem, returning officer of DNCC, said they were trying their best to prevent the use of loudspeakers during the campaigns.

"We have confiscated several loudspeakers from the candidates and even fined them Tk 5,000 each. Unfortunately, the candidates are barely paying any heed to it."

The Daily Star, however, could not reach DSCC Returning Officer Abdul Baten over phone for his comment.

# 'Honest box' buses start operating in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation yesterday launched bus service for school and madrasa students in the port city.

Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury inaugurated the service at a programme organised by the Chattogram district administration at MA Aziz Stadium gymnasium.

Only school and madrasa students can travel on the buses to and from their educational institutions. Ten buses operate on two routes in the city in the morning and afternoon.

For travelling on the buses, a student has to pay Tk 5 for each trip, said BRTC officials, adding that there are two boxes on each end of the buses, called honesty boxes. Students are to give their bus fare in the boxes.

To avail the service, students have to show their identity cards of their respective institutions to driver's assistants.

Route number two is from Agrabad to Oxygen via Muradpur, Sholashahar Gate-2, GEC Intersection, Wasa Intersection, Tiger Pass, Dewan Hat, and Chowmuhanu and back.

On route two, the first bus departs from Oxygen at 6:10am and the second one at 6:15am. At the same time, two buses leave from Agrabad. Four buses, two from Oxygen and two from Agrabad, leave at 11:00am.

Route number one is from Bahaddarhat to New Market via Baduratala, Muradpur, Chawkbazar, Gani Bakery, Jamalkhan, Cheragi Pahar, Nandankanan, and Amtal and back.

The first bus on route one departs from New Market at 11:30am and the second bus at noon. At that time, two buses leave Bahaddarhat.

In the afternoon, there are buses from each end on both routes at 5:15pm and 5:30pm, BRTC officials said.

GPH Ispat sponsors all the buses contributing Tk 5 lakh to the BRTC a month, added the officials.

Deputy Commissioner of Chattogram Elias Hossain and GPH Ispat Additional Managing Director Almas Shimul were, among others, present on the occasion.

# Fired driver, his assistant kill trucker, friend

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A truck driver and helper, who recently lost their jobs, killed a newly appointed driver and his friend as an act of revenge in the city.

Police arrested three persons in connection with the murder. They are Md Ibrahim, 23, the former truck driver, his associate Fojoir Miah, 24 and a car tyre store owner Joynal Miah, 23.

After interrogation, police revealed the cause behind the double murder.

On Friday morning, the two bodies were recovered from an abandoned truck at Parairchawk area in Sylhet city. The truck had all six of its tires removed.

The victims were later identified as Jahangir Miah, 25, the new truck driver and his friend Raju Ahmed, 25.

Ibrahim was arrested from his home at Ghopagul area in Sylhet Sadar upazila, while Fojoir was arrested from Amberkhana area in the city and Joynal from Madhabpur upazila in Habiganj, said Akhtar Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Moglabazar.

Quoting the arrestees, OC Akhter Hossain said, "Ibrahim used to be the driver of the truck but on January 21, he was fired from the job and Jahangir replaced him.

"When Jahangir started his journey towards Sylhet on Thursday, Ibrahim and his associate Fojoir boarded the truck for a free ride. Jahangir's friend Raju, who is a computer operator, also accompanied."

He added, "On their way to Sylhet, Ibrahim and Fojoir killed Jahangir and Raju at Madhabpur upazila in Habiganj and then Ibrahim drove the truck all the way to Sylhet. He then placed both the dead bodies in the front seats and removed all the tires from the truck before leaving it on the side of the road."

Ibrahim and Fojoir then sold the tires to Joynal's store in Madhabpur upazila's Jagadishpur and fled the area, the police official said.

Zedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, "Raju's brother Sujian Ahmed filed a case, accusing the trio. After arresting them, they were produced before a court who sent them to jail."

# Iran executes drug-trafficking ringleader: report

AFP, Tehran

Iran has dismantled an international drug-trafficking ring and executed its leader nicknamed the "Crocodile of the Persian Gulf" along with an accomplice, semi-official news agency ISNA said Saturday.

"The 'Crocodile' was operating under different guises and aliases and was arrested while transferring more than 100 tonnes of drugs over international waters," Hormozgan province chief prosecutor Ali Salehi was quoted as saying.





Located on one end of Fuller Road, this cluster of sculptural busts by Shamim Shikder commemorates the legendary names associated with Dhaka University and the birth of Bangladesh, but these intricately carved figures are collecting dust and moss as uncontrolled shrubbery grows around them. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## ‘RECRUITMENT BUSINESS, SPREADING PROPAGANDA’ Ruqayyah Hall authorities cancel two students’ seats

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University’s Ruqayyah Hall authorities have decided to cancel seat allotment of two resident students for raising allegations of recruitment business, and spreading propaganda through a recorded phone call.

The duo -- Shotontro Jote leader Shrobona Shafique Dipti and hall union’s Assistant General Secretary Falguni Das Tonni -- were also served show-cause notice respectively for the two allegations on January 15.

“You provided false information from your Facebook account claiming that there were irregularities centring appointment of some staffer posts, which were proved wrong during investigation. Since you played the primary role in tarnishing the image of [this] hall and circulated untrue information, the decision of cancelling your seat allotment was taken unanimously at the house tutors’ meeting,” reads the notice issued to Shrobona.

Falguni was accused of recording a conversation in which she spoke with a staffer named Shahin Rana about the “recruitment business” and circulating it on Facebook.

Both students were asked to respond to the notices within seven days, explaining why their seat allotment should not be

cancelled.

On September 3, a group of students of the girls’ dormitory at a press conference alleged that Ruqayyah Hall Union vice president, general secretary and other Chhatra League leaders of the dormitory had taken around Tk 21 lakh from three individuals for cleaner and security guard appointment.

A conversation between Falguni and hall staffer Shaheen Rana was also leaked at that time.

On September 3, a three-member probe committee was formed by the university administration which after conducting a four-month long investigation, stated that they found no evidence of “recruitment business”.

Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman presented the investigation report on December 29, which said propaganda was spread intentionally to tarnish the image of the university.

A copy of the notice to Shrobona was forwarded to Prof Mahbuba Nasreen, director of DU’s Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, of which Shrobona is a master’s student; DU proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani and to the student’s guardians.

No copy of the notice to Falguni was sent to her department, rather copies were sent

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Manifestos only now, a week before polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With elections to the two Dhaka city corporations just a week away, mayoral candidates from Awami League and BNP are only now gearing up to unveil their electoral manifestos -- elaborating their plans to improve services of city corporations for citizens.

AL mayoral aspirant Atiqul Islam is scheduled to reveal his manifesto at 10am today at a city hotel.

While campaigning yesterday at Gulshan, he told journalists, “There will be surprise in the manifesto.”

He started his campaign in Kalachadpur area (ward-18). His campaign covered Shahjadpur, Bashtola, Gulshan-2 kitchen market and Banani market.

Local Awami League councillors from general and reserved seats were present at the campaign of the immediate past DNCC mayor.

Meanwhile, BNP candidate Tabith Awal started his campaign from Mirpur-6 Kacha Bazar yesterday, and went through several wards in the area.

During a brief street meeting, he said, “People are our strength. We are getting their support. We do not want any untoward incident and no matter what happens, we will never break any electoral rule.”

“Voters are looking forward to the polls day. If they can cast their votes, we will definitely win,” he added.

Raising objections against the use of EVM, he also said, “We are requesting the EC not to use EVM considering all issues.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



## Dhaka needs more women behind the wheel

Says Quader at certificate-giving event of Brac driving school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the number of road accidents would reduce if a greater number of woman drivers are in charge.

“Women drive vehicles abiding by rules and in cool head. They are not substance abusers. They do not talk on mobile phones while driving. So, the more women will be appointed as professional drivers the lesser will be the risks of road accidents,” said Quader.

The minister was addressing a programme to hand over certificates to the women who successfully completed a driving course at Brac Driving School in Dhaka, said a press release.

Quader said they want other institutions to come forward to help women gain self-dependence. The aim of these initiatives will simply go in vain if women fail to get jobs even after successfully completing such months-long courses, he said.

“So, both the government and private sectors have to clear their way to recruit women drivers. The government will consider this issue with more importance from now on,” he added.

Kazi Rowshan Akhter, secretary to the ministry of women and children’s affairs, said a Brac research shows that 94 percent women public transport users face sexual harassment.

“Women drivers in our country also deal with many challenges. We have to join hands in finding the root

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Steps to be taken to stop privatisation of railway

Says minister

UNB, Dhaka

Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujon yesterday said steps will be taken to stop privatisation of railway to ensure good governance.

He made the remarks during a meeting with the new committee of Bangladesh Railway Stramik League at railway rest house in Kamalapur.

Leaders of the organisation placed a 24-point demand at the meeting. The demands include taking initiatives to cease privatisation of railway, and not renewing lease of trains and catering service of all inter-city and mail trains to private organisations.

The minister said, “The BNP-led government took the decision to privatise the railway and destroyed it. Our government is working tirelessly to develop this sector with special care.”

He also hinted that the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## DB arrests 8 kidnappers

Two abductees rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested eight kidnappers and rescued two teenagers from Dhaka’s Demra area last evening.

The two were allegedly abducted from Mohammadpur last Tuesday.

The victims are -- Khalid Hasan Dhrubo (19), a first year student of Dhaka College, and his nephew Tanzim Al Islam Dibos

(17), an A-Level student.

“Tipped off, we conducted an operation at their den in Demra and arrested the eight,” Shahadat Hossain Suma, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (DB) of police, told The Daily Star.

The law enforcers seized uniforms of police, DB vests, three wireless sets, a pistol, three toy guns, a private car, three

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Promoting young changemakers

Brac, Ashoka join hands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To further uphold the legacy of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Brac has joined social entrepreneurs’ global platform Ashoka, and have launched an initiative named after the Brac founder to promote young changemakers.

As part of the initiative, Ashoka Innovators for the Public, which supports a global network of social entrepreneurs, nominated 15 youths from across Bangladesh who are working on impactful social ideas.

Selected by a jury panel, they are the first batch of “Sir Fazle Hasan Abed Ashoka Young Changemakers” who will vie for Ashoka’s global edition of “Young Changemakers Programme”.

Brac and Ashoka formally launched the initiative at a programme yesterday at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

This was part of Ashoka’s “Everyone a Changemaker” framework, and Bangladesh is the fifth country to unveil the initiative after the US, Brazil, Indonesia and India, said organisers.

The “Young Changemakers Programme” focuses on the role of youths as influencers and co-leaders.

Their social initiatives in different fields including

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## ‘Inform people of legal remedies’

Young lawyers expect from Star



Participants at the discussion.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Young lawyers yesterday at a discussion recommended that people be made more aware of legal remedies available at local and district levels, so that every matter is not brought to the higher courts.

At the invitation of The Daily Star, the lawyers gathered at the newspaper’s office to respond to the question “How can The Daily Star strengthen the rule of law in the country and guarantee constitutional rights of every citizen?”

Participants observed that people are being deprived of remedies due to complexities in the legal system, and hence they are losing trust in the judicial mechanism.

They further suggested to make people aware of sectoral laws and policies -- including those dealing with medical and educational services, banking sector, road safety, consumers’ rights and food safety.

On another note, they expressed the

view that the general standard of law reporting needs to be improved, adding that legal terms are often misused, and implications of several judgements have not been fully covered in newspapers.

They recommended follow-up stories on major legal observations and on proceedings of public interest litigation, and suggested regular training for law reporters and news editors for accurate reporting on legal issues, including the Supreme Court verdicts and orders.

They also emphasised better briefing by lawyers on their respective cases, and more discussions on major judgements to this effect.

The lawyers also stressed holding roundtable discussions on draft laws and advocating for modernisation of laws that are backdated and have failed to serve the purpose. Newspapers can contribute to promoting policies through advocacy on different legal issues, they said, adding that journalists can use the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

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VIVEKANANDA PARISHAD

# 31 visually impaired DU students get stipends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vivekananda Shiksha o Sangskriti Parishad, Bangladesh yesterday handed over stipends to 31 visually impaired students of Dhaka University, marking the 157th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and 30th establishment anniversary of the Parishad.

The social welfare organisation also distributed education materials among 50 students of Vivekananda School, run by the Parishad, in Old Dhaka to spread education among the students of Harijan community.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman was the chief guest while Swami Purnatmananda Maharaj, principal of Dhaka Ramakrishna Math, was present as guest of honour at the programme held at DU's Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium. The event included a discussion and cultural sessions.

With Parishad's president Akhil Chandra Bhowmik in the chair, DU Jagannath Hall's provost Prof Mihir Lal Saha, Parishad's central governing body president Joyanta Kumar Dev and Sarada Sangha, Dhaka's general secretary Meera Saha, and Parishad's general secretary Karuna Kishore Chakraborty, among others, spoke on the occasion.



Stipends being handed over to the DU students yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## DB arrests 8

FROM PAGE 3  
motorcycles, steel pipes, ropes, mobile phone and sim cards, the police official added.

Police also recovered a victim's bag with a laptop, he said.

This gang was involved with another such kidnapping earlier this month in Fatullah, during which one of them was arrested. The rest managed to flee, the ADC said, adding that police would seek 10-day remand for each arrestee.

The arrestees are: Moshir Rahman Pappu (32), Fakar Uddin (24), Mahmudur Rahman Rasel (32), Tushar (34), Ariful Islam Nisan (30), Shafiqul Islam (28), Imtiaz Ahmed (30), and Noman (25).

On Friday, Tanzim's father Fakhrul Islam filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station. Two separate general dairies were filed with Teigaon and Mohammadpur police stations in this connection on Tuesday night.

Family members said they suspected that both were kidnapped, as they were threatened on phone and asked to pay a ransom of Tk 50,00,000. They also received calls on Wednesday, asking not to approach police.

Tanzim, who worked as an ICT coordinator at a non-profit organisation in Elephant Road area, went to his uncle Dhrubo's residence in Mohammadpur on Tuesday afternoon. The duo went out from there around 2pm.

They were last spotted near a park adjacent to Minar mosque on Tajmahal Road around 2:15pm, according to the case statement.

Since then, their phones were found switched off. Around 3:30am on Wednesday, Tanzim's mother received an anonymous call and learnt that they were held by kidnappers.

## Shahidul's anniversary of death today

CITY DESK

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Md Shahidul Islam Pannu, director of Sara Advertising Ltd, says a press release.

His family members have requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## 1st GMM of JCI Dhaka United held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first general members' meeting of JCI Dhaka United, a chapter of Junior Chamber International Bangladesh, was held at a hotel in the capital's Gulshan on Friday.

On the occasion, the JCI chapter signed a memorandum of understanding with Brac to run a project titled "Agami Projonmo: Protirodh O Protikar".

## Steps to be taken to stop

FROM PAGE 3

ticketing system -- which is operated by Computer Network Systems (CNS) Limited -- will be run by railway employees in future.

Sujan informed that the ministry has already found evidence of the company's irregularities in the ticket-management system.

Tickets are issued by Bangladesh Railway's Centrally Computerized Seat Reservation and Ticketing System (CCSRTS), while CNS is responsible for the design, development, implementation, technical operation and maintenance of the system.

The minister emphasised that the railway sector needs to be improved in accordance with the development of Bangladesh.

He also mentioned that work on the new Bangabandhu Railways Bridge over the Jamuna River will be inaugurated in March.

"A 172-km new railway track will be constructed up to Mawa passing over the Padma. A new bridge will be built by the old Hardinge Bridge while work on the four-lane track from Kamalapur to Joydevpur has already begun," Sujan said.

Talking about development of the railway sector, he said a high-speed train project has kicked off while railway tracks will be extended up to Cox's Bazar. "Besides, a circular train service will be introduced in Dhaka."

President and general secretary of Bangladesh Railway Sramik League led the delegation at the meeting.

## Ruqayyah Hall authorities

FROM PAGE 3

to Chhatra League's central president Al Nahian Khan, its general secretary Lekhak Bhattacharya, BCL DU unit president Sanjit Chandra Das and its general secretary Saddam Hussein.

Employee Shahin Rana was also inquired about the authenticity of the conversation.

All of them have responded to the notices.

Contacted, Shrobona said, "Since I got the information about the 'recruitment business' on the night before the appointment, I was left with no choice other than revealing the information on Facebook."

Falguni Das claimed she did not record the phone call.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Zeenat Huda, provost of the dormitory, said they have received replies to the show-cause notices.

"We will take final decision after scrutinising those at a house tutors' meeting," added the provost.

## Blatant disregard

FROM PAGE 5

He, however, said, "We are encouraging clinic owners to dispose of medical waste through the private company. We held a meeting with the city corporation officials and Nobo Waste to settle the matter." He hoped the crisis would be resolved by this month.

When asked why they do not have their own arrangement, he said no healthcare facility in the city could afford such a disposal plant.

Mehdi Hasan, executive officer of Nexus Hospital, said a discussion is ongoing with Nobo Waste to dispose of waste.

Prof Dr Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan, one of the owners of Liberty Hospital, echoed the same.

When asked what actions are being taken against errant healthcare facilities, Mymensingh Civil Surgeon Dr ABM Moshikul Alam said they repeatedly issue notices to them, but to no avail.

The activity of Department of Environment also seemed to be limited to issuing notices as well, which became evident while speaking to Farid Ahmed, director of the department in Mymensingh division.

City Mayor Ekramul Haque Titu said it is becoming a huge challenge to manage three tonnes of medical waste produced from hospitals and clinics daily. Every healthcare centre is individually responsible for properly disposing of its medical waste, he said.

"The MCC has no expertise on how to manage toxic medical waste," said the mayor.

Admitting that they are managing such waste in a "traditional system", the mayor

also said it is urgent to go for a modern treatment plant.

This correspondent also visited several private hospitals at Charpara area, where unsorted medical waste dumped was found in one or two bins inside the hospitals.

Golam Maula, managing director of Vision Clinic and Diagnostic Centre, said they keep medical waste in two drums and their sweepers store those near MMCH for city corporation trucks to collect.

Mujibur Rahman, manager director of Islam Hospital, said they put medical waste in three drums and their cleaners collect those daily. He, however, could not say where the waste go.

Expressing concern over the issues, Shibbir Ahmed Liton, a local green activist, said until the healthcare facilities can afford waste treatment plant, they must go through the garbage management company's process. "They should be able to afford Tk 2,000-3,000 per month."

### COMPANY'S CONCERNS

Nobo Waste Managing Director Abul Hasnat Epu said, "So far, only 41 private hospitals and clinics are taking this service from us. Even though this initiative is a must to save the environment, we are also running a business. We have to think about profit as well."

"We already incurred a loss of Tk 10 lakh. If such a situation persists, we will have to think about something else," said Epu.

The company official said they have already assured the hospital and clinic owners of collecting all sorts of waste and urged them to discuss the issue of "reasonable" service charge with them.

### SITUATION AT MOILAKANDA

Garbage from almost all healthcare centres -- including MMCH -- are being piled up on the dumping ground, creating health and environmental hazards. The area is home to hundreds of people.

