

## HC seeks

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The lawyer submitted the petition to the HC on January 26 requesting it to order the respondents to stop selling, transferring or handling any machine used for gender detection of unborn babies and to submit lists of hospitals, diagnostic centres and other entities registered to do so before the court.

In her petition, Ishrat requested the HC to issue a rule seeking an explanation from the respondents on why they should not be ordered to maintain a database of diagnosis reports of unborn babies conducted by registered hospitals, diagnosis centres and other entities.

She also said that most people desire baby boys considering that "male babies are the vessels of future generations and can give protection".

If the unborn baby's gender is not to the liking of the parents in the detection test, pregnant mothers become frustrated, which has mental and physical impacts and affects the baby's growth inside the womb.

Thus, gender detection of unborn babies is a violation of gender equality, right to life and right to protection guaranteed by the constitution, Ishrat said in the petition.

Barrister Md Abdul Halim and Ishrat moved the writ petition while Assistant Attorney General MMC Sarwar Payel represented the state.

## PM leaves

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Later, representatives of the Italian business companies will call on Hasina at the meeting room of Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel and Spa.

The premier will attend a dinner, to be hosted by the Bangladesh ambassador to Italy, at the hotel.

On Wednesday morning, Hasina will have an audience with Pope Francis.

She will depart Rome for Milan by a train at 12:50pm (local time) and reach there at 4:00pm (local time). In Milan, the PM will stay at Excelsior Hotel Gallia.

On Friday, she will leave Milan Malpensa International Airport for home by an Emirates flight at 1:40pm (local time).

Hasina will reach Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 8:10am (BST) on Saturday via Dubai.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has said three bilateral instruments are likely to be signed between Dhaka and Rome during the PM's visit to Italy.

The proposed deals are on cultural exchange, political consultations and cooperation in the diplomatic field, he told a press briefing at the foreign ministry in Dhaka on Sunday.

The minister hoped that the tour would be beneficial for Bangladesh economy and the country's ongoing development.

Italy is one of the largest trading partners of Bangladesh. More than 200,000 Bangladeshi expatriates live there.

## Albatross

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"They are like drones, only intelligent."

Nearly 170 albatross were fitted with devices for six months in the "Ocean Sentinel" project conducted by a team from France and New Zealand, the CNRS said.

Researchers said that illegal fishing threatens the ocean's natural ecosystems, estimating that over one third of fishing boats in international waters were undecleared.

The study concluded that technology can open up the potential to use "seabirds to patrol oceans" for conservation purposes.

CNRS said the birds were fitted with a device containing a GPS system to track their location and a radar detector to intercept signals from vessels.

The research centre said that the technology "could be adapted for other marine species, like sharks and sea turtles".

Conservationists have warned that illegal fishing puts endangered sea creatures at risk of extinction, including wedgefish and guitarfish, nicknamed the "rhinos of the ocean".

In a move to combat illegal fishing last year, Indonesia sunk over 50 foreign ships they claimed were operating unlawfully.

## Against the tide

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after my sick mother and at the same time arrange food for the two of us," she recollected.

"At that point, I decided I will not get married leaving my mother alone," she said, recounting how she vowed to take responsibility of her family.

"I had thought of joining a garment factory. But who would look after my mother then? Similarly, if I got married, I would have to take care of another person's family."

However, there were no opportunities for any other work in remote Dabhangra for Laily, who never went to school. "People travel to other places from here to look for work," she said.

Laily's father had left about 30 decimals of land and she decided to make the best of it. "I decided I would work on the field myself instead of leasing it out for sharecropping," she said.

With help from a neighbour she learned how to sow seeds, plant, irrigate and harvest crops, and started cultivating. The money she earned,

however, was not enough to cover the living expenses of two people.

That is when Laily turned to the Bishkhal. "I asked a relative to take me fishing, but he ignored me and sort of chided me for making such a request."

But Laily wouldn't give up. She compelled him to take her on a fishing trip in the river.

"I was steadfast in my objective to learn fishing and I slowly became adept at it," said the proud fisherwoman.

Laily, who earns about Tk 500 to Tk 1,000 per day from fishing, had borrowed Tk 50,000 from a fish trader to build a fishing trawler along with a partner and buy nets and traps. Because of this, she has to sell her catch to the trader at a price lower than the market rate.

While fishing in the river, Laily spends about six to seven hours waiting for the tidal cycle. Out in the sea, it is a six to seven days' task.

"I was somewhat frightened during my first few fishing trips, but my fellow fishermen gave me courage and we always abide by the weather alerts," said Laily, her weather-beaten face

devoid of any fear.

A RESOLUTE LAILY  
"There are many women on the coast who are constantly struggling to survive. I thank Laily, who did not give a damn to traditional norms and social etiquettes, in the struggle of life," said Hosseinara Hasi, executive director of local pro-women development organisation called "Jago Nari".

Patuakhali District Fisheries Officer Mollah Emdadullah said, "Some women of the Bede [nomadic] community fish in small boats in the canals and rivulets of this region, but Laily is the only woman in Barguna with a license to catch hilsha."

Director of Barishal Fisheries Department Azizul Haque also said he has not heard of any other enlisted fisherwoman in the southern division.

Barguna Deputy Commissioner Mustain Billah praised Laily's endeavour and assured her all kinds of cooperation.

"We have already inquired about Laily Begum. She will get all kinds of support from the government," he said.

## Bangabandhu's

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Bangabandhu, giving his reaction to West Germany's recognition of Bangladesh says, "We welcome this gesture and look forward to the development of friendly understanding and cooperation with Bonn."

On Britain's recognition, Bangabandhu says, "We are indeed happy to receive recognition from a country like Great Britain which has been a cradle of democratic values and basis of human rights." He shares that the Bangladesh government will adopt necessary measures to become a member of the Commonwealth.

BBC, for the first time, airs the national anthem of Bangladesh, *Amar Sonar Bangla*, when at 8.15 pm (BST) it announces Britain's recognition of Bangladesh.

**BANGLADESH RUNS SHORT OF 2.5M TONS OF FOOD GRAINS**

AHM Kamaruzzaman, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, informs that the country runs short of 2.5 million tonnes of food grains for the current year. He discloses that every day he is receiving many telegrams from different districts for the immediate supply of food. He says that there is no stock of food, particularly in the northern districts, where the demand has been increasing every day with the return of hundreds of refugees from India.

Due to transport difficulties and lack of communication, the distribution of foodstuff to some

districts is being delayed, adds Kamaruzzaman. He requests the UN to immediately arrange some helicopters for Bangladesh to help in the quick distribution of food grains to hard-to-reach areas.

Bangladesh Biman starts internal operation

Bangladesh Biman, the national airline of Bangladesh, begins its internal commercial flights with a Dakota aircraft flying between Dhaka and Chittagong.

**234 TECHNICAL EXPERTS KILLED BY PAK ARMY**

234 technical personnel of different autonomous bodies of the government including Bangladesh Industrial Development Corporation, Titas Gas, Oil and Gas Development Corporation were killed by the Pakistani occupation forces, according to a preliminary assessment made by the government.

**EMERGENCY LOANS FOR FARMERS**

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Bank has decided to give loans on an emergency basis to farmers for buying bullocks. A loan not exceeding Tk 600 will be given for buying a pair of bullocks to any farmer who holds five acres of land or less. A bigger loan will be given to farmers having more than five acres of land.

Sources: February 5, 1972 issues of *Dainik Bangla*, The Daily Ittefaq, Morning News, The Bangladesh Observer and Purbodesh.

## OIC rejects

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Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) and the other Arab territories occupied since (the) June 1967 (Middle East war)".

The Arab League on Saturday also rejected the controversial plan, saying at a meeting in Cairo that it did not meet the "minimum rights" of the Palestinians.

They insisted on a two-state solution that includes a Palestinian state based on borders before the 1967 war -- when Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza -- and with east Jerusalem as its capital.

Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas announced in Cairo that he will cut all ties with Israel and the US.

"We are informing you that there will be no relations with you (Israel) and the United States, including on security cooperation," he said.

The Trump plan also gives Israel the green light to annex the strategic Jordan Valley -- making up 30 percent of the West Bank -- and all Jewish settlements, which number more than 200.

**NO PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION**  
US presidential advisor Jared Kushner said on Sunday that if Palestinians are unable to meet the conditions of

the new Middle East peace plan he crafted, Israel should not take "the risk to recognise them as a state."

Kushner was challenged by CNN host Fareed Zakaria in a program aired Sunday to explain why demands made of the Palestinians before they are given a state -- a free press, free elections, religious freedom, an independent judiciary and a reliable financial system -- did not amount to "a killer amendment."

"There is no Arab country that would meet these criteria, certainly not Saudi Arabia, Egypt" or other countries Kushner has worked with closely, Zakaria said.

Kushner replied that the Palestinian territories amount to "a police state... not exactly a thriving democracy."

"For the Palestinians, if they want their people to live better lives, we now have a framework to do it," he said.

"If they don't think they can uphold these standards, then I don't think we can get Israel to take the risk to recognize them as a state."

Kushner added: "The only thing more dangerous than what we have now is a failed state."

## UN says its soldiers cleared rebels from town in CAR

AFP, Bangui

UN peacekeepers have pushed out a leading rebel group from the restive southern town of Alindao in the perennially unstable Central African Republic, the UN mission in the country said.