Locals said waste is also spilling out of the unenclosed area, affecting the adjacent cropland.

Noor Mohammad, a farmer from Char Kalibari, said, "I am facing a serious setback in production due to land infertility."

"The saplings of my boro seed bed on 10-decimal land became unusable this year," said the 70-year-old.

Similarly, Shafiqul Islam said he has been incurring loss in mustard cultivation for last two years. Another mustard farmer Abdul Malek echoed the same.

Besides, putrid stench is turning the area uninhabitable. Mukta Akter and Suborna Akter, two sixth-graders at a local school, said often times they lose appetite due to the malodour.

Dr Ranjan Kumar Majumder, a retired medicine specialist from MMCH, said people living in the area are at risk of being affected with diseases like asthma, diarrhoea, allergies and eye irritation.

During monsoon, rainwater mixed with waste float towards the Old Brahmaputra river that is in close proximity to the dumping ground, said Shibbir Ahmed Liton, secretary of Mymensingh Poribesh Rokhha o Unnayan Andolon.

This malpractice has to be stopped to protect the waterbody from pollution, he said. "The authorities must take initiative to dispose of medical waste properly. They also need to take strict measures against healthcare facilities for not following the rules," Liton stressed.

## Promoting young

FROM PAGE 3

women and children's rights, hygiene, drug abuse, and climate change have generated awareness and also improved the communities and livelihoods of people around them.

On the new initiative, Brac Executive Director Asif Saleh said, "The brilliance of this initiative lies in its commitment to make every person a changemaker."

"It is a fitting tribute to Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, whose vision was not only to build a world that worked for everyone but also to create changemakers around the world who would make it happen," he said.

Yashveer Singh, global executive director of Ashoka Young Changemakers, said Ashoka believes that to thrive in this new world, every young person needs to grow up as a changemaker -- a person who steps up to solve problems for the good of all.

David Bonbright, leadership group member of Ashoka Global, also attended the event.

At the event, the selected youths -- 15 to 20 years old -- were also introduced.

They are: Maimuna Fariah Jahan (Swapnotory Foundation); Nibrasul Alam (Dreamunteers); Tanjin Tanha (TransEnd); Muhammad Abrar (ProjectDebi); Abul Bashar Rahman (Green); Sanjidlul Islam (Upokul Welfare Association); Ahona Anjum (One Action Foundation); Labby Ahsan (National Newspaper Olympiad); Arafat Samir (Madok Shuny Bangladesh); Tazreen Mehrav (Revival); Parvez Hasan (Sohomormita Foundation); Shahazadi Marium Binte Shahan (Fighters of Bangladesh); Sk Shoaibur (Agri-science Society); Sheikh Naem Hasan Moon (Mojar Pathshala), and Ridhi Jahan Dola (End Child Marriage).

## Dhaka needs more

FROM PAGE 3

challenges as well as their solutions," she said.

This programme -- "Women behind the wheel for road safety" -- was organised for the 8th batch of learners in which 11 women enrolled and all of them passed and received driving licences. The three-month training was conducted at Brac Learning Centre at Uttara.

Brac's initiative to train women as professional drivers to promote both road safety and women-friendly commuting has drawn praise at home and abroad.

Yesterday's event began with a minute's silence, paying tribute to the memory of Brac founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed.

Asif Saleh, executive director of Brac, said "Brac will continue its collaborative work with the government to ensure road safety and to create a women-friendly road and transport system."

Ahmed Najmul Hussain, director of Brac's administration and road safety programme; Mercy Miyang Tembon, country representative of World Bank (Bangladesh and Bhutan), and noted writer and researcher Syed Abul Maksud also attended the programme.

Brac started its training school in 2011 mainly to train people from disadvantaged families with an aim to produce skilled and quality professional drivers. So far, the institute had trained 7,388 individuals in basic driving skills among which 1,973 are women.

It also trained 10,373 in professional driving of which 214 are women. A total of 599 women received training in driving motorbikes.

## Manifestos only now

FROM PAGE 3

At least for this time, arrange ballot papers for voting."

Urging his followers to stay strong, he said, "We have seven days ahead of us. There will be threats coming in your way to drive you away from the election. Do not be afraid. Go to the polling centres."

He also promised voters regarding safety for women and children, proper management of waste disposal and creating space for playgrounds.

According to Mahmud Hasan, media coordinator for Tabitha Awal, the BNP candidate is preparing to unveil his manifesto tomorrow.

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Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury, father: Delwar Hossain Chowdhury, mother: Asia Akhter Khanam Chowdhury, vill: Noorpur, Thana: Fenchuganj, District-Sylhet lost my Diplomatic passport at an unknown place on my way to Sylhet from Noorpur at around 12:30pm on 22nd January 2020. My Diplomatic passport number: DC 8006517. After searching in different places, I could not find my passport anywhere. A general diary has been filed at Fenchuganj Police Station, GD No-964 on 22.01.2020.

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**FAVP & Head of Department**

**Call Centre 16259**

Invitation for Expression of Interest		
GENERAL INFORMATION		
1.	Client	Aga Khan Foundation, Bangladesh
2.	Project Management Consultant	Deltadesh (Pvt.) Ltd
3.	Invitation for	Tender for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Substation at Aga Khan Academy Dhaka Project.
4.	Invitation Ref No	DD/AKFB/January/2020/01
5.	Date	26/01/2020
6.	Budget and Source of Funds	Aga Khan Foundation
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
7.	Project	Aga Khan Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
8.	Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 1250 KVA Substation with HT AVR
9.	Date of Tender Documents Distribution	29/01/2020 from 10.00 AM (with prior appointment)
10.	Place for Tender Documents Collection and Tender Submission	The Aga Khan Academy Dhaka Plot no. 1692-1693, Block C, Bashundhara R/A Dhaka - 1229, Bangladesh [Opposite to Bashundhara Convention Centre]
11.	Last Date for Tender Submission	06/02/2020 till 05.00 PM
12.	Minimum Capabilities	1. Experience of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2000 KVA (11/0.4) substation 2. Experience of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2000 KVA (33/11) substation 3. Minimum 10 years of relevant experience 4. Have own manufacturing plant with testing lab (impulse test) 5. Ability to deliver the full systems in 90 calendar days from the date of commencement
13.	Sub-mittals	1. Company Profile 2. Valid Trade License, Tax Identification Number (TIN) with up-to- date Income tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate, etc. 3. Acknowledgement of Contract Agreement attached with Tender Documents 4. Technical Offer as per format prescribed in the Tender Documents 5. Financial Offer as per format prescribed in the Tender Documents
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
14.	Contact Person	Md. Habibur Rahman
15.	Designation	Senior Manager- MEP, Deltadesh (Pvt.) Ltd.
16.	Contact Details	Email: <a href="mailto:rahman@deltadesh.com">rahman@deltadesh.com</a> Cell No.: +88-01730-329401, +88-01915-496465
NOTE		
17.	Note-1	Aga Khan Academy project is exempted from Import duties and local VAT. Client will open L/C on manufacturer's name to avail duty exemption facilities.
18.	Note-2	The Client reserves the right to accept any submission or reject any or all submission, at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.
19.	Note-3	The Scope of works in this package includes Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 1250 KVA Substation with HT AVR including the laying and connection of Main Cable supplied by the Client. The Contractor shall be responsible for arranging all kind of associated Government agency approvals like ELB approval, Fire approval, Environmental approval, etc



Piling up medical waste discarded thoughtlessly at landfills in city corporation areas pose serious threat to public health. Divisional cities, excluding the capital, have around 1,380 healthcare establishments -- public and private -- that produce over 20 tonnes of medical waste every day. To draw attention to this alarming issue, The Daily Star is highlighting medical waste management in major cities across the country. In this instalment, we look at medical waste management in Mymensingh city.

# Blatant disregard for rules

## 81pc healthcare facilities not following due process



PHOTO: MD AMINUL ISLAM



Cattle graze at Moilakanda of Mymensingh, where regular garbage mixed with medical waste has been piling up for years. Bottom left, farmer Abdul Malek stands next to his cropland which has been ruined due to unabated garbage dumping. Right, a worker dumps all sorts of garbage on MMCH premises.

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Majority of healthcare facilities in Mymensingh city are not following proper medical waste disposal system, due to authorities' failure to check the malpractice and lack of necessary government arrangement to dispose of those. The city has a total of 221 healthcare facilities -- 131 hospitals and clinics and 90 diagnostic centres, according to the civil surgeon's office. According to Medical Waste (Management and Processing) Rules 2008, all healthcare centres must have mechanisms to incinerate or

September last year. Abul Hasnat Epu, managing director of Nobo Waste, said necessary infrastructures -- incinerators, two pits and a recycling unit -- has been set up on 18 decimal of land given by the city corporation. The project cost is Tk 40 lakh, which they spent from their own fund. But even after setting up the system to dispose of waste properly, only 18.63 percent of the healthcare facilities avail the service through them in exchange for monthly fees, he added. "We charge hospitals and clinics Tk 2,000-3,000 per month. Till now, only 41 hospitals

Amputated body parts and other materials produced from the operation theatre are buried near the dumping spot, he said. As MCC carries all sorts of garbage in their trucks, it is not productive to keep those in separate containers, said Dr Narayan. "In a recent meeting, officials of public health engineering department and MCC assured us of establishing a modern waste disposal plant on the hospital premises," the doctor added. When asked about taking service from Nobo Waste, he said, "We pay tax to the city corporation. So, the responsibility is theirs."



sterilise medical waste. But no hospital, clinic or diagnostic centre in the city has any such arrangement. Medical waste -- in many cases mixed with general ones -- are dumped in public dustbins and open spaces -- particularly at Moilakanda in Char Kalibari. Amid the situation, Nobo Waste Management Service Ltd in collaboration with Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC) set up a medical waste disposal unit at Akua in

are taking the service." Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH), the lone government and major hospital in the city, does not incinerate or sterilise its waste. MMCH Deputy Director Dr Laxmi Narayan Majumder said they are unable to install the equipment. "We have a shed where we dump all sorts of waste. Later, garbage trucks of the city corporation carry those to Moilakanda in the evening."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## DIU celebrates 18th founding anniversary

CITY DESK

Daffodil International University's (DIU) 18th founding anniversary celebrations concluded yesterday on its permanent campus in Savar of Dhaka. Dr Rubana Huq, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and managing director of Mohammadi Group was present at the programme as chief guest. She also inaugurated the Anisul Huq Bhawan on the campus. Dr Abu Belal Mohammad Shafiul Huq, former chief of army staff, and Jesmin Wafa, sister of late mayor Anisul Huq were also present, said a press release. Presided over by Dr Md Sabur Khan, chairperson of DIU board of trustees, the programme was also addressed by teachers of the university. In her speech as chief guest, Dr Rubana Huq told the students that there is a difference between rich people and great people. "Education can help you realise this difference. I hope you will all be enlightened with the education you have received here." Dr Md Sabur Khan said, "There is no alternative to enhancing your skills for your career. DIU is engaging its students in various co-curricular activities in this regard, such as Art of living, Employability 360 degree and One Student One Laptop project." The four-day celebration was inaugurated by State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman on Wednesday.

## Come forward to protect rivers

Speakers urge all at int'l water conference

UNB, Kuakata

Praising the High Court verdict that recognised rivers as living entities, speakers at a conference yesterday said people should come forward to protect the rights of rivers. They said people need to be more active to protect rights of rivers, as the High Court judgement alone is not enough to ensure that. They came up with the observation at the closing ceremony of the two-day 5th International Water Conference 2020 arranged by ActionAid Bangladesh at a hotel in Kuakata, Patuakhali. Prof Dr Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University's International Relations department, said, "The law and the court say the rivers are living entities. Such judgement gives people the courage they need." He further said, "We've got this judgement through advocacy for many years. With this verdict, people will be able to play a more meaningful role in protecting the rights of rivers." Dr Imtiaz said the change of mindset about rivers is also the responsibility of people. "This change will come through research and advocacy. Legislation is not a permanent solution," he added. ActionAid Bangladesh believes that the lives of marginalised people are being hampered by river grabbing and pollution, and therefore it is important to work on this issue with a holistic approach, said its Country Director Farah Kabir, adding "One of the objectives of this conference is to raise public awareness about this issue." Rahima Sultana Kajal, executive director of local NGO Avas, said the water conference is an attempt to unite those who are thinking about working with water and the environment. Osman Bin Nasser, senior officer of ActionAid Bangladesh, said, "All the directives of the High Court need to be followed by all concerned. River encroachment or polluting those is a punishable offence as per law. Since a river itself is not capable of suing anyone, any person can file a case under this law if any river is encroached." On the final day, researchers presented studies on water and river issues, such as the use of waterways in future communication systems, research on the river Halda, water pollution and water quality assessment of the Padma, and management of sustainable drinking water centres. A total of nine papers were presented in the two-day conference, participated by researchers from home and abroad.

## AHSANULLAH MASTER MURDER CASE

# Two death row convicts' houses attacked in Tongi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Houses of two death row convicts in Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case was ransacked and set on fire in Gazipur's Tongi upazila on Friday evening. Relatives claimed that local AL activists carried out the attack on houses of Shahidul Islam Shipu and his brother Nurul Islam Dipu at Gopalpur, said Officer-in-Charge of Tongi Police Station Kamal Hossain. Shahidul is now in jail in the case while Nurul Islam is on the run. Nurul's wife Sharifa Khanam and nephew Shahriar Nazim said a group of people chanted slogan "Awami League" during the attack. The miscreants vandalised furniture and set the houses on fire by pouring petrol, they said. Firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze, said Atiqur Rahman, senior station officer at Tongi fire station. Three rooms were damaged in the fire

while furniture of around 20 rooms were ransacked, fire service sources said. Mazharul Islam, a local AL leader and councillor of ward-44, did not respond to phone calls repeatedly made by this correspondent. On May 7, 2004, gunmen shot and killed Ahsanullah, also then president of Jatiya Sramik League, and Omar Faruq Ratan, a young man, and wounded 17 others. The next day, Ahsanullah's brother Motiur filed the case against 19 people, including Jubo Dal leader Nurul Islam Sarkar. On April 16, 2005, a Dhaka court handed down death sentences to 22 people, including Shahidul and Nurul, and life terms to six others for killing Ahsanullah. A decade later, On June 15, 2016, HC confirmed death penalty of six persons, including the duo. It, however, commuted capital punishment of seven others to life imprisonment, upheld life term of two and acquitted 11.

## Cumilla univ set for maiden convocation

UNB, Cumilla

Cumilla University has completed all the necessary preparations to hold its first ever convocation tomorrow. President Abdul Hamid, chancellor of the university, will attend the convocation, according to the university authorities. Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal will deliver the convocation speech. Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury and University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Dr Kazi Shahidullah will also be present as special guests. Building up to the occasion, academic and administrative buildings, residential halls, and the main entrance gate have been decorated with lights. Besides, the new graduates have started collecting convocation outfits in a festive mood. Total 2,888 graduates will attend the convocation while 14 among them will be awarded gold medals, said university sources. Cumilla University was established in 2006 as the 26th public university of the country with seven functional departments. At present, there are nine departments with 253 teachers and 7,055 students, according to Cumilla University website.

## Mirpur slum fire victim dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman, who was severely burned in Friday's fire at Chalanika slum in the city's Mirpur, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday. Parveen (35) was admitted to DMCH with 90 percent burns on that day and breathed her last around 7am at the hospital's burn unit, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police outpost. Parveen was among two people who were injured when the fire broke out at the slum around 4:15am, reducing around 400 shanties to ashes. Another injured, Shahidul, has been admitted to a private hospital in the capital.

## Two 'Neo JMB' men held

They were involved in bomb attacks on Krishak League office, police garage in Khulna last year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday claimed to have arrested two operatives of militant group "Neo JMB", who were allegedly involved in last year's bomb attacks on a Krishak League office and a garage belonging to the law enforcers in Khulna. The arrestees -- Nur Mohammad Anik (24) and Muzahidul Islam Rafi (23) -- are students of Khulna University and active operatives of the group, police said. They were arrested during a raid in the city's Gollamari area. Police also recovered bomb making materials from their possession, Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandaker Lutful Kabir told reporters at a press conference in his office. Kabir claimed that both the arrestees in primary interrogation admitted their involvement with the attacks. Police officials said the arrestees got radicalised by watching videos of various

militant groups. They acquired expertise in making improvised explosive devices and other bombs, and planned the attacks, they added. As part of their plan, they rented houses in different areas of the city and did recces before the attacks. The bombs they exploded during both attacks were remote-controlled, the police official said. At least two persons were injured in the attack on Krishak League office on September 23 last year while a motorcycle was damaged in another bomb attack on a police garage on December 5. Terrorist group Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibilities of both the attacks, according to US-based SITE Intelligence Group. Replying to a query, the KMP commissioner, however, said they did not find arrestees' link to the global terror group. Police are trying to find out their sources of fund, he said.



May be she was reading this book when a fire broke out at the slum in port city's Mirzar Pool area on Friday, razing more than 100 shanties. While many were busy salvaging whatever they could find or setting up makeshift shelters yesterday, this little girl -- amid the charred remains that once was her home -- sat down to take a last look at her favourite book.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN





FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2020, MAGH 12, 1426 BS

# Myanmar must comply with the ICJ orders

The world should act to take the momentum forward

AFTER the historic ruling given by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to protect the Rohingyas from genocide, we hope the international community will now exert pressure on Myanmar to comply with the court orders and take meaningful steps to resolve the Rohingya crisis. Although the court has not given its final verdict (it may take years to complete the trial) and for now has only ordered Myanmar to take some provisional measures to protect the Rohingyas from genocidal violence, this is a big achievement for the persecuted community as well as Bangladesh. It is also a big achievement that the world court has recognised the ethnic community as Rohingya, meaning that Myanmar can no longer claim that they are illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

Now the question is, how to ensure that the Myanmar authorities implement the provisional measures? The ICJ ordered Myanmar to prevent destruction of evidence of any crimes since August 2017 and asked the country to submit a report on the steps taken to implement the court orders in four months. Afterwards, it has to submit its report every six months. Since the emergency measures ordered by the court are legally binding, we hope the Myanmar authorities will have no scope to disregard the orders. Here, we expect the UN Security Council to play the role of an overseeing body. The international community, including India and China, also has to play their part by making Myanmar comply.

Since the military crackdown in Rakhine in 2017, around 740,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh and an estimated 600,000 who still remain in Myanmar have been routinely and systematically denied their most basic rights. In the last two years, Bangladesh seemed to be fighting a losing battle, with little help from other countries. Myanmar couldn't be brought to answer for its actions or take back its citizens. While the issue was gradually getting lost in the avalanche of humanitarian crises across the world, the lawsuit filed by The Gambia with the world court in November gave it a momentum and finally gave us some hope.

Now that the international court has given its ruling, we hope the whole world will speak up in support of the Rohingyas and their fight for justice and also act accordingly to keep the momentum going. It is also high time that Bangladesh strongly negotiated the issue with Myanmar and its allies and together found a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

# Councillors can do more for the city

Rethink the role of councillors

IN less than a week, citizens of Dhaka are going to elect their new mayors. As the heads of the two city corporations of Dhaka (North and South), the new mayors will face some difficult challenges from the very first day of their tenure. Among them are lack of a sustainable waste management system, pollution, crisis of drinkable water, traffic congestion, etc.—which together made Dhaka one of the worst cities to live. But addressing these challenges is as much a responsibility of the mayors as the councillors, who live closest to the residents as they operate at the ward level, but unfortunately, the city's current governance structure does not reflect an understanding of that key responsibility.

According to the current structure, the mayors act as the heads of the city corporations, but it is these councillors who can effectively and regularly interact with the citizens from all walks of life. In the upcoming election, around 745 candidates will contest for the councillor position in a total of 129 wards. Unfortunately, once elected, these councillors will not be able to do much beyond issuing character, birth and death certificates for the residents of their ward. The budget and the executive authority of the city corporations are confined to the tables of the bureaucrats and government officials who act as the actual authority of the city corporations. On the other hand, many essential services such as water and electricity supply, traffic control, public healthcare, etc. are managed by many different offices of the government who are accountable only to the related ministry, not to the city corporations. As a consequence, the mayors and indeed the councillors can hardly take any decision independently or do what they are elected to do.

As the people's representatives, it is the mayors along with the councillors who should be in the driving seat of the city corporations. Experts have already recommended formulating ward-centric budgets in the city corporations. This suggestion should be taken seriously as it will decentralise and democratise the budget and will increase transparency as well. Also, there should be a mechanism in place to ensure accountability of the elected councillors. To turn city corporations into vibrant and transparent organisations, the policymakers should focus on these issues and re-think the role of mayors and councillors.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### A prayer for our students in China

My heart goes out to the Bangladeshi students who, among others, have been reportedly under lockdown in their dorms and residences in China for the last few days following the outbreak of the Coronavirus, which has claimed at least 41 lives and infected over 1,300 as I write this letter. My son too once lived in a different country for education purposes, and I can only imagine what is going through the minds of the parents of those students now. If you are reading this in China, I want you to know that you are in our prayers. Don't lose hope no matter what. At the same time, I urge the government to request the Bangladesh mission in China to take whatever steps necessary to ensure the safe return of our children. The longer they stay there, the more prone they will be to the life-threatening virus.

Shaila Hoq, Dhaka

## ICJ RULING ON ROHINGYA

# Where do we go from here?

BLACK, WHITE AND GREY



ALI RIAZ

THE International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling on Myanmar about taking emergency measures for the protection of the Rohingyas, delivered at The Hague on Thursday, is historic on many counts and provides a glimmer of hope for the persecuted community of Myanmar. The question is: where do we go from here?

To be specific, the ICJ imposed four provisional measures on the Myanmar government; these require the government to prevent genocidal acts, ensure the military and police forces do not commit genocide, preserve evidence of genocidal acts, and report back on its compliance within four months, then every six months afterwards. The ICJ's order, issued after The Gambia filed a case in November 2019, is significant, among other reasons, for its recognition of the community as Rohingya. This is for the first time that an international legal body has identified them as such, contrasting the claim of the Myanmar regime that they are Bengalis, or their identification as "displaced Myanmar citizens" by many other countries. It is a long-overdue recognition, coming through a process in which the Myanmar regime has fully participated. The court further stated, "the Rohingya in Myanmar appear to constitute a protected group within the meaning of the Genocide Convention." The reference to them as Rohingya and asserting their status under the Genocide Convention have implications beyond the case in the ICJ, particularly on the ongoing case against Myanmar in the International Criminal Court (ICC).

It is also worth noting that this ruling was unanimous, issued by a panel of seventeen judges, meaning that even the ad hoc judge nominated by Myanmar for the hearing voted against the country. The historic nature of the interim order means that this is the second time that the ICJ has issued such an order against a country. Previously, two "provisional protective measures" were issued by the ICJ, in April and September 1993, to the then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The ICJ ordered Yugoslavia "to do everything in its power to prevent the crimes of genocide and to make sure that such crimes are not committed by military or paramilitary formations operating under its control or with its support." Yugoslavia flouted those orders. Atrocities against the Bosnian Muslims continued, leading to the genocide in Srebrenica in July 1995. The significant difference between these two instances is that Yugoslavia questioned the legitimacy of the court, while Myanmar has fully participated in its proceedings. It sent its most famous representative to defend itself. Aung San Suu Kyi, once considered an icon of human rights and democracy, led the team which was tasked to convince the court and the international community that Myanmar's actions were driven by its security concerns. This has not only failed but also, importantly, provided added legitimacy to the process.

The unanimity of the judges also destroyed Myanmar's argument against the jurisdiction of The Gambia. This is the first time that a country without any direct connection to the alleged crimes brought a case before the ICJ, and now the court has concluded that, "The Gambia has prima facie standing to submit to it the dispute with Myanmar on the basis of alleged violations of obligations under the Genocide Convention." As such, the court has set a precedent with implications for the future. In a similar vein, we must note that the court has declared that there was *prima facie* evidence of breaches of the 1948 Genocide Convention. Consequently, the case against Myanmar's committing genocide has gained weight, although the provisional measures are not a verdict on whether a genocide was committed in Myanmar. That will be determined later through a lengthy process.

Notwithstanding these significant developments, the question that has been discussed extensively in the media since Thursday is: what impact will these

interim provisions have? It is well-known that although the ICJ rulings are legally binding to countries, the ICJ has no mechanism to enforce them. Therefore, these instructions are not likely to have an immediate impact on the Rohingyas. But considering that Myanmar has fully participated in the process, it will have to respond to these instructions—especially because this is not the end of the process in the ICJ, but rather only the beginning. The case filed by Gambia is yet to be heard, the merit of the case is yet to be determined. In 2007, an ICJ verdict held Serbia responsible for failing to prevent the genocide from occurring and for violating its obligation to comply with the provisional measures ordered by the court. Myanmar is unlikely to disregard the orders of the court, although it has defiantly rejected the ruling.

In the past, Myanmar has, on various occasions, tried to fool the international community through measures which were intended to distract them rather than address the central issues relating to the crisis. Myanmar has

announcement is understandable. In the face of inaction of the international community in this regard, the ICJ order is a positive development. But it must also be noted that the provisional measures are not targeted to alleviate the plight of the one million refugees stranded in Bangladesh. These instructions will not compel Myanmar to immediately take back the refugees.

The court has mentioned that Myanmar's steps "to facilitate the return of Rohingya refugees present in Bangladesh... do not appear sufficient in themselves." This bolsters the argument that an improvement of the existing situation in Myanmar is a prerequisite for the planned repatriation. The ICJ ruling shouldn't be considered as the solution to the refugee crisis. The Rohingya refugees' desire to return home with dignity has not yet been achieved.

The ruling's reference to the insufficiency of Myanmar's steps has once again proved the imprudence of the Bangladesh government's bilateral arrangement with Myanmar, and calls into question the repeated



The ICJ ruling is a small step in the right direction, but the journey ahead is long and arduous. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

been insisting that it is taking measures against "rogue elements" within the military for excessive use of force during what it terms as its "clearance operation" in the Rakhine state in 2016 and 2017. During the oral presentation at ICJ, the Myanmar delegate acknowledged that "there may have been excessive use of force and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Rakhine State." These statements and postures mean that the Myanmar government will try to whitewash. In advance of Thursday's ICJ ruling, the so-called Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) published its report in which it stated, "The ICOE has not found any evidence suggesting that these killings or acts of displacement were committed pursuant to an intent or plan to destroy the Muslim or any other community in northern Rakhine State." Aung San Suu Kyi, in an op-ed published in the Financial Times on January 23, referring to the report, acknowledged that war crimes have been committed but she asked for time: "Give Myanmar time to deliver justice on war crimes." Clearly, this will be the strategy of Myanmar going forward.

The ICJ order about provisional measures is a moral victory for the Rohingyas and for all of humanity. Human rights workers around the world, who have been at the forefront of the fight for justice for the Rohingyas, have welcomed the ruling. The celebration of the Rohingya refugees in camps in Bangladesh following the

efforts of Bangladesh to repatriate without a guarantee of the fundamental rights to Rohingyas and ensuring their safety. The Bangladesh government needs to understand that the ICJ ruling has created an opportunity to launch a robust diplomatic effort to pursue the issue in the international forum, and not be swayed by the countries that are failing to stand by Bangladesh in this time of crisis. Bangladesh must use its leverages with its close friends like India and China to change their policies. An absence of such efforts has been very costly to date.

It is incumbent on Bangladesh as well as on countries like India, Japan and members of the ASEAN to revisit their foreign policies. They must understand that their foreign policies have rather contributed, and continue to contribute, to a genocide in Myanmar. The international community should be vigilant against Myanmar's strategy of distraction and whitewash on the one hand, and work towards a safe return of the refugees on the other. In a long battle against injustices, a moral victory is necessary but not sufficient. This is a small step in the right direction, and the journey ahead is long and arduous. The ICJ ruling shouldn't make Bangladesh or the international community complacent. That will only help Myanmar and prolong the sufferings of the Rohingya refugees.

Ali Riaz is a distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University, USA. His most recent book is "Voting in Hybrid Regime: Explaining the 2018 Bangladeshi Election" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

## PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

# A Data Revolution for All

MICHAEL FROMAN and RAJIV SHAH

SCIENCE has revolutionised medicine and agriculture over the last 100 years, particularly for the poorest of the poor. Achievements ranging from the treatment of hookworm to the green revolution attest to its power.

Looking ahead, data science has even greater potential to revolutionise everything from how we treat disease to how we build more inclusive economies. History shows us that when the power of science and technology is brought to bear on society's greatest challenges, millions of lives can be improved.

Pick any problem you see around the world: the raging wildfires that are devastating Australia; the opioid epidemic that is ravaging poor communities in the United States; the world's worst refugee crisis since World War II. Confronting these problems and others—from poverty and inequality to conservation and climate change—requires the responsible application of data, and the insights drawn from them.

Yet, while there have been great advances in data science in the private sector, many social-sector and civic organisations are lagging behind. With proper support, they can leverage data analytics to make their work go further and faster, ultimately helping more people. Just last year, our two organisations—Mastercard and The Rockefeller Foundation—committed to addressing this gap. By becoming more data-science driven, all organisations can achieve their full potential.

Fortunately, innovators in the field are already performing some of this work. The volunteer-based organisation DataKind, for example, has connected non-profits with private-sector data scientists to solve issues facing community health workers. Community Solutions, a non-profit working in more than 80 US cities and counties, is using

data science to tackle homelessness. And Benefits Data Trust, a Philadelphia-based national non-profit, leverages the power of artificial intelligence to help millions of low-income American families access the social benefits available to help them.

Data-driven insights have also been used to help mayors across the US pursue strategies of inclusive economic growth, and to help government officials in Africa predict the locations and causes of at-risk pregnancies in rural communities. And yet, these efforts represent merely the

philanthropist Bono, launched DATA, a nonprofit committed to alleviating debt, fighting AIDS, and reducing trade inequalities in Africa. In what ultimately became the ONE Campaign, they galvanised support for poverty alleviation by focusing on real-world data, and by advocating evidence-based approaches to development.

At the time, these efforts broke new ground by recognising the power of data to address society's greatest challenges. In partnership with millions of activists



starting point, not the final destination. There is still so much more work to be done.

Transforming the role of data in addressing major social and economic issues is not a job for any one person or organisation. We must build on the successes of those who have come before. In 2002, a group of innovative social entrepreneurs, together with anti-poverty advocates and the Irish rock musician and

around the world, the coalition behind DATA facilitated the cancellation of USD 100 billion of debt owed by poor countries, marshalled USD 50 billion in contributions for health and development aid, and pushed for trade deals that helped millions of vulnerable families.

But, although data are ubiquitous, and the opportunities offered by the data revolution are even larger, not everyone is poised to gain from it equally. Once

again, we need a bold effort to bridge the gap and ensure that the most vulnerable are not left behind.

With that challenge in mind, and with the support of DATA's original founders, The Rockefeller Foundation and Mastercard are relaunching DATA.org to serve as a platform for partnerships to expand further the field of data science for social impact, and to ensure that non-profit and civic organisations are well positioned to take advantage of the data revolution.

By relaunching the platform, we hope to use data to tackle homelessness, improve access to social benefits, and support community health workers worldwide. Those on the front lines of efforts to improve public health, fight poverty, and solve many other problems will have improved access to data scientists who can help them maximise their impact. Most important, this will be done in a way that brings more people and organisations together to effect positive social change, all while adhering to principles of responsible data use.

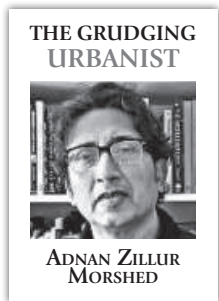
Expanding the field of data science for social impact is a shared global effort. It will take collaboration from all sectors to ensure that the nearly 2.5 quintillion bytes of data being produced every day have a positive social impact. Just as DATA demonstrated the promise of evidence-driven policies for development 18 years ago, the relaunch of the platform this month will create new momentum for tackling the world's biggest challenges.

The data revolution must benefit all. Together, we can make 2020 the year that partnerships began to extend the promise of a data-driven economy to everyone, everywhere.

Michael Froman, US Trade Representative during President Barack Obama's administration, is Vice Chairman and President of Strategic Growth at Mastercard. Rajiv Shah is President of The Rockefeller Foundation. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org) (Exclusive to The Daily Star)



# Why BRAC should transform its experience into knowledge



**THE GRUDGING URBANIST**

I first met Sir Fazle Hasan Abed in 2012 at an invitation-only meeting in Washington, DC. He presented BRAC's development philosophy to a group of US policymakers, scholars, academics, and think-tankers at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, located in Washington's political heartland. Based on my brief interaction with him at that meeting, I wrote an opinion piece which was critical of what I thought was BRAC's lack of adequate attention to environmental stewardship in its development strategy ("Environment and Fatalism," *The Daily Star*).

I was pleasantly surprised to see the TDS piece reposted on the BRAC website a few days later. I didn't understand the significance of this until I met Sir Abed again in 2017, when I joined BRAC University's Department of Architecture as its Chair and got to know him well. This was a person with an extraordinary ability and humility to allow constructive criticism to be a part of his development vision, humanised by a genuine empathy for the downtrodden. Most heroes talk and their followers listen. Sir Abed was an unusual hero who listened. He spoke from within or simply sat on the other side of the table, and spoke and listened in equal measure. This is why we often saw him among the people, poor women and children, listening to their stories with genuine interest. This image of a *listener*, of course, didn't mean that he wouldn't take the toughest decisions when needed.

Sometime in 2017, I approached Sir Abed with a proposal. The context of the proposal was this: Bangladesh has become a quasi-pilgrimage site for development workers around the world, who want to understand this South Asian country's remarkable feat in development from below or grassroots development. Media statements like Bangladesh's "development surprise" and "by many metrics, Bangladesh's development trajectory is a unique success story" are increasingly becoming common. Global pundits like Amartya Sen paid glowing tributes to Bangladesh's social advancements, particularly women's empowerment.

I told Sir Abed that this development story, despite its many flaws and frailties, and the one in which BRAC played a pivotal role, needed to be transformed into *knowledge* for ordinary people to understand and internalise it as a fundamental condition for realising their full potential. I was, of course, not referring to the ivory-tower, academic knowledge cloistered within a vast range of disciplinary jargon and peer-to-peer loop, inaccessible to most people, but to the kind of easy-to-understand knowledge that could catalyse broad behavioural transformation as a foundation for the next generation of development. I argued that time had come to transform Bangladesh's development story into an instructive narrative that can empower people to believe in themselves. I told Sir Abed that BRAC is great, but very few people outside it knew how this organisation flourished as a non-governmental organisation, how it survived many challenges, and how it sought to achieve its goals despite many roadblocks.

BRAC's work at the field level, since its founding in the early 1970s, has produced a vast body of data that could

now be mainstreamed as knowledge of the past, present, and future of Bangladesh's development. I reasoned with Sir Abed that this knowledge production would be possible, even if partially, by creating a people-oriented "museum of development," a contentious but worthy site for transforming experience into operative knowledge.

This museum would display the

economic growth. This is where tourists, both local and international, would find another Bangladesh—resilient, progressive, and challenged—beyond the frivolities of the "basket case." I argued that not converting BRAC's 50-year experience into knowledge would be a lost opportunity, since that very knowledge could be the vehicle for people to graduate to the next generation of entrepreneurship.

personality, such "idolatry" would be antithetical to his worldview. Second, he may have thought that development in Bangladesh was still a work in progress, as millions still face economic hardship, and by no means were we at a stage in which we could feel complacent about successfully achieving economic and social freedom. And, third, a museum might be viewed as an arrogant memorialisation of perceived success.

Despite Sir Abed's lack of interest, I went ahead to introduce the idea of a museum of development as a class project to third-year architecture students at BRAC University. To my utter surprise, Sir Abed facilitated our visit to two potential BRAC-owned sites, one at Purbachal, on the eastern side of Dhaka, and the other near Gulshan-1, on the northern edge of Hatir Jheel. When we finally completed the project after about three months, he came to see the final outcome and asked the students about their philosophy of development and the challenges of displaying its past and future in a museum setting. I knew deep down that he would have appreciated the idea of "exhibiting development" as a form of operative knowledge for people to visualise self-improvement as an achievable goal.

The BRAC leadership should consider such a museum as a tangible tribute to the legacy of Sir Abed. This 21st-century museum, along with its research wing, will not mummify and glorify Bangladesh's development history, nor would it be a shrine for him. Instead, it will be a knowledge centre, mainstreaming holistic development as a state of mind.



**BRAC's work at the field level has produced a vast body of data that could be mainstreamed as knowledge of the past, present, and future of Bangladesh's development.**

PHOTO COURTESY: BRAC

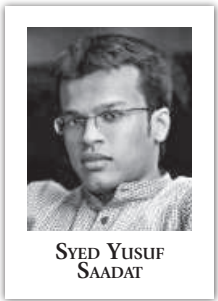
history, in all its complexities and contradictions, of Bangladesh's development from the lens of BRAC's field experience and global exchanges. This is where school children would come as part of their curriculum to understand what development meant for Bangladesh in the wake of the country's independence. This is where college students would learn from the infographics and related exhibits showcasing Bangladesh's social and

Sir Abed was not convinced. I was perplexed as to why a visionary like him would not see the potential of *knowledge* as the propeller of Bangladesh's development in the 21st century. He was reluctant to entertain the idea. I slowly understood why. First, he thought that this "museum" would become a Sir Abed shrine, a hagiographic memorial of a larger-than-life saint. Given the empathetic human dimension of his

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## IMPLEMENTING SDG 3

# Revisiting the Revolutionary Medicine



It was his last semester before graduation. Yet Ernesto Guevara decided to postpone the completion of his medical degree, and instead embarked on an audacious adventure. The ultimate objective was simple: travel from Argentina to Peru, with friend and biochemist Alberto Granado, to get some practical experience of treating leprosy patients. Ernesto's unwavering commitment to help others, combined with his juvenile wanderlust, took him on a journey across the South American continent that transformed him from being a medical student into a doctor and later into a renegade. Dr Ernesto Guevara went on to become the most iconic revolutionary of modern times—Comandante Che Guevara.