Alindao has been wracked by violence and witnessed heavy fighting last month between CAR troops and rebels from the Unity for Peace in C.Africa (UPC), a key rebel group.

"Under the aegis of the military operation 'Mo Kiri'... the UN blue helmets forced the UPC... to abandon its positions in the centre of Alindao," Vladimir Monteiro, the spokesman for the UN mission, known by its French acronym MINUSCA, said late Sunday.

## SSC examinee

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and raped her there.

Yusuf also threatened the girl with life if she disclosed the incident. The girl returned home in the evening on that day, said the OC.

Police said the girl failed in a subject in last year's SSC examinations and she is scheduled to sit for the subject test on February 11.

The girl informed her family of the incident on Sunday evening and her father, a poor farmer, lodged the case.

Police produced Yusuf before a Mymensingh court yesterday afternoon and the court sent him to jail, said the OC.

The girl was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for tests, the police official added.

## Baul singer

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Sunday, Dhaka Cyber Tribunal Judge Mohamamd Ash Sams Joglul Hossain took cognisance of the case, recorded the statement of the complainant and instructed the deputy inspector general of the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to investigate the matter and submit a report by February 2.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury instructed PBI to submit a report by March 3 after investigating the matter.

Earlier, another Baul singer Shariat Sarkar was sued on January 9 under the Digital Security Act on charge of hurting religious sentiments during a performance.

On January 11, Shariat was arrested from Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila in the case filed with Mirzapur Police Station.

# EU top diplomat holds talks in Iran 'to de-escalate tensions'

AFP, Tehran

Top EU diplomat Josep Borrell yesterday held talks in the Iranian capital on a mission aimed at lowering tensions over the Islamic republic's nuclear programme.

Borrell's trip, his first to Iran since taking office, follows a spike in tensions between arch foes Washington and Tehran after the January 3 assassination in Baghdad of a top Iranian general in a US drone strike.

The two-day visit opened with a meeting with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, ahead of talks with President Hassan Rouhani and parliament speaker Ali Larijani.

The 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and a group of world powers has been crumbling since US President Donald Trump withdrew from it

in 2018, and Washington has since stepped up sanctions and a campaign of "maximum pressure" against Iran.

Tehran has gradually stepped back from its own commitments under the deal, while military tensions with the US brought the two countries to the brink of full-blown confrontation last month.

Borrell's mission aims "to de-escalate tensions and seek opportunities for political solutions to the current crisis," said the office of the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy.

The trip will allow Borrell "to convey the EU's strong commitment to preserve" the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and to discuss cooperation between the EU and Iran, his office said.

## Transport leaders

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who failed to update their documents on time.

Exempting the vehicle owners and drivers from late fines was also one of the major demands of transport workers when they enforced strikes in some districts in November last year, protesting the implementation of the Road Transport Act.

Following the protest, the government decided to go for relaxed implementation of several sections of the law till June this year.

Under the current rule, motorists holding light vehicle driving licence for three years can only apply for the medium-sized vehicle driving licence. Similarly, the licensed drivers of medium-sized vehicles can apply for heavy vehicle driving licence after having three-year experience.

As thousands of students took to the streets following the death of two college students in July 2018, a grim picture of the country's road transport sector came to the fore. Transport leaders said most of the bus and truck drivers were driving vehicles with light or medium-sized vehicle driving licence.

In face of the demand of transport owners and workers' leaders, the government in August 2018 relaxed the experience requirement for getting heavy and medium-sized vehicle driving licences.

According to the relaxed requirement, light vehicle drivers can apply for medium-sized vehicle driving licence if they gain one year's experience. Holders of medium-sized vehicle driving licences can also apply for heavy vehicle driving licence if they have the same experience.

The government on several occasions extended the tenure of the offer for up to six months. As per the latest extension order issued on November 27 last year, drivers can avail this opportunity until June this year.

However, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) sent a proposal to the road transport ministry last month for further relaxation of the requirement.

As per the "amended circular" issued on Sunday, if a motorist holds a professional driving licence for light vehicle for three years, he can apply for a heavy vehicle driving licence. He, however, has to follow the necessary procedure, including taking a driving test.

The circular said the government has taken the decision to make up for the shortage of licensed medium and heavy vehicle drivers and to keep the services of passenger and goods-laden vehicles normal.

Around 43.01 lakh vehicles got registered with the BRTA till December last year since the country's independence. Of them, 2.02 lakh are buses and trucks.

On the other hand, the BRTA has issued 27.63 lakh driving licences till yesterday, including 1.87 lakh for heavy vehicle drivers, a BRTA official said.

**'MOVE WILL JEOPARDISE ROAD SAFETY'**

Transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said reducing the experience requirement for driving licences would jeopardise road safety as the driving tests, conducted by the BRTA, were not up to international standards.