Che Guevara's legendary journey was described in his memoir "The Motorcycle Diaries", which was later turned into a biopic with the same title. His subsequent revolutionary activities were also recorded in his autobiographical books, as well as countless other books, movies and documentaries. What often gets lost in the shadows of Che Guevara's heroic feats is the quiet rebellion against medical conditions and illnesses that he directly inspired. In a speech to the Cuban militia titled "On Revolutionary Medicine", Che described how his travels brought him into close contact with poverty, hunger and disease, and expressed his fervent wish to

help the helpless. According to Che, revolutionary doctors were individuals who utilised their technical knowledge in the service of the revolution and the people. Che envisaged a healthcare system that provided services for the greatest possible number of people, instituted a programme of preventive medicine and created public awareness about hygienic practices. Che Guevara's ideas and ideals were subsequently enshrined in the Cuban constitution which guaranteed free universal healthcare for all.

However, unlike Cuba, most developing countries struggle to provide quality healthcare to their citizens. The right to good health has been championed in the third Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 3) of the 2030 Agenda. SDG 3 calls upon countries to "ensure healthy

lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." Bangladesh has also made commendable progress on indicators under SDG 3. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, maternal deaths per 100,000 births decreased from 648 in 1986 to 315 in 2001. Since 2009, maternal mortality ratios have been declining continuously every year, and in 2017, there were 172 maternal deaths per 100,000 births. Nonetheless, it will be difficult to achieve the government's target of having a maximum of 105 maternal deaths per 100,000 births by 2020 unless urgent steps are taken.

Apart from the positive outlook of the national aggregate, the difference between rural and urban maternal deaths has also been reduced over the years. For example, in 1995, there were 72 more maternal deaths per

100,000 births in rural areas compared to urban areas, but in 2005, there were only 25 more maternal deaths per 100,000 births. In addition to the fall in maternal deaths, infant mortality has also declined. The mortality rate of children below the age of 5 years decreased from 102.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1997 to 32.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017. Neonatal mortality rate declined from 47.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1997 to 18.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017. Thus, the country has already achieved the milestones in both under-five and neonatal mortality rates well ahead of 2020.

A key reason behind the decline in maternal and infant deaths is the rise in the number of healthcare service providers. The proportion of births attended by skilled healthcare service providers increased from 20.1 percent in 2006 to 49.8 percent in 2016. The number of nurses per 10,000 people increased from 1.576 in 2007 to 3.067 in 2017, and the number of physicians per 10,000 people increased from 3.193 in 2007 to 5.268 in 2017. However, despite the progress made by Bangladesh in implementing SDG 3, a number of key challenges remain. These include, inter alia, the high out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure, the rural-urban divide in access to quality healthcare services, the unmet needs of people with disabilities, and the neglected issue of mental health.

Developing countries like Bangladesh have much to learn from the public healthcare system of Cuba and from Che Guevara's theory of revolutionary medicine. In the book titled "Primary Health Care in Cuba: The Other Revolution", Linda M.

Whiteford and Laurence G. Branch outline ten lessons learned from Cuba's primary healthcare model that may guide the way forward for other developing countries with similar resource constraints.

These include: i) reducing disparities in healthcare access, opportunities, education and resources to improve overall well-being; ii) ensuring a strong presence of healthcare service providers everywhere as a prerequisite for universal healthcare; iii) developing trust between healthcare service providers and the people they serve through ensuring accessibility and reliability of healthcare services; iv) empowering local community groups to collect data and to participate in healthcare promotion campaigns; v) communicating public health awareness messages clearly and frequently; vi) making an indefatigable political commitment to improving health for all, through prioritising health policy; vii) emphasising disease prevention as an overarching public healthcare strategy; viii) achieving a health policy consensus by fostering a sense of equality for all, while acknowledging resource constraints; ix) creating behavioural changes through community interventions and individual counselling, in order to reduce health risk factors; and x) building a strong preventive primary healthcare system which is community-based, labour-intensive and relatively technology-independent.

Bangladesh can learn from the Cuban experience to address the challenge of providing quality healthcare services to all its citizens.

Syed Yusuf Saadat is a Senior Research Associate at Centre for Policy Dialogue.



**Bangladesh has made commendable progress in implementing SDG 3, but a number of key challenges remain.**

PHOTO: SYED YUSUF SAADAT

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JANUARY 26, 1788  
**First European settlement in Australia**

On this day in 1788, Arthur Phillip, who had sailed into what is now Sydney Cove with a shipload of convicts, hoisted the British flag and established the first permanent European settlement on the continent of Australia.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "I have a dream" speaker

5 Fishhook feature

9 Fable ending

10 Spanish farewell

12 Stage comment

13 Vietnam's capital

14 Behind in the score

16 Collins base

17 At any time

18 Broadcasting

21 Urgent call

22 Restaurant activity

23 Wild dog of Australia

24 Hot dog

26 Ammo for a Red Ryder

29 Big shooter

30 Opera solo

31 Throw in

32 Staring

34 Squad car sound

37 Fencing move

38 Coach Rockne

39 Yens

40 Pesky insect

41 Clutter

DOWN

1 Balkan region

2 Showy flowers

3 Lowest point

4 Secluded valley

5 Derisive cry

6 Oklahoma city

7 Welcome, as a new year

8 Like opposition fans

9 Bulls and bucks

11 Join the choir

15 Making head-way

19 "Picnic" playwright

20 Brazilian city

22 Fred and Wilma's pet

23 Comfy room

24 Walking in water

25 Evasive maneuver

26 Delivers

27 Benders

28 Wise ones

29 Wine barrel

30 Blue hue

33 Homecoming guest

35 Seventh Greek letter

36 Badminton need

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

A	X	E	S		S	H	O	P	S
L	A	M	A	R		T	O	N	O
E	V	I	T	A		A	D	E	L
F	I	G		T	E	N		S	A
S	E	R	I	A	L		M	I	N
R	E	C	T	I	F	I	E	D	
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B	O	S	S		S	T	M	A	R
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BEEBLE BAILEY by Mort Walker

BABY BLUES





Rescue workers search for survivors in the rubble of a collapsed building after an earthquake hit town of Elazig, eastern Turkey, yesterday. *Inset, Rescuers stand on another collapsed building in the town.*

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Turkey quake kills 22

Rescuers scramble to find survivors; 1,243 people injured

AFP, Elazig

Rescue workers raced against time yesterday to find survivors under the rubble after a powerful earthquake claimed 22 lives and left more than 1,200 injured in eastern Turkey.

The magnitude 6.8 quake struck on Friday evening, with its epicentre in the small lakeside town of Sivrice in Elazig province, and was felt across neighbouring countries. There have been 401 aftershocks including 14 that were above four in magnitude.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cancelled a speech in Istanbul and headed to Elazig where he attended the funeral of a woman and her son.

He vowed the state would do “everything we can” to help those affected in a disaster he described as a “test”.

The Turkish government’s disaster and emergency management agency (AFAD) said 42 people had been rescued alive from collapsed buildings in Elazig.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said earlier that 22 people were estimated to be trapped under the rubble.

Turkish news channels showed live images of people



rescued. Among those found alive was a woman called Azize who had contacted emergency authorities and spoken to a rescue worker by telephone, state news agency Anadolu reported.

Nearly 2,000 search and rescue personnel were sent to the region while thousands of beds, blankets and tents have been provided, the presidency said.

The rescue efforts have been taking place in freezing temperatures as wood and plastic were burned to keep crowds warm.

Environment and Urbanisation Minister Murat Kurum told reporters in Elazig that five buildings collapsed while others were badly or lightly damaged.

The interior minister said 18 people were killed in Elazig while four died in Malatya.

Among the 1,243 people injured were residents in other southeast provinces including Diyarbakir and Sanliurfa.

Health minister Fahrettin Koca said no one was in a critical condition.

The tremor was felt in several parts of eastern Turkey near the Iraqi and Syrian borders as well as in Iran, Lebanon and Syria.

## IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF US PRESIDENT

# Trump defence team begins arguments

REUTERS, Washington

Lawyers for US President Donald Trump began his defense at the Senate impeachment trial yesterday, arguing that Democrats’ efforts to remove the president from office would set a “very, very dangerous” precedent in an election year.

For the last three days, Democrats laid made case for the removal of Trump from office for pressuring Ukraine to dig up dirt on former Vice President Joe Biden, a 2020 Democratic presidential contender, and then trying to cover it up by impeding a congressional investigation. Trump has denied wrongdoing.

White House Counsel Pat Cipollone, the head of the defense team, told Senators they would be denying voters their right to give their opinion on Trump at the Nov 3 presidential election if they found him guilty and ousted him now.

In only the third US presidential impeachment trial, Democrats argued earlier this week that Trump should be removed for pressuring Ukraine to dig up dirt on former Vice President Joe Biden, a 2020 Democratic presidential contender, and then trying to cover it up by impeding a congressional investigation. “You’ll find that the president did absolutely nothing wrong,” Cipollone said.

Trump is expected to be acquitted in the Senate, where a two-thirds vote is required to convict and remove a president from office. No Republican senator has voiced any support for his ouster.

Yesterday’s session will be a relatively short one of up to three hours because Republicans want to save the bulk of their arguments for early next week when they expect television viewership to be higher.

## 34 US troops injured in Iran strikes in Iraq base

Nearly three dozen US troops suffered traumatic brain injuries or concussion in this month’s Iranian air strike on a military base in Iraq, the Pentagon said on Friday. “Thirty-four total members have been diagnosed with concussions and TBI (traumatic brain injury),” Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman told reporters. President Donald Trump had initially said that no Americans were injured in the strike on the Ain al-Asad base in western Iraq on the night of January 7-8 although authorities later reported that 11 troops were injured. The airbase -- one of the largest in Iraq, with 1,500 US troops making up the bulk of a coalition presence directly adjacent to thousands of Iraqi forces -- was targeted in retaliation for the US killing of top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in a January 3 drone strike in Baghdad.

## Walking sharks discovered

So -- some sharks walk. Just not the scary ones. While great whites haunt the deep, walking sharks are content to scuttle in the shallows. They’ve been walking, or something close to it, for at least 9 million years. Shark scientists spent years sampling the DNA of the only known walking shark species to estimate when they evolved. They found four new species while they were at it. The youngest species might’ve evolved less than 2 million years ago, according to findings published this week in Marine and Freshwater Research. Walking sharks, also called “epaulette” sharks for their spots that resemble the military decor, “walk” on their muscular fins to forage for small fish along shallow reefs and sea grass. Walking sharks are found in eastern Indonesia and neighboring islands, New Guinea and parts of Australia.

## Locust invasion of E Africa



Billions of locusts swarming through East Africa are the result of extreme weather swings and could prove catastrophic for a region still reeling from drought and deadly floods, experts said Friday. Dense clouds of the ravenous insects have spread from Ethiopia and Somalia into Kenya, in the region’s worse infestation in decades. The UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimated one swarm in Kenya at around 2,400 square kilometres -- an area almost the size of Moscow -- meaning it could contain up to 200 billion locusts, each of which consume their own weight in food every day. If unchecked, locust numbers could grow 500 times by June, spreading to Uganda and South Sudan, becoming a plague that will devastate crops and pasture in a region which is already one of the poorest and most vulnerable in the world.

SOURCE: AFP

# 4 killed as Iraq forces raid protest camps

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi security forces raided Baghdad’s main protest site yesterday and tried to eject protesters in southern cities, firing tear gas and bullets killing four people and wounding dozens more, police and medical sources said.

The new push to end the sit-ins and restore order came hours after populist cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who counts millions of supporters in Baghdad and the south, said he would halt his involvement in anti-government unrest.

Sadr’s supporters, who had bolstered the anti-government protesters and sometimes played a role in protecting them from attacks by security forces and unidentified gunmen, began withdrawing from sit-ins early yesterday after Sadr’s announcement.

Clashes then took place after authorities began removing concrete barriers near Tahrir Square where anti-government demonstrators have camped out for months, and across at least one main bridge over the Tigris River in the capital,

Reuters reporters said.

In the southern city of Basra, security forces raided the main anti-government sit-in overnight and deployed in force to stop protesters gathering there again, security sources said. Police arrested at least 16 protesters in the city, they said.

In Baghdad, at least one person was killed and more than 30 injured in clashes between police and protesters near Tahrir Square. Another three died and 14 were wounded in the southern city of Nassiriya when security forces took control of a bridge occupied for days by demonstrators, security sources and medics said.

Iraq’s security forces have used tear gas and live ammunition against mostly peaceful protesters since anti-government unrest broke out in Baghdad on Oct. 1. More than 450 people have died in the violence, according to a Reuters tally from police and medics.

The demonstrators demand the removal of what they see as a corrupt Iraqi ruling elite and the end of interference in politics by foreign powers.



Smoke from burning tents is seen as Iraqi security forces raid Baghdad’s main protest site at Tahrir Square during ongoing anti-government protests in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## UK PM signs EU divorce treaty

AFP, London

Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday hailed “a new chapter” in Britain’s history as he signed its divorce treaty with the EU, clearing another hurdle before the country exits the bloc next Friday.

It allows Britain to end its decades-long membership of the European Union and leave its closest neighbours and trading partners after several years of domestic acrimony and delays.

“The signing of the withdrawal agreement is a fantastic moment, which finally delivers the result of the 2016 referendum and brings to an end far too many years of argument and division,” Johnson said in a statement.

“This signature heralds a new chapter in our nation’s history,” he added on Twitter, alongside a photo of the occasion.

Johnson signed the agreement in Downing Street, seated in front of two Union Jack flags, with European and British officials who had brought it from Brussels looking on.

EU chiefs Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel had already put their names to the treaty overnight at a ceremony held behind closed doors in the early hours of the morning.

It will now return to Brussels, where the original will be kept in EU archives along with other international treaties, while three copies will be dispatched back to London.

On Wednesday next week, the text will go to the European Parliament for ratification and on Thursday diplomats from the EU member states will approve the deal in writing.

Then, on Friday, January 31, Britain spends its last day in the EU before leaving the bloc at 2300 GMT as clocks strike midnight in Brussels.

# Indian govt ends internet blackout in restive Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

Indian authorities yesterday restored internet in Indian Kashmir after a five-and-a-half-month blackout but maintained a block on social media sites.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government imposed a communications blackout in early August when it stripped the portion of Kashmir it controls -- the country’s only Muslim-majority region -- of its partial autonomy.

India also imposed a curfew, sent in tens of thousands of extra troops and detained dozens of Kashmiri political leaders and others, many of whom remain in detention, drawing criticism abroad.

Internet access was restored yesterday but only to 301 government-approved websites that include international news publications and platforms such as Netflix and Amazon.

Mobile phone data access was also

Limited mobile data to be restored, social media remains blocked

US urges release of J&K leaders, stresses ‘equal protection’ under CAA

restored, although it was limited to slower second-generation (2G) connections.

Meanwhile, a top American diplomat has urged New Delhi to release “political leaders detained without charge” in Kashmir.

“I was pleased to see some incremental steps, including the partial return of internet service in Kashmir,” Alice Wells, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, said at a news briefing in Washington DC.

“We also continue to urge the government to permit regular access by our diplomats, and to move swiftly to release those political leaders detained without charge,” the ambassador, who was on a visit to Asian countries and attended a conference in New Delhi, added.

Wells also spoke about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in her briefing, saying that the US stressed on the principle of equal protection under the law.

## Rajasthan passes anti-CAA resolution

NDTV ONLINE

The Congress-led government in Indian state of Rajasthan yesterday passed a resolution against the CAA in the state assembly with the opposition BJP strongly protesting the move.

Rajasthan became the third state in the country after Kerala and Punjab to pass a resolution against the amended citizenship law.

The Congress resolution said CAA flouts the basic nature of the Constitution and that a substantial section of people believes that National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) have the same base.

The resolution further said that the amendments “divides people on religious grounds.”

# Weinstein drew up ‘red flag list’ of women, rape trial told

AFP, New York

Harvey Weinstein told a private investigator to approach women he suspected were detailing sexual misconduct allegations against him to journalists, his rape trial was told Friday.

Two months before the #MeToo movement ignited in late 2017, the then Hollywood titan emailed a “red flag list” of people he wanted investigated, prosecutors and a witness said in the high-profile proceedings which began hearing testimony this week.

The list included dozens of names, some of which were highlighted in red to indicate individuals that the now-disgraced movie producer was most concerned about.

They included the actress Rose McGowan, who Weinstein claimed was trying to extort him, and “The Sopranos” actress Annabella Sciorra, who accused him of rape in graphic testimony on Thursday.

Weinstein, 67, faces life imprisonment if convicted of predatory sexual assault

charges related to two women.

He is accused of raping actress Jessica Mann in 2013 and of forcibly performing oral sex on former production assistant Mimi Haley.

More than 80 women, including Hollywood stars Angelina Jolie and Salma Hayek, have since accused him of sexual misconduct.

Early Friday, the prosecution called forensic psychiatrist Barbara Ziv to dispel several “myths” surrounding rape.

Ziv, who testified when comedian Bill Cosby was convicted of sexual assault, said victims of sexual assault commonly remain in contact with their attacker for years after the incident.


“That contact can range from text messages to emails to continuing a relationship with them,” she said.

The psychiatrist said victims often keep quiet because they possess some sort of affection for the abuser or because the perpetrator may also have the power to wreck their job and other relationships.





WHAT'S ON



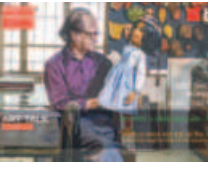
**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Truce  
Artist: Ata Mojlish  
Venue: Dwpj Gallery, Lalmatia  
Date: January 25 – February 1  
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm (Except Mondays)



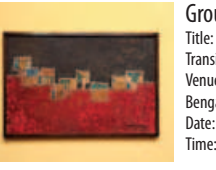
**Workshop**  
Title: Kata Kuti – Collage Workshop  
by Kazi Tahsin  
Agaz Apurbo  
Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur  
Date: February 22, 2020  
Time: 11 am – 6 pm



**Charity Painting Exhibition**  
Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, Progoti Shoroni  
Date: Jan 18 – 27  
Time: 11 am – 7 pm



**Art Talk**  
Title: Art Talk Session 01: Oshanti je aghat kore taito bina bajey  
Venue: EMK Centre, Dhanmondi  
Date: January 27  
Time: 6 pm onwards



**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)



(L) From left Shemonty Monjari, Samarjit Roy, Champa Banik, Tanjina Karim Sharalipi and Mahfuzur Rahman perform at the event. (R) The esteemed guests and audience at the programme.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# OF NOSTALGIA AND ROMANCE

Star Melodies hosts ‘Tondrahara Raater Gaan’

Music possesses the power of conveying diverse emotions. Songs connoting nostalgia and romance have a lasting impression on our minds. To revisit such timeless songs, Star Melodies, an initiative of The Daily Star to promote Bangla music, was designed to offer for the regular music connoisseurs. Titled Tondrahara Raater Gaan, the special soiree featured evergreen songs.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The programme, sponsored by Dhaka Bank Limited, was held yesterday at the A S Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre. Both prominent and promising artistes -- Mahfuzur Rahman, Samarjit Roy, Champa Banik, Tanjina Karim Sharalipi and Shemonty Monjari performed songs narrating the melancholia of sleepless night at the event, hosted by Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, The Daily Star. Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, warmly welcomed all and delivered his welcome address conveying his unassuming gratitude to the audience attending the programme. The melodic evening started off with promising singer Shemonty Monjari performing *Nidrahara Raater E Gaan*, a

Tagore song. With her precise diction and vocal throwing, the artiste stole the show. Her presentation of Atulprasad Sen's *Bondhua Nid Nahi Ankhi Patey* also captivated the crowd. She also shared the background stories of the songs she performed. Tanjina Karim Sharalipi's rendition of *Nishi Nijhum Ghum Nahi Aashe*, written and composed by National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, mesmerised the music lovers. She later went on to perform Amalendu Bikash Kar Chowdhury's *Ghum Ashe Na Duchokhe Amar*, Klanto Shephalira Chumiye *Porechhe*, written by Pulak Banerjee and composed by Hemanta Mukherjee, *Oi Utola Raate*, written by Mohammad Moniruzzaman and composed by Robin Ghosh, and *Chonchol Moyuri E Raat*, written by Mukul Dutta and composed by Hemanta

Mukherjee which were also applauded by the audience. Champa Banik's performance of the Nazrul song, *Gobhir Raate Jaagi Khuiji Tomare*, *Chand Ki Ghumiye Porechhe*, written and composed by Kajal Ghosh and Abhijit Banerjee, *Koto Nishi Geche Nidhara*, written by Pabitra Mitra and composed by Satinath Mukherjee and *Tondrahara Noyon Amar*, written by Masud Karim and composed by Samar Das, enthralled the audience. Samarjit Roy first took the stage to present *Adho Raate Jodi Ghum Bhenge Jai*, a popular track written by Anil Bhattacharya and composed by Nirmal Bhattacharya. He also beautifully performed many other evergreen tracks, including *Tondrahara Raat Oi Jege Roy*, written by Debashis Chatterjee and composed by Pratima Banerjee,

and Ghumalo Raater Chand, penned by Shyamal Gupta and composed by Manabendra Mukherjee, thoroughly entertained the audience. Mahfuzur Rahman's treat to the Nazrul number *Gobhir Nishithe Ghum Bhenge Jai* was simply fascinating. The singer seemingly won the hearts of many through performing songs like *Kal Shararaat Chokhe Ghum Chhilo Na*, written by Sunil Boron and composed by Anil Chatterjee, and *Raat Jaaga Mor E Aankhi Pataay*, penned by Shyamal Gupta and composed by Satinath Mukherjee. Many dignitaries, including renowned singer Hasina Momtaz performed her song *Tondrahara Noyon Amar*, after delivering her special address. Noted singer and composer Faisal Ahmed, Dr Rana Ahmed, an educationalist and music enthusiast, also spoke at the event.

## ‘Shoikot Shangskritik Utshob 2020’ held at Cox’s Bazar

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) has been working for a long time to ensure a prosperous arrangement of cultural activities nation-wide. Following the trend, Shoikot Shangskritik Utshob 2020’ was arranged at the shores of Cox's Bazaar, recently.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The event, held in association with Cox's Bazaar district administration, was inaugurated by Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General, BSA. The programme was presided by Mohammad Ashrafur Afsar, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Cox's Bazaar. Additional Police Super, Mohammad Adibul Islam and Municipality Mayor, Mujibur Rahman, along with the General Secretary, Cox's Bazaar, BSA, Biswajit Paul Bishu were present as guests, among others. The two-day festival concluded yesterday, with songs, dance performances, acrobatic shows, and dance performances of ethnic groups. Artistes from Cox's Bazaar, Chattogram, Bandarban, and five hundred artisans from BSA participated in this fest.



Guests and performers at the event.

## ‘Shliper Kalyane Abritty’ held at BSA

As a tribute to the renowned theatre personality Ishrat Nishat, Abritty Kollan Trust, with the help of Bangladesh Abritty Somonnoy Parishad, arranged a poetry recital programme titled, Shilper Kalyane Abritty at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), recently.

BORNALY DEBNATH

Former Cultural Minister and the President of Bangladesh Abritty Songthon, Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, eminent elocutionist Shimul Mustapha, Bangladesh Film Fest award winning actor-director- singer Shimul Yousuf, popular artiste Hasan Arif, and Ishrat Nishat's sister Nusrat Anwar were present at the event, among others. The programme began with speeches by the guests commemorating the thespian Ishrat Nishat. To encourage artistes in keeping their art practices, Abritty Kollan Trust provided a grant of BDT 2 lac to Fakhrul Islam Tara, and an amount of BDT 1 lac each were granted to Shimul Mustapha, Roya Chowdhury and Aporajita Hossain. The session was followed by a cultural programme featuring poetry recitals.

Fakhrul Islam Tara recited the poems, *Bodhu* by Sukanta Bhattacharya, *Shonar Medal* by Purnendu Putri, and *Bharatbarsha* by Debesh Thakur. Proga Laboni recited 8 poems by Kazi Nazrul Islam, Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, Nirmalendu Goon, Sunendra Banerjee, Shamsur Rahman, Achintya Kumar Sengupta, Rudra Goswami and Rabindranath Tagore, respectively. Renowned elocutionist and eye surgeon Dr Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury, next took the stage, reciting two poems-- Mofazzal Karim's *Nesha* and Srijan Sen's *Matribhumit Jonno*. The evening concluded with Asaduzzaman Noor's recital. He also narrated a comedy about a man who losses his *Lungi* to bank robbers during a robbery. Due to having inadequate bags with them, the robbers snatches the *Lungi* of the man to carry money. This story offered comic relief to the audience.

## Reflecting euphoria

Galleri Kaya showcases 7 renowned artists

ZAHANGIR ALOM

An exclusive group art exhibition by 7 eminent artists -- Alokesh Ghosh, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Chandra Shekhar Dey, Mohammad Eunus, Jamal Ahmed, Ranjit Das and Ahmed Shamsuddoha, is underway at Galleri Kaya, Uttara.

Organised by Galleri Kaya, the exhibition, titled 7, was opened on January 24. A selection of 51 artworks on diverse media, including oil, acrylic, watercolour, lithograph, ink, charcoal, pastel and mixed media are on display at the exhibition. Alokesh Ghosh, who has developed a distinctive art language of his own, depicting pastoral life, colourful horizon and riverine landscape Bangladesh, has this time reinvented himself with a variety of other works. The artist uses two-dimensional watercolour wash technique in his work. The use of mature colours coupled with empty space properly kept on his canvas has created a volume in his arts. Bold brush strokes, vibrant colours and



By Mohammad Eunus

a dynamic figurative expression are the hallmarks of Shahabuddin Ahmed's works. Bangabandhu, peace and the indomitable spirit of the Liberation War frequently appear as prominent connotations on his canvases. Some animated untitled figures on lithograph together with a mixed-media work, emphasising the form of a fierce cheetah, are the highlights of his display. Chandra Shekhar Dey's detailed work contains elements of both skill and grace. His *Ancient Queen* (acrylic on canvas) is a testament to the vivacious depiction of a queen. The antique palace, adorned with oriental architectural designs, geometric forms and shapes, exquisite compositional beauty and colour balance truly evoke the

elegance of oriental queen. The queen's blissful leisure, coupled with the portrayal of a mythical stallion, carries another connotation of romance in the painting. The essence of the rhythm of poetry, the melodic bliss of classical music and the visual beauty of abstract paintings are the distinctive artistic phraseologies that Mohammad Eunus developed over the years. The artist takes colours, sounds, senses and lines from nature, but never takes shapes from nature. Rather, he creates shapes to depict the non-representational forms in his arts. The artist tries to express the inner feelings, elements and incidents of nature through his paintings. Mohammad Eunus has represented paintings of both rectangular and circular shapes for the exhibition. Jamal Ahmed's masterful drawings -- the realistic depiction of life, fishermen with



By Chandra Shekhar Dey

nets, expansive landscapes, the riverscape of the Buriganga, dusks on the beach and feminine beauty, among others, have attributed a special quality in his paintings. As an exponent of Bangladeshi realistic art movement, he has contributed a lot through his artistic endeavour, and this group show is no exception of his idiosyncratic traits. Ranjit Das, a reticent yet romantic painter, has showcased both the reflective and remorseful female figures along with vast landscapes of minimal colour treatment. The untainted beauty of the Sundarbans, with the unparalleled composition of sea-shores and hills, are the selective themes that the amiable yet assertive artist Ahmed Shamsuddoha has portrayed for the ongoing exhibition. Entering the gallery, one is bound to be amazed with the subtle and soothing tones of colours, bold brushworks and a soul-searching journey in the realm of contemporary paintings. The paintings not only capture moments and tell stories, but also capture the intricate feelings of bliss and despair. The exhibition will remain open every day from 11:30 am to 7:30 pm till February 7.



By Ahmed Shamsuddoha



## French jihadist recruiter handed long jail term

AFP, Paris

A Frenchman has been sentenced to 22 years in prison for seeking to recruit dozens of youths to fight as jihadists in Syria and for leading a brigade of French-speaking Islamists in the war-torn country.

Mourad Fares, 35, fled Syria in 2014, and was arrested in Turkey and handed over to French authorities the same year.

Prosecutors said he played a “crucial” role in the recruiting of young people to fight as jihadists in Syria, and noted a lack of any “real regret” for his actions.

Fares appeared unmoved as the verdict was read out at a special court Friday evening.

He admitted to the court he “indirectly” recruited youths to fight as jihadists via his propaganda videos and “facilitated” the entry of a number of people into Syria.



**A namaz-e-janaza being held for the people killed in BSF shooting along the border with India at Dhaka University's Raju Sculpture yesterday.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## First Chilean police officer in court as protest flare anew

AFP, Santiago

A Chilean police officer appeared in court Friday in the first instance of prosecutors bringing charges over eye injuries blamed on security forces during Chile's months of unrest.

Street protests flared anew the same day, as demonstrators wearing masks and waving flags returned to the capital Santiago's Plaza Italia to express their outrage at Chile's economic inequality and President Sebastian Pinera's right-wing government.

In court, Captain Pablo Carvajal was formally accused of having fired buckshot in the left eye of a protester at a distance of two to five meters (6.5 to 16 feet) during a late October protest in downtown Santiago.

Prosecutor Ximena Chong said Carvajal opened fire after the victim threw a blunt object at a police vehicle, but the victim has not suffered any loss of vision to date.

A month after the crisis began, Chilean police suspended the use of buckshot against protesters as an anti-riot tool, specifying that it was only for use in instances of extreme danger.

## Revisit relations

FROM PAGE 16

Provisional measures are the steps to be taken to prevent further harm and comes as the first step of the legal case.

In November, The Gambia filed a suit against Myanmar, alleging it was committing “an ongoing genocide against its minority Muslim Rohingya population” and violating the 1948 Genocide Convention.

The ICJ ruling was the response to that suit.

Urging Myanmar to comply with the ruling, the Canadian high commissioner said that Myanmar now has few months to show the ICJ what it is doing in this regard.

While he termed the ruling “very encouraging”, he also said that it is too early to be triumphant. “We have a still lot of works to do... It's a game of chess... the ICJ process will take several years.”

“It is important to not forget the plight of the Rohingyas,” he added.

He hoped that the ruling will help mobilise more people in the international community.

“This will have a positive effect on all the efforts in the international community to keep this issue in mind...”

At the beginning of the discussion, Shahidul Haque, former foreign secretary of Bangladesh, presented highlights of the ICJ ruling and described how it has affected and would affect the international community.

“The court ruling will have a great impact on the international community. Even Myanmar itself has accepted that war crimes had occurred against Rohingyas and are being investigated,” said Shahidul, who is now working as a senior fellow at the CPS.

He said that the reactions by Canada, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, the UN secretary general, the UN High Commission on Human Rights, the European Union and others are very important. “So, Myanmar is coming under the radar in that sense.”

Bangladesh also needs to revisit its own strategy, policy and approach, and it has to be extremely innovative in terms of balancing its national interest and international obligations, he further said, adding, “There are many countries who have to revisit their policy [on Myanmar] also.”

He, however, said the issue of repatriation should continue like it was before the ruling.

Replying to whether Myanmar would comply with the ICJ ruling, he said, “They will be under surveillance of the court. They have to report every four months.”

“When the ICJ has inaugurated [the process], the [UN] security council will also revisit its position,” he added.

## ‘Intolerant India’

FROM PAGE 16

instructions of not voting (PM Modi,” Chauthaiwale, BJP's foreign policy in-charge, tweeted.

The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index for 2019 has ranked India 51st among 165 nations and two territories, with its lowest ever score of 6.9 out of 10. The research and analysis division of The Economist Group has attributed the drop to “democratic regression (in) erosion of civil liberties”.

The EIU report mentioned the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or the CAA, which makes religion a test of citizenship for the first time in India's history, and the NRC.

The CAA provides for citizenship for non-Muslim minorities from Muslim-majority countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan if they fled religious persecution and entered India before 2015. Critics believe the law, along with the NRC, will be used to target Muslims.

“The passage by Parliament in December of the discriminatory Citizenship (Amendment) Act suggests India's decline will continue in the 2020 index,” the EIU report said in its observations on India.

The report also referred to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after the Centre last year ended its special status under the Article 370 of the constitution.

Protests over the citizenship law became a talking point at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where India's railways and commerce minister Piyush Goyal tackled questions on it.

## Venezuela's Guaido meets Macron on charm offensive

AFP, Paris

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, on a charm offensive to back his bid to oust his country's leader, yesterday claimed to have the “firm support” of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Guaido, recognised as Venezuela's interim president by the United States and 50 other countries, has so far failed to bring down President Nicolas Maduro despite months of struggle and economic crisis.

On Saturday, Guaido told Europe 1 radio: “We had firm support from President Macron,” after the pair held talks in Paris on Friday.

## 2 Rohingyas killed

FROM PAGE 16

the rebels who they said attacked a bridge in the early hours of the morning.

More than 730,000 Rohingya Muslims were forced to flee northern Rakhine state in 2017 after a military crackdown that the U.N has said was executed with genocidal intent.

More recently, the region was plunged into further chaos by fresh fighting between the military and the Arakan Army, a rebel group that recruits from the mostly Buddhist majority in the state. That conflict has displaced tens of thousands and killed dozens.

Of the several hundred thousand Rohingyas still in Rakhine, many are confined to apartheid-like conditions, unable to travel freely or access healthcare and education. They are caught in the middle of the fighting, and travel restrictions mean they are less able to flee than Buddhist neighbors.

In early January, four Rohingya children died in a blast the military and rebels blamed on each other.

Two military spokesmen did not answer phone calls from Reuters seeking comment on the deaths. In a statement posted on the Russian social media network VK, the army confirmed the deaths but blamed the

Arakan Army, saying its artillery had hit the village during clashes.

Accounts belonging to the Myanmar military were removed from Facebook and other social media networks in 2018 over spreading “hate and misinformation”.

Soe Tun Oo, a Rohingya villager living a mile from the village, told Reuters by phone two houses were destroyed in the explosion.

“The military always shoots heavy weapons... They shoot heavy weapons around the area they suspect. It is impossible to flee to other places, even though we are scared.”

The Hague-based International Court of Justice ordered Myanmar on Thursday to protect the Rohingyas against further atrocities and preserve evidence of alleged crimes, after west African nation the Gambia launched a lawsuit in November accusing the country of genocide.

A spokesman for the ruling party told Reuters the country was already protecting Rohingyas, but the civilian government had limited power over the military.

Civilian authorities govern jointly with the military in an awkward constitutional arrangement that reserves great powers for the commander-in-chief.

## Politics is turning

FROM PAGE 16

the affidavits of 740 contestants.

The findings were unveiled at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Elections to Dhaka north and south city corporations are scheduled for February 1.

About 73 percent candidates in Dhaka north and about 74 percent in Dhaka south are businesspersons. In 2015, when the last polls took place, businesspeople constituted 67 percent in the north and 71 in the south.

It indicates that the tendency among businesspersons to enter politics is growing, it said.

The business people who will win are likely to focus mostly on expanding their businesses and not serve their voters, the report observed.

On education of the contestants, the report said almost two-thirds of the councillor hopefuls studied up to

## Three of a family killed

FROM PAGE 16

the bus but its driver managed to flee, confirmed Amtali police station's Officer-in-Charge Abul Bashar.

Locals and police said that a bus named ‘Mayer Doa Paribahan’ was carrying passengers from Barishal to Amtali via Patuakhali on Saturday morning. The bus ploughed into pedestrians on the footpath at the AK School intersection after losing control. Nupur Begum who was standing on the footpath with her two children and niece, were all killed on the spot.

The bus first rammed into a microbus and a battery-run autorickshaw on the side of the road before hitting the pedestrians.

Immediately after the accident, locals took those killed and injured to Amtali Upazila Health Complex. Mamataz Begum and Abdul Jabbar, critically injured, were sent to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

The deceased Nupur Begum's mother, Ambia Begum, said in

tears that Nupur had taken Nishat, Mamataz, and Lamia to visit a relative's house in the Gazipur bazaar area. They arrived back in Amtali by an autorickshaw and were looking for another rickshaw to go home when the bus struck the footpath.

On news of the accident, the relatives rushed to the Amtali hospital. Ambia Begum, mourning her daughter and grandchildren, kept saying, “Where is my ma (Nupur)?” and “Bring me my grandchildren.”

In the emergency room of Amtali hospital, six-year-old Mamataz asks for her mother and cries. Relatives have not yet let her know that her mother is dead.

Lamia was an SSC examinee this year, from Tazem Ali School and College of Haldia Union. Nupur's husband Abul Hossain works in Singapore.

The dead bodies have been handed over without autopsy as per the request of their families and a case on the accident is under process, added OC Bashar.

SSC-level.

However, most of the mayor candidates are highly educated.

Besides, most of the councillor candidates are accused in one or multiple cases, it added.

The report urged the Election Commission to ensure level-playing field, and impartial polling officials and law enforcement agencies.

It also called upon the EC to take tough measures against those who provided false information in the affidavit and breached the code of conduct.

Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder said business people's participation in national election had already increased, and they were becoming increasingly involved in local government polls.

“It means, our politics is about to turn into business,” he said.

He also criticised the EC for not

taking action against the breaches of conduct.

“We repeatedly requested for tax information of the candidates, but the EC didn't give it. Finally, we were forced to issue a legal notice.”

The EC's decision of using Electronic Voting Machines was not right as the devices can be manipulated without being detected, he said.

Shujan President M Hafizuddin Khan said the EC should scrutinise the affidavits immediately and take steps against the candidates who gave false information in affidavits.