"In Bangladesh, the BRTA driving tests are conducted on its office compounds. But in many other countries, such tests are held on roads. That's why drivers' experience is very important here," he told The Daily Star.

Compromising on drivers' experience would create a big obstacle to safe road, said Shamsul, also a former director of Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet.

Another transport expert Prof Moazzem Hossain said if a driver holding light vehicle driving licence can drive heavy vehicles after getting proper training and get heavy vehicle driving licence after taking proper tests, it would not pose any security threat.

"But I have doubt about the quality of driving test [conducted by the BRTA]," said Moazzem, another former director of ARI.

A top BRTA official said transport leaders demanded a driver be issued a heavy vehicle driving licence if he passed the driving test.

"But we could not accept the demand. So, we suggested that a driver must have a light vehicle driving licence and three-year experience to get a heavy vehicle driving licence," he said wishing anonymity.

BRTA Chairman Kamrul Ahsan said they decided to relax the experience requirement to meet the huge shortage of drivers, especially heavy vehicle drivers.


"It will not pose any risk to road safety as a driver would get a heavy vehicle driving licence only after passing a proper driving test. We will not compromise on the quality of the test," he told this newspaper last night.

Asked whether the BRTA faced any pressure from transport leaders in this regard, he replied in the negative.

Osman Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation, said they had raised the demand as there was a huge shortage of drivers holding medium and heavy vehicle driving licence.

In Bangladesh, a person becomes a bus or truck driver after working in vehicles as helper and so they gain experience of driving a heavy vehicle, claimed Osman.

Asked whether they put pressure on the government to relax the experience requirement, he said they only raised the "rational demand" before the government and it was accepted.



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**বীমা বিষয়ক এবিআইএ পোস্ট গ্র্যাজুয়েট ডিপ্লোমা মে-২০২০**


বিশ্বব্যাপি বীমা শিল্পের প্রসার, দক্ষ জনশক্তি সৃষ্টি এবং এ পেশায় নিয়োজিত জনবলকে যুগের চাহিদা মোতাবেক পেশাগত জ্ঞানে সমৃদ্ধ করে গড়ে তুলতে বীমা বিষয়ক "পোস্ট গ্র্যাজুয়েট ডিপ্লোমা" অর্থাৎ এসোসিয়েটশীপ অব বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি (এবিআইএ) অতীত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে আসছে। বীমা শিল্পের ত্রুটিবর্ধনমূলক অগ্রযাত্রার অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য প্রতি বৎসরের ন্যায় এবারও বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমির ডিপ্লোমা মে-২০২০ পরবে পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ সন্মতিক্রমে আহ্বান জানানো হচ্ছে। ডিপ্লোমা ভর্তি ও পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাবলী নিম্নরূপঃ

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কাউন্সিলিং ফি এবং পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান (বেসিক)	০৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি থেকে ০৫ মার্চ ২০২০ পর্যন্ত	
কাউন্সিলিং ক্লাস	০৮ মার্চ ২০২০ থেকে শুরু	প্রতি বিষয়- ৪৫০/- টাকা
পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান এবং প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ	০২ মার্চ থেকে ০২ এপ্রিল ২০২০	প্রতি বিষয়- ৫০০/- টাকা
পরীক্ষা	০৭ জুন ২০২০ হতে শুরু	পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যাবে।

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\* রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি, পরীক্ষার ফি, কাউন্সিলিং ফি, মেম্বারশীপ ফি Dutch Bangla Mobile Bank (A/C No. 1973) এ জমা দিতে হবে।

**ভর্তির জন্য যোগ্যতাঃ ন্যূনতম স্নাতক ডিগ্রি।**  
**বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য ভিজিট করুনঃ [www.bia.gov.bd](http://www.bia.gov.bd)**

জিডি-২২৫ কর্তৃপক্ষ




**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Inspector General**  
**Bangladesh Police**  
**Police Headquarters, Dhaka**

**Corrigendum of International Tender Notice**

Memo No-44.01.0000.058.07.039.19/211 Date : 03/02/2020.

Invitation for International tender Notice Published in different national dailies as per Invitation ref No-44.01.0000.058.07.023.19/16(2019-2020) Date: 09/12/2019 for procurement of Bomb Disposal Suit, Anti Explosive Blanket in FY 2019-2020 is hereby amended as follows:

Particular Information	Published	Revised
Tender last selling date	09 February 2020	16 February 2020
Tender closing date and time	10 February 2020 at 14:00 hrs	17 February 2020 at 14:00 hrs
Tender opening date and time (Technical offer only)	10 February 2020 at 14:30 hrs	17 February 2020 at 14:30 hrs

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GD-223