Shujan Central Coordinator Dilip Kumar Sarkar said the campaigners had been violating the code of conduct from the very beginning of the campaign.

“The EC has engaged 43 executive magistrates to deal with the issue, but their effectiveness is yet to be seen,” he added.

## Hawk of streets running

FROM PAGE 16

Election Commission, he concealed information about his cases. He said he was not facing any criminal cases.

But he is the prime accused in a case filed over extortion. Fifteen others were sued in the case filed by the DSCC with Motijheel Police Station in February 2017.

According to the case statement, hawkers occupied roads and footpaths and set up temporary shops there every day from 8:00am to 8:00pm, obstructing the movement of people.

“The accused have been collecting Tk 100 to Tk 400 as extortion money from each trader every day. Officials of Dhaka South City Corporation were assaulted by some extortionists while they were carrying out an eviction drive there. They are still issuing threats to the officials,” reads the case statement.

Contacted, Monir Hossain Molla, inspector (investigation) of Motijheel Police Station, said they submitted the charge sheet in the case. “The case is now under trial.”

Another case was filed against Saiful by Baser Molla, a hawker. The plaintiff complained that he was beaten up by Saiful and his men on March 3, 2017 for refusing to give them extortion money.

The case was later transferred to the Police Bureau of Investigation. The PBI has submitted the charge sheet in the case, now pending with a court.

On May 22, 2017, The Daily Star ran a report under the headline “Hawks of streets” on extortion by Saiful.

In February that year, DSCC

Assistant Estate Officer Shamsul Alam had filed two more extortion cases against 66 people with Shahbag and Paltan police stations.

Meanwhile, a hawkler of AGB Colony alleged that extortion by the councillor hopeful was still going on.

“He came here last week to collect money,” the hawkler told this correspondent.

Saiful has a gang of men, backed by some ruling party men from Motijheel, said another hawkler who became a victim of extortion.

**SAIFUL DENIES ALLEGATIONS**

Talking to this correspondent over the phone, Saiful said if elected, his first duty would be stopping collection of extortion money from the drivers of local battery-run auto-rickshaws.

“Several hundred auto-rickshaws ply the by-lanes in my area. Some ruling party men collect extortion money from the drivers daily.”

Asked about the cases against him, the councillor candidate said his political opponents had filed those and that those were “already dismissed by courts.”

He claimed that he mentioned the case information in his affidavit submitted to the EC.

Though Saiful mentioned service as his profession in the affidavit, he told this newspaper that he was a businessman and he owns a clothing shop in Motijheel.

DSCC Returning Officer Abdul Baten said nobody raised the issue of Saiful's cases during the scrutiny of nomination papers.

## We can't buy food

FROM PAGE 1

The Bangladeshi students were also worried as their food stocks were running low while most superstores in Wuhan remained closed.

Wuhan, a city of 11 million, is in virtual lockdown with all passenger flights cancelled and checkpoints on the main roads blocking the way out of town. A press release from the external publicity wing of the foreign ministry informed that authorities have imposed similar lockdowns in at least 13 cities near in an effort to contain the outbreak, as part of the ongoing containment effort, locking down nearly 56 million people.

There are about 300 to 400 Bangladeshi students in Wuhan, according to the press release.

The Daily Star contacted one of the students stuck in the dorms at Hubei University of Technology, who also appealed for help through

a Facebook post. Rakibil Turja, 23, went to Wuhan nearly one-and-a-half years ago and is currently pursuing a degree in Mechanical and Automation Engineering.

While the university is closed during this time of year, Rakibil has been under lockdown in his dorm since January 23. According to him, there are at least 140 other Bangladeshi students in his university alone but no official authorities -- the Bangladesh mission and the university -- have gotten in touch with the students.

The students were frustrated not just by the lack of information but also by the diminishing food stocks.

“There is no one infected in the university yet, which is why they are even more vigilant to ensure no one gets infected,” Rakibil said.

“But our mobility is severely restricted. We have to sign our names

## US Space Force's

Generation.”

The logo bears an uncanny resemblance to the insignia of Starfleet -- the peacekeeping and exploration force of the United Federation of Planets alliance, which is headquartered on Earth whose adversaries include

Klingons and Romulans.

It has appeared as a pin on the uniforms of iconic Star Trek characters such as Captain Kirk and Spock ever since the original series debuted in 1966, and continues to feature in the franchise's current shows and movies.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Superintending Engineer (Admin)

LGED Bhaban (Level-5)

Agargaoan, Sher-e-Banglanagar,

Dhaka-1207

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র

শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No: 46.02.0000.008.99.055.19- 625

Date: 22.01.2020

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

for

Procurement of Non-Consulting Services

1.	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division
2.	Agency	Local Government Engineering Department
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Superintending Engineer (Admin), LGED
4.	Procuring Entity Code	Not use at present
5.	Expression of Interest for selection of	Non-Consulting Firm
6.	Invitation for	Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Procurement of Non-Consulting Services (Monthly Maintenance of 4 nos. Lifts at LGED HQ)
7.	Invitation Ref. No.	01/2019-2020
8.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
9.	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
10.	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not Applicable
11.	EOI Closing Date & Time	2.00 PM on 24-02-2020
12.	EOI Opening Date & Time	3.00 PM on 24-02-2020
13.	Tender Package No.	LGED/OTM/2019/PSN-01

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

14.	Brief Description of the Assignment	<p>The service Provider ar responsible for Four (4) nos. of passenger lifts, having capacity 15 stops, 1250 kgs, 16 persons, Schindler branded lifts, are installed in RDEC Building, LGED. Monthly basis supervision, servicing and maintenance are required for the above branded lifts for an initial period of three years.</p> <p>Cleaning, oiling, greasing of different components of lifts, machine room, lift shafts, sliding doors, car and other safety devices &amp; its spare parts and connecting, installing, dismantling and coordinating among its different components to run the lifts effectively.</p> <p>Services mainly include routine check-up, periodic maintenance and emergency maintenance and other safety check-up, as and when required. During check-up by expert engineers or technicians or mechanics, if any defect is detected, quick necessary actions to be taken from the end of service provider.</p>
15.	Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	<p>The service provider should have the following competencies at the minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor/Management Contractor shall be 5 (Five) years</li><li>➤ The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least ONE contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of five (5) years with a value of at least of Tk 5,00,000.00 shall be required. Contract for providing Service will be treated as similar nature.</li><li>➤ The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 50.00 lakh over the last three years.</li><li>➤ The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 20,00,000.00</li></ul>
16.	Others information:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The service provider are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Complete CV with other details as required as per the Tender document)</li><li>2. A complete set of "Tender Document" may be obtained from the office of the undersigned up to 23-02-2020 during normal office hours.</li><li>3. Tender Document shall be submitted, at the office of the undersigned on or before 24-02-2020 at 2.00PM.</li><li>4. All requirements experience selection criteria etc. included in Tender Document.</li><li>5. The Client reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Expression of Interest (EOI).</li></ol>
17.	Price of Tender document (BDT)	Each document Tk. 1000.00 (One Thousand) Only (Non-refundable)
18.	Name of Official & Designation of Official inviting EOI	Md. Abdur Rashid Mia, Superintending Engineer (Admin)
19.	Address and Contract details of of Official inviting EOI	Office of the Superintending Engineer (Admin), LGED Bhaban (Level-5), Agargaoan, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka-1207, Phone: +88-02-8151410, E-mail: <a href="mailto:sc.admin@lged.gov.bd">sc.admin@lged.gov.bd</a>

This advertisement is available in the LGED'S website: [www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd).

(Md. Abdur Rashid Mia)

Superintending Engineer (Admin)

Phone: +88-02-8151410

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Principal

Bangladesh Institute of Glass & Ceramics

Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.

[www.bigc.gov.bd](http://www.bigc.gov.bd)

শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

Memo No. 37.03.2692.300.07.003.20-16

Dated: 23.01.2020

e-Tender Notice

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

SI No	Tender ID	Number & Name of Package	Publication (e-GP Portal) Date & Time	Last Date & Time for Tender Security submission	Closing Date & Time
1.	410755	BIGC/2019-20/G-1 Supply of Computer Contents, Office Equipment, Computer & Accessories and Education & teaching materials.	26 January 2020 Time 09:00	16 Feb 2020 Time 15:00	16 Feb 2020 Time 15:30
2.	411152	BIGC/2019-20/G-2 Supply of Cleaning materials, Other Stationery, Chemicals, Raw materials & spare parts, Uniform and Sports goods.	26 January 2020 Time 09:00	17 Feb 2020 Time 15:00	17 Feb 2020 Time 15:30
3.	411154	BIGC/2019-20/G-3 Supply of Engineering and other equipment.	26 January 2020 Time 09:00	13 Feb 2020 Time 15:00	13 Feb 2020 Time 15:30
4.	411156	BIGC/2019-20/G-4 Supply of Furniture.	26 January 2020 Time 09:00	12 Feb 2020 Time 15:00	12 Feb 2020 Time 15:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Principal

Bangladesh Institute of Glass & Ceramics

Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.

Phone: 9110319; 01716237252

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Education

Feni Polytechnic Institute, Feni

E-mail: [fenipoly69015@gmail.com](mailto:fenipoly69015@gmail.com)

Web: [www.fenipoly.edu.bd](http://www.fenipoly.edu.bd), ☎: 0331-74030

শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ

Memo No: FPI/OTM/GOB/2019-2020/85

Date: 22/01/2020

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of scheme	Last selling date & time	Closing time	Opening
406386	FENI/GD-01	Raw Materials & Spare Parts (Civil, Architecture, Mechanical, Power & Electrical), Code No-3256105	17.02.2020 Time: 17:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00
406339	FENI/GD-02	Supply of Computer Goods, Code No-3255101	17.02.2020 Time: 17:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00
406398	FENI/GD-03	Supply of Books & Periodicals Code No-3211127	17.02.2020 Time: 17:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00
406286	FENI/GD-04	Supply of Chemicals Code No-3256102	17.02.2020 Time: 17:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00
406394	FENI/GD-06	Supply of Office Equipment Code No-4112310	17.02.2020 Time: 17:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00
406283	FENI/GD-07	Supply of Educational Goods Code No-4112312	17.02.2020 Time: 17:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00
406367	FENI/GD-08	Supply of Furniture's Code No-4112314	17.02.2020 Time: 17:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00	18.02.2020 Time: 12:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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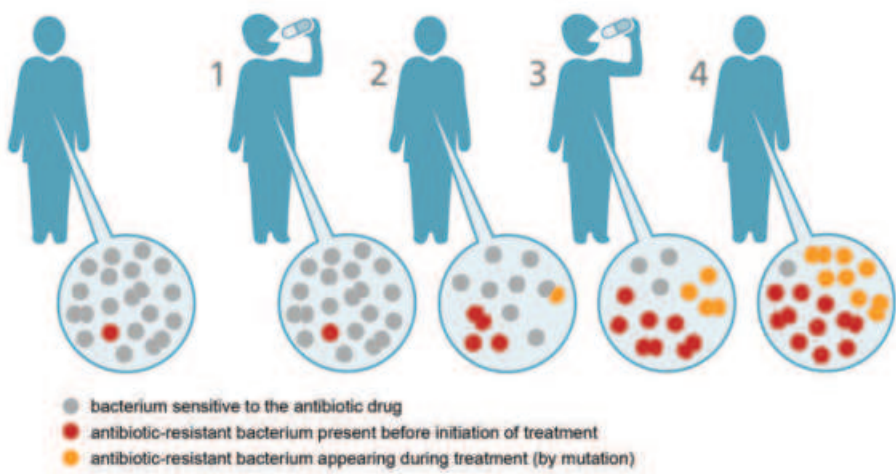
# Post-antibiotic era: what are the alternatives?

DR SABBIH RAHMAN SHUVO

Alexander Fleming accidentally discovered antibiotics almost ninety years ago. He noticed that some molds had grown on a Petri plate wherever bacteria could not grow. This unintentional invention led to the prevention of infectious diseases by an antimicrobial compound that is commonly known as penicillin. This ‘magic bullet’ has eliminated several previously lethal infections and increased the life expectancy of the patients. Many antibiotics had been discovered at that time, and inappropriately used in various medical conditions whether or not they would be particularly useful. Gradually, bacteria learned how to fight against antibiotics and became resistant to several antibiotics.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) cited antibiotic resistance as a serious global health issue for every part of the world by publishing its first comprehensive report on antibiotic resistance in 2014. The situation in Bangladesh is not different from this perspective. Isolations of multi-drug resistance (MDR) bacteria from the patients have been increased sharply in recent years in Bangladesh.

Over the counter selling of antibiotics and inappropriate use of antibiotics in agriculture has worsened the situation. Alarming some of these bacteria are resistant to the new class of antibiotics also.



Antibiotics either kill the bacteria or inhibit the growth of the bacteria so that our immune system can kill the bacteria to clear the infection. Antibiotics can be divided into several groups based on their modes of action in the bacterial cells, chemical structures, and the types of bacteria they are active in. However, bacteria can employ various mechanisms to become resistant against antibiotics like modification of the enzymes, changing the expression of the target, reducing the permeability of the membrane, destroying the antibiotics, and antibiotic efflux.

Lately, the discovery of the new antibiotic class has been slow. Only a few antibiotics came to market in the

last 18 years compared to the early age of antibiotic development. One of the reasons for the slowing down of the discovery of new antibiotics is that several billion dollars are required for the research and extensive testing before the release of an antibiotic in the market.

In the context of the current situation, few alternatives have been proposed by scientists. A study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal in 2016 suggested several alternative methods to fight against microbial infections. One of the alternatives is antibodies. Antibodies can play a significant role in this situation. Antibodies either bind to the virulence factors of the microorganisms or bind to the pathogen to inactivate

it. Antibody therapy is a low-risk and historically safe to use technology. Raxibacumab is a monoclonal antibody that was approved in 2012 to treat inhaled anthrax.

Another method is to use viruses (also known as bacteriophages) to eliminate bacteria. The practice of using bacteriophages to reduce bacterial infection is an old technique and has been utilised before the era of antibiotics. Recently, in the USA and Canada, phage therapy has been used on patients with cystic fibrosis in an experimental basis.

Vaccines have the potential to fight against bacterial infections. There are several types of vaccines, and those vaccines help our immune cells to generate memories so that those cells can effectively recognise the infectious agents and clear the infection.

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria increase the fatality rate in bacterial infections. It is a public health problem of substantial magnitude. Proper uses of the antibiotics help us to reduce the bacterial resistance to the antibiotic and increase the efficacy of the existing antibiotics. Although the discovery of a new class of antibiotics dried up, some alternative methods can be implemented to fight against bacterial infections. These alternative methods may serve as a ray of hope in the dark age of the post-antibiotic era.

The writer is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, North South University, Bangladesh. E-mail: [sabbir.shuvo@northsouth.edu](mailto:sabbir.shuvo@northsouth.edu)

## DID YOU KNOW?



### Blood pressure rises at a faster rate in women than men

Women experience steeper increases in blood pressure (BP) than men as they age, according to a JAMA Cardiology study.

Researchers examined data from four community-based cohorts, comprising nearly 33,000 participants in whom longitudinal BP measurements were taken over 40 years. They found that age-associated BP increases occurred at a faster rate in women than men, sometimes beginning when participants were still in their third decade of life. After adjustment for confounders like diabetes and smoking, BP increases were steeper in women than men throughout adulthood.

The researchers write, "In contrast with the notion that important vascular diseases in women lag behind men by 10 to 20 years, our findings indicate that certain vascular changes not only develop earlier but also progress faster in women than in men. ... Sex differences in physiology, starting in early life, may well set the stage for later-life cardiac as well as vascular diseases that often present differently in women compared with men."

## HEALTH bulletin



### Intermittent fasting may help slow ageing and diseases like cancer and diabetes

Intermittent fasting (IF) has become one of the fastest-growing nutrition trends of the year, topping lists ranging from of celebrity-endorsed eating plans to Google searches by curious dieters.

There is also an increasing number of studies that back up the hype with scientific evidence, suggesting IF can ward off disease, help control blood sugar, and lead to weight loss even without cutting calories, according to a review article published recently in the New England Journal of Medicine.

For the article, researchers reviewed more than 70 published studies about the most common types of IF — the 5:2 method (eating normally for five days a week and fasting the other two days), fasting every other day, or limiting meals each day to a smaller time period (often six to eight hours and fasting the other 16 to 18 hours of the day).

The authors found that IF of all types can help slow ageing and age-related illnesses like cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. It can also help with weight and fat loss.

The findings mark "a transition point where we could soon consider adding information about intermittent fasting to medical school curricula alongside standard advice about healthy diets and exercise," lead author Mark Mattson, a neuroscientist at John Hopkins Medicine, said in a press release.

## Autism spectrum disorder and its care in Bangladesh

MD SHAIKHUL HASAN

Autism or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) refers to a group of neurodevelopmental disorders, which is characterised by the challenges of social behaviour, speech, language, and communication. Nowadays it is becoming a major concerning issue worldwide. According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5, published in 2013), it includes Asperger's syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder and pervasive developmental disorders not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) as part of ASD rather than as separate disorders. Through a required substantial support an ASD child or adult can perform and manage his/her daily activities.

In the Southeast Asia region, it is estimated that every 1 in 160 children has ASD. Recently, the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in Bangladesh confirmed that almost 2 in 1000 children have been suffering from ASD in Bangladesh. Wherein, the urban prevalence is higher than the rural areas.

Usually, all symptoms of ASD appears between 18 to 36 months of age. In this case, the awareness and skills of primary health care service provider play a vital role to ensure appropriate referral systems for exact intervention in the healthcare services delivery system for children with autism. Because early intervention can change the course

of life of an autism affected child.

A child with ASD first visits the primary health care centre with his/her parents for checking developmental milestones. Based on the developmental milestone checklist the responsible primary health care provider screens a child's development and refers



to a paediatrician at the district level when something abnormal is detected. A paediatrician who is specialised in paediatric neurology screens the child and refers the child to the specialised hospital at the tertiary level of healthcare for combined screening and therapeutic services. The tertiary level healthcare

facility has health care professionals specialised in several fields which is necessary for the diagnosis and therapy of ASD.

The earlier children with autism spectrum disorder get help, the greater their chance of treatment success. Early intervention is the most effective way to speed up your child's development and reduce the symptoms of autism over the lifespan. When your child has autism:

- **Learn about autism.** The more you know about autism spectrum disorder, the better equipped you will be to make informed decisions for your child.
- **Become an expert on your child.** Figure out what triggers your child's challenging or disruptive behaviours and what elicits a positive response. If you understand what affects your child, you will be better at troubleshooting problems and preventing or modifying situations that cause difficulties.
- **Accept your child.** Rather than focusing on how your autistic child is different from other children and what he or she is "missing," practice acceptance. Feeling loved and accepted will help your child more than anything else.
- **Do not give up.** It is impossible to predict the course of autism spectrum disorder. Like everyone else, people with autism have an entire lifetime to grow and develop their abilities.

The writer is the Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) E-mail: [monitoringeval@gmail.com](mailto:monitoringeval@gmail.com)

### Wuhan coronavirus: How to protect yourself

The deadly Wuhan coronavirus, officially called 2019-nCoV, has killed 41 people and infected at least 1300 others in China. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released guidance on the symptoms of the virus. A person could be at risk if they have:

- Fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness, such as coughing or difficulty breathing, after travelling to Wuhan or having close contact with someone who was ill and is now under investigation for the virus in the past two weeks.
- Fever or symptoms of lower respiratory illness after having close contact in the past two weeks with someone who's been confirmed to have the virus.



The CDC defined "close contact" as being within about 6 feet (1.8 m) "or within the room or care area" of a person with the coronavirus for a prolonged period without appropriate protective clothing, or "having direct contact with infectious secretions" of a person with the virus without protective clothing.

Coronaviruses like 2019-nCoV are particularly dangerous for people who have weaker immune systems, like young children and older adults. There are no vaccines to protect people from contracting a coronavirus. Pets are also at risk of catching coronaviruses, which can lead to disease and even death.

#### How to protect yourself

- Try to avoid contact with people who display symptoms similar to those of pneumonia or the common cold, like coughing or a runny nose.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, and scrub for at least 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitiser when possible.
- Avoid animals and animal markets.

/StarHealthBD

## Reasons You May Have Brain Fog

### What Is It ?

"Brain fog" isn't a medical condition. It's a term used for certain symptoms that can affect your ability to think. You may feel confused or disorganized or find it hard to focus or put your thoughts into words.

#### Pregnancy

Many women find it's harder to remember things during pregnancy. Carrying a baby can change your body in lots of ways, and chemicals released to protect and nourish your baby may bring on memory problems.

#### Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

This disease affects your central nervous system and can change the way your brain "talks" to the rest of your body. About half the people who have MS have issues with memory, attention, planning, or language. Learning and memory exercises can help, and a therapist can give you new ways to handle the tasks you have trouble with.

#### Medication

Some kinds of drugs -- over-the-counter and prescribed -- can cause brain fog. If you take medicine and notice that your thinking isn't as clear as it should be or you suddenly can't remember things, call your doctor. Be sure to let him know all the medications you take.

#### Cancer Treatment

Chemotherapy -- a treatment for cancer that uses strong drugs -- can lead to what's sometimes called "chemo brain." You may have trouble remembering details like names or dates, have a hard time multi-tasking, or take longer to finish things. It usually goes away fairly quickly, but some people can be affected for a long time after treatment.

#### Depression

You may not remember things well or be able to think through problems easily. It's hard to know if this is linked to the loss of energy and motivation that comes with depression, or if depression affects your brain in a way that causes the fog. Treatment for your depression, which includes medication and talk therapy, should help get you back on track.

#### Sleep

You need sleep to help your brain work the way it should, but too much can make you feel foggy, too. Aim for 7 to 9 hours. To get good rest at bedtime, you may want to avoid caffeine and alcohol after lunch and keep the computer and smartphone out of your bedroom. It also can help to get to bed and wake up at the same time every day.



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DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

Zila Parishad chair, 1 other sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A defamation case was filed on Thursday under the Digital Security Act against Brahmanbaria Zila Parishad Chairman Shafiqul Alam and adviser of district unit of Awami League Amanul Haque Sentu.

Al Mamun Sarkar, general secretary of AL's district unit, filed the case with Brahmanbaria Sadar Police Station.

According to the case statement, the chairman of Brahmanbaria Zila Parishad organised a reception for freedom fighters on December 16, 2019.

But after an attack was carried out during the programme, Shafiqul and Amanul made defamatory and misleading statements to the media against local lawmaker RAM Obaidul Muktedir Chowdhury and Al Mamun Sarkar.

Speaking with The Daily Star, complainant Al Mamun Sarkar said a legal notice was served on the two accused, seeking withdrawal of their statements.

The case was filed under the Digital Security Act as they did not respond to the notice.

Shafiqul Alam, the chairman of the zila parishad, said, "The case was filed against me out of political vengeance. I condemn the [filing of] the case and I will face it following due legal procedure."

Mohammad Selim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Police Station, said, "Police is trying to arrest the accused."

Murder accused beaten dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man, also an accused in a murder case filed with Ataikula Police Station, was beaten dead allegedly over a previous enmity in Mougram area of Pabna Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Saddam Hossain, 35, son of Rajem Pramanik of Mougram village, was an alleged member of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP).

Police said Saddam and his men killed Rejaul Islam of the village over previous enmity in 2017. Police arrested Saddam, prime accused of Rejaul murder case, about a year ago.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Ataikula Police Station Nasirul Alam said Saddam came out of jail after securing bail from a court about a month ago and had been threatening slain Rejaul's family members to withdraw the murder case filed against him.

Yesterday morning, Saddam went to Rejaul's house again and locked in an altercation with the family members, the OC said, adding that, at one stage, Rejaul's family members and relatives beat him mercilessly with bamboo and sticks.

Injured Saddam was taken to Pabna Medical College Hospital, where he died around 1:00pm, the OC added.

Murder for just Tk 20!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An elderly man was killed by his neighbours allegedly over a trivial matter in Sunamganj's Doarabazar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Kadbut Ali, 64, of Barakata village.

Quoting locals, police said Kudbut borrowed Tk 20 from his neighbour Abbas Mia and wasn't paying it back. At stage of altercation over the issue, Abbas beat Kadbut, leaving him dead on the spot.



Avoiding the bamboo bridge near them, children and villagers walk through the Chekadara river in Nayani Bakdogra village of Domar upazila. The bridge remains in a dilapidated condition as the villagers could not pay for making another one there.

PHOTO: STAR

Thousands use makeshift bridges on three rivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

For years, more than 80 thousand people in 20 villages of three upazilas -- Sadar, Jaldhaka and Domar -- have been bearing the cost of making makeshift bamboo bridges over three rivers.

"Before each election, candidates make all sorts of promises to construct a concrete bridge there, but they disappear after the election," said Raisuddin, 62, from Chowdhurypara village in Jaldhaka upazila, where around 25 thousand residents of five villages cross the Dhum river using a bamboo bridge the villagers build every year in Golmunda village.

Abul Alim, another elderly resident of neighbouring Shyampur village, said,

"When the bridge gets damaged during the rainy season, we have to travel an additional four kilometres to reach the upazila town."

In Uttara Shashi village of Sadar upazila, villagers have been making a bamboo bridge, about 125-foot-long, over the Jamuneshwari river each year.

Many of the around 40 thousand residents of nine villages -- Uttara Shashi, Chapra, Panchpukur, Babrijhar, Saitontola, Kisamat Kalkini, Fatultari, Madontari and Karbala -- use this risky bridge at least twice daily as it is their only means of communications between the district headquarters.

Uttora Shashi village resident Aminur

Rahman said the bridge usually wears out by the time the rainy season is over and for that reason, they collect money from villagers as well as the local union parishad (UP) each year to replace it with a new bamboo bridge.

Local UP Chairman Habibur Rahman said after he contacted the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) for constructing a concrete bridge over the river, the department already conducted a survey in the area.

He, however, could not confirm when they would start the construction work.

The riskiest of the three bamboo bridges is the one on the Chekadara river at Nayani Bakdogra village of Domar upazila.

The bridge is used by 15 thousand residents of six villages -- Noyani Bagdokra, Bagdokra, Nimojkhana, Halhalia, Boragari and Uttor Boragari.

Halhalia village resident Jagadish Roy said several hundred students from the villages go to three schools on the other side of the river.

But oftentimes, they have to wade across the river when the poor villagers fail to pay for a replacement bridge there, he added.

Contacted, Belal Hossain, executive engineer of LGED in Nilphamari, said being aware of the situation, he already sent development project proposals to higher authorities for constructing three concrete bridges on the three rivers.



A farmer collects Boro saplings, which turned a bit yellowish under the impact of the ongoing cold and fog, at a field in Hakaluki Haor area of Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila.

PHOTO: MINTUDESHWARA

Sylhet farmers worried as cold, fog affects Boro seedbeds

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The ongoing severe cold coupled with dense fog affects Boro seedbeds, turning the tender saplings yellowish at places, especially in Haor areas of Sylhet division.

"Dense fog and cloudy sky featured most of the days since the mercury saw a deep fall in the region at the end of December last. The Met office recorded 6.3 to 12 degrees Celsius temperature during the last three weeks," Anisur Rahman, observer of Sreemangal Met office.

"Cold and fog damaged two-week-old Boro seedlings on my 34 decimals of land. The young plants have turned yellowish due to lack of sunlight for several days," said Monirul Islam, 34, a farmer at Bhukmoil village in Hakaluki Haor area of Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar.

"It will not be possible for me to cultivate Boro paddy this year if seedlings on my 20 decimals of

land are damaged," said another farmer Mosabbir Ali, also a friend of Monirul.

"If the cold and fog continues for more several days, we will face seedling crisis during the ongoing Boro transplantation season," said Sundar Mia, 45, a farmer at Tetoli in a haor area of Barlekha upazila in Moulvibazar.

Jasim Uddin, agriculture officer of the district's Juri upazila, said severe cold and fog affected Boro seedbeds in some areas but seedlings would not be damaged much if the weather improves shortly.

"We suggest the farmers to water seedbeds at night, cover them with polythene sheets and use proper fertiliser to save seedlings from the effects of cold and fog. Our officials are visiting the fields and sharing views with farmers on ways to save the seedlings," he said.

"I purchased 10 kg of seeds for double the usual price to make a

seedbed. I have covered the seedbed with polythene sheets but it is not helping much to prevent damage due to lack of sunlight for days," said Monem Mia at Sreepur of Tanguar Haor in Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila.

If Boro cultivation is delayed, the crop yield will fall, he said.

Small plants like Boro seedlings will be harmed if foggy weather prevails for more days, said Kazi Lutful Bari, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Moulvibazar.

This season the DAE set a target of preparing Boro seedbeds on 22,940 hectares of land in four districts of the division, of it 14,207 hectares is in haor areas, said Sree Nibash Debnath, additional director of DAE in Sylhet divisional office.

"The target of Boro cultivation in the region is 4.73 lakh hectares. The DAE is yet to estimate the extent of damage to seedbeds," he said.

Philanthropist Valerie visits famed rural school in Dinajpur

Founder of Amena Baki School offers her land for CRP sub-centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Valerie Ann Taylor, founder of Centre for Rehabilitation of Paralysed (CRP) in Dhaka, visited Amena Baki Residential School in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

She went there at the invitation of eminent orthopaedic surgeon Dr Amzad Hossain, founder of Amena Baki Foundation that runs the school.

Students of the school welcomed her with shower of petals of flowers as she arrived there at noon.

Established in 2002, the school currently enrolls nearly 2000 students, mostly residential.

The institution has already earned a widespread reputation for providing quality education and doing outstanding results in public examinations.

Accompanied by Dr Amzad Hossain and Mizanur Rahman, principal of the school, Valerie visited different corners of the school compound.

"I invited Valerie here. I have offered her a piece of land in the upazila for setting up a sub-centre of CRP as there is no such centre in Rangpur region," Dr Azmad told journalists.

"As a native of the upazila, I will be



Valerie Ann Taylor, founder of Centre for Rehabilitation of Paralysed, being greeted by students of Amena Baki Residential School in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

PHOTO: KONGKONKARMAKER

able to extend support if such a centre is established here," he said.

Valerie said she would consider the offer of Dr Amzad.

"We are planning to open a sub-centre in Rangpur division for treatment and rehabilitation of paralysed people. The core committee of CRP will take decision in this regard," she said.

She left for Dhaka in the afternoon.

Valerie Ann Taylor, a British-born Bangladeshi physiotherapist and philanthropist, was awarded Independence Day Award in 2004 for her social work through CRP, which was founded in 1979.

The organization was shifted to Chapai village in Savar in 1990.

The government of Bangladesh granted citizenship to Valerie in 1998.



Forest officials rescued this injured serow (scientific name capricornis sumatraensis) from Matamuhuri Reserve Forest in Bandarban's Alikadam upazila on Thursday evening. The wild goat that is listed as 'critically endangered' on the IUCN Red List was later sent to Dulahazara Safari Park in Cox's Bazar's Chokoria for necessary treatment on Friday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED





Despite a team-high 53-ball 65 from Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal during yesterday's second T20I against Pakistan in Lahore, his overall defensive approach proved wanting and perfectly encapsulated the Tigers' cautious demeanour, which is not how T20 matches are meant to be played.

## 'Teammates make it easy'

SPORTS REPORTER



Following a disappointing run in the recent past in T20Is during which they lost back-to-back series against Australia and Sri Lanka, Pakistan finally managed to make a comeback as the home side clinched the three match T20I series against Bangladesh 2-0 with a game in hand.

Pakistan were clinical in the first two T20Is, managing to restrict Bangladesh to small totals. In the second game yesterday, Bangladesh could only score 136 for six, paving the way for Pakistan to win by a convincing nine-wicket margin.

Skipper Babar Azam, who struck an unbeaten 66 alongside Mohammad Hafeez's unbeaten 67, was relieved to finally return to winning ways.

According to Babar, the mixture of youth and experience worked well for his team.

"Obviously, we needed to win this series to gel as a unit as it came after losing back-to-back series. So, we tried to have such [youth and experience] combination and eventually it worked well for us," Babar told reporters after the match.

When asked if he was feeling the pressure of the captaincy, which he got before the start of this series, the 25-year-old complimented his teammates for making the job easy.

"Obviously, I am grateful to the Almighty as we managed to win the series. I don't feel any pressure as my teammates support me a lot and whatever roles they are given, they try to fulfil that," he said.

The stylish batsman also praised his bowlers who helped restrict Bangladesh to small totals in both games.

PHOTO: BCB

## 'Long way to go to challenge Pak'

SPORTS REPORTER



Much like in the first T20I the Bangladesh batting department's failures made the difference as the Tigers were unable to put up a fight and ended up losing the second game comprehensive by nine wickets to lose the three-match series 2-0 yesterday.

With this series in Pakistan seen as the start of the 'Tigers' preparations for the T20 World Cup in Australia in October this year, it seemed that the Bangladesh think tank were nowhere near identifying a good composition.

The approach from the batsmen, especially experienced opener Tamim Iqbal, raised a lot of questions despite the left-hander top-scoring with a 53-ball 65 as Bangladesh posted a mediocre 136 for six, the second-lowest at the Gaddafi Stadium.

In the five-wicket loss in the first T20I, the Tigers posted 141 for five and played out 45 dot balls. Things did not improve in the second game as the Tigers failed to score off 47 deliveries. Both games also saw an overly conservative approach in the six Powerplay overs, with Bangladesh adding 35 without loss in the first match and 33 for two yesterday.

Russell Domingo was asked whether he was happy with the approach from the openers, especially Tamim who scored 39 off 35 in the first game, and the South African tried to defend the left-hander but also said that there was definitely some work to be done.

"Look, it's a challenge as it's my first tour with Tamim and I thought he has shown improvement in both innings. In the first game I thought we were 68 without loss after 10, which

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BANGLADESH:** 136-6 in 20 overs (Tamim 65, Afif 21, Mahmudullah 12; Afridi 1-22, Hasnain 2-22, Rauf 1-27)

**PAKISTAN:** 137-1 in 16.4 overs (Babar 66 not out, Hafeez 67 not out; Shafiq 1-27)

**Result:** Pakistan won by nine wickets.

**Player-of-the-match:** Babar Azam.



So, there is work to be done for all of us in that particular spot and with him [Tamim] it's my first time so we have to see how it goes by in the T20 business.

**RUSSELL DOMINGO**  
BANGLADESH COACH

runs short and today 25 runs short, but that's why they are ranked number one and we are ranked number nine. At the moment there is a huge difference between the two sides in terms of experience and skill and I think we have a long way to go to catch them," he said.

The head coach was also looking forward to the youngsters stepping up, saying that the likes of the experienced Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim will not be available forever.



Pakistan openers Babar Azam (R) and Mohammad Hafeez celebrate after romping to a nine-wicket win in the second T20I against Bangladesh at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Intellectually challenged children from Beautiful Mind School compete for candy in a game organised at a sports day at the Friends Club ground in Uttara yesterday.

## Haaland hits two more

AFP, Berlin



Teenager Erling Braut Haaland scored twice more off the bench on Friday as Borussia Dortmund moved up to third in the Bundesliga with a 5-1 thumping of Cologne.

Having claimed a hattrick as a replacement on his Dortmund debut last Saturday to inspire a 5-3 win away at Augsburg, Haaland, 19, again showed clinical finishing.

With his team 3-1 up, Haaland came on for his first home appearance with an hour gone and 11 minutes later was on the scoresheet before an 87th-minute second.

Haaland now has 33 goals in 24 games

I think it's a pity that Erling (Haaland) is fading so quickly. First three goals, now only two. Who knows where the road will lead.

**ROMAN BURKI**  
DORTMUND GOALKEEPER

this season having netted 28 times for Salzburg before Dortmund snapped him up for 20 million euros last month.

"He's living his dream right now, we don't want to wake him up," joked Dortmund's sports director Michael Zorc.

## Wood puts England in command

AFP, Johannesburg



Mark Wood starred as England took a huge stride towards securing a series win when they dominated the second day of the fourth and final Test against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium on Saturday.

England posted a first innings total of 400 before reducing South Africa to 88 for six by the close.

Two century partnerships and a boisterous last-wicket stand of 82 took England to a total which almost certainly put the match beyond the reach of South Africa, who need a win to level the series.

Then it was the turn of the bowlers, led by Wood, as England pushed for a third successive win in a series which they lead 2-1.

South Africa finished the day 312 runs adrift, with Quinton de Kock seeking to give the innings some respectability on Sunday.

Wood made the first breakthrough when he had Pieter Malan caught behind for 15. He followed up with the wicket of the recalled Temba Bavuma, then finished the day on a high when nightwatchman Anrich Nortje was caught at gully in the last over of the day. He had figures of three for 21. Sam Curran, Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes picked up a wicket each.

England's total was built around three big partnerships. The first two, 107 for the first wicket between Zak Crawley and Dom Sibley and 101 for the fifth wicket between captain Joe Root and Ollie Pope, were

compiled by recognised batsmen.

The last wicket stand probably hurt South Africa the most. Wood and Stuart Broad, batting at 10 and 11, hit seven sixes between them and put on 82 off only 50 balls.

The Wood-Broad stand was devastating as England turned a respectable total into one which by the end of the day looked too big for the hosts, who have yet to make 300 in an innings in the series.

South Africa's bowling, with the exception of Nortje, was largely toothless. Nortje bowled tirelessly at

high pace and took five for 110, his first five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

Nortje dismissed both Pope for 56 and Root for 59 after the pair had dominated the first hour of play, adding 66 runs to England's overnight total of 192 for four.

Thanks largely to Nortje, England were reduced to 318 for nine. Then came 41 minutes of mayhem as Wood and Broad indulged themselves against mediocre bowling.

Captain Faf du Plessis resorted to placing most of his fielders on the

boundary but Wood (35 not out) and Broad (43) either hit over them or found the gaps.

In contrast, South African openers Dean Elgar and Malan could only score 11 runs in 12 overs before tea as they made a cautious start to their innings.

### SCORES-IN-BRIEF

**ENGLAND:** First innings 400 all out (Crawley 66, Root 59, Pope 56, Wood 35 not out; Nortje 5-110)  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** 88 for six (Elgar 26, De Kock 32 not out; Wood 3-21, Curran 1-11)



Following his heroics with the bat, England pacer Mark Wood celebrates the dismissal of South Africa's Pieter Malan on the second day of the final Test at Wanderers yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



CITY

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1 & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

New Zealand v India

Second T20

Live from 12:50pm

SONY ESPN

South Africa v England

Fourth Test, Day 3

Live from 2:00pm

SONY SIX & TEN 2

Australian Open

Live from 6:00 am & 2:30pm

TEN 2

FA CUP

Manchester City v Fulham

Live from 7:00pm

Tranmere v Manchester United

Live from 9:00pm

Shrewsbury v Liverpool

Live from 11:00pm

TEN 1

Serie A

Inter Milan v Cagliari

Live from 5:30pm

AS Roma v Lazio

Live from 11:00pm

Napoli v Juventus

Live from 1:45pm (Monday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga

Werder Bremen v Hoffenheim

Live from 8:30pm

Bayer Leverkusen v Dusseldorf

Live from 11:30pm



# Kyrgios rides epic storm to set up Nadal showdown

AFP, MELBOURNE

Firebrand Nick Kyrgios scraped past Karen Khachanov Saturday in five thrilling sets to set up a grudge match against top seed Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open fourth round.

The Australian showman came through a tense battle with the Russian 16th seed after 4hrs 26 mins in front of passionate home support on Melbourne Arena to win 6-2, 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (6/8), 6-7 (7/9), 7-6 (10/8).

“Mate, it was crazy, I don’t even know what to say right now, it was insane, I have no words for how I’m feeling right now,” said Kyrgios.

“This is epic, man, I don’t even know what’s going on,” he added. “He’s (Khachanov) an absolute warrior.”

It sets up a mouthwatering clash with the world number one Nadal, who romped past fellow Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

Kyrgios, who was handed a 16-week suspended ban in September after a string of indiscretions, disparagingly labelled Nadal “super salty” last year, and mimicked his serving routine during the second round at Melbourne Park.

But Kyrgios tried to play down the feud with Nadal on Saturday, saying: “He has a winning record against me. Whatever happens between us, he’s an amazing player, he’s arguably the greatest of all time.”

Asked about 23rd seed Kyrgios after his

Mate, it was crazy, I don’t even know what to say right now, it was insane, I have no words for how I’m feeling right now. This is epic, man, I don’t even know what’s going on. He’s (Khachanov) an absolute warrior.

NICK KYRGIOS  
AFTER HIS FIVE-SET WIN OVER  
KAREN KHACHANOV

match, Nadal was also diplomatic.

“When he plays good tennis and he shows passion for this game, he is a positive player for our tour.

“When he’s doing the other stuff, of course I don’t like.”

Kyrgios admitted he was on the verge of going “to a very dark place” in his second-round clash against Gilles Simon before refocusing.

And he mostly held it together against Khachanov, before a blow up at the umpire in set four over a time violation.

He had a match-point chance in each of the third and fourth sets but the Russian held firm

to ensure Kyrgios played the longest match of his career.

The Kyrgios serve was on fire early on, sending down four aces in the first two sets.

He made the break in game six, with Khachanov firing wide after a deft drop shot from the Australian. But Kyrgios was grimacing and at 5-2 took a medical timeout for an upper left leg niggle.

He returned to break again and empathically take the set.

The second set went with serve up to a tiebreaker, with some electrifying tennis from both men. Kyrgios won it and Khachanov slammed his racquet in frustration.

The Australian worked three break points in game five of the third set and while Khachanov managed to save two, he sent down a double fault to hand Kyrgios a crucial 3-2 advantage.

But he lost focus and was quickly broken and it went to another tiebreaker.

Kyrgios saved two break points at 3-3 in the fourth set then lost control after being given a time violation, hurling his racquet and confronting the umpire, calling him “stupid”.

His rant continued as he received attention for a nasty cut on his knuckle at the changeover after a spectacular airborne half-volley.

That set also went to a tiebreak where Khachanov prevailed, sending it to a fifth set.

There was nothing between them as they slammed balls at each other until the Australian finally won in the super tiebreaker, falling to the ground exhausted.

# Setien’s Barcelona fall at the Mestalla

AFP, Valencia

Quique Setien’s honeymoon period lasted less than a fortnight as he tasted his first Barcelona defeat on Saturday in his second La Liga game in charge after a 2-0 loss to Valencia.

A Jordi Alba own goal and Maxi Gomez’s strike at Mestalla raise early doubts about Setien’s appointment and give Real Madrid the chance to move three points clear at the top of the table when they visit Real Valladolid on Sunday.

Barcelona had most of the ball but their opponents had the best chances and Gabriel Paulista saw a third goal ruled out late on.

Setien promised a new style from former coach Ernesto Valverde but few will cheer losses. Despite dominating possession, Barcelona did little and as Valencia grew in confidence, they ceded control.

“There are things they have not understood or maybe we have not have explained ourselves well,” Setien said afterwards. “In the first half, quite frankly, we were bad.”

The question is whether Setien is trying to impose too much and perhaps whether this group are even well-suited his ideas.

“The players have to adapt to the coaching staff to understand,” said Sergio Busquets. “There were some good things but we have to improve.”

Valencia climb to fifth. This success came without their captain Dani Parejo

and, largely, without star striker Rodrigo Moreno.

The hosts hardly touched the ball for the first six minutes, their fans whistling as they urged a more aggressive approach. But the plan to sit and absorb worked, with Barca unable to create a single clear chance.

And when Valencia did intervene, they were more dangerous. With their first attack they won a penalty as Jose Gaya slipped past Gerard Pique and would surely have scored from eight yards before being brought down. Pique was booked and, Gomez stepped up, only for his driven shot to be well saved by Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Referee Gil Manzano puts his hands together as if to apologise after failing to play advantage when Ferran Torres was clear but the frustration of Valencia’s fans turned to ecstasy shortly after half-time.

Pique’s flicked header landed at the feet of Gomez, whose driven effort took a cruel deflection off Alba and flew in.

Barcelona exerted some pressure and Lionel Messi led the way, hauled to the ground by Francis Coquelin and then denied by a brilliant Gabriel tackle. He fired past the post, headed wide and saw a curling free-kick saved.

Yet just as a Barcelona equaliser began to feel inevitable, Valencia struck again. A quick throw caught Alba out of position and Torres did well to cut inside and switch to Gomez. He took a touch and curled into the corner.



There was nothing Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi could do other than hold his head in despair as none of his 11 shots made a dent in Valencia’s armour during their La Liga match at the Mestalla yesterday.

PHOTO: TWITTER



Paris Saint-Germain superstar Neymar and his teammates were in attendance as the NBA staged its first game in the French capital on Friday and the Brazilian superstar met up with reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo after the game and exchanged pleasantries.

PHOTO: TWITTER

# Eriksen set for Inter?

AFP, Milan

Danish international Christian Eriksen is poised to complete a move from Premier League club Tottenham to Serie A side Inter Milan, according to reports in Italy on Friday.

Eriksen will have a medical in Milan early next week before signing a contract until 2024 worth 20 million euros including bonuses, Sky Sports Italia and Gazzetta Dello Sport reported.

The final details have to be ironed out with the 27-year-old midfielder expected to be available for Tottenham’s FA Cup fourth round match Saturday at Southampton.

Eriksen joined the Premier League club in 2013 from Dutch side Ajax and has six months left on his contract.

Chinese-owned Inter Milan are pushing to return to the top of European football, having not won the league since Mourinho lead them to an historic treble in 2010.

Eriksen helped Tottenham reach the Champions League final last year, scoring against Luciano Spalletti’s Inter in both group stage matches, as the Italians exited the tournament.

The Dane becomes Antonio Conte’s third signing in January after defender Ashley Young from Manchester United, with midfielder Victor Moses arriving on loan from Chelsea.

# Palestine retain title in style

SPORTS REPORTER



Palestine became the first team to successfully defend the title of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup following a comprehensive 3-1 win over Burundi in the final of the sixth edition at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The top-ranked side in the tournament, albeit playing with a second-string squad, cruised to a 3-0 lead within half hour and, despite conceding their first goal of the tournament on the hour-mark, comfortably saw off the rest of the time to win their second title of this invitational tournament in their second appearance.

The balance of this Palestine side proved too much for an erratic Burundi team, who too had brought an understrength side to this competition.

Burundi had scored 10 goals

in their first three matches, with Jospin Nshimirimana bagging seven of those including two hattricks, but the spark in the attacking third was defused efficiently by the Palestinians while their defence was as vulnerable as ever.

The Palestinian forwards, though, were on target each of the three times they manoeuvred the ball through towards the Burundi box, with Khaled Salem, Sameh Maraaba and Layth Kharoub punishing their opposition for their sloppy defensive work in the first half.

PALESTINE 3 - 1 BURUNDI  
(Salem 3; Maraaba 10; Kharoub 26') (Ndikumana 60')

Salem opened the scoring in the third minute, tapping home Mohamed Darwish’s square-pass on a lob from captain Maraaba as the entire Burundi defence was

ROLL OF HONOUR		
YEAR	CHAMPIONS	RUNNERS-UP
1996	Malaysia Red	PSM Makassar
1999	Japan Football	Ghana U-23League XI
2015	Malaysia U-22	Bangladesh
2016	Nepal	Bahrain U-23
2018	Palestine	Tajikistan
2020	Palestine	Burundi
Player-of-the-final : Sameh Maraaba (Palestine)		
Player-of-the-tournament: Jospin Nshimirimana (Burundi)		
Top scorer: Jospin Nshimirimana (Burundi)		
Best Goalkeeper: Abuhammad Tawfiq (Palestine)		
Fairplay Trophy: Palestine		

caught napping.

The skipper doubled the lead seven minutes later when his speculative chip looped into the net as the Burundi defence failed to deal with a corner.

And then Kharoub got the third, slotting home a rebound on 26 minutes after Salem’s powerful shot had come off the post.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed Palestine the Bangabandhu Gold Cup title after a 3-1 win over Burundi saw them retain the trophy at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

We are happy for our people. We played as a team. We knew they (Burundi) would attack through flanks which we blocked. We were determined not to concede. It was not an easy final because Burundi are strong and aggressive and they have good strikers. We changed our tactics after going 3-0 up; we tried to keep defensive organisation to keep a clean sheet.

MAKRAM DABOUB  
PALESTINE COACH

We are disappointed as we thought we would win. We were a bit casual. After going 3-0 down, we changed tactics and increased forwards in place of defenders, but they played defensively. We still thought we could come back but it proved to be difficult.

CONSTANTIN MUTIMA  
BURUNDI MANAGER







# Innocent RU student in jail for 2 months

Police arrest wrong person after Jubo League leader killed in clash

ARAFAT RAHAMAN, RU

A Rajshahi University student has been languishing in jail for more than two months after police wrongfully arrested him in a murder case.

His family members tried hard to get him released, but all their efforts went in vain.

The victim is Shahinur Rahman, an evening MBA student at accounting and information systems department and son of the university's Deputy Registrar Nur Mohammad Sardar. He is from Rajshahi city's Shiroil Colony area.

Police arrested Shahinur from the city on the night of November 13, while trying to arrest an accused in the murder case -- Shahin Ahmed, son of Nasir Uddin of the same area, said the victim's family and the plaintiff of the case.

The case was filed over the murder of a local Jubo League leader named Sanowar Hossain Rassell. He was killed earlier in the day during a factional clash of Awami League in Rajshahi. The clash broke out over getting work orders from the railway authorities.

Rassell's brother Monowar Hossain Roni, the case's plaintiff, accused 17 named, including Shahin, and eight unnamed people of committing the murder.

After the RU student was arrested, Monowar was asked to identify him at the police. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Monowar said on that day he informed police

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



In most situations, vehicles have to wait when a train approaches and let it pass by. But on Kalurghat bridge in Chattogram city, it is the train that often has to wait until the traffic is cleared on the narrow bridge constructed in 1930. People of the region have long been demanding a new bridge to ease their commuting woes. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## 2 Rohingyas killed in Myanmar army shelling

Says Rakhine MP

REUTERS, Yangon

Two women, one pregnant, were killed and seven other people injured after Myanmar troops shelled a Rohingya village yesterday, according to a lawmaker and a villager, two days after the UN's highest court ordered the country to protect the minority.

Maung Kyaw Zan, a national member of parliament for Buthidaung township in northern Rakhine state, said shells fired from a nearby battalion hit Kin Taung village in the middle of the night. Government troops have been battling ethnic rebels in the state for more than a year.

"There was no fighting, they just shot artillery to a village without a battle," he told Reuters by phone, adding it was the second time this year that civilians had been killed.

The military denied responsibility, blaming

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## Hawk of streets running for councillor

He is accused in 2 cases for grabbing footpaths, extortion

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

He was accused of occupying footpaths and extorting traders. The Dhaka South City Corporation sued him over extortion nearly three years ago.

Traders allege that he still collects extortion money from them in the city's Motijheel AGB Colony area. Nearly 100 hawkers pay him at least Tk 100 each every day.

The man in question is Saiful Islam Tarafdar. He now wants to be the councillor of ward-53 of the DSCC. The 52-year-old is going to contest the February 1 city polls. His posters have been put up in Jurain and Muradpur areas.

Ironically, Saiful in the posters claimed himself to be a friend of the poor people. He also vowed to root out extortion from the ward, if elected.

In his affidavit submitted to the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



## ICJ RULING Revisit relations with Myanmar

Speakers at a discussion urge the international community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The provisional ruling to protect the persecuted Rohingyas by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) should make all countries, especially those close to Myanmar, to revisit their relationship with the country, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

The ICJ's recognition of the Rohingyas as a "distinct" ethnic group has made it obligatory for the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to protect this group, they said at the discussion held at the North South University (NSU) in Dhaka.

They also said that the ruling paved the way for countries to work with the international community, irrespective of bi-lateral relations with Myanmar, without hesitation.

The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) at the university organised the event titled "Accountability and Justice in Rohingya Crisis: ICJ order on The Gambia vs Myanmar Case".

"May be this first ruling of the ICJ will change the positions of some other countries... of some other players," Benoit Préfontaine, high commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh, said while speaking at the event. On Thursday, in a landmark ruling, the top court of the United Nations ordered Myanmar to prevent acts of genocide against the country's persecuted Rohingya minority and to stop destroying evidence.

A panel of 17 judges of the ICJ, ruled order read by presiding Judge Abdulaqawi Ahmed Yusuf, upheld the provisions of the 1948 Genocide Convention saying Myanmar had "caused irreparable damage to the rights of the Rohingyas".

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## PADMA BHUSHAN India honours Muazzem Ali posthumously

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh's former foreign secretary and high commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali was posthumously honoured tonight with India's third highest civilian title Padma Bhushan on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day today.

Noted historian and archaeologist Enamul Haque, another Bangladeshi, has been chosen for the prestigious Padma Shri title, the Indian Home Ministry said in a press release.

Muazzem Ali has been honoured in the category of Public Affairs, the Indian Home Ministry said. Ali is among 16 people chosen for this year's honour.

He died in Dhaka on December 30 after he returned on completion of his service as High Commissioner in New Delhi for five years,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## US Space Force's logo or Star Trek's?



AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump unveiled the logo of Space Force on Friday, attracting critics who said America's newest military branch had boldly gone where Star Trek went before.

With a central symbol resembling an arrowhead, ringed by an orbiting object and set to a starry backdrop, many users argued the design was pilfered from the famous science fiction franchise.

But a spokesman for the branch hit back, arguing the "Delta" emblem had been used by Air Force space organizations as early as 1961, before the first Star Trek show aired.

"After consultation with our Great Military Leaders, designers, and others, I am pleased to present the new logo for the United States Space Force, the Sixth Branch of our Magnificent Military!" wrote Trump of the branch that he championed and which came into being in December 2019.

It drew immediate mockery among social media users.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## DHAKA CITY POLLS Politics is turning into a business

Says Shujan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the contestants in the coming Dhaka city polls own businesses, finds a report by Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik.

Terming the trend alarming, the civil society organisation said politics was gradually turning into a business because of the involvement of too many businessmen.

Shujan, which works on election affairs, prepared the report after examining

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 26

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:35	12:45	4:15	5:46	7:15
JAMAAT 6:10	1:15	4:30	5:50	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Three of a family killed in Barguna road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least three of a family, including a mother and her 10-year-old son, were killed and four more injured in a tragic road accident in Barguna's Amtali upazila town.

The accident took place around 11:30am yesterday at the AK School intersection of Amtali upazila on the Amtali-Patuakhali highway of Barguna.

The deceased -- Nupur Begum, 30, resident of Amtali municipality, her son Nishat, 10, and her 14-year-old niece Lamia -- were killed when the Amtali-bound passenger bus lost control on the highway. The injured were identified as Nupur's daughter Mamataz Begum, 6, Md. Abdul Jabbar, 54, and Shahabuddin Mridha, 56, of Chaitabunia village of Chawra union and Rubel Musulli, 30, of Chandra village. Police have seized

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A girl casts her vote during the election to students cabinet initiated by the education ministry in secondary schools and madrasas to promote democracy among children. With posters and flyers, inset, the girls launched a full-on campaign for the election. The photos were taken at Motijheel Government Girls High School in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 'Intolerant India'

The Economist says Modi and BJP 'endangering world's Biggest Democracy'

NDTV ONLINE

The Economist - whose sister concern Economist Intelligence Unit ranked India 10 places lower in the Democracy Index earlier this week -- has dedicated its latest cover to what it calls "Intolerant India" and criticised the Narendra Modi government over the new citizenship law CAA and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), commenting that it "imperils the inspiring idea of India as the world's largest democracy".

The Economist tweeted the cover Friday and wrote: "How India's prime minister and his party are endangering the world's biggest democracy."

The article, titled "Narendra Modi stokes divisions in the world's biggest democracy", says India's 200 million Muslims fear the prime minister is building a Hindu state. Sketching the rise of the BJP with the movement for a Ram temple in the '80s, the article argues that "Mr Modi and the BJP are likely to benefit politically by creating divisions over religion and national identity".

"The plan to compile a register of genuine Indians as part of a hunt for foreign interlopers affects all 1.3bn people in the country. It could drag on for years, inflaming passions over and over again, as the list is compiled, challenged and revised" the article says.

Such subjects "also distract attention from awkward topics such as the economy, which has struggled since the BJP's thumping election victory last year", it notes.

The BJP hit back, with party leader Vijay Chauthaiwale calling The Economist "arrogant", with a "colonial mindset".

"We thought the Brits had left in 1947! But the editors of @TheEconomist are still living in colonial era. They are furious when 600m Indians do not follow their explicit

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